



University of London External Programme

**Master of Laws (LLM) Programme Specification
2009**

General Information	
Programme title	Master of Laws (LLM)
Final award	Master of Laws
FHEQ level of final award	Masters 'M' Level (Level 7)
Associated Programmes (including short courses)	Postgraduate Diploma in Laws Postgraduate Certificate in Laws
FHEQ level of associated award(s)	Masters 'M' Level (Level 7)
Awarding body	University of London
Lead College	University College London (UCL) and Queen Mary
Programme Director	Dr James J. Busuttil
Mode of study	Distance Learning
Programme accredited by	Students wishing to become lawyers are advised to contact the legal professional body in the jurisdiction where they hope to practice to find out if the degree will satisfy their requirements for the academic stage of legal training.
Programme started	September 2005
Study year start date	Students may start studying any time but must be enrolled by 15 October to be eligible to take examinations the following May, or 15 March to be eligible to take examinations the following October.
Relevant QAA subject benchmarks	Law http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/honours/law.pdf
Registration period (minimum/maximum)	Minimum – one year Maximum – five years
Average time to graduation	No data
Teaching Institution attendance required?	No attendance is required.

Admissions Details	
Intake (quota)	None
Admission requirements – general entrance requirements, programme specific entrance requirements	Applicants are required to have at least one of the following: Obtained the LLB degree of the University of London with at least Second Class Honours (excepting that a candidate who obtained the LLB Pass degree before 1969 may make a special application) Or Obtained a first degree, in a subject appropriate to the LLM, of a university in a Member State of the European Union, with a result considered by the University of London to be equivalent to at least Second Class Honours Or

	<p>Obtained a first degree, in a subject appropriate to the LLM, of an acceptable university outside the European Union, with a result considered by the University of London to be equivalent to at least Second Class Honours</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Obtained a Masters degree, in a subject appropriate to the LLM, of a university in a Member State of the European Union or of an acceptable university outside the European Union</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Passed <i>either</i> the Bar Vocational Course (BVC) of England and Wales <i>or</i> the Qualifying Examination of the Solicitors Regulation Authority of England and Wales <i>or</i> the corresponding examinations in Scotland or Northern Ireland, where <i>in either case</i> the student has also obtained a Second Class Honours degree of a UK university (or an educational institute of university rank) <i>or</i> an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard obtained after a course of study extending over not less than three years in a university (or educational institute of university rank)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Obtained <i>either</i> the Common Professional Examination <i>or</i> an equivalent Diploma in Law where <i>in either case</i> the applicant has also obtained a Second Class Honours degree of a UK university (or an educational institute of university rank) <i>or</i> an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard obtained after a course of study extending over not less than three years in a university (or an educational institute of university rank)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Qualified as a solicitor or barrister in England or Wales, or the equivalent outside England or Wales</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in law from a College or Institute of the University of London.</p> <p>(Note: In these admission criteria, a degree ‘in a subject appropriate to the LLM’ means a first degree with substantial law content)</p> <p>In addition, applicants are required to satisfy English language requirements. For further details, refer to the current edition of the Regulations.</p> <p>Students registered for the Postgraduate Diploma in Laws may progress if they wish to the LLM degree provided: they have already satisfied the entrance requirements for the LLM degree or they have successfully completed the requirements for the Postgraduate Diploma in Laws.</p> <p>Applicants are also advised to have Internet access in order that they may benefit from the support given in the eCampus. Further information is given in the Student Handbook.</p>
Possible exemptions	<p>Students who have obtained a Postgraduate Certificate in law or a Postgraduate Diploma in law from a College or Institute of the University of London may be considered for exemption up to one third of the Postgraduate Laws programme. All applications will be considered on an individual basis and at the discretion of the University. For further information, refer to the current edition of the Regulations.</p>
Credit and transfer/progression arrangements	<p>Students registered for the LLM degree of the University of London who are following a programme of study with either a College or an Institute of the University may transfer to the Postgraduate Laws programme. Students permitted to enrol will be given credit for all LLM courses previously passed at the respective College/Institute of the University. The name of all previously passed courses will appear on the student’s transcript. The mark obtained at the examination at which the course/subject was passed will count towards the student’s award on the Postgraduate Laws programme.</p>

