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**Programme Specification**

**Title of Course: General Law Masters LLM (Full Time or Part Time)**

**Date Specification Produced: November 2018**

**Date Specification Last Revised: August 2023**

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each module can be found in Student Handbooks and Module Descriptors.

*Examples of completed programme specifications can be found on the* [*KU Programme Specification Archive*](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/programme-specifications/)**SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title:** | LLM |
| **Awarding Institution:** | Kingston University |
| **Teaching Institution:** | Kingston University |
| **Location:** | Kingston School of Law, Social and Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Business and Social Sciences, Penrhyn Road |
| **Programme Accredited by:** |  |

**SECTION2: THE PROGRAMME**

1. **Programme Introduction**

The essence of the LLM is that, within an advanced academic environment, students will have the opportunity to engage with a range of legal issues which may be national or international, within their theoretical, social and economic contexts.

The LLM is designed for students who want maximum flexibility. The programme allows students to tailor their studies to their aspirations by choosing four elective modules from a range of specialist subjects, such as Arbitration, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Company Law, Employment Law, Evidence and Arbitral Awards, Law of International Trade, Legal Aspects of Business Finance and Insolvency, Law of Technology and Innovation, Family Law, Human Rights in Context and Theoretical Perspectives on Contemporary Legal Environments. The Legal Research and Dissertation module allows students to undertake a proper academic research project in any legal field of their interest – even beyond the taught modules – under the expert supervision of one of our scholars.

Students can choose between the full-time or the part-time programme. The full-time programme lasts one year and students are required to take two modules in the first term and three in the second (one of which is Legal Research and Dissertation). The part-time programme lasts two years and students are required to take one module for every term of each year plus Legal Research and Dissertation in the second term of the second year.

The LLM is not limited to traditional academic learning. Students on the LLM programme have the opportunity to take part in extracurricular activities such as mooting, the development of mediation skills and advocacy particularly through involvement in the Kingston Mooting and Advocacy Society. These activities help to develop presentational skills and interpersonal skills. Students will be also offered the opportunity, also through involvement in the Kingston Law Society, to engage with the legal professions and industry – for instance, through court visits and networking and social events with solicitors, barristers and other external stakeholders.

The programme aims at offering a number of occasions to engage with Kingston University’s research environment – for instance, by being involved in the activities of research centres and groups. In particular, students also have the opportunity to participate in the regular research seminars that are held throughout the teaching terms. These seminars, in which members of staff present their research interests, are interactive and allow students and staff to develop points of interest.

After completion of the LLM, many students return to practise in their chosen field, having a deeper knowledge of a specialist area, while others embark on a new career, having found a new interest after studying a new subject.

1. **Aims of the Programme**

The main aims of the LLM are to provide students with the opportunity to:

* take advantage of a very flexible programme of taught modules by creating a programme of study designed to suit their own interests and aspirations
* acquire a detailed knowledge and understanding of, and develop the ability to analyse, evaluate and reflect upon, legal rules relating to areas selected by them
* apply law to complex situations
* develop research and investigative skills and a critical and research-oriented approach to the study of areas of law in which they are interested
* develop their interest at postgraduate level of related areas of legal study
* enhance their career opportunities with a postgraduate qualification which emphasises the skills which are central to work success in a knowledge economy
* develop their lifelong learning and continuing professional development.

1. **Intended Learning Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate legal knowledge and understanding, legal skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and relate to the typical student.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme Learning Outcomes** | | | | | |
|  | **Knowledge and Understanding**  On completion of the course students will be able to: |  | **Intellectual Skills**  On completion of the course students will be able to |  | **Subject Practical Skills**  On completion of the course students will be able to |
| A1 | Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the sources of law, theory and practice in the relevant area of law | B1 | Submit areas of law studied to critical analysis and evaluation | C1 | Communicate the results of independent legal research both in writing and, if appropriate to any particular taught law modules, in other ways |
| A2 | Critically appreciate the national or international social and economic context of the law in the relevant area | B2 | Analyse legal problems and issues, taking due account of any incompleteness of data or information, and arrive at well-reasoned and supportable legal conclusions | C2 | Use appropriate ICT to present legal text and data |
| A3 | Evaluate the effectiveness of legal policy and practice developments in responding to current issues affecting the relevant area of law | B3 | Carry out independent data collection and synthesise it so as to resolve legal problems/issues | C3 | Search for and retrieve information from ICT sources relevant for law |
|  |  | B4 | Develop original thought when presenting legal arguments | C4 | Use online communication systems to send and obtain information on law, including the University’s learning management system |

