

Programme Specification

LLM Advanced Legal Studies (full-time)
LLM in Advanced Legal Studies (part-time)

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For students entering in 2027/28

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	LLM Advanced Legal Studies (full-time) - 1 years LLM in Advanced Legal Studies (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September / January
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

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

- To provide a structured postgraduate law degree which examines in depth aspects of different subfields of law.
- To provide a flexible programme through the independent study of a dissertation, a compulsory module on research methodologies assisting students to develop their dissertation plan, and a range of optional modules analysing both theoretical and practical aspects of 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.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-LLM Advanced Legal Studies (full-time)

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	Ability to present reasoned and structured arguments for the application and interpretation of law.
2	Critically assess the weight of sources and utilise legal materials in the development of sophisticated arguments.

3	Conceptualise and independently undertake critical evaluation and application of complex legal issues, rules, and principles including in an interdisciplinary manner.
4	Acquire a specialist knowledge in law and its subfields that is commensurate with study at the Masters level.
5	Develop the ability to locate relevant materials and assess their relevance and importance.
6	Demonstrate an understanding of legal principles, research methodologies and their application to legal questions.
7	Demonstrate the ability to make effective decisions within set deadlines and develop teamwork skills.
8	Communicate effectively in writing and orally.

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

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LWMTDI	Dissertation	60	M

Students must select one of the following modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LWMRLM	Research Methods for LLM Students	20	M
or			
LWMRRM	Research Methods (Advanced)	40	M

Part-time or flexible 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 enrol in optional modules totalling not less than 20 credits and not more than 80 credits.

In the second year of study, a student will normally be required to complete any remaining optional modules and a core Research Methods module (either LWMRLM or LWMRRM) and the Dissertation module (LWMTDI).

Full-time January entrants

Please note that the dissertation submission date falls in early September, whereas you will study some of your taught modules in the (subsequent) Autumn semester. You may wish to bear that in mind when choosing a dissertation topic.

Placement opportunities

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

Study abroad 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

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 – 150 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.

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

N/A

Assessment
The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including essays) and oral presentations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression
N/A

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 Master's Degree The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree: Award of a Master's degree (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits (iii) no credits with a mark below 40% In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit: Distinction An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits OR an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits AND Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation AND No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits

(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits

(iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

The reading materials required for each module will be made available in electronic form on the Blackboard and e-sources or in hard copy in the library. Students who wish to purchase their own copies of relevant books should do so at their own expense.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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.

LLM Advanced Legal Studies (full-time) for students entering in session 2027/28

29 July 2026

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