

**Programme Specification**

<b>Course record information</b>	
Name and level of final award:	LLB (Honours) European Legal Studies The LLB Honours European Legal Studies Degree is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of alternative and intermediate awards:	Certificate of HE Diploma of HE BA Legal Studies (Hons) BA Legal Studies (Hons) with International Experience BA Legal Studies (Hons) Qualifying BA Legal Studies (Hons) with International Experience Qualifying BA Legal Studies (non Hons) BA Legal Studies (Hons) with International Experience
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Westminster Law School
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Four years full-time, September start
QAA subject benchmarking group:	<a href="#">LAW</a>
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	Joint Academic Stage Board (SRA/BSB)
Date of course validation/review:	December 2018
Date of programme specification approval:	December 2018
Valid for cohorts:	2019/20 all levels
Course leader:	Julia Chrysostalis
UCAS code and URL:	M125 <a href="http://westminster.ac.uk/about-us/schools/law">westminster.ac.uk/about-us/schools/law</a>

## **What are the minimum entry requirements for the course?**

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate courses. You are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

[westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

For most courses, a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

Applicants are considered for direct entry to level 5 and 6. In such cases an individual programme of study may apply

More information can be found here: [westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

## **Introduction**

Westminster Law School is located within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences sited in Little Titchfield Street, which is in the heart of the West End, 5 minutes' walk from Oxford Circus. The LLB in European Legal Studies course is a four-year course that combines the study of English Law with that of other European laws, and of law in its broader European context. It includes a year spent studying at one of our partner law schools in Europe. The course provides students with the seven foundation subjects required by the professional bodies so that students can, on successful completion of their programme, proceed onto the Legal Practice Course or the Bar Professional Training Course. The legal professions require graduates to possess both intellectual and practical skills, and the course explicitly addresses these requirements with a rigorous academic approach and structured programme of skills development. In addition, the European Legal Studies course provides students with the opportunity to enhance further their language skills in another European language during Years 1 and 2 and to gain knowledge of civil law and European codified legal systems through a specialist module in Year 2 before they go on to spend a year of studying law in one of our partner institutions in Europe.

## **LLB (Hons) European Legal Studies Course Aims**

Law is an interesting and challenging discipline and law students need to be able to think about law in terms of its effect both on society generally and individuals within it. Increasingly the international dimension to legal study has become more important, across a wide range of legal areas, as the influence of the European Union and international organisations have become so significant.

Law impacts not just on our daily lives but the operation of Government at an international level with, for example, questions concerning the legality of war and the extradition of terrorist suspects. Undergraduate study of the subject provides an opportunity to develop both a strong theoretical understanding of law in addition to the development of important practical skills. Law has both an academic and vocational dimension.

The LLB (Hons) European Legal Studies course offers you a specialised programme of study allowing you to obtain a Qualifying Law Degree as well as an exciting and dynamic educational experience with an international dimension, which includes a year of studying law in Europe in one of the School's partner institutions. You will gain a thorough knowledge and understanding of the fundamental doctrines and principles that underpin the English legal system, other European legal systems and beyond, and you will further enhance your

European language skills whilst acquiring a better understanding of the contexts in which law operates in England and other European jurisdictions. The course also provides an opportunity to study a limited selection of options covering wide and diverse areas of law that are closely linked to staff research interests.

During the course, you will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and abilities and develop your intellectual ability through critical evaluation of legal materials. As a student at Westminster, you will work in partnership with your tutors to develop an inquisitive approach to study. In addition, by studying abroad you will develop intercultural awareness, a broad range of transferable skills and the ability to communicate fluently with lawyers from civil law traditions. Career development skills are explicitly recognised and promoted and the overall aim of the School is to foster a stimulating, enjoyable and supportive learning environment.

### **LLB (Honours) European Legal Studies Course Learning Outcomes**

Studying law at undergraduate level involves the acquisition, analysis and application of both general and highly specialised knowledge from a wide range of sources. You will need to develop a complex set of skills and a key element is how the interrelationship between skills and knowledge changes as you progress through the four years of the course.

We have set out below what you will achieve on successful completion of the course.

