Queen Mary
University of London

Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	LLM in Human Rights Law
Name of interim award(s):	Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate
Duration of study / period of registration:	1 year full time, 2 years part time.
Queen Mary programme code(s):	
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	Department of Law

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Department of Law

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

Programme outline

The LLM in Human Rights Law offers graduate students and professionals the opportunity to develop an advanced, critical and engaged understanding of human rights law across international, regional and national contexts. The programme offers a broad range of taught modules, which will ground students in substantive, methodological and procedural aspects of human rights, as well as situating human rights law within broader political, social, and economic debates. It includes a research component, with students producing a piece of in-depth, self-directed human rights research (a dissertation) on a topic of their particular interest as well as a wide selection of taught modules. The programme builds on and complements the strengths of the school in related areas, such as public international law, migration law, European law, and criminal justice.

Aims of the programme

The aim of the LLM in Human Rights Law is:

a) to enable graduate lawyers and other students with foundational expertise in human rights develop their skills and knowledge base by acquiring in-depth expertise in Human Rights Law informed by leading scholarship and practice in the field

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and in this way to help them further their existing careers.

b) to develop analytical skills enabling them to understand, use and apply human rights law effectively in a professional context;

c) acquire an insight in the driving forces, dynamics and constraints that shape human rights as legal, political and moral projects, and critically evaluate these dynamics and constraints ;

d) better prepare contemporary lawyers for practising the legal profession in an increasingly globalised world.

e) enable students to pursue independent legal research.

f) enhance the professional legal analytic, writing and oral communication, team working and other skills needed to practise law in this specialist area.

g) Enhance the students' learning experience through regular interaction with lecturers, practitioners, visiting academics and fellow students

d) strengthen their skills of critique, analysis, independent thinking and writing;

e) enhance their ability to carry out thorough, focused and comprehensive research in the field of human rights.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will:
1. Acquire a broad understanding of the development, evolution and practical application of human rights law in multiple contexts alongside a deep insight into the challenges raised for human rights by broader economic and political issues;

2. Gain analytical and critical skills that will enable them to perform a robust evaluation of the subject studied, within appropriate disciplinary, practical and theoretical frameworks;

3. Be able to carry out thorough, well-informed, and appropriate research and analysis of contemporary human rights law issues.

4. Explain key legal principles, emerging issues and public policy debates in relevant subjects to Human Rights law.

5. Engage critically and ethically with current research in the specialism and use research techniques to design and develop your own research, including identifying the issue(s) which require researching and developing information from a broad range of appropriate and relevant primary and secondary legal research sources.

6. Demonstrate self-direction and autonomy through the production of independent research (writing a dissertation / research assignment)

7. Communicate clearly, effectively, and comfortably using the legal human rights terminology and its legal frameworks.

Academic Content:	
A1	acquire a broad understanding of human rights law and legal regimes at international, regional and/or national level
A2	gain familiarity with and ability to employ appropriate methodological and theoretical tools to understand and evaluate human rights law issues
A3	situate human rights law debates and developments within broader political, economic and cultural contexts

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	Disciplinary Skills - able to:
B 1	develop the ability to understand and evaluate a wide range of primary and secondary materials, including international conventions, regional legal instruments, national legislation, policy documentation and academic literature.
B 2	develop the ability to critically assess and evaluate human rights law from doctrinal, theoretical and inter-disciplinary perspectives, drawing on broader policy contexts
B 3	develop, manage and complete a substantial and in-depth piece of independent research on a chosen human rights topic

	Attributes:
C 1	take charge of one's own learning, including reflecting on one's own learning, making use of feedback and seeking appropriate assistance when required.
C 2	communicate ideas clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
C 3	use information competently, including using appropriate technologies to access information,; evaluate the reliability of sources and rely on appropriate information as evidence to support arguments and decision-making.
C 4	explain key legal principles, emerging issues and public policy debates in relevant subjects to Human Rights law.

How will you learn?

Students will learn through direct interaction with lecturers using a variety of teaching, learning and assessment strategies, including traditional and interactive lectures, seminar sessions, tutorials and e-learning. Students will also be expected to invest a significant amount of time in independent learning, including reading materials in advance of lectures/seminars, preparing class presentations, completing assignments and preparing for examinations.

In addition, students will need to carry out extensive research to complete the dissertation. Students will be provided with a variety of legal resources and receive training on how to use them.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment is by examination, oral presentation, essays and/or coursework for taught modules and by dissertation.