In addition to the programme learning outcomes identified overleaf, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow

students to develop a range of Key Skills as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Key Skills** | | | | | | |
| **Self Awareness Skills** | **Communication Skills** | **Interpersonal Skills** | **Research and information Literacy Skills** | **Numeracy Skills** | **Management & Leadership Skills** | **Creativity and Problem Solving Skills** |
| Take responsibility for own learning and plan for and record own personal development | Express ideas clearly and unambiguously in writing and the spoken work | Work well with others in a group or team | Search for and select relevant sources of information | Collect data from primary and secondary sources and use appropriate methods to manipulate and analyse this data | Determine the scope of a task (or project) | Apply scientific and other knowledge to analyse and evaluate information and data and to find solutions to problems |
| Recognise own academic strengths and weaknesses, reflect on performance and progress and respond to feedback | Present, challenge and defend ideas and results effectively orally and in writing | Work flexibly and respond to change | Critically evaluate information and use it appropriately | Present and record data in appropriate formats | Identify resources needed to undertake the task (or project) and to schedule and manage the resources | Work with complex ideas and justify judgements made through effective use of evidence |
| Organise self effectively, agreeing and setting realistic targets, accessing support where appropriate and managing time to achieve targets | Actively listen and respond appropriately to ideas of others | Discuss and debate with others and make concession to reach agreement | Apply the ethical and legal requirements in both the access and use of information | Interpret and evaluate data to inform and justify arguments | Evidence ability to successfully complete and evaluate a task (or project), revising the plan where necessary |  |
| Work effectively with limited supervision in unfamiliar contexts |  | Give, accept and respond to constructive feedback | Accurately cite and reference information sources | Be aware of issues of selection, accuracy and uncertainty in the collection and analysis of data | Motivate and direct others to enable an effective contribution from all participants |  |
|  |  | Show sensitivity and respect for diverse values and beliefs | Use software and IT technology as appropriate |  |  |  |

1. **Entry Requirements**

The following categories of applicant will normally meet the entry requirements for the LLM:

         applicants with a good honours degree in law (class 2(ii) and above) or non-UK equivalent

         applicants with a good joint honours degree (class 2(ii) and above) which comprises the study of law as a major component (for example, Accounting and Law, Combined Studies)

         applicants who have successfully completed a Conversion Graduate Diploma, a Legal Practice Course, a Bar Vocational Course, or non-UK equivalent

·         solicitors or barristers

We welcome applications from international students however those students whose first language is not English should have one of the following recognised qualifications:

* IELTS (British Council) test score of 6.5 with no element less than 6.0
* TOEFL iBT88 overall with R=18, L=17, S=20, W=17

English language support is offered both before and after enrolment. Students have an English test during induction week and are advised as to whether they need English language support classes during the LLM programme. English language support classes are offered in each semester on the LLM.

1. **Programme Structure**

This programme is offered in full-time and part-time modes with intake in September only, and leads to the award of LLM.

**E1. Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies**

**E2. Work-based learning, including sandwich programmes**

N/A

**E3. Outline Programme Structure**

The programme consists of five modules: four at 30 credit points and one at 60 credit points. A student must complete 180 credits for a Masters degree.

The LLM is designed for students who want maximum flexibility: students will choose four taught modules from any of the electives, and will undertake a dissertation in an area of their choice, subject to the availability of an appropriate supervisor.

All students will be provided with the University regulations. Full details of each module are provided in the module descriptors and student module handbooks.

**Table 1: Modules**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level 7** | | | | |
| **Compulsory module** | **Module code** | **Credit**  **Value** | **Level** | **Teaching Block** |
| Legal Research and Dissertation | LL7080 | 60 | 7 | 2 |
|  | | | | |
| **Elective modules** | **Module code** | **Credit**  **Value** | **Level** | **Teaching Block** |
| Alternative Dispute Resolution | LL7033 | 30 | 7 | 1 |
| Arbitration | LL7034 | 30 | 7 | 1 |
| Company Law | LL7035 | 30 | 7 | 1 |
| Employment Law | LL7045 | 30 | 7 | 1 |
| Evidence and Arbitral Awards | LL7042 | 30 | 7 | 2 |
| Law of International Trade | LL7039 | 30 | 7 | 2 |
| Legal Aspects of Business Finance and Insolvency Law | LL7086 | 30 | 7 | 2 |
| Labour Law in the Global Economy | LL7038 | 30 | 7 | 1 or 2 |
| Human Rights in Context | LL7001 | 30 | 7 | 1 or 2 |
| Family Law | LL7003 | 30 | 7 | 1 or 2 |
| Law of Technology and Innovation | LL7004 | 30 | 7 | 1 or 2 |
| Theoretical Perspectives on Contemporary Legal Environments | LL7002 | 30 | 7 | 1 or 2 |
| Energy and Climate Change Law | LL7056 | 30 | 7 | 1 or 2 |
|  | | | | |

* Students exiting the programme with 60 credits are eligible for the award of PgCert
* Students exiting the programme with 120 credits are eligible for the award of PgDip

1. **Principles of Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

There are essentially two elements of the LLM, the taught modules and the Dissertation stage. The primary aim of the elements of teaching and learning on the LLM is to enable the programme aims, learning outcomes and the aims and learning outcomes of individual modules, both taught modules and the Legal Research and Dissertation, to be achieved by the student. In general terms, the teaching and learning philosophy of the continuous assessment programme is to enable the students to demonstrate their ability to study independently and it is envisaged that a relatively small proportion of student learning time will be staff-student contact time.