#### **What will you be expected to achieve?**

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding** you will gain from your course (KU).
- **Graduate attributes** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA).
- **Professional and personal practice learning outcomes** are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP).
- **Key transferable skills** that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (KTS).

#### **Level 4 learning outcomes**

##### **Upon completion of level 4 you will be able to demonstrate:**

- L4.1 The ability to work under direction and take responsibility for their own work in an adaptable, and reflective manner. (GA)
- L4.2 A broad understanding of legal principles, institutions and on-going debates within the subjects covered at this level. (KU)
- L4.3 The ability to apply the legal knowledge to solve legal problems;
- L4.4 An initial understanding of ethical considerations and personal responsibility in the context of academic codes of conduct. (PPP)
- L4.5 A research strategy that encompasses the identification and selection of a range of authoritative and reliable materials. (KTS, PPP)

L4.6 Effective interpersonal and communication skills in a variety of contexts. (KTS, GA) and

L4.7 Development, or enhancement, of knowledge of another European language. (KTS)

### **Level 5 learning outcomes**

#### **Upon completion of level 5 you will be able to demonstrate:**

L5.1 The ability to work under limited supervision and direction, reflect on own capabilities, and take responsibility for their own work in a responsible and flexible manner. (GA)

L5.2 A detailed understanding of legal principles and awareness of the established concepts and competing ideas, with the ability to apply that understanding to practical problems. (KU)

L5.3 A detailed understanding of the legal profession, relevant codes of conduct and employability skills

L5.4 A research strategy that encompasses analysis of a range of authoritative and reliable materials. (KTS, PPP)

L5.5 The application of a range of intercultural, interpersonal and communication skills, both individually and as a member of a team, in a range of situations with degrees of complexity. (KTS, GA)

L5.6 The ability to compare and explain differences and similarities between a codified legal system and a common law system, and engage in the comparative study of English and European jurisdictions. (KU)

L5.7 An enhanced knowledge of another European language and familiarity with the legal language of civil law systems. (KTS)

### **Level 6 and overall Course learning outcomes**

#### **Upon completion of level 6 you will be able to demonstrate:**

L6.1 The ability to work with minimal supervision or direction and take responsibility for their own learning and development in a responsible and flexible manner. (GA)

L6.2 A systematic and deep understanding of the specialist legal principles and concepts that arise. (KU)

L6.3 A developed research strategy that involves the evaluation and critical analysis of a range of authoritative, novel and reliable materials. (KTS, PPP)

L6.4 The proactive application of a range on interpersonal and communication skills in a range of situations with degrees of complexity. (KTS, GA)

L6.5 An understanding of the implications of studying and practising law in a European/transnational context. (PPP) and

L6.6 The ability to transfer information across legal languages, engage in the study of law in a European context, and explain differences and similarities between a codified legal system and a common law system. (KU, KTS)

### **How will you learn?**

#### **Learning**

The LLB European Legal Studies programme is made up of a compulsory core of ten 20 credit modules and one 40 credit module, plus two 40 credit option modules, two 20 credit European language modules, and a year of studying law in Europe, through two 60 credit core modules.

Seven of the ten 20 credit modules represent the Foundations of Legal Knowledge set out in the JASB Statement. Two 20 credit core modules provide knowledge and understanding of different legal systems, including the English legal system, and allow for the discussion of issues around the legal profession and the future of law in the UK. Legal and academic skills are embedded in the teaching of all core modules. The last core 20 credit module provides a foundation in civil law systems in view of the year abroad and is specific to the European Legal Studies programme. The remainder of the 20 credit modules are language modules, ordinarily required also in view of the year abroad. The compulsory 40 credit module is a final year dissertation connected to the Year Abroad. The 2 remaining 40 credit modules are option modules, allowing students to choose from a range of specialist areas that tie in with their own interests. In addition, students must complete the Year Abroad studying law in Europe in a satisfactory way. Students may be able to study through the medium of English in a number of partner institutions.

Further to this, academic staff offer extra-curricular activities that provide an important contribution to academic, employability and personal development. Visiting academics from our partner institutions in Europe frequently visit the School and give lectures in their areas of expertise. Students are also encouraged to develop extracurricular activities both within and outside the Law School and to engage with specialist professional networks, such as the Franco- British Association of Lawyers, with which the School maintains links.

