

Programme Title: LLB Law and Politics



Programme Specification (UG)

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| Awarding body / institution: | Queen Mary University of London |
| Teaching institution: | Queen Mary University of London |
| Name of award and field of study: | LLB Law and Politics |
| Name of interim award(s): | |
| Duration of study / period of registration: | 3 years (36 months), Maximum registration period: 6 years |
| QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s): | ML13 |
| QAA Benchmark Group: | Law/Politics/International relations |
| FHEQ Level of Award : | Level 6 |
| Programme accredited by: | *See Programme Specific Rules and Facts |
| Date Programme Specification approved: | |
| Responsible School / Institute: | Department of Law |

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

School of Politics and International Relations

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

Programme outline

The LLB Law and Politics joint honours programme offers students the opportunity to study the closely related disciplines of Law and Politics side by side in a three-year programme. It is a Qualifying Law Degree (QLD) satisfying professional requirements for the foundations of legal knowledge and skills in England and Wales.

The degree is aimed at those who wish to pursue a career in which knowledge of both the legal and governmental systems is of major importance, and should appeal especially to those wishing to study public policy in its legal context. For anybody considering a career in either law or an alternative sector, Law and Politics graduates are very employable.

Aims of the programme

The LLB Law and Politics programme offers intellectually able students the opportunity to study the closely related disciplines of Law and Politics in a supportive environment. Teaching is strongly underpinned by the research taking place in both Schools. The programme encourages students to explore legal rules, principles, reasoning and ideas in their comparative, social, political, economic, historical, philosophical, and practical contexts. The programme is recognised as satisfying the academic stage of

training for the solicitors and barristers professions in England and Wales.

Outside the programme, students may choose to take part in the wide range of extracurricular activities offered as well as the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre - a student-led Pro-Bono legal advice scheme - and mooting which is based on written and oral presentation of legal arguments in a simulated court environment.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will demonstrate achievement in all the following areas.

Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

Academic Content:

| | |
|-----|---|
| A 1 | demonstrate knowledge of a substantial range of major concepts, values, principles and rules of those systems |
| A 2 | explain the main legal and political institutions and procedures of those systems |
| A 3 | demonstrate the study in depth and in context of some substantive areas of the legal and political systems |

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

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|-----|--|
| B 1 | demonstrate the study in depth and in context of some substantive areas of the legal and political systems |
| B 2 | identify and retrieve up-to-date legal and political information, using paper and electronic sources |

| | |
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| B 3 | use primary and secondary legal and political sources relevant to the topic under study |
| B 4 | recognise and rank items and issues in terms of relevance and importance |
| B 5 | bring together information and materials from a variety of different sources |
| B 6 | produce a synthesis of relevant legal doctrinal and policy issues in relation to a topic |
| B 7 | make a critical judgement of the merits of particular arguments |
| B 8 | present and make a reasoned choice between alternative solutions |

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| Attributes: | |
| C 1 | act independently in planning and undertaking tasks in areas of law and politics which they have already studied |
| C 2 | be able to undertake independent research in areas of law and politics which they have not previously studied starting from standard legal and political information sources |
| C 3 | reflect on their own learning and to seek and make use of feedback |
| C 4 | to understand and use the English language proficiently in relation to legal and political matters |
| C 5 | to present knowledge or an argument in a way which is comprehensible to others and which is directed at their concerns |
| C 6 | to read and discuss legal and political materials which are written in technical and complex language |
| C 7 | where relevant and as the basis for an argument, to use, present and evaluate information provided in numerical or statistical form |
| C 8 | to produce a word-processed essay or other text and to present such work in an appropriate form |
| C 9 | to use the internet and email |
| C 10 | to use some electronic information retrieval systems |
| C 11 | to work in groups as a participant who contributes effectively to the group's task |

How will you learn?

Teaching for the core modules is typically through a combination of lectures (to the whole year group) and tutorials (groups of up to 15 students). Lectures may have several different goals: to provide an introduction to a particular topic; to cast light on the context of a module; to provide alternatives to orthodox approaches; to provide an overview of the topic; to explain particularly difficult aspects of a topic; to introduce comparative aspects of a topic; to cover reform proposals and recent reforms in the law which may or may not be covered in the textbooks.

Elective modules make use of a variety of teaching methods. Small group work often include discussion structured around questions and readings distributed in advance. Talking about law fluently is a vital part of developing legal reasoning skills. By expressing ideas you are able to refine and reflect on them. Tutorials are intended to be supportive environments in which ideas can be exchanged and knowledge developed with a view to meeting outlined learning outcomes. A considerable amount of independent study is expected throughout the programme. This involves reading cases, legislation and academic texts.

