Programme Specification 202020/2021

8428 FT/8429 PT LLM International Law and Human Rights

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Full time
Duration in years	1 full year (12 months) following standard progression for a FT student. 2 full years (24 months) following standard progression for PT student.
Accreditation details	N/A
Final Award	Masters of Law
Name of award	LLM International Law and Human Rights
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate
FHEQ level of final award	7
UCAS code	n/a
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	n/a
Programme Lead	Professor Uta Kohl
Date specification was written	18 June 2014
Date Programme was validated	2018/19
Date Specification last updated	17/10/19

Programme overview

Brief outline of the programme

Southampton Law School has developed a strong profile in international and human rights law, and our LLM International Law and Human Rights builds on this. The programme gives you the theoretical knowledge and practical know-how for international or human rights law practice whether in the governmental, non-governmental or private sector. There are many careers for which a thorough understanding of international conventions, state responsibility or international dispute settlement, legal obligations in armed conflicts or human rights responsibilities of state or private actors is fundamental or taken an essential background assumption.

Having intensively studied across a range of modules including public international law, international criminal or environmental law or freedom of speech and privacy on the internet, you will be able to analyse complex legal issues arising from practical scenarios and evaluate a range of legal or policy responses.The programme also develops your practical transferable skills, including the ability to conduct independent research, both online and offline, time management, verbal and written communication, presenting and planning.

Your contact hours will be eight hours per week and will consist of seminars, or lectures and seminars, depending on the module. As a postgraduate, you will be expected to devote many hours to independent study as preparation for those contact hours and in working on your assignments and dissertation.

The LLM International Law and Human Rights draws on the research strengths of the School's academic staff who are active at the cutting edge of international and national legal reform and development. The expertise of the staff has been recognised as being of international excellence, and in the School of Law we are strongly committed to providing the very best learning experience for all our students in a friendly, stimulating and research-led environment.

Special features of the programme

The LLM International Law and Human Rights programme benefits from the activities of a number of research centres within Southampton Law School, particularly the lively seminar programme of the **Centre for Law, Policy and Society,** where staff and distinguished guest speakers from around the world regularly present on their research and matters of contemporary contentiousness. You will also be able to attend the **Wednesday Practitioner Seminar programme** organised by the **Institute of Maritime Law** in which eminent speakers from the shipping and maritime industry come and deliver lectures and seminars on a wide range of commercial law topics along with talks and guest lectures organised by the, the **Centre for Private and Commercial Law, Stefan Cross Centre for Equality Women and the Law, Health Ethics and Law (HEAL)** and the **iLaws Centre** on IT law, all of which regularly invite academics and legal practitioners to deliver seminars. This provides an exceptional opportunity for you to speak to, learn from and network with practitioners in the field.

The postgraduate cohort of Southampton Law School has always been very international, with students studying with us from many corners of the world. We take account of the fact that many of our LLM students do not come from a common law legal systems and other students have a lot of relevant industry experience but do not have a law degree. Therefore we allocate the first week in each new academic year to run an intensive legal skills programme, called **Introduction to Legal Skills,** that introduces you to the common law system, the interactions of statute and judge-made law as well as the impact of international conventions and model laws on national law. During this week, you will also be introduced to the law library and the many legal databases and other resources we hold. The programme will provide you with the foundations for taking the specialised modules.

You will be warmly invited to the **Law Careers Fair** to which many important Law firms are invited. For further information as well as details on where to look for vacancies and opportunities you should visit the Career Destinations website

Southampton Law School also organises an annual debating competition, the **LLM Challenge**, where eight teams of postgraduates compete against each other on a diverse range of current legal topics. This competition is very popular and there is a price and certificates for the best team.

Learning and teaching

The programme is taught through a combination of seminars and through guided independent study in order to develop your skills of analysis of relevant legal materials, the identification of the key legal and policy issues, and the evaluation of legal principles and their application to factual scenarios. In the seminars you will develop clarity and objectivity in the formulation of legal principles and in their critical evaluation. These skills will be further developed through the production of written work (assessed and non-assessed), written feedback and later through collaboration with dissertation supervisors during the dissertation drafting.

Assessment

Formal examinations and assignments will assess your abilities in relation to the learning outcomes of the LLM Programme. Furthermore, the dissertation will give you the opportunity to bring together all of the skills developed and acquired throughout the programme.

Educational aims of the programme

The LLM International Law and Human Rights programme aims to develop your legal skills across a range of diverse international and human rights subjects, within a structure that allows you also to shape your degree towards your particular interests.