As students, you will develop a breadth and depth of legal understanding and skills competence, as well as confidence in your abilities. We promote reflection on performance and development in particular and provide specific assistance with this in all core modules, especially at Level 4. Moreover, the language modules you will study during the first two years of your degree programme are meant to enhance your European language skills and along with the Civil Law and Legal Systems module will provide you with preparation for the Year Abroad. Which language you study will depend on which language/s you already know and further support and advice on choosing a language will be provided during the Orientation Week. You will also be allocated a Personal Academic Tutor, who will advise and assist you at the beginning of your studies and will then continue to provide you with academic guidance throughout your study on the degree.

Although the LLB European Legal Studies programme addresses similar skills in some modules, their substantive content addresses different areas of law. The programme has been clearly designed to ensure that modules at similar levels dovetail with respect to skills, development and modes of assessment. Each module will consider the substantive law, legal context, important theoretical perspectives and ethical issues relevant to that area. The core subjects delivered at level 4 and 5 are often seen as distinct areas of study. The LLB at

Westminster Law School moreover delivers these modules in a coherent way at each level and cross-references the skills acquired in one subject to the learning in another.

The teaching team will provide a framework for understanding knowledge whilst requiring students to develop their skills of research, critical evaluation and analysis. You will be expected to find, analyse, interpret and apply law. Understanding law is far more than merely 'learning law'.

## **Teaching**

You will encounter a range of different teaching methods including lectures, seminars, tutorials and one to one sessions. Contact time is used in a variety of ways including formal lectures, seminar-based discussion, delivery of class presentations, invited guest speakers and practical group exercises, including a variety of online learning techniques.

At the beginning of the first year, you will learn how to dissect essay and problem questions, how to undertake research to find relevant law, cases, academic opinion and other forms of authoritative evidence used to support arguments. In the first few weeks of the course you will come to know how to cite and reference work correctly and how to develop your writing and other communication skills. In the substantive law subjects, you will be required to evaluate and analyse legal materials and apply them in a range of situations. In addition, in the LLB European Legal Studies programme, you will be able to develop your language skills (particularly in view of the Year Abroad) with European language modules (French, Spanish, Italian, and German) in Years 1 and 2.

Teaching staff initiate and support discussions and you are encouraged to take control over your learning. As you progress further through the degree, you will be increasingly expected to act as an independent learner – someone who is able to identify their own points of strength and weakness and take the appropriate action to improve their performance. Staff are used to provide support and help at every step along the way whether in formal classes or as a Personal Academic Tutor.

Second year study builds on the first-year skills, introducing more specific career development and a wider understanding of the profession. The school has a high level of research activity in relation to the workings of the legal profession and the synthesis between research and teaching in this area is emphasised in the core 21<sup>st</sup> Century Law module. Further, in order to prepare you for studying law during the Year Abroad in Europe, the Civil Law and Legal Systems module provides you with an understanding of codified systems of law in the civil law tradition and encourages you to focus on the jurisdiction of the European country in which you will subsequently spend the year abroad. In addition, the module provides you with the basic 'tools' of comparative legal study.

During the Year Abroad, you will study together with students of other legal backgrounds, acquire a broader and deeper understanding of a codified legal system, and experience studying law in a transnational / European context. Depending on the jurisdiction and the partner institution, you will have the opportunity to study different law subjects in Italian, Spanish, French, or German private law and public law, as well as European and International law, and law-related subjects. We also support students where possible in relation to short work placements in law firms and other legal settings while abroad.

Upon your return at Westminster, Level 6 will provide you with the opportunity to study a fairly diverse set of options as per your specific interests, or alternatively to take a set of options that have some relation, alongside your final year Dissertation. Modules that are related are often part of 'a stream'. Streams are influenced and led by research strengths in the Law School. Like many institutions, we offer a diverse range of options but the students' ability to

stream these into areas of interest is something that the course team makes the Law degree distinctive. Finally, the European Legal Studies Dissertation constitutes the summation and application of the year abroad. In it, students have the opportunity to undertake supervised research study of a topic that they became interested in during the Year Abroad.