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Independent study may also involve working with other students in pairs or small groups: students are encouraged to set up informal study groups to help each other get to grips with topics before or after tutorials and seminars.

All modules at Queen Mary make use of an online learning environment.

How will you be assessed?

Both core and elective modules are assessed in a variety of ways, including examinations, course work including, for some options, a 10,000-word dissertation.

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.

Students are required to take 120 credits each year at Queen Mary and the programme is 360 credits in total. Modules are either 30 credits or 15 credits.

Year one consists of the following core modules: Public Law (30 credits); Contract Law I: Formation and Vitiation (15 credits); Contract Law II: Terms, Breach and Remedies (15 credits); Thinking Politically (30 credits) and Law in Context (15 credits). Students also take a second semester 15 credit elective module in Politics which is either Background to British Politics or Global Histories.

In year two, there are two 30-credit core law modules (Land Law and Criminal Law (Level 5)) and one 15-credit core module (Law of the European Union). In addition, students take 45 credits of elective modules in Politics

In the final year, students take two 30-credit core Law modules (Tort Law and Equity and Trusts). They also take 30 credits of elective modules in Law and 30 credits of elective modules in Politics.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

| Module Title | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester |
|---|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Public Law | LAW4001 | 30 | 4 | Compulsory | 1 | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Law in Context | LAW4008 | 15 | 4 | Compulsory | 1 | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Contract Law I: Formation and Vitiation | LAW4104 | 15 | 4 | Compulsory | 1 | Semester 1 |
| Contract Law II: Terms, Breach and Remedies | LAW4105 | 15 | 4 | Compulsory | 1 | Semester 2 |

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| Module Title | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester |
|---|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Thinking Politically: Introduction to Concepts, Theories and Ideologies | POL110 | 30 | 4 | Compulsory | 1 | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Background to Politics | POL108 | 15 | 4 | Elective | 1 | Semester 2 |
| Global Histories | POL109 | 15 | 4 | Elective | 1 | Semester 2 |

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

| Module Title | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Law of the European Union | LAW5105 | 15 | 5 | Compulsory | 2 | Semester 2 |
| Land Law | LAW4006 | 30 | 4 | Compulsory | 2 | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Criminal Law | LAW5005 | 30 | 5 | Compulsory | 2 | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Elective level 5 Politics module(s) | | 45 | 5 | Elective | 2 | Semesters 1 & 2 |

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

| Module Title | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Tort Law | LAW5001 | 30 | 5 | Compulsory | 3 | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Equity and Trusts (level 6) | LAW6056 | 30 | 6 | Compulsory | 3 | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Elective Law module(s) | | 30 | 6 | Compulsory | 3 | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Elective politics module(s) | | 30 | 6 | Compulsory | 3 | Semesters 1 & 2 |

What are the entry requirements?

Entry Requirements: Grades A*AA at A-Level. Excludes General Studies and Critical Thinking.

International Baccalaureate:

Subjects and grades: Minimum of 36 points overall with combined total of 18 points from three higher level subjects.

Vocational and other qualifications:

The College accepts a wide range of qualifications such as Access and Foundation programmes, vocational awards, Irish Leaving Certificate, Scottish Highers and other Baccalaureates.

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

Overall administrative responsibility and QMUL accountability for the programme rests with Law.

The Programme Convenor will be responsible for the academic content and quality of the programme and any changes to the curriculum in addition to ensuring a regular liaison with the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) to maintain a consistent quality of teaching across the programme.

The Law undergraduate office is responsible for the overall administrative delivery of the programme, ensuring SPIR is provided with all necessary student and organisational information in order to effectively deliver its module(s) and general QMUL administration for students on the programme, including any issues relating to registration, complaints, pastoral care, appeals, and award for the programme.

The overall management and enhancement of the programme lies with the Department of Law's undergraduate Education Committee chaired by the Director of Taught Programmes.

QMUL Law Department

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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.

Student views are incorporated formally through representation on the Department of Law Education Committee.

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. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

QMUL Law Department

The induction week before the start of Semester A provides introductory talks on all the services and support mechanisms available within the school and college. The plasma screens within the school also update on timetabling, events and support services within the school. The virtual learning environment (QMplus) has information on the different modules and supervisory advice for dissertations as well as personalised teaching timetables. A module talk is held at the start of the module selection process to enable students make informed choices when selecting their electives for the following academic year.

