Part B - Doctoral Programme Profile

7038 – 7039 Law 20117/18

This Law Doctoral Programme Profile accompanies the University of Southampton *Doctoral Programme Profile 2017/18,* and details additional Faculty/programme-specific information.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Full time/part time
Duration in years	3-4 years, following standard progression for a FT student. 7 years, following standard progression for a PT student
Accreditation details	N/A
Final award	PhD
Name of award	Doctor of Philosophy
Interim Exit awards	See note under intermediate exit points
FHEQ level of final award	8
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Doctoral Degree Characteristics Statement (2015)
Programme Lead	Dr James MacLean
Date specification was written	14/06/2016
Date Programme was validated	
Date specification last updated	09/05/2017

All Doctoral Programme Profiles should be read alongside the University of Southampton *Doctoral Programme Profile 2017/18* and the University of Southampton's
Regulations for the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy and
Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision.

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The PhD Programme in Law leads to a degree that is based on supervised research. Supervision is offered in areas of law in which members of Southampton Law School hold expertise. Applicants should look at the staff pages of the Law School website and also look at the areas of work of the School's Research Centres and Institutes.

Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

- demonstrate the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication, leading to a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of work.
- possess the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems and a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic inquiry.
- make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields, often in the absence of complete data, and be able to communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- gain the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.

Programme Structure

The following summary should be read in conjunction with the [Faculty Postgraduate Research Handbook](#) and the University Regulations as specified in the [Calendar](#).

Unlike undergraduate study, the open-ended nature of research means it is not possible to always predict the structure of a programme of study leading to a thesis. Research students are however, all required to undertake three Progression Reviews during their studies, as detailed in the *Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision*. The timetable shown below is indicative of what you can expect. Maximum candidature is 48 months in full-time registration, 84 months in part-time Registration. Candidates may be in receipt of funding for shorter periods. The timings listed below are those for a full-time student. Timings for a part-time student are adjusted suitably.

Programme details

Year 1

At the start of their study, students are required to undertake ethics training. By the end of month three of commencing the programme, candidates should have completed their training needs assessment and confirmed the full supervisory team. The supervisory team typically either consists of a main supervisor and a second supervisor, or for a multi-disciplinary project more than one co-supervisor (one of whom must still be designated as the main supervisor). The main supervisor is typically the technical lead for the project and is responsible for organising the completion of all progression paperwork and timely examination. A second supervisor may have less direct technical involvement with the candidate's work, but may still attend a number of review meetings with the candidate (as well as progression milestones) and be available to discuss the progress of the candidate's project.

You will be required to complete a 3 month report (more details, under Progression Requirements). There will be regular 3 month reports throughout the duration of the programme. In Year 1 you will also be required to submit a formal Progress Review (more details below), which will be considered by a review panel comprising the supervisory team and an independent assessor. This Progress Review will need to be submitted between months 8–10 for full-time study and months 18–21 for part-time study.

Year 2

Between 18–21 months for full-time candidates (30–42 for part-time study) the candidate is required to submit for 'confirmation' (more details below). The panel comprises at least two members of staff who have had no direct involvement in the research and can take the role of independent assessors. In addition, a member of the supervisory team will normally be invited to attend as an observer.

The format of the transfer thesis must demonstrate an understanding of the chosen field of research, review the background literature and draw together the work to date and outline the future direction of the research. Further guidance is available for students. A *viva voce* exam takes place at which the candidate's work is assessed. The assessors must be satisfied that the candidate has the potential to undertake independent research and produce a doctoral level thesis within the timescale of the programme. The assessors submit their reports to the Faculty Graduate Office. Upon successful completion the candidate is then eligible to continue their studies into the third year in readiness for final submission of the thesis. If the candidate fails to meet the requirements for confirmation, they may choose to be re-examined within an agreed timeframe, or may be advised to submit for an MPhil. For full-time students, a decision from the second transfer/upgrade panel should be made by the end of the 24th month following the start of the research phase of the student's programme.