On top of various optional modules, Westminster Law School offers you a wide range of extra-curricular activities, in the form of seminars, outside speakers, workshops, field trips etc. Many of these opportunities are not limited to the module in which they are delivered, or even to the level at which they are introduced. This creates a distinctive Law School experience.

Law-based modules obviously form the majority of the options available to you on the LLB. However, the delivery of these modules will place emphasis on both the law content and the social, political or cultural context of the law. You will also have the opportunity to study interdisciplinary modules that are delivered across the University (University-wide Electives, including Polylang).

### **The Course Skills Strategy**

Highly skilled graduates have flexibility and autonomy and an ability to react to changing circumstances. Knowledge has to be obtained, validated, interpreted and applied. Being able to quickly differentiate the reliability and authenticity of material is essential in the contemporary world. The course is designed to equip you with the set of skills they need to succeed in whatever career you choose. Skills are developed incrementally with support to ensure that students have a strong foundation.

The LLB will provide you with an opportunity to develop skills by embedding them within each of the core modules. Whilst all modules will have research skills built into their delivery, particular modules will concentrate on specific skills. For instance, research skills may be developed by asking you to present a research methodology and plan.

The module learning outcomes progress at each level in terms of aim, so that whilst a course and therefore module outcome at level 4 expects you to work with supervision, by the time you have progressed to level 6, the expectation will be that you will be able to work more independently.

### **How will you be assessed?**

#### **Assessment and Feedback**

There is a wide range of assessment on the LLB programme, designed from traditional exam/coursework to more innovative forms of assessment utilising technology, for example online portfolios, blogs and wikis.

The LLB European Legal Studies programme has been structured, through the core modules, to apply a range of modes of assessment, ensuring the assessment of the range of required skills as well as knowledge. Consequently, there are assessments of oral presentations, written coursework as well as formal examinations. We utilise both open and closed book exam formats and some modules operate in-class tests that provide quick feedback. The assessment strategy has been tailored to deliver the requirements of the national law benchmarking standards.

Each piece of module assessment is marked against a set of criteria that are set out in the module pro forma and the module handbook and/or the module Blackboard site. These explain what the assessment is designed to test and how. Criteria, which have been developed for each level, are used to determine the grade that the student will receive for that piece of work.

All modules that include an element of coursework will provide detailed feedback and you are encouraged to sit down with your tutors and discuss each piece of work and what is needed to improve your performance. Assessing your work and offering feedback, support and encouragement is a key role for all your lecturers and tutors.

The assessment strategy on the LLB European Legal Studies at Westminster is designed to promote a more coherent course structure. At level 4 and 5, you will be provided with a means to track your journey through formative to summative assessment and across the course, while at level 6 an assessment enables you to reflect upon, develop and express their graduate attributes at course level. This assessment may be based on experiences you have had as a result of some of the activities delivered within the modules, or the Law School more generally is forward-looking to your future career or direction beyond the degree.

This approach has the benefit of creating cohesion across what could otherwise be a diverse set of options. It means we can help you achieve the course level learning outcomes and graduate attributes without restricting your choice of options in your final year and so it also retains the flexibility within the modules, and learning and assessment approaches that reflect the specific subject areas.

Throughout the degree, the assessment strategy places a significant emphasis on formative assessment, allowing you opportunities to reflect on the development of your skills and feedback from tutors prior to the submission of summative assessments.

## **Employment and further study opportunities**

### **Employment**

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- critical and creative thinkers
- literate and effective communicator
- entrepreneurial
- global in outlook and engaged in communities
- social, ethically and environmentally aware

University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students.

Contemporary organisations, whether national or international, need graduates with a good degree and relevant skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- career development skills are embedded in all courses
- opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are promoted to students
- staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision



A Law degree, particularly one with an international dimension, is viewed as a valuable asset by a large group of employers across a broad range of sectors both legal and non-legal. This course will prepare students for a variety of legal careers including practice as a barrister, solicitor, legal clerk, paralegal or legal executive. Our graduates also pursue careers in business, accountancy, the Civil Service, education and local government, amongst others.