Programme Outcomes	
Distinctive features of the Programme	<p>Choice and flexibility are distinctive features of this programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a wide range of courses to choose from and many areas in which to specialise. • Examinations are offered twice a year, in May and October, and are held at examination centres throughout the world. • Students can progress from the Postgraduate Certificate to the Postgraduate Diploma and then onto the LLM degree; students can accumulate these awards as they progress. • Students registered for the LLM degree may also receive the awards of the Postgraduate Diploma in Laws and Postgraduate Certificate in Laws as long as they have satisfied the relevant requirements for those awards. Similarly, students registered for the Postgraduate Diploma in Laws, who satisfies the relevant requirements, may also receive the award of the Postgraduate Certificate.
Possible routes to further study	To the extent a Master of Laws (LLM) degree is necessary for admission to a PhD programme, this degree is a Master of Laws (LLM) of the University of London, examined to the same standard as those granted to internal students of the University.
Possible graduate employment routes	Postgraduate study in law is valued in a number of fields, the most obvious of which is law, but also banking, securities, finance, management, accounting, maritime and policing.

Programme content and structure	
Learning aims, objectives and intended outcomes	<p>Educational aims The LLM aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop forensic legal skills such as analysis, critical evaluation, logical thinking and argument; • develop the capacity for individual research; • develop skills and knowledge which can usefully be applied in further study, the legal profession, public service or industry; • provide students with knowledge and understanding of law in its context; • equip students with the skills needed to work with the advanced issues in law; • bring students into advanced intellectual engagement with some of the most difficult issues in law. <p>Knowledge and understanding On successful completion of the programme students should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to deal with complex legal issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgments in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to legal and non-legal audiences; • how to demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving advanced legal problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level; • how to continue to advance their legal knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level. <p>Intellectual, practical and transferable skills: On successful completion of the programme students should have the following qualities and transferable skills necessary for legal employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility; • decision-making in complex legal situations;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.
Learning and Teaching methods, including support, guidance, materials provided and study requirements	<p>The following learning resources are provided to students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extensive study guides tailored to distance-learning requirements are available in print, on CD and the web; textbooks provided for each course; readers of selected articles, cases and legislation provided for most sections to help direct student reading; access to an eCampus; access to an extensive online library; access to LexisNexis, KluwerArbitration, HeinOnline and Westlaw Professional online databases via the online library; Regulations, containing full details of syllabuses, programme structure, fees, applying for entry to the examinations, degree classification criteria, etc; Handbook, containing general advice on study techniques; <i>Recent developments in Law</i> booklet sent in March of each year; Past examination papers and Examiners' reports when they become available. <p>Additional support offered to students includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Postgraduate Laws programme web pages; Student-to-student network - this allows registered students to communicate with each other studying for the same programme and providing mutual support; local educational support from institutions is available in some countries.
Programme structure	<p>The LLM consists of a number of courses. Each course is divided into four sections which are individually assessed, with the exception of one course which is divided into double sections.</p> <p>A student who wishes to receive the Master of Laws must satisfy the examiners in four complete courses, composing of a total of sixteen sections (or the equivalent where double sections are attempted).</p> <p>A student who has passed at least three complete courses from the predefined list of Specialisations may elect to have the title of the Specialisation included on the Master of Laws degree certificate. Not more than one Specialisation may be included on the Master of Laws degree certificate.</p>
Syllabus	Refer to the current edition of the Programme Regulations that are reviewed annually.
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Assessment methods, including proportion of different methods used	<p>The Master of Laws is assessed by 100% unseen written examinations. There is no dissertation. Every section carries equal weight except that double sections are the equivalent to two sections.</p> <p>Each section of each course will be assessed by one 45 minute unseen written paper (double sections will be assessed by one 90 minute unseen written paper), which shall be completed without aids unless otherwise prescribed.</p> <p>In all papers, questions may be set on developments within the scope of the syllabus up to 1 January in the year of the examination.</p> <p>For further details refer to the current edition of the Programme Regulations</p>

