

Programme Specification

MRes in Law and Society (full-time)

PFTZLAWSCYHS

For students entering in 2023/24

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MRes in Law and Society (full-time) - 1 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The M Research (Law and Society) is a research-oriented programme that equips graduates with a sound and thorough understanding of the ways in which law and legal knowledge form a part of the political, cultural and economic fabric of local, regional and international communities. It aims, especially, to provide students with the research skills needed to undertake postgraduate sociolegal (that is, interdisciplinary) research. Its objectives are to provide students with advanced skills in legal and sociolegal research, the ability to undertake high level analysis of law and sociolegal issues, a grasp of law's place in relation to other disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities, and a grounding in sociolegal research methods. The M Research (Law and Society) seeks to enable students to: Develop their knowledge and understanding of legal and sociolegal approaches to social, cultural and political issues; Develop advanced skills in legal research and a sound understanding of the methodological issues related to doctrinal, sociolegal, legal philosophical, and other approaches to legal and social research; Develop students' ability to identify and apply appropriate sociolegal methods to issues of law and the administration of justice; Develop and enhance their knowledge and understanding of their chosen area of legal studies and their ability to engage in higher level sociolegal analysis of law and legal issues; Prepare for doctoral research in law or sociolegal research, or to undertake a professional career in legal practice, legal policy, legal research or the administration of justice, while contributing to scholarly research in the discipline.

Module information

The programme consists of 180 credits, comprised of a dissertation (60 credits) and a taught element (120 credits). Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LWMRLK	Legal Knowledge and Legal Writing	10	M
LWMTDI	Dissertation	60	M
LWMTRM	Research Methods	30	M

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme may be undertaken over two years on a part-time basis. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete, LWMRLK Legal Knowledge and Legal Writing (10 credits), and other compulsory or optional modules of at least 40 credits but not more than 80 credits. In the second year, students will normally be required to complete LWMTRM Research Methods (30 credits) any remaining compulsory or optional modules and LWMTDI Dissertation (60 credits). Modules will be assessed in the year in which they are taken. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

Additional costs of the programme

The readings required for each module will be made available in electronic form and/or in hard copy in the library. Students who wish to purchase their own copies of relevant books and materials must do so at their own expense.

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Placement opportunities

From time to time opportunities for internship and similar placements arise and the School facilitates a number of such opportunities.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching methods will vary from module to module but teaching will primarily be by means of seminars. Certain modules may be partially taught by means of lectures and tutorials.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is – 135 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

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).

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

A part-time candidate may only proceed into their second year if they have achieved 2 marks of at least 50% in the first year. Thereafter, the progression requirements of full-time students will apply. A part-time candidate who chooses not to proceed to the second year may be considered for the award of Certificate in Law if they satisfy the requirements for a Certificate in Law.

Classification

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

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 40.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
- ii. must not have any mark below 40.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

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20 June 2022

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