

**LLM Human Rights (full-time)**  
**For students entering in 2017/8**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Programme length:	12 months
Date of specification:	15/Aug/2017
Programme Director:	Dr Ruvi Ziegler
Board of Studies:	Law (Postgraduate)

**Summary of programme aims**

The programme aims to equip students with the specialist knowledge and skills they require to succeed as professionals, scholars and leaders in the field of human rights law and policy. This main aim is promoted by pursuing the following specific aims:

To provide a structured postgraduate law degree which examines in depth the doctrinal aspects of different sub-fields of human rights law.

To provide a flexible programme through the independent study of a compulsory dissertation component in human rights law, a compulsory modules on research methods assisting students to develop their dissertation plan, and a range of optional modules analysing both theoretical and practical aspects of human rights law.

To help students develop an array of both analytical and critical skills, as well as practical, generic and personal transferable skills, through independent study and working with others.

**Transferable skills**

Students are encouraged to act independently in planning tasks and use feedback to reflect on their performance and assess the appropriateness of current levels of knowledge and skill. Students are expected to acquire an ability to think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between good and bad arguments. In addition, a law graduate will be used to presenting arguments (both technical and general) orally and in writing and should be able to present such arguments clearly and concisely. Students will be able to research a variety of sources in libraries and on the internet, and, in particular, to research and assess academic literature. Particular elements of the programme expose students to the use of information technology and encourage the development of general professional capabilities including recognition of deadlines and time management.

**Programme content**

The programme consists of 180 credits; a taught element (120 credits) and a dissertation (60 credits). The dissertation must be written on a topic that has a meaningful relationship to human rights issues.

Within the taught element there is one compulsory module: Students must study one of LWMTLM Research Methods for LLM Students (10 credits) or Research Methods (30 credits). The remaining 90/110 credits of the taught element must be taken from any of:

listed Law School Level 7 modules, or

listed modules offered by other Schools or Departments, or

unlisted modules offered by any School or Department in the University, with permission from Director of PGT Studies in Law. Permission to take unlisted modules will only be granted in exceptional circumstances; for example, where a student has work experience in a field then permission may be granted to take a module relevant to that field. Note that, as with all modules, any pre-requisites or co-requisites will also need to be satisfied.

Not all listed optional modules will necessarily be offered every year. All module selections are subject to availability in any given year timetabling requirements.

Of the 120 taught credits, students must normally be enrolled in a minimum of 40 credits in each of the Autumn and Spring terms. (For this purpose if a module is taught across two terms half of its credits will be allocated to the first term and half to the second.)

Compulsory modules - all modules from this group must be taken

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
LWMTDR	Dissertation (Human Rights)	60	7
LWMTRM	Research Methods*	30	7

LWMTLM	Research Methods for LLM Students*	10	7
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\* Students must take ONE of these modules

Optional Human Rights law modules - students must choose at least 70/90 credits from this list (subject to availability in any given year) depending which Research Methods module is selected

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
LWMDMT	Disaster Management	20	7
LWMIIA	Introduction to International Law	10	7
LWMTDS	International Dispute Settlement	20	7
LWMWEA	Technology and Weaponry	120	7
LWMTUM	The Use of Military Force	20	7
LWMTAC	Law of Armed Conflict (International Humanitarian Law)	20	7
LWMHRL	Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice	20	7
LWMTPI	Israel/Palestine: International Law and Human Rights Questions	10	7
LWMIRL	International Refugee Law	20	7
LWMEGA	The European Union as a Global Actor	20	7

Lists of modules available in any given year and updates to the above lists can be found through the Postgraduate pages on the Law School's website: [www.reading.ac.uk/law](http://www.reading.ac.uk/law)\* LWMIIA is open only to students who have not previously studied public international law at either UG or PG level.

Students may select up to 20 credits from the following list

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
LWMTDP	Privacy and Data Protection	10	7
LWMTII	International and Comparative Intellectual Property Law	10	7
LWMTET	The European Internal Market and Economic Governance	20	7

### **Part-time or modular arrangements**

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete optional modules totalling no less than 50 credits and no more than 80 credits. In the second year of study a student will normally be required to complete the core module LWMTLM Research Methods for LLM Students, the LWMTDR Dissertation Human Rights module and any remaining optional modules. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

### **Progression requirements**

Part-time Candidates

A part-time candidate may only proceed into his or her second year if he or she has achieved 2 marks of at least 50% in his or her first year. A part-time candidate who chooses not to proceed to his or her second year may be considered for the award of Certificate in Human Rights if he or she gains an average mark of 50 or more in modules worth 60 credits and have no mark below 40.

### **Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

All modules, other than the Dissertation, will be assessed by one of or a combination of: a timed, unseen examination; a timed, seen examination; assessed written work; other forms of assessment (such as participation in class or an oral class presentation). Details of the methods of assessment in individual modules are given in the Module Description Forms.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

#### **Mark Interpretation**

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

#### **Failing categories**

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

#### **For Masters Degree**

To qualify for Distinction, students must gain an overall average mark of 70 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Merit, students must gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Passed, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

### **For PG Diploma**

To qualify for Distinction, students must gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits. In addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Merit, students must gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and student must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for Passed, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; In Addition the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

### **For PG Certificate**

To qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate, students must gain an average mark of 50 or more in modules worth 60 credits and not have any mark below 40.