The aims of the programme are to:

- give you a thorough and systematic knowledge and understanding of the main principles of law in each of the modules and an overview of the social, economic and political values that underpin international and human rights law and its practice;
- give you an understanding of the processes by which international and human rights law is produced and enforced and the ability to evaluate those processes;
- give you an understanding of how national, regional and international law interact;
- provide you with experience in dealing with legal principles deriving from a variety of legal instruments, including, where appropriate, international conventions, statutes and case law
- enable you to develop skills of legal analysis and problem evaluation, both systematically and at an advanced level;
- give you a critical understanding of legal and policy matters of contemporary controversy.

The programme is aligned with The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education (March 2018).

Programme learning outcomes

The learning outcomes that you will have achieved are as follows.

A. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

A1.   the historical, political or economic contexts of international and human rights law and their effect on the framework and functioning of these legal regimes;
A2.   the international and national institutions tasked with defining and monitoring international and human rights law and their shortcomings;
A3.   a wide range of core concepts and principles within international and human rights and their application;
A4.   issues of current concern and possible legal avenues to improve global governance by international and human rights law;
A5.   a specific legal area of international or human rights law.

Teaching and learning methods
The knowledge and understanding is acquired through the seminars and the independent study in preparation for seminars (A1-4). Understanding and knowledge of a specific legal area within international or human rights law is acquired through the research required for the Dissertation (A5).

Assessment methods
Knowledge and understanding is assessed through a combination of:

- The written examinations and course work in the case of the taught modules which will assess A1–4;
- The Dissertation concentrates on assessing A5 but will also reflect elements of A1-4.

B. Subject specific intellectual and research skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

B1. source relevant legal materials, including international conventions, statutes, case law and soft law, and interpret and analyse in light of key secondary sources;

B2. identify legal concepts and principles and apply to breaches of international or human rights law

B3. identify and critically evaluate legal and policy issues in their social, economic and political contexts and possible policy responses

B4. communicate legal arguments and opinions within the context of international and human rights law clearly, accurately and objectively;

B5. produce an extensive written discussion that coherently communicates an argument on a specific subject-matter of international and human rights law.

Teaching and learning methods
Seminars and guided independent study will develop your skills of analysis of relevant legal materials, the identification of the key legal and legal and policy issues and the appraisal of solutions available (B1,B2,B3). In the seminars you will also initially develop the skill of communicating legal arguments with clarity and objectivity (B4). These skills will be further developed through your production of written work (assessed and non-assessed), written feedback and later through collaboration with your dissertation supervisor (B1-B4).

Assessment methods
Formal examinations and assignments will assess your abilities in relation to B1-B4, with varying emphasis on the practical application of the law (B2) or critical evaluation of legal and policy issues (B3). The Dissertation particularly assesses B5, but will also reflect skills in B1-B4.

C. Transferable and generic skills

On the successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

C1. undertake independent research and access primary and secondary sources effectively;

C2. analyse complex written texts and evaluate different types of arguments;

C3. construct arguments and solve problems, including under time pressure, based on premises drawn from various sources;

C4. communicate arguments in writing and reference sources appropriately.

Teaching and learning methods
The main teaching and learning methods towards these learning outcomes will be the preparatory research for seminars and the independent, supervised research during the dissertation and assignments (C1-C4). Seminar group work will assist in developing your ability to discuss and present the issues under study.

Assessment methods
All of the above skills are all assessed through the summative assessments, whether in the form of examinations, course work or the final dissertation. The dissertation in particular show-casts your ability to undertake independent supervised research, analyse complex tests, construct arguments and communicate these effectively.

Programme structure

Typical course content

The LLM International Law and Human Rights programme offers you an initial choice of eight modules on a broad range of international and human rights law subjects of which you have to choose six. You may then top this up with any other one or two modules of your choice (amounting to no more than 15 ECTS (30 CATS)) from the whole range of PG Law modules.

The Dissertation module is core, i.e. it must be taken and passed.

Programme details

The LLM International Law and Human Rights consists of a taught part and a Dissertation.

For the taught part you have to complete 60 ECTS (120 CATS) which you may do in a number of ways:

(1) You have to choose at least 45 ECTS (90 CATS) of the modules marked as 'optional compulsory', although you may want to take up the full 60 ECTS (120 CATS) from this list.
These modules are short modules, i.e. they run over one semester only and are assessed at the end of the relevant semester.

(2) You may choose no more than 15 ECTS (30 CATS) from all other PG Law modules offered by the Law School.

The Dissertation module is worth 30 ECTS (60 CATS) and is Core which means that you must pass it to be awarded the LLM.

The programme can be studied either full-time over 12 months or part-time over 24 months. For full-time study you will complete the taught modules between October and June and then you will complete a supervised dissertation on a topic of your choice between June and September. For part-time study you will generally take 30 ECTS (60 CATS) in each year and also complete a supervised dissertation on a topic of your choice in your second year.

It should be noted that the running of any option module within the programme depends on availability of staff and occasionally some modules may not be offered.