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How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

Master of Laws (LLM)
• Students on the LLM have to complete 180 credits including the compulsory Dissertation in Human Rights Law SOLM909.
• Part-time students are normally expected to take 90 credits each year of their programme but this may be varied by special permission.
• Part-time students are normally expected to take 45 credits in each semester of their programme but this may be varied by special permission.
An additional dissertation (SOLM901) can be taken instead of taught modules by LLM students only with special permission from the Programme Director.

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Human Rights of Women: Feminist Legal Theory	SOLM063	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Human Rights of Women: Legal Framework and Issues	SOLM064	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International and Comparative Social Rights	SOLM065	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Human Rights Law: History, Theory and Politics	SOLM069	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Human Rights Law: Law, Practice and Institutions	SOLM070	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Terrorism & Human Rights: Constitutional Perspectives	SOLM071	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Secession and Self-Determination in International Law	SOLM074	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Mental Health Law: Capacity to Consent and Best Interests	SOLM104	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Law's Bodies: Donation, Reproduction and Dying	SOLM107	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Mental Health Law: Compulsory Detention and Treatment	SOLM110	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Use of Force in International Law	SOLM112	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

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Programme Title: Human Rights Law

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Conduct of Hostilities in International Law	SOLM113	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Principles of International Criminal Law	SOLM114	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Enforcement of International Criminal Law	SOLM115	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Refugee Law	SOLM171	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Ethics of Migration and Asylum	SOLM173	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Comparative Immigration Law	SOLM174	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Terrorism, Migration and Human Rights	SOLM175	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Migration and Asylum Law through Practice	SOLM177	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
EU Criminal Law	SOLM205	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Illegal Speech, Censorship and Digital Rights: Social Media vs "Old" Media	SOLM212	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Art and Cultural Values	SOLM227	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights and Migration	SOLM240	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
EU Immigration Law	SOLM242	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Corporate Violence	SOLM260	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
State Crime	SOLM261	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Climate Justice	SOLM262	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Migration Law	SOLM264	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Research Seminar	SOLM266	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 3

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
International Child Law	SOLM270	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Children, Law and Society	SOLM271	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cultural Diversity and Law	SOLM272	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Legal Tech	SOLM273	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Public Affairs Advocacy	SOLM274	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Advocacy in Commercial Disputes	SOLM276	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Human Rights and Public Health	SOLM282	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Minority and Group Rights: International and Comparative Perspectives	SOLM283	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Dissertation	SOLM901	30	7	Elective	1	Semesters 2 & 3
Dissertation in Human Rights Law	SOLM909	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 2 & 3
Media Regulation	SOLM265	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Media Law: Reputation Management	SOLM216	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Law's Relations: Autonomy, Consent and Confidentiality	SOLM103	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Legal Design	SOLM308 NEW	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Philosophy of Human Hights	SOLM312 NEW	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

What are the entry requirements?

The usual qualification for entry to the LLM programme is a degree in law, or a degree with a substantial law content, of at least 2.1 honours (or equivalent). Law graduates with 2.2 honours who also have other legal qualifications and/or substantial professional legal experience may also qualify.

Non-law graduates with a minimum second class honours degree, that have also obtained a Merit (or 60 per cent) in the Common Professional Examination (CPE) or Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) recognised by the UK professional bodies, may also qualify. Non-law graduates may also be considered on the basis of exceptional professional experience (of at least five years) in a legal area or an area directly related to their programme of study.

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Applicants whose first language is not English must provide evidence of your English language proficiency. The usual English Language Requirements for Postgraduate Law Taught Programmes will apply. These may be accessed at http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/english-language-requirements/index.html#Postgraduatelawtaughtprogrammes

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the PTES and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

Students will receive a comprehensive induction. Students will be assisted with the preliminary stages of selecting a research topic, drafting a research proposal, considering their methodology and developing the skills needed to identify and use relevant materials. Lecturers on taught modules shall be available to discuss any concerns students might have with regard to the particular module or its content.

Programme-specific rules and facts

Students can take up to 60 credits outside of their programme within the postgraduate programmes offered by the School of Law.
In order to specialise in Human Rights Law, LLM students must take at least 120 credits, including their dissertation, in modules on the Human Rights Law programme.

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:
• Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
• Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
• Arranging DSA assessments of need
• Special arrangements in examinations
• Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
• Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition

• Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
• Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

There is a mentoring programme that matches students with available mentors from the profession. An embedded Careers and professional development team provide guidance in identifying and obtaining relevant internships, valuable employment-related skills and other work-related opportunities. There is a programme of co-curricular activities designed to foster professional development and related skills.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Sue Fitzgerald

Person responsible for management of programme:

Neve Gordon

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:

December 2023

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:

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