During the second or third year of study, students are expected to present a paper at a seminar or conference.

Year 3

The target date for submission of the thesis is at the end of year 3. The thesis is normally considered by at least one internal and one external examiner and a *viva* held. Where the candidate is also a member of staff of the Law School, both examiners will be external. Examiners send their reports to the Faculty Graduate School. Possible outcomes are the recommendation to the University of the award of the PhD; award of the PhD subject to minor corrections to the thesis; major revision of the thesis with the award of the PhD subject

to a further examination or rejection of the thesis with the recommendation that the PhD should not be awarded. *In the latter case an MPhil may be awarded based on earlier performance.*

Summary of Progression

Full-Time Study

Month	Milestone	Requirements
1	One-month report	Identify training needs with main supervisor via PGR Tracker
3	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
6	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
8-10	Progress Review 1	Submit documentation for panel assessment
9	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
12	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
15	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
18	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
18–21	Progress Review 2	Submit documentation for Confirmation, *viva voce*
21	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
24	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
27	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
30	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
30-33	Progress Review 3	Submit draft thesis to supervision team
33	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
36	Submit thesis	Submit thesis, *viva voce* examination

Part-Time Study

Month	Milestone	Requirements
1	One-month report	Identify training needs with main supervisor via PGR Tracker
3	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
6	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
9	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
12	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
15	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
18	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
18–21	Progress Review 1	Submit documentation for panel assessment
21	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
24	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
27	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
30	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
30–42	Progress Review 2	Submit documentation for Confirmation, *viva voce*
33	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
36	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
39	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
42	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
45	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
48	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
51	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
54	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
57	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
60	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
61-66	Progress Review 3	Submit draft thesis to supervision team
63	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
66	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
69	3 Month Progress Report	Upload report on PGR Tracker
72	Submit thesis	Submit thesis, *viva voce* examination

Year 4 (and higher for part time)

If the thesis is not completed, as above, by the end of Year 3, it must be submitted *at the latest* by the end of a fourth year of study.

Programme Outcomes

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate:

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication

- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or an area of professional practice

- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems

- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- Current legal principles and concepts underlying your PhD topic in Law, including the terminology used in your PhD topic
- Current research issues relevant to your PhD topic in Law.
- Theory, practice, analysis and (where relevant) interpretation of data in your PhD, including relevant general legal theoretical tools and approaches
- Theoretical and empirical developments at the research frontiers in your PhD topic in Law.

Learning and Teaching Methods
You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings. In addition you will further develop via technical module lectures, tutorials, seminars and presentations as well as student-led study groups.

Assessment Methods
Assessment methods will include oral presentations, written assignments and progression reviews, including **Confirmation of PhD Registration** and a thesis with viva voce as described in part A

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:
- Interpret and critically evaluate information from academic papers, law reports, government, industrial and other sources.
- Synthesise ideas and apply creative and original thought to the solution of complex legal problems.
- Develop, modify and apply existing theory in novel situations and circumstances.
- Create and evaluate new knowledge through research of a quality to satisfy peer review and merit publication.

Learning and Teaching Methods
Guided and independent research, which can include projects carried out with industrial or other sponsors. Methods will include lectures, seminars and extended periods of self-study.

Assessment Methods
Written assignments, presentations and progression reviews including **Confirmation of PhD Registration**, thesis, viva voce exams as described in Part A

Support for student learning

Learning and Supervision
You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings. In addition, you will further develop via tutor-led and student-led tutorials and student-led seminars and presentations.

Research students are allocated a supervisory team of at least two members, one of whom will be the main supervisor. The supervisory team typically either consists of a main supervisor and a second supervisor, or for a multi-disciplinary project more than one co-supervisor (one of whom must still be designated as the main supervisor).