The LLB European Legal Studies at Westminster develops graduate attributes in a cohesive and coordinated way. In your final year, you are expected to reflect on the graduate attributes you have acquired throughout the degree and identify areas for further development throughout that final year of study. Opportunities will be provided by the Law School to encourage this development, through the School's links with employers, alumni in various professions, the wider research community (e.g. through attending conferences) specialist professional associations (e.g. the Franco-British Association of Lawyers) and the School's partner institutions in Europe, which offer further opportunities for international engagement during the year of study abroad.

Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision. The School has regular events with alumni, for example panel discussions with alumni in the judicial profession and Law employability events. It also hosts a Law Fair in collaboration with other London Universities at the Law Society, Chancery Lane.

The employment rate of law graduates from the University of Westminster has consistently been very high and Law has one of the highest employment rates in the University. In 2016/17, six months after graduation, 96% of graduates were either in study or in work. 40% of the graduating cohort entered further study, whilst almost 28% progressed directly into work. Of those who entered employment, 76% of graduates secured graduate level employment in a variety of legal, paralegal and non-legal careers, including the financial services and public sectors. Students who progress to further study enrol on to both the Legal Practice Course and the Bar Professional Training Course whilst others proceed to postgraduate academic study e.g. an MA, LLM, MSc and increasingly an MPhil/PhD. The school has numerous distinguished alumni within both branches of the legal profession.

### **Further Study Opportunities**

Students have an opportunity to undertake short-term periods of study abroad to attend summer schools, volunteer, take up placements, or participate in field trips organised by students, Law School staff or the University.

### **Course structure**

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value.

The structure of the degree requires you to study a European language and spend a year of study abroad. You have an opportunity to study a range of law options at Level 6. Details about language options are available in the general University information on the intranet. Further information is provided during Orientation week.

Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year.

### **LLB European Legal Studies Full-time course structure** **Level 4**

Students commence their studies in the first year with five core subjects: Law: Policy and Practice, Contract Law, and Tort Law, Public Law and Criminal Law. In addition, students are ordinarily required to study a European language module. In exceptional circumstances, this requirement may be waived and students can study either another language or a law option.

Year 1	
Law: Policy and Practice	Public Law
Contracts: Law & Practice	Criminal Law
Tort	
European language 1*	

*\* Polylang language modules run throughout the year.*

**All modules are 20 credits**

### Core Modules

Credit Level 4				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4LLAW001W	Law: Policy and Practice	Core	20	10
4LLAW002W	Contracts: Law and Practice	Core	20	10
4LLAW003W	Tort Law	Core	20	10
4LLAW004W	Public Law	Core	20	10
4LLAW005W	Criminal Law	Core	20	10

**Award of Certificate of Higher Education available**

### Level 5

In Year 2, Students study 21<sup>st</sup> Century Law, Land Law, EU, and Equity and Trusts, as well as Civil Law and Legal Systems, which runs throughout the year. As in year 1, they are ordinarily required to study a European language module. This requirement can be waived as above.

Year 2	
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Law,	Equity and Trusts
Land Law	
EU Law	
Civil Law and Legal Systems	
European language 2*	

*\* Polylang language modules run throughout the year.*

**All modules are 20 credits**

### Core Modules

Credit Level 5				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS

5LGPR001W	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Law,	Core	20	10
5LLAW001W	Land Law	Core	20	10
5LLAW002W	EU Law	Core	20	10
5LLAW003W	Equity and Trusts	Core	20	10
5LLAW017W	Civil Law and Legal Systems	Core	20	10

## Award of Diploma of Higher Education

### Year Abroad

As a student enrolled on the LLB in European Legal Studies, you are required to spend the whole of your third year studying law at one of our partner universities in Europe, and return to the University of Westminster for your fourth year. You can see a current list with our partners in Europe at <http://www.westminster.ac.uk/international/international-partnerships/international-partnerships-for-institutions/our-international-partners/exchange-partners>. These arrangements are subject to change. Some partner institutions offer opportunities of study in English. Further details regarding these institutions will be provided during the Year Abroad meetings in Year 2.

Academic recognition for the Year Abroad is provided in the student transcript through two modules, each worth 60 credits (30 ECTS), corresponding to semesters 1 and 2 respectively of your Year Abroad. Both modules are assessed on a Pass/Fail basis. These modules appear on your LLB European Legal Studies course transcript.