Summary structure of the programme

See Appendix 3

Assessment mapping

See Appendix 2

Additional costs

You are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. Costs that students registered for this programme typically incur are included in **Appendix 4.**

Progression requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for **Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters programmes** as set out in the University Calendar.

Intermediate exit points

You will be eligible for an interim exit award if you complete part of the programme but not all of it, as follows:

Qualification	Minimum overall credit in ECTS (CATS) credits	Minimum ECTS (CATS) credits required at level of award
Postgraduate Diploma	at least 60 (120)	45 (90)
Postgraduate Certificate	at least 30 (60)	20 (40)

The PG Certificate and PG Diploma will be awarded at Pass level only, i.e. you cannot be awarded a Merit or Distinction for them no matter what grades you achieve in the relevant modules.

For PG Certificate and PG Diploma you will **not** receive a named award, e.g. PG Diploma in Insurance Law, no matter which modules, which you have passed.

All learning outcomes, other than A5 and B5, will be fulfilled by students exiting with a PG Certificate or Diploma. However, you may have achieved other learning outcomes to a lesser depth and/or with not as wide a scope than if you had been awarded the full LLM.

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including extensive e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the University wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls (18.00-08.00)
- a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

SUSU provides:

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- advice and guidance on academic matters from your personal academic tutor;

- support from the Senior LLM Tutor on general welfare issues and how to access a wide range of University services;
- a programme handbook with study skills advice, course documentation and examination regulations;
- an English Study Skills course for the LLM programme for non-native speakers of English;
- a one week introduction to Legal Skills;
- access to the Faculty/School's SharePoint site, e-learning resources on Blackboard, and student e mail;
- up-to-date library resources;
- computing facilities.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation surveys for each module of the programme
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Excellence Framework (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
- Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

Career opportunities

Our statistics say that 80% of our students find jobs within 6/8 months after they finish the LLM. LLM International Law and Human Rights graduates are usually recruited by law firms in the UK and overseas as well as by governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international governmental institutions, such as the UN or EU.

Whatever your situation, the Career Destinations service offers a wide range of services and support for postgraduate students. Visit the Career Destinations website for more details.

In the Southampton Law School we recognise that securing or advancing your career upon graduation is very important to you and there are a number of events which give you the opportunity to meet and network with experts in the shipping, commercial and maritime industries. Most importantly, the Careers Fair in November, to which some major companies as well as Law firms are invited. For further information as well as details on where to look for vacancies and opportunities you should visit the Career Destinations website

External Examiners(s) for the programme

Name	Institution
Dr Russel Buchan	University of Sheffield
Dr Greta Bosch	University of Exeter

Further externals tbc

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their personal tutor in the first instance.

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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook (or other appropriate guide) or online at http://www.southampton.ac.uk/law/index.page

As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our Disclaimer to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Revision History
1. Validated 2018/19

Appendix 1

LLM International Law and Human Rights learning outcomes mapping document

Core = Cr
Compulsory = Cm
Option Compulsory = Ocr

Module	Knowledge and Understanding							Subject Specific Intellectual Skills								Transferrable / General Skills				
The modules, other than the Dissertation, are Option Compulsory.	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5			B1	B2	B3	B4	B5				C1	C2	C3	C4	
LAWS6165 Dissertation (Cr)	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	
LAWS6149 Human Rights in Context	X		X	X				X			X					X			X	
LAWS6148 Free Speech and Privacy on the Internet		X	X	X					X		X					X	X		X	
LAWS6150 International Criminal Justice	X	X	X	X					X	X	X					X		X	X	
LAWS6151 Armed Conflict in International Law		X	X	X					X	X						X			X	
LAWS6143 Business and Human Rights	X		X	X				X			X					X			X	
LAWS6163 International Environmental Law	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X	
LAWS6162 Fundamentals of Public International Law	X	X	X						X	X	X					X	X	X	X	
LAWS6164 Dispute Settlements in International Law	X	X	X					X	X	X						X	X	X	X	

Appendix 2 - LLM International Law and Human Rights assessment mapping document

Core = Cr
Compulsory = Cm
Option = 0
Option Compulsory = Oc
Option Core = Ocr

Module Code	Module Title		Assessment 1	Assessment 2
LAWS6162	Fundamentals of Public International Law	Oc	Exam 2 hours 100%	
LAWS6164	Dispute Settlement in International Law	Oc	4500 word Essay 100%	
LAWS6149	Human Rights in Context	Oc	4500 word Essay 100%	
LAWS6143	Business and Human Rights	Oc	4500 word Essay 100%	
LAWS6150	International Criminal Justice	Oc	4500 word Essay 100%	
LAWS6151	Armed Conflict in International Law	Oc	4500 word Essay 100%	
LAWS6148	Free Speech and Privacy on the Internet	Oc	4500 word Essay 100%	
LAWS6163	International Environmental Law	Oc	Seen Exam 2 hours 100%	
LAWS6165	Dissertation	Cr	15000 word dissertation 100%	