	that are reviewed annually.
Marking scheme and classification criteria	<p>To be considered for the award of the LLM degree, a student must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attempted the examinations for four complete courses, composing of a total of sixteen sections (or the equivalent where double sections are attempted) and • obtained an overall average mark of at least 50% in each of those four courses and • achieved, in each course, a minimum mark of 50% in three sections and no less than 40% in any one section. In all cases, where a student attempts a double section a minimum of 50% must be achieved in that double section. <p>At the discretion of the Board of Examiners, the LLM degree may be awarded with Merit (normally awarded to a student who obtains an average mark of 60-69% in the sections which contribute to the award, with at least half of those sections having a mark of 60% or more) or with Distinction (normally awarded to a student who obtains an average mark of 70% or more in the sections which contribute to the award, with at least half of those sections having a mark of 70% or more).</p>
Estimated study hours overall	Each section represents 112.5 study hours, which equals approximately 1800 study hours for the LLM. The LLM receives 96 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.
Intellectual development (rationale of progression through course)	There is no set intellectual progression route through the studies. Students can choose the courses (and sections within courses) to study as are most interesting or relevant to them. The sequence of study through each course has been developed by the course academic team, in consultation with the Programme Director, to ensure that, where necessary, study builds upon fundamentals.

Quality Assurance	
Particular indicators of quality	<p>The syllabus for each course was revised immediately before the course materials were written. The External LLM Management Committee, composed of representatives of the Schools of Law of each of Queen Mary and University College London, reviewed and approved each Syllabus. An Academic Reviewer for each Course, competent in the subject and external to the University of London, made a written report against detailed guidelines twice during the writing of each Study Guide, which comments were utilised by the study guide author(s) in preparing the course materials. Each course and each section of each course was reported on a Graduate Programme Component form to, and approved by, the Programme and Course Approval Steering Group and then the Programme Development Executive Sub-Committee of Academic Committee of University College London. Each course and each section of each course was reported on a Course Proposal form to, and approved by, the Department of Law, then the Laws and Social Sciences Faculty Board, and then the Quality Enhancement Committee of Queen Mary. The External LLM Management Committee reviewed and approved each specialisation, as well as all other aspects of the organisation and management of the programme. The programme as a whole was reported on a Programme Institution Questionnaire (Graduate) to, and approved by, the Department of Law, then the Faculty of Laws, then the Faculty of Social and Historical Studies, then the Programme and Course Approval Steering Group, and then the Programme Development Executive Sub-Committee of Academic Committee of University College London. This approval was supported by a written report against detailed guidelines made by an expert External Scrutineer. The programme as a whole was reported on a</p>

	<p>Programme Proposal Form to, and approved by, the Department of Law, then the Laws and Social Sciences Faculty Board, and then the Quality Enhancement Committee of Queen Mary. This approval was supported by a written report against detailed guidelines made by an expert External Adviser.</p>
<p>Methods for assuring, evaluating and improving quality and standards of this programme</p>	<p>The Ordinances and Regulations of the University state that: ‘Candidates granted degrees and other awards shall have attained the same academic standard irrespective of mode or place of study or examination.’ Degrees and Diplomas awarded to External students are, therefore, examined to the same standard as those granted to Internal students of the University.</p> <p>In support of this standard, the External System and individual Lead Colleges share responsibility for ensuring the quality of External provision. The Quality Assurance Framework for the External System defines this shared responsibility and covers areas including:</p> <p><i>The bidding process</i> External programmes must undergo validation & approval under Lead College/College consortia mechanisms and with reference to national QAA benchmark statements.</p> <p><i>Student and programme management</i> This includes the admission, registration and progression of students, establishment of assessment procedures and appointment of boards of examiners.</p> <p><i>System wide matters</i> Academic policy and development is the responsibility of the External System Board, the membership of which is made up of representatives of all the Lead Colleges at Vice-Principal level. The qualifications framework for External programmes outlines the different levels of undergraduate and postgraduate study and the awards which may be made to External students.</p> <p><i>Systematic reporting and the review process</i> External Examiners make annual reports on assessment procedures and standards set and achieved. Annual Programme Reports provide annual summaries of programme information. These reports are considered and acted on as part of an annual review process.</p>
<p>Programme validation/approval</p>	<p>The programme was approved by the Programme Development Executive Sub-Committee of Academic Committee of University College London and the Quality Enhancement Committee of Queen Mary.</p>
<p>Appointment of external examiners</p>	<p>External Examiners for External Programmes are nominated and appointed by the Lead College or Consortium, using approval processes which are parallel with those used for the appointment of External Examiners to Boards of Examiners assessing College-based students.</p>
<p>Student feedback mechanisms</p>	<p>External Programme-wide student feedback mechanisms are currently under development therefore no standard data is available yet. However, the eCampus provides a forum for continuous feedback.</p>