### **Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a degree in law or a degree with a substantial legal component with a first or upper second class honours (or an equivalent classification if they graduated overseas). All applicants are considered on their individual merits and the School may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Ruvi ziegler

### **Support for students and their learning**

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, In-session English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support teams and IT Services. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Support Centres. If a student has a general enquiry and is unsure where to seek help, they should visit their Support Centre. There are five Support Centres across the University, including one based at the London Road Campus. The Support Centre will be able to advise on matters such as extenuating circumstances, module selection, suspensions, withdrawals, timetable queries and transferring programme. The Support Centre will also be able to signpost students to Carrington building where other University services related to disability, financial support, counselling and wellbeing, accommodation and careers can be found. More information on what student services are available can be found here: <http://student.reading.ac.uk/essentials>.

Within the School of Law, personal and academic tutors will provide help and guidance on academic, and where appropriate, other matters. A member of the academic staff of the School acts as Careers Advisor and the School has a Director of Taught Postgraduate Studies, individual programme directors for each taught postgraduate programme, a Senior Tutor for students on taught postgraduate programmes, a student support officer and a postgraduate administrative officer to provide support and advice to postgraduate students. In addition, all students receive a detailed Handbook to help them study law successfully.

### **Career prospects**

While very many law graduates take professional exams in law and go on to practise law either in the UK or abroad, many others pursue alternative careers. This is particularly the case with those who have chosen to pursue a postgraduate qualification in law, as the skills gained by undertaking a postgraduate law degree are in great demand from both legal and non-legal employers. While not disqualifying students from any career open to non-specialist graduates a postgraduate law degree will open many doors in more specialised areas of employment. An LLM degree in human rights will be an asset if students seek employment in domestic and international human rights organisations, United Nations agencies, legal practice and international advocacy in the human rights field, international courts and tribunals, human rights NGOs, the public service (in the areas of social welfare, immigration, foreign relations, humanitarian aid, international development, etc.) law reform agencies, the media (journalism and broadcasting), security, academia (with further postgraduate study) and business (in such fields as human resource management and corporate social responsibility).

### **Opportunities for study abroad or for placements**

The programme does not involve study abroad.

### **Programme Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

##### **A. Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. Key issues in human rights law and how they interface;
2. A range of research methodologies sufficient to formulate appropriate and relevant research questions and conduct independent research in law;
3. A select range of options to broaden understanding of the operation of law at an advanced level;
4. Appropriate contextual background to understand the substantive law.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

The basic knowledge in all modules is provided by seminars, although some modules may include lectures. All seminars allow a student to gauge his/her progress in that module and will require significant student input into the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. The critical input into learning is provided by a student's own reading and preparation for group discussions (particularly engagement with primary sources).

##### *Assessment*

Modules adopt a variety of assessment methods but all modules utilise either summative assessed work or an end of year unseen, timed exam. The majority of modules utilise a combination of both methods of assessment.

#### **Skills and other attributes**

##### **B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:**

1. Think logically;
2. Analyse and identify problems and issues;
3. Discriminate between relevant and irrelevant material;
4. Understand technical material;
5. Apply relevant knowledge effectively;
6. Construct defensible arguments and
7. Exercise critical judgment.

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Logic, analytical skill and the ability to apply relevant knowledge is inherent in the study of law and these skills are encouraged and developed in seminars.

##### *Assessment*

Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills either directly or indirectly.

##### **C. Practical skills - *able to*:**

1. Discover and use legal and/or political and contextual materials from a variety of sources; and
2. Evaluate legal and/or political and contextual material both individually and as part of a team;

##### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

All the practical skills are present in each module and are developed through seminars. The essence of legal study is to provide an answer to a practical legal problem having identified the legal issues,

3. Construct and present (orally and in writing) defensible arguments and critical judgment.

selected relevant facts and used appropriate law to provide a solution. The encouragement of these faculties is inherent in all parts of the degree. All modules seek to develop powers of critical analysis and judgement.

#### *Assessment*

The written element of 3 is directly assessed through summative assessed work and/or formal examinations. Examinations indirectly assess 1 and 2 while summative assessed work does so directly). The dissertation requires elements of 1, 2 and 3. Some modules assess oral communication (formatively or summatively).

#### **D. Transferable skills - *able to:***

1. Work independently and hard;
2. Use different types of information sources;
3. Communicate technical material effectively both orally and in writing;  
and
4. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgement;
5. Reflect critically on one's own learning;
6. Consider career development.

#### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

Law is a subject of considerable complexity; some material is difficult - a student must work hard to engage with such material. A student will be required regularly to participate in class discussions and make presentations. He or she will be required to engage with a considerable amount of academic and other literature and to assess and evaluate such literature critically and in the context of presenting advanced arguments both orally and in writing.

#### *Assessment*

Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills other than 5 and 6. Seminars encourage a student to reflect on his or her own learning. Guidance is given throughout the degree programme on career development.

**Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.**