Module Code	Module Title		Assessment 1	Assessment 2
LAWS6145	Principles of Commercial Arbitration	O	Exam 2 hours 100%	
LAWS6159	International Competition Law and Policy	O	4500 word essay 100%	
LAWS6158	Intellectual Property Law in a Global World	O	Exam 2 hours 100%	
LAWS6155	Business Finance	O	Exam 2 hours 100%	
LAWS6160	Corporate Governance	O	Exam 2 hours 100%	
LAWS6147	Cross Border Restructuring of Insolvent Businesses	O	Exam 2 hours 100%	
LAWS6161	Insurance Law	O	4500 word Essay 100%	
LAWS6145	Principles of Commercial Arbitration	O	Seen Exam (3000 words) 100%	

Module Code	Module Title		Assessment 1	Assessment 2
LAWS6XX8	International Law of the Sea	O	4000 word Essay or Problem Question 50%	4000 word assignment 50%
LAWS6064	International Sale of Good and Finance	O	Exam 3.5 hours 100%	

Module Code	Module Title		Assessment 1	Assessment 2
LAWS6065	Marine Insurance	O	Exam 3.5 hours 100%	
LAWS6153	Admiralty Law	O	Exam 3.5 hours 100%	
LAWS6076	Carriage of Goods by Sea	O	Seen Exam (6000 words) 100%	
LAWS6154	Commercial Conflict of Laws & International Litigation	O	Exam 3.5 hours 100%	
LAWS6146	Advanced Commercial Arbitration	O	Seen Exam (3000 words) 100%	
LAWS6156	Ship Finance	O	Exam 2 hours 100%	

Appendix 3

Programme Structure LLM International Law and Human Rights

You must take a minimum of 45 ECTS (60 CATS) of those modules marked as 'option compulsory', and you may choose a maximum of 15 ECTS (30 CATS) of those modules marked as 'option'. The dissertation is a core module, i.e. it must be taken and passed, for the LLM.

Please note the structure for part-time study will be that students choose their option modules to balance evenly across each semester and each year of study, i.e. 30 ECTS (60 CATS) each year of study, including any compulsory modules, and complete the core dissertation module in year 2.

It should be noted that the running of any option module within the programme depends on availability of staff and occasionally some modules may not be offered.

Semester 1					Semester 2				
Module Code	Name	Core/Option/ Comp	ECTS	CATS	Module Code	Name	Core/Option /Comp	ECTS	CATS
LAWS6165	Dissertation						Core	30	60
Option Compulsory (select a minimum of 45 ECTS (90 CATS))									
LAWS6162	Fundamentals of Public International Law	OpComp	7.5	15	LAWS6164	Dispute Settlement in International Law	OpComp	7.5	15
LAWS6149	Human Rights in Context	OpComp	7.5	15	LAWS6143	Business and Human Rights	OpComp	7.5	15
LAWS6163	International Environmental Law	OpComp	7.5	15	LAWS6148	Free Speech and Privacy on the Internet	OpComp	7.5	15
LAWS6150	International Criminal Justice	OpComp	7.5	15	LAWS6151	Armed Conflict in International Law	OpComp	7.5	15
Option (select a maximum of 15 ECTS (30 CATS))									
LAWS6152	International Law of the Sea						Option	15	30
LAWS6065	Marine Insurance						Option	15	30
LAWS6076	Carriage of Goods by Sea						Option	15	30
LAWS6064	International Sale of Goods and Finance						Option	15	30
LAWS6153	Admiralty Law						Option	15	30
LAWS6154	Commercial Conflict of Laws and International Litigation						Option	15	30
LAWS6160	Corporate Governance	Option	7.5	15	LAWS6147	Cross Border Corporate Insolvency and Restructuring	Option	7.5	15
LAWS6155	Business Finance	Option	7.5	15	LAWS6156	Ship Finance	Option	7.5	15
LAWS6145	Principles of Commercial Arbitration	Option	7.5	15	LAWS6146	Advanced Commercial Arbitration	Option	7.5	15
LAWS6158	Intellectual Property Law in a Global World	Option	7.5	15	LAWS6159	International Competition Law and Policy	Option	7.5	15
					LAWS6161	Insurance Law	Option	7.5	15
					LAWS6157	Law of the World Trade Organisation	Option	7.5	15

Appendix 4 LLM International Law and Human Rights

LLM additional costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for:

- Books and Stationery Equipment
- Printing and Photocopying Costs (such as Printing coursework for submission, Printing and binding dissertations or theses, Academic Poster (A1) printing).
- Replacing lost student ID cards
- Costs of attending a graduation ceremony (e.g. hiring a gown for graduation).

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/