The majority of the learning time of the student in relation to the taught modules will be spent in independent study, consisting of:

* directed learning, giving the student specific tasks in preparation for, and in support of, class-based programmes, for example, the preparation of oral or written presentations, case analysis etc;
* private learning time, comprising the preparation of material for seminars and workshops, reviewing of ideas introduced during contact time and directed research and development through reading, using recommended reading as a starting point;
* preparation of assessed work.

Student learning is supported by the Learning Resources Centre law collection, by law specific Web-based resources such asLexisNexis and WestLaw and by the university online learning management system, Canvas. Student learning is further enhanced by the opportunity to take part in skills competitions, e.g. the National Mediation Competition and the National Negotiation Competition.

For the Legal Research and Dissertation, seminars will combine formal presentation of ideas and issues with exercises. Students will be encouraged to decide on their dissertation area at the earliest possible stage, and wherever possible, exercises will be aimed at helping them to develop ideas relevant to their dissertation research. Each student will be provided with a Research Handbook setting out in detail the various aspects of the Legal Research and Dissertation module.

Once their research topic has been approved, students will be allocated a personal supervisor, to whom they will submit their proposal for approval. It will be stressed to students, both during the seminars and in the Research Handbook, that the Dissertation is their individual work but each student is entitled to up to 3 hours of face-to-face supervision time with his/her supervisor to address problems that they might encounter.

The assessments are planned to reflect the aims and to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme. They are designed to monitor student performance regularly in the context of specific requirements of individual modules, and to ultimately assess the knowledge and skills essential to meet the overall requirements of the Master’s degree. The assessment tutor schedules the coursework to ensure an even distribution of workload for students on the programme.

1. **Support for Students and their Learning**

Students are supported by:

* Course and module handbooks
* A Course Director
* Module leader for each module
* A designated programme administrator
* Each student is supported throughout the programme by a personal tutor. The personal tutor is available to discuss the student’s academic studies and monitor progress throughout the programme.
* An induction session at the beginning of the programme
* The Centre for Academic Support and Enhancement (CASE) supports students in the School of Arts, Culture and Communication (Kingston School of Art) and the School of Law, Social and Behavioural Sciences (Faculty of Business and Social Sciences) with structuring and editing traditional academic writing.
* Staff Student Consultative Committee
* Technical support to advise students on IT and the use of software
* Canvas – a versatile on-line interactive intranet and learning environment
* Student support facilities that provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support etc.
* Disabled student support
* The Students’ Union
* Careers and Employability Service

1. **Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course**

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

* External examiners
* Boards of study with student representation
* Annual review and development
* Periodic review undertaken at the subject level
* Student evaluation
* Moderation policies

1. **Employability Statement**

Students who successfully complete the LLM will have acquired significant research and analytical skills in their chosen areas of law and should therefore have substantially enhanced their prospects of gaining employment as, for example, professional or in-house legal advisors and in other areas of work where the ability to apply and advise upon legal issues is significant.

1. **Approved Variants from the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Regulations**

None

1. **Other sources of information that you may wish to consult**

All students will be provided with the University regulations. Details about the programme will be provided in the course handbook, and full details of each module will be provided in module handbooks.

**Development of Programme Learning Outcomes in Modules**

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are summatively assessed across the modules for this programme. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes. Include both core and option modules.

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| **Module code** | | **Level 7** | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| **Core** | **Electives (currently running only)** | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |
| **LL7080** | **LL7033** | **LL7034** | **LL7035** | **LL7039** | **LL7042** | **LL7045** | **LL7086** | **LL7001** | **LL7002** | **LL7003** | **LL7004** |
| **Knowledge & Understanding** | A1 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| A2 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| A3 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| **Intellectual Skills** | B1 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| B2 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| B3 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| **Practical Skills** | C1 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| C2 | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |

**S** indicates where a summative assessment occurs.

**Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practice and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.**

**Technical Annex**

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| **Final Award(s):** | LLM |
| **Intermediate Award(s):** | PgDip in Law  PgCert in Law |
| **Minimum period of registration:** | Full-time 1 year; part-time 2 years |
| **Maximum period of registration:** | Full-time 3 years; part-time 6 years |
| **FHEQ Level for the Final Award:** | Masters |
| **QAA Subject Benchmark:** |  |
| **Modes of Delivery:** | Full-time; part-time |
| **Language of Delivery:** | English |
| **Faculty:** | Faculty of Business and Social Sciences |
| **School:** | School of Law, Social and Behavioural Sciences |
| **JACS code:** | M100 *This is the* [*Joint Academic Coding System*](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/WorkWithUs/Documents/jacs_codes.pdf) *(JACS) agreed jointly by UCAS and HESA.* |
| **UCAS Code:** |  |
| **Course Code:** | *See overleaf* |
| **Route Code** | *See overleaf* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Programme** | **Course code** | **Route Code** |
| LLM Law | PPLAW1LAW01 | PPLAW1LAW01 |
| LLM Law 1YR FT | PFLAW1LAW01 | PFLAW1LAW01 |