The marks and credits of the year abroad are not exchangeable with Westminster credits and do not count towards the final degree classification.

<b>Year 3</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
Study Abroad Semester 1	Study Abroad Semester 2

<b>Year Abroad</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
5LLAW013	Study Abroad Semester 1	Core	60	30
5LLAW014	Study Abroad Semester 2	Core	60	30

### Level 6

At level 6, there is one core module, the European Legal Studies Dissertation, and two option modules which include a cross-course reflective element.

<b>Year 4</b>
European Legal Studies Dissertation
Option
Option

**All level 6 modules are 40 credits and year-long**

### Core Module

Credit Level 6				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6LLAW035W	European Legal Studies Dissertation	Core	40	20

*All level 6 options are 40 credits*

#### Level 6 Option Modules

Credit Level 6				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6LLAW004W	Company Law	Option	40	20
6LLAW002W	Commercial Law	Option	40	20
6LLAW016W	Competition Law	Option	40	20
6LLAW019W	Criminal Procedure and Evidence	Option	40	20
6LLAW003W	Disability Law	Option	40	20
6LLAW007W	Entertainment Law	Option	40	20
6LLAW010W	Environmental Law			
6LLAW001W	Family Law and Family Justice	Option	40	20
6LLAW031W	Human Rights: Idea, Law and Practice	Option	40	20
6LLAW017W	Law of Intellectual Property	Option	40	20
6LLAW005W	Employment Law	Option	40	20
6LLAW008W	Law of International Trade	Option	40	20
6LLAW009W	Media Law	Option	40	20
6LLAW011W	New Legal Thinking, Theory, Philosophy and Justice	Option	40	20
6LLAW006W	International Law and Global Justice)	Option	40	20
6LLAW015W	Religion, Law and Society	Option	40	20
6LLAW014W	Advanced Criminal Law	Option	40	20
6LLAW68W	Gender, Sexuality and Critical Legal Perspectives	Option	40	20
6LLAW069W	Sustainability Law and Policy	Option	40	20

#### Award LLB/BA Legal Studies available

Students who wish to study a language or elective from elsewhere in the University will be able to do this alongside a 20-credit module reflecting one of the above subject areas.

#### Programme Planning

The ability to speak a number of languages, and even better the ability to speak a number of different legal languages, is a significant advantage both in an increasingly interconnected world and in the transnational legal settings, which today's lawyers increasingly inhabit. The European Legal Studies programme recognises this. If you are therefore already fluent in another European language, you have the option of studying an additional language throughout your studies, including your final year, when you return from the year abroad.

If you are already fluent in a European language and the Course Leader has agreed to waive the language requirement, you can study a law option. In this case, you can combine options to form a coherent stream through the degree or mix and match as you wish. Some students prefer to concentrate within one broad area whilst others select across areas. For example, you might choose all the options related to Criminal Law and Justice or pick one of these and study another from Commercial Law and one from the Entertainment Law stream. It is a matter of personal choice and you are encouraged to discuss your choices with your Personal Academic Tutor.

Streams are based around research and teaching interests and new modules will be offered as staff develop new ideas or new members of staff arrive. You are encouraged to follow subjects that interest you rather than subjects you think you 'should do'. In our experience students perform much better in those subjects that they want to explore and engage with.

We offer the following streams or pathways through the degree, though it should be noted that options will be offered subject to staff time and student demand.

**(i) Commercial law**

There is a range of options that have as their focus commercial activities and the regulation, whether by law or otherwise, of those activities. The banking crisis has demonstrated the importance of commercial regulation whether at domestic or European level. Similarly issues around taxation and revenue policies have arisen as disclosures have emerged around some large companies setting up their financial affairs to pay little tax. It is important for law students in this area to understand the organisation, liability and responsibility of corporate entities as well as the more specialised concept of Competition Law.