Feedback

Feedback on progress in each module is provided throughout the year in various ways (for example, comments on written assignments, and guidance given in lectures/seminars and tutorials).

Advisors

Every student is supported by the Student Support Team whom they can approach should they have any queries or issues related to their academic studies or academic development.

Feedback and Advice Hours

All academics have dedicated feedback and advice hours published on the website so students may visit them to discuss any aspect of their learning on specific modules.

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)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Programme-specific rules and facts

Standard bachelors programmes

To progress from one developmental year to the next on a standard LLB a student must both:

i take and pass modules as follows:

a. developmental year one to two: take 120 credits including a minimum 90 at level 4 in year one. Pass a minimum 90 credits in year one. Achieve a minimum mean average year mark of 40.0 or higher.

b. developmental year two to the final developmental year: take 120 credits including a minimum 90 at level 5 in year two. Pass a minimum 195 credits across years one and two. Achieve a minimum weighted average mark of 40.0 or higher using the two mean average year marks in a 1:3 weighting (year one counting for 25 per cent and year two for 75 per cent of the mark).

ii fail (after resit) no more than 30 credits in any one developmental year.

Standard bachelors programmes academic regulations and progression apply <https://arcs.qmul.ac.uk/media/arcs/policyzone/academic/Academic-Regulations-2023-24.pdf>

This programme covers the 7 foundations of legal knowledge as prescribed by the Bar Standards Board and successful completion of this programme, including passing all 7 of the prescribed modules, should satisfy the academic element of training necessary as part of entry to the Bar. The Bar has additional requirements such as vocational experience which are not included in this programme. The 7 modules are listed below. This programme also provides a sound educational basis for students wishing to further their training and take the Solicitors Qualifying Exam by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

A sub-set of modules are designated as foundations of legal knowledge for professional accreditation as a qualifying law degree.

The designated modules are as follows:

- Obligations I (Contract): satisfied by taking and passing LAW4104 Elements of Contract Law at QMUL
- Obligations II (Tort): satisfied by taking and passing LAW5001 Tort Law at QMUL
- Criminal Law: satisfied by taking and passing LAW5005 Criminal Law at QMUL
- Equity and the Law of Trusts: satisfied by taking and passing LAW6056 Equity and Trusts (Level 6) at QMUL
- Law of the European Union: satisfied by taking and passing LAW4001 Public Law and the 15-credit module LAW5105 Law of the EU at QMUL

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- Property Law (Land Law): satisfied by taking and passing LAW4006 Land Law
- Public Law (Constitutional and Administrative Law): satisfied by taking and passing LAW4001 Public Law

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

The School of Law's has a dedicated Careers Consultant, part of the Queen Mary Careers and Enterprise Team, who is regularly available in the department for one-to-one support. The Careers Consultant also manages Careers Brief, the School's careers website, and arranges employer workshops in areas such as commercial awareness, applications and interview skills.

The Legal Advice Centre provides undergraduate law students with the opportunity to place law into a practical legal context under the supervision of volunteer lawyers. Lawyers from Allen & Overy, Field Fisher Waterhouse Mishcon de Reya, Nabas Legal and Reed Smith work closely with students, providing guidance and supervision, as well as training and careers advice.

The Queen Mary Student Pro Bono Group (QMSPBG) is a student group created by students for students. As students develop their skills and legal knowledge, they are able to become involved in increasingly challenging and hands-on projects. The Queen Mary Student Pro Bono Group has well-developed links with the London legal community. Students have the opportunity to volunteer at organisations that provide pro bono legal advice and to 'shadow' solicitors. Placement programmes operate through partnerships with leading law firms such as Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP, SNR Denton, Clifford Chance and Reed Smith LLP. Queen Mary runs a Streetlaw Programme, which is based on a US model to provide an outreach volunteer programme to local schools and communities. Students visit primary and secondary schools to teach pupils relevant parts of the law. The Group also offers exciting opportunities in international law, in the past students have worked with organisations such as A4ID and Lawyers Without Borders.

The Queen Mary Mooting Society plays an active part of undergraduate life at Queen Mary. Under the auspices of the Student Moot Master and Student Mooting Committee, students have the opportunity to become involved in both internal and external mooting competitions.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Shahida Uddin

Person responsible for management of programme:

Mario Mendez

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

May 2024

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: