



POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme Title: Law Masters Awards

Awarding Body: Staffordshire University

Accreditation:

Final Awards: LLM (with specialist route designator where appropriate)
LLM in Legal Practice; (with specialist route designator where appropriate)

Intermediate Awards:

Postgraduate Diploma (with specialist route designator where appropriate)

Postgraduate Certificate (with specialist route designator where appropriate)

Mode of Study Face-to-Face

UCAS Codes: N/a

QAA Subject Benchmarks: N/a

Professional/Statutory Body N/a

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contact us.**

EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

All awards within the Law Masters programme share the following aims:

- to introduce the student to the 'leading edge' of the subject of each module studied;
- to enhance students research skills;
- to develop rigour in student identification of problems and related issues;
- to enable students to enhance analytical and critical skills;
- to encourage innovative approaches to problems and issues;
- to ensure that students adopt, and effectively use, the appropriate methodology for dealing with particular issues;
- to develop the deployment of appropriate synthesis both within and across modules;
- to enhance students communication skills;
- to enhance the employability of graduates.

In addition to the foregoing general aims, the practice-based award has the following additional specific aims:

LLM in Legal Practice

- to develop an understanding of the way in which legal practice issues impact upon the development and practice of law;
- to encourage an integrated approach to the study of legal practice and legal theory.

What is distinctive about this programme?

The USP of the Staffordshire LLM is the flexibility it offers students. To that end the modular framework was designed to permit maximum flexibility of academic choice while, at the same time, maintaining academic coherence. Within the general modular framework, however, there exists the opportunity for modules to be grouped together to form Designated Routes leading to the award of a specialist LLM in a chosen subject area e.g. LLM in International Trade & Commerce. This ultimately means that, should they chose, a student is able to graduate with a truly bespoke LLM, tailored to suit their own legal interests, be they professional or personal.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

(See the document: Preferred Approach to Expressing Postgraduate Learning Outcomes)

What will this programme teach me to do? At the end of your studies you should be able to:

Postgraduate Certificate

Critically appraise different methods of legal research and demonstrate the ability to select appropriate strategies of data collection, analysis and evaluation. (Enquiry)
Engage in critical reflection and analysis of legal issues in order to challenge and question current legal provisions and/or proposed legislation. (Knowledge & Understanding, Reflection)
Determine the application of knowledge and skills to the analysis and to offer possible alternatives associated with their field of study. (Analysis, Application)

Postgraduate Diploma

Demonstrate the ability to articulate, in writing, complex and often abstract legal principles. (Learning, Communication)
Demonstrate the ability to deal with extremely complex legal and socio/legal problems through the deployment, manipulation and creative play of legal concepts, principles and rules. (Problem Solving)
Provide evidence, in assignments, presentations and seminar preparation, of independent legal research skills, including electronic sources. Manage extended programmes of research and investigation. (Learning, Knowledge and Understanding, Reflection, Application)

Masters

Demonstrate the ability to conduct an independent study of extended legal research. (Learning, Enquiry, Application)
Demonstrate an in-depth understanding and application of research styles, methods of legal inquiry and demonstrate an evaluative approach to the dissertation itself. (Enquiry, Analysis, Application)
Disseminate these findings in a clear, coherent written dissertation. (Communication)
Demonstrate a mastery of the legal area studied together with an ability to deploy that mastery in an original way to deal with particularly problematic or unprecedented issues. (Application)

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE, MODULES AND CREDITS

Programme Title

Potential award = PgCertHE

L E V E L	Teaching Block 1	Legal research Methodology 15 Credits	Optional Module, or Common Law Tradition for non-UK Law Graduates 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits
	Teaching Block 2				

Potential award = PgDipHE

L E V E L	Teaching Block 1	Legal Research Methodology 15 Credits	Optional Module, or Common Law Tradition for non-UK Law Graduates 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits
	Teaching Block 2	Optional Module 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits

Potential award = Masters Degree 180 credits passed with completion of additional 60 Credit dissertation

L E V E L	Teaching Block 1	Legal Research Methodology 15 Credits	Optional Module, or Common Law Tradition for non-UK Law Graduates 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits
	Teaching Block 2	Optional Module 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits	Optional Module 15 Credits

Potential Awards:

Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits) – comprises 4 15 credit modules, one of which must be Legal Research Methodology and additionally for non-UK Law Graduates the Common Law Tradition Module
 Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits) – comprises PG Cert plus and additional 4 x 15 credit modules
 Master of Laws (180 credits) – comprises successful completion of 8 x 15 credit modules, one of which must be Legal Research Methodology and additionally for non-UK Law Graduates the Common Law Tradition Module and additionally a final dissertation weighted at 60 credits.

To attain a Designated Award in a specialist subject area, you must obtain at least 90 credits from modules within that subject area. For example, to attain an LLM in International Sports Law, the award structure would be as follows:

Programme Title

LLM in International Sports Law

L E V E L M	Teaching Block 1	Legal research Methodology 15 Credits	Legal Regulation 15 Credits	Sport, the Individual 15 Credits	Doping A 15 Credits
	Teaching Block 2				

L E V E L M	Teaching Block 1	Legal Research Methodology 15 Credits	Legal Regulation 15 Credits	Sport, the Individual 15 Credits	Doping A 15 Credits
	Teaching Block 2	International Sports Law 15 Credits	Commercial Regulation 15 Credits	Event Management 15 Credits	Doping B 15 Credits

L E V E L M	Teaching Block 1	Legal Research Methodology 15 Credits	Legal Regulation 15 Credits	Sport, the Individual 15 Credits	Doping A 15 Credits
	Teaching Block 2	International Sports Law 15 Credits	Commercial Regulation 15 Credits	Event Management 15 Credits	Doping B 15 Credits

Typically, other awards possible are:

- LLM in Employment Law
- LLM in Environmental Law
- LLM in Family Law
- LLM in Human Rights Law
- LLM in International Trade Law

Progression:

In order to progress from one stage of an award to another (i.e. PgC to PgD, PgD to Masters), you must normally successfully complete the requisite number of modules.