**(ii) Criminal Law and Justice**

Exploring the criminal justice system and criminal law offers students the chance to understand not just what the Criminal Law is but how it is applied and whether the practice equates to the theory of how the law should work. The criminal justice system encompasses a wide range of organisations from the police through the court system to prison and beyond. Increasingly there are private companies involved with law enforcement, imprisonment and rehabilitation. All students will study Criminal Law but there are specialist option modules such as Criminal Procedure and Evidence as well as the various Criminal Justice modules.

**(iii) Entertainment Law**

The school has a long and distinguished history of expertise in this area and offers an LLM in Entertainment Law. There is strong group of researchers and an active Research Centre. London is one of the world centres of the entertainment industry and law plays an important role in both the internal relationships (for example contracts between record companies and bands) and the external relationships (for example music downloading) in the entertainment industry. Contract Law and Intellectual Property Law are fundamental aspects but there are other niche areas such as Media Law and Social Media Law.

**(iv) Human Rights**

Human Rights Law is both a domestic and international legal area. It involves international obligations and treaties but crucially the application of these at a domestic level. Human Rights ideas have become an increasingly important part of many parts of national law. The School offers a number of specialised Human Rights modules at both undergraduate and postgraduate level reflecting a wide range of staff expertise. All students will encounter the application of human rights in core subjects but specific detailed modules are available across the course.

**(v) Law and Theory**

There is one specific area of legal theory entitled jurisprudence. However here we take a far broader view of the relationship between law and theory. Even though law, as a subject area, has a vocational and practical dimension it is still important to understand why law is what it is and whether or not it works and if so why? Ideas about law can be studied in isolation or related to specific areas of law. All students will experience some aspects of legal theory within the core subjects but those students who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the meaning of law will enjoy the different theory modules we offer.

## **Academic regulations**

The current *Handbook of Academic Regulations* is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations), however please note course specific regulations apply to this course.

## **How will you be supported in your studies?**

### **Course Management**

Course Leader: Julia Chryssostalis [J.Chryssostalis@Wesminster.ac.uk](mailto:J.Chryssostalis@Wesminster.ac.uk)

Admissions Tutor: Jeanette Nicholas, [J.Nicholas02@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:J.Nicholas02@westminster.ac.uk)

Law School webpage: [westminster.ac.uk/about-us/schools/law](http://westminster.ac.uk/about-us/schools/law)

### **Academic Support**

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/blackboard](http://westminster.ac.uk/blackboard).

### **Learning Support**

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students<sup>1</sup> can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the

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<sup>1</sup> Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

courses taught at their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

### **Support Services**

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/student-advice](http://westminster.ac.uk/student-advice). The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/students-union](http://westminster.ac.uk/students-union).

### **How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?**

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

### **How do we act on student feedback?**

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- There are also School Staff Student Exchange meetings that enable wider discussions across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.

- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

## Reference points for the course

### Internally

This course has been designed to match the University's mission to provide education for professional life and meet the University's policies on learning and teaching and employability. The Course Structure follows the requirements of the modular framework and the academic regulations of the University, including the University of Westminster Learning and Teaching Strategy.

### Externally

The learning outcomes of the course, as detailed earlier, have been formulated in accordance with the specific QAA subject benchmarks for Law [www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)

## Professional Body accreditation

- QAA Law Benchmarks Statements 2015
- Joint Academic Studies Board Statement (Law Society and the General Council of the Bar)

## Quality management and enhancement

All module leaders reflect annually on the effectiveness of the teaching and assessment strategy and propose changes to the Course Leader. Enhancements are developed at both module and Course level and recorded through the Annual Monitoring Process. The School runs various activities to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of its courses.

Annual Monitoring enables a reflective and proactive process of course development. All staff carry out annual appraisals and peer observation, and undertake staff development through course attendance and research activity. Events organised by the School Learning and Teaching Committee are attended in order to address current teaching, learning and assessment issues.

## For more information about this course:

Course Leader: Julia Chryssostalis [J.Chryssostalis@Wesminster.ac.uk](mailto:J.Chryssostalis@Wesminster.ac.uk)

Admissions Tutor: Jeanette Nicholas, [J.Nicholas02@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:J.Nicholas02@westminster.ac.uk)

Law School webpage: [westminster.ac.uk/about-us/schools/law](http://westminster.ac.uk/about-us/schools/law)

**Please note:** This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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