

Programme Specification

LLM Master of Laws (2020-21)

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.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Laws (LLM)
Name of award	LLM Master of Laws
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8432 (FT), 8433 (PT)
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	
Programme Lead	Uta Kohl

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

Southampton Law School has strong research and teaching profiles in commercial and corporate law, maritime law and international and human rights law, and our LLM Law builds on this diversity of strengths. The LLM Master of Laws programme has been designed to allow you to customise your degree to your particular interests and career plans and mix and match from our wide range of modules.

Studying law at postgraduate level is an extremely valuable currency in the legal job market as it demonstrates commitment and capability. The LLM Law programme will give you practical insights as well as a theoretical knowledge of law, in order to help you progress in your legal career. Upon completion of the LLM Law programme, you will be able to tackle complex legal issues arising from practical scenarios, and to critically evaluate the principles of the areas of law you have chosen to study and their effectiveness. The LLM Master of Laws will also develop your practical transferable skills, including the ability to conduct independent research, to analyse complex texts, construct arguments and communicate these effectively.

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 Law programme 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.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

The LLM Master of Laws programme is taught through a combination of seminars, or lectures and 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 appraisal of solutions available. In the seminars and lectures you will develop clarity and objectivity in the application of legal principles and the critical appraisal of law. These skills will be further developed through the production of written work (assessed and non-assessed), written feedback and later through engagement with a dissertation supervisor during the dissertation module.

Assessment

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

Special Features of the programme

The LLM Master of Laws programme benefits from the many activities of a number of research centres within Southampton Law School. You will 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. You will also be welcome to attend talks and guest lectures organised by the Centre for Law, Policy and Society, 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 reflect on current legal issues. 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 system and other students have a lot of relevant industry or legal practice 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 employers from a wide range of sectors together with 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 popular and each year we award a prize and certificates for the best team.

Please note: 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](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to: The LLM Master of Laws programme aims to develop your legal skills within a structure that will allow you to shape your degree towards those areas in which your interests match our expertise.

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, political economic policies and values that underpin them;
- give you an understanding of the processes by which law is produced and to evaluate those processes;
- give you an understanding of how national, regional and international laws interact;
- provide you with experience in dealing with legal principles deriving from a variety of legal instruments, including international conventions, statutes, case law, standard form contracts and soft law;
- enable you to develop skills of legal analysis and problem solving, both systematically and at an advanced level;
- give you a (consolidated) understanding of the workings of the common law system;
- enable you to understand the legal and policy questions at the forefront of the academic discipline and to display a critical awareness of the present legal framework.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- A1. the national, regional or international legal framework governing a relevant area of private or public law;
- A2. a range of legal principles and processes drawn from private or public law;
- A3. the policies or values underlying these principles or processes;
- A4. the legal research methods, such as case analysis, statutory review, and consideration of international materials;
- A5. a specific legal area of private or public law.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The knowledge and understanding is acquired through the seminars and lectures and the independent study in preparation for seminars (A1-4). Understanding and knowledge of a specific area of private or public 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.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

- B1. source, interpret and analyse relevant legal materials, including, where appropriate, international conventions, statutes, case law, soft law or standard form contracts;
- B2. identify, evaluate and apply key legal principles in solving complex practical problems;
- B3. identify and critically evaluate key legal and policy issues in their social, political or economic contexts;
- B4. communicate legal arguments clearly, accurately and objectively;
- B5. produce an extensive written discussion that coherently communicates an argument on a specific subject-matter of private or public law.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, 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.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On 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 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 dissertations 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 showcases your ability to undertake independent supervised research, analyse complex tests, construct arguments and communicate these effectively.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Part I

The LLM Master of Laws experience offers a bespoke programme where you can choose your options once you arrive and tailor your studies to your own interests and career development. Hence the programme allows you to make an unrestricted choice across the full range of modules offered (subject to one module (i.e. LAWS6146 Advanced Arbitration Law) that have pre-requisite of LAWS6145 Principles of Commercial Arbitration .

The programme consists of a taught part and a Dissertation. For the taught part you have to complete 60 ECTS/120 CATS and you do so by choosing any of our PG Law modules which are listed below.

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 is to be studied full-time over 12 months during which 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.

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

You must select 60ECTS/120CATS from the following groups of modules. You must ensure that you choose an equal balance of credits across the year.

Please note that 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, 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.

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LAWS6165	Dissertation	30	Core

Part I Option Semester 1

You must select 30ECTS/60CATS

Please ensure an equal balance of credit across the semesters

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LAWS6177	Admiralty Law: Principles and Liabilities	7.5	Optional
LAWS6155	Business Finance	7.5	Optional
LAWS6160	Corporate Governance	7.5	Optional
LAWS6161	Insurance Law	7.5	Optional
LAWS6179	International Commercial Litigation	7.5	Optional
LAWS6159	International Competition Law and Policy	7.5	Optional
LAWS6175	International Sale of Goods	7.5	Optional
LAWS6171	Marine Insurance: Law and Principles	7.5	Optional
LAWS6169	Selected Principles of the International Law of the Sea	7.5	Optional
LAWS6156	Ship Finance	7.5	Optional
LAWS6173	The Law on Charterparties	7.5	Optional

Part I Option Semester 2

You must select 30ECTS/60CATS

Please ensure an equal balance of credit across the semesters

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LAWS6178	Admiralty Law: Enforcement of Maritime Claims	7.5	Optional
LAWS6147	Cross-Border Corporate Insolvency and Restructuring	7.5	Optional
LAWS6158	Intellectual Property Law in a Global World	7.5	Optional
LAWS6176	International Trade Finance	7.5	Optional
LAWS6157	Law of the World Trade Organization	7.5	Optional
LAWS6180	Marine Environmental Law	7.5	Optional
LAWS6172	Marine Insurance: Cover and Practice	7.5	Optional
LAWS6170	Navigational Law and Practice	7.5	Optional
LAWS6145	Principles of Commercial Arbitration	7.5	Optional
LAWS6174	The Law on Bills of Lading	7.5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*](#) and [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes*](#) Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in [*section VI of the University Calendar*](#).

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 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 Eduroam 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. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- 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 and Employability services, 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 and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union 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 questionnaires for each module of the programme.

- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School 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.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

after they finish the LLM. Our graduates are usually recruited by law firms in the UK and overseas, but also by companies, such as banks, insurance brokers, shipping firms, and also by the public sector, that is governmental and non-governmental organisations at national and international level.

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.

Southampton Law School recognises 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 from the legal sector, the commercial and maritime industries and the public sector, most importantly the Law Careers Fair in November, to which some shipping 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 at <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/careers/index.page>

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name:	Miss Ann E Lyon - Plymouth University
Name:	Dr Greta Bosch - University of Exeter
Name:	Dr Russell Buchan - University of Sheffield
Name:	David Cabrelli - University of Edinburgh
Name:	Andreas Kokkinis - University of Warwick
Name:	Dr Miriam Goldby - Queen Mary's University London
Name:	Dr Imogen Goold - St Annes College Oxford
Name:	Dr Bharat Malkani - University of Cardiff
Name:	Dr Aruna Nair - King's College London

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 Academic 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 they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

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 also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Other	<p>Students 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. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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). <p>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/</p>

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 www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.