Applicants may indicate a preference for the supervisory team on their application form, but the names will not be confirmed until a formal offer is made. In some cases, the composition of a supervisory team may change as the research project evolves and in response to other circumstances.
In addition to the University-wide learning support, students studying on the Law Doctoral Programme will be able to access:

- Academic supervisory team who will provide advice and support throughout the programme and who are actively engaged in research closely related to your chosen area.
- Other staff in the Academic Unit
- Systems for the support of student learning within the Faculty.

- Dedicated PGR office accommodation.
- A Research Training and Support Grant.
- A computer for your use.

The Faculty also offer the following learning support:

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 Student Services Centre
- Enabling Services offering assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties
- 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
- a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service
- a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.
- a Researcher Development and Graduate Centre, which provides professional development and skills training
- An appropriate research environment, as set out in the Code of Practice

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:

- Research infrastructure
- A Research Training and Support Grant
- An additional Faculty PGR Conference and Research Support Fund providing up to £1000 to further support for dissemination and research activities
- Access to appropriate desk space and computing facilities (as per Faculty policy)
- Support of a supervisory team consisting of at least two members of staff

UoS Supervisors will act, in lieu of Personal Academic Tutors, to ensure University of Southampton pastoral care duties to PGR students. Further clarification on this will be made available in due course.

Fees, Additional Costs and Funding

An offer of a place is distinct from an offer of funding. Any offers of funding will depend on the source of the funding, the availability of funds, the rules governing the particular funding scheme, the academic competition for the funding, and any eligibility criteria. To find out whether the Law School is advertising any scholarships, please consult the website.

The current fees may be found at http://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/fees-funding/pg-fees-funding.page

Intermediate exit points (where available)

There are no intermediate exit points for this programme.

In some cases, students may not or cannot continue through to completion of the PhD. Students may make such decisions for themselves, or it can be based on unsatisfactory performance at one of the formal milestones described above. In this case a transfer to the MPhil programme may be possible, in which case the University will comply with its obligations under the relevant immigration legislation which may be updated from time to time. A student who is concerned about his/her entitlement to remain in the UK following a failure to progress should seek urgent advice from the Student Visa Guidance Service. An MPhil may be awarded only after successful examination of a suitable thesis by an internal and external examiner and passing a viva voce. See the University Calendar for further details on the award of an MPhil http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionV/mphil-phd.html

Admission

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Bachelor's degree	1st class or a good 2:1	Law or other appropriate discipline	
Master's degree	Merit	Law or other appropriate discipline	

At a minimum, successful applicants must meet the admissions requirements of the University Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision: http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionV/mphil-phd.html

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
The University has a **Recognition of Prior Learning Policy**

English Language Proficiency

IELTS 7.0 with at least 6.0 in each component. A score of IELTS 6.5 together with satisfactory completion of the six week LLM Pre-sessional programme on English legal language and skills will be accepted.

Other Criteria:

All candidates whose first language is not English and who require a visa to study must comply with the minimum requirements for language proficiency set by UK Visas and Immigration for the issuance of the visa.

Candidates will not be able to register for the programme until they have received an offer letter and met and/or accepted the conditions laid out in it.

The University's Admissions policy on English Language requirements can be found here.

Career Opportunities

Students may have the opportunity to develop their careers through applying to take on some teaching or research assistant duties. Students who undertake teaching duties must successfully complete ITSPG1 and ITSPG2. More information can be found at http://www.southampton.ac.uk/professional-development/

Module leaders will also be expected to provide additional training or guidance on the particular teaching required. The availability and precise nature of the teaching opportunity, if any, may vary from semester to semester.

Inquiries about teaching opportunities should be directed to the academic member of staff responsible for the teaching allocation.

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:
https://intranet.soton.ac.uk/SitePages/Home.aspx.

Appendix 1:

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 the items listed in the table below.

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Stationery		Candidates will be expected to provide their own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks		Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as **optional** background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
IT	Computer Discs	
	Software Licenses	
	Hardware	
Conference expenses	Accommodation	Within the annual research allowance and prior to approval
	Travel	Within the annual research allowance and prior to approval