

Programme Specification

MRes in Law (full-time)

PFTZLAWXXXHS

MRes in Law (part-time)

PPTZLAWXXXHS

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	MRes in Law (full-time) - 1 years MRes in Law (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

Programme information and content

The M Research (Law) is a research-driven programme that aims to prepare students for PhD study. It is like LLM programmes in equipping students with specialist substantive knowledge in a broad area of law, and in requiring them to complete a masters-level dissertation. It is unlike LLM programmes in involving more advanced research methods training, and in providing specific assistance to candidates in producing a strong proposal for further study at PhD level. Candidates will then be able to use this proposal for seeking admission into a PhD programme, and for applying for relevant funding for their PhD studies. The goal is for students to leave the MRes programme with advanced skills in legal research, the ability to undertake high-level academic analysis of law and legal issues, and a thorough grounding in research methods.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MRes in Law (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	Demonstrate advanced knowledge about a specialist area of legal studies, enabling you to make valuable contributions to discussion of relevant legal and policy issues.
2	Demonstrate thorough knowledge about the methodological issues related to doctrinal, socio-legal, legal philosophical, and other approaches to legal research.
3	Identify and formulate appropriate research questions and select and apply appropriate research methods to address them.
4	Effectively analyse issues and take a reasoned stand in debates arising within your specialist area of legal studies.

5	Demonstrate critical thought by identifying strengths and weaknesses of different arguments and by providing reasons and justifications for your own positions.
6	Demonstrate self-direction and self-management in carrying out research projects.
7	Produce high-quality research proposals for future study.
8	Communicate clearly, accurately and effectively both orally and in writing about law and legal issues, particularly in your field of specialisation.

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 consists of 180 credits, comprised of a dissertation (60 credits) and a taught element (120 credits). Compulsory modules are listed below.			
Compulsory modules			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
LWMRRM	Research Methods (Advanced)	40	M
LWMTDI	Dissertation	60	M
Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Law or from an approved list of modules from elsewhere in 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 LWMRRM (Research Methods (Advanced), 40 credits) and optional modules of at least 40 credits but not more than 80 credits. In the second year, students will normally be required to complete any remaining 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.			

Placement opportunities
N/A

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

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of seminars and one-to-one support and guidance in developing your PhD proposal for future study.

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 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.

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29 July 2026

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