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT AND ASSESSED?

Teaching and Learning

A wide range of teaching and learning strategies are applied across and within the specific awards. The emphasis, however, is always placed on student centred and reflective learning. It is the strong feeling of those teaching at the postgraduate level that students simply cannot acquire and demonstrate true mastery of their chosen area of study without an accentuated degree of critical awareness of, not just the subject matter of their study, but their own approach to that study. Postgraduate study is, tautologically, more advanced than undergraduate study, but that advance is reflected more in regard to the manner in which the student approaches the task of learning rather than in the object of that learning. Again, by definition, postgraduate level study involves a greater capacity for self-motivated learning than is required at the undergraduate level: such an approach is central to the independent research nature of the LLM awards generally and the seminar/tutorial structure in particular. In recognition of this, all those concerned in the delivery look to instil such an approach in the students doing their particular modules. This is usually insisted on at the first seminar/tutorial and is reflected in the level of work required by students in relation to seminar/tutorial work. However, in addition for students with no prior postgraduate experience the issue is specifically addressed in the Legal Research Methodology modules which require students not only to think about **why** they want to do postgraduate work, but more importantly introduces them to the essential issues of **how** to do that work.

There are a variety of teaching deliveries and assessments currently validated in regard to individual modules in recognition of the fact that modules may be delivered and assessed in different ways just as long as the outcomes remain the same and are assessed appropriately. Details of teaching and assessment methods are provided in individual module specification forms.

The main teaching mechanism is a series of two-hour seminar/tutorials (5 in the case of 15 credit modules, 10 in the case of 30 credit modules) spread over the full length of the module and covering the key elements of the syllabus. Seminar/tutorials may be student led, based on student presentations, or take the form of a discussion, but at all times the emphasis is on student participation - they are never lecture based. Attendance at these seminars is expected, to ensure satisfactory completion of any module, and non-attendance is subject to the general University regulations.

There is no specific supporting lecture provision. Where delivered in that subject area at undergraduate level students are permitted to attend the undergraduate lectures if they so wish.

Assessment

The standard form of assessment is by way of a 3,000 word assignment per 15-credit module. Other forms of formative or summative assessment may be utilised including bibliographies, literature reviews, article/book reviews, presentations and moots. Once again the emphasis is on diversity and the appropriateness of the assessment for the subject under investigation.

Feedback is provided to students on their work and they are encouraged to raise any matters of doubt with their subject tutors.

All postgraduate work is subject to second marking and review by the external examiners. A sample of assessments is sent to the subject external examiner in line with the general policy of the Law School.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Entry Requirements (including ILETS score)

What qualifications would I need to join this programme?

The entry requirements for the award are normally:

- (i) a lower second class honours degree in law, or cognate discipline, of a UK university or any other qualification deemed to be equivalent to a UK lower second class honours degree in law; or
- (ii) a lower second class honours degree of a UK university in which law formed a substantial part or any other qualification deemed to be equivalent to such a UK lower second honours degree; or
- (iii) a Graduate Diploma in Law (CPE) of a good standard; or
- (iv) a relevant professional qualification;
- (v) ILEX fellowship

A minimum IELTS Score of 7

Disability Statement

Staffordshire University operates a policy of inclusive teaching and learning to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. Details about how to apply to have your needs assessed can be found at: http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study_here/disabled_students/index.jsp

AWARD SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Students may choose their own rate of progression and mode of delivery through the scheme, taking modules as and when offered for study subject to any award specific admission requirements or designated route restrictions. The minimum period of registration for the Masters will be 12 months and the maximum 36 months.

There are three distinct levels of award offered under the present framework – postgraduate certificates (60 credits and shall not include a dissertation), postgraduate diplomas (120 credits and shall not include a dissertation) and LLMs (180 credits and shall include a dissertation). Experience has confirmed the usefulness of these three levels which allow students to obtain some award without necessarily completing the full LLM. Restrictions on obtaining certificates and diplomas exist where advance standing has been afforded.

All modules are taught at Masters level so there is no academic progression between PG certificate and PG diploma. Academic progression from diploma to Masters is reflected in and dependent upon the 60 credit dissertation.

Within the programme, the award of a Masters degree will be defined by a set of learning outcomes equivalent to 180 credits. Approximately 10 hours learning time will be equivalent to one credit. Included in the study must be a dissertation worth 60 credits, which must demonstrate appropriate award outcomes.

Normally the dissertation will only be undertaken on completion of the diploma level stage.

Further information about the award can be found in the relevant Student Handbook and on the University Website. This includes information about optional modules, student support, and academic regulations.

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ADDENDUM FOR DELIVERY AT A PARTNER INSTITUTION

This section should record any matters within the programme specification which do not apply to the delivery at the partner. It should also note any differences in delivery, course content, module choice etc.

Name of the partner: N/a

Admission requirements (including ILETS score or equivalent)

Date of approval

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