

Programme Specification

MLaw Law

For students entering Part 1 in September 2024

UCAS Code: M199

UFMLAW

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	4 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	
Accreditation	The Bar Standards Board and the Solicitors Regulation Authority
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Law

Programme information and content

This programme is an innovative blend of the traditional LLB curriculum with a much greater emphasis on practical skills as well as preparation for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE). Instead of students choosing to do a LLB and then a standalone SQE preparation course with a different provider, students can integrate the SQE preparation (provided by the University of Law) into one programme leading to the award of an MLaw. This does not include the SQE exams, which can be taken and paid for separately by students. This degree provides an exciting blend of law in theory and law in practice. It aims to provide coverage of the core areas of English law while also providing a range of options which allow students to widen their studies in particular directions. The overarching educational aim of this course is to not only impart legal knowledge but: to situate the law within wider global, national policy and practice contexts; to equip students with skills necessary for research, critical analysis and application of law in a range of issues; to prepare students for the (external) SQE; and to develop the skills crucial to legal practice.

Part 1:	In Part 1, you will be introduced to the teaching methods and expectations applicable to higher legal education. You will be supported in developing legal skills. You will study four key areas of English law: contract, tort, criminal and public law, and practise applying the law to fact patterns as well as developing your ability to analyse the law from a critical perspective.
Part 2:	In Part 2, you will study the remaining core modules, as well as two optional modules, and will continue to develop your legal skills and ability to work with primary legal resources, to research the law and justify your conclusions.
Part 3:	In the third year, you must take one of a range of research-based modules, which allow you to explore a topic in greater depth and to develop your research and

	writing skills more fully. In addition, the School offers a wide range of option modules, that give you a greater opportunity to focus your study on the areas of the law that interest you most.
Part 4:	You will undertake SQE preparation modules with the University of Law which will support a 120-credit project. This builds on the skills and knowledge acquired through the MLaw with students executing a substantial piece of applied legal research on a realistic contemporary client-based problem/situation.

Programme Learning Outcomes - MLaw Law

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Display the ability to communicate reasoned and structured arguments for the application and interpretation of the law.
2	Obtain the ability to critically assess the weight of sources and utilise legal materials in the development of well-constructed arguments.
3	Demonstrate the ability to undertake critical evaluation of the law and to apply the law, its rules and principles to problem situations demonstrating effective communication of these rules and principles.
4	Gain the ability to understand, summarise and critically assess differing perspectives on theoretical debates.
5	Acquire an all-round knowledge of law that is commensurate with the level of study with the ability to communicate this effectively and in sufficient detail as required.
6	Demonstrate an understanding of legal principles and their application to legal questions.
7	Exhibit the ability to make effective decisions within set deadlines and develop teamwork skills.
8	Development of the legal knowledge required to successfully pass the SRA's SQE1 and SQE2.
9	Proficiency in applying knowledge of the law to demonstrate the competences required to complete legal tasks that a newly qualified solicitor would be asked to undertake.
10	Apply fundamental legal principles and rules appropriately and effectively to realistic client-based and ethical problems and situations.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW1CON	Contract	20	4
LW1CRI	Criminal Law	20	4
LW1ELS	English Legal System and Skills	20	4
LW1PL1	Public Law 1	20	4
LW1TOR	Tort	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Law or modules from an approved list.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW2ETR	Equity and Trusts	20	5
LW2EUL	EU Law	20	5
LW2LND	Land Law	20	5
LW2PL2	Public Law 2	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Law or modules from an approved list.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW3DUG	Dissertation	40	6
LW3RWC	Research Writing Credit	20	6
LW3WPP	Writing Credit Pro Bono and Professional Practice	20	6

Students must choose one of the above compulsory modules.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Law or modules from an approved list.

Part 4 modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LW4CAP	Legal Practice Project and Portfolio (MLaw)	120	7

Placement opportunities

N/A

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours in total.

The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 250 hours, Part 2 – 250 hours, Part 3 - 200 hours, Part 4 – 155 hours.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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

Please note that the School of Law intends that the MLaw will be a UK qualifying law degree (QLD), where still relevant, for all students and will make any necessary changes to the degree programme to ensure it stays a QLD or continues to satisfy any modified professional requirements for the academic stage of training stipulated by the professional bodies. All other aspects of the degree programme may be subject to change where such change is educationally desirable or practically necessary.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of different types of assessments including more traditional methods such as written examinations, in-class tests and coursework (including through presentations and podcasts) as well as, for example, participation in advocacy/negotiation and writing reflectively about their learning experiences. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Please note that the SQE examinations **do not form part** of this programme and are arranged separately by you with the Solicitors Regulatory Authority. You do not need to pass or take the SQE examinations with the Solicitors Regulatory Authority to complete this programme.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iv) obtain an overall average of 40% across all credits taken for which a numerical mark is awarded in Part 1; and
- (v) obtain a pass of at least 40% in LW1CON, LW1PL1, LW1CRI, LW1TOR and LW1ELS.

Students who achieve a threshold performance only at Part 1 will be eligible for transfer to LLB Legal Studies.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Transferring from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme

Students are able to transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to fulfilling the Part 1 University Threshold Standard, achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules in the subject to which they wish to transfer, and fulfilling any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

Students who transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and:

- (iv) achieve an overall average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 2 (of which not less than 100 credits should normally be at level 5 or above); and
- (v) obtain marks of at least 40% in LW2PL2, LW2LND, LW2ETR and LW2EUL.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students who fail to achieve the overall average of 50% at Part will be eligible for transfer to the LLB.

Students who achieve a threshold performance only at Part 2 will be eligible for transfer to LLB Legal Studies.

Part 3

In order to progress from Part 3 to Part 4, a student must achieve an average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 3, and

- (i) achieve 40% in LW3WPP or LW3RWC or LW3DUG.

Any student who does not qualify at Part 3 for the Integrated Masters or does not wish to pursue Part 4, can transfer off the Integrated Masters and qualify with an LLB (Law) if qualified.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Integrated Masters Programmes (MLaw)

Part 2: 20%

Part 3: 40%

Part 4: 40%

Three year programmes (LLB - if not progressing to Part 4):

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method for Integrated Masters programmes is given in detail in Section 18 of the Assessment Handbook (see, in particular, section 18.5).

Additional costs of the programme

A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, you may wish to budget between £150 to £200 a year.

Reading lists are provided for each individual module.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus, but essential costs in this area will be low as coursework and exams will be submitted electronically.

This programme provides teaching and preparation for the SQE exams but **not** the exams themselves. If students wish to take the SQE exams, this cost is additional and is met by the student independently. The SQE 1 will cost £1,158 and SQE 2 will cost £2,422. The combined cost is, therefore, £3,980 (2023). The SQE exams and costs **do not form** part of this programme and students can complete the MLaw without taking the SQE exams.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2023.

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.

MLaw Law for students entering Part 1 in session 2024/25

9 January 2024

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