

Part one: Programme Specification

Course Record Information	
Name and level of final & intermediate Awards	LLM International Law Postgraduate Diploma in International Law Postgraduate Diploma in Law Postgraduate Certificate in International Law Postgraduate Certificate in Law
Awarding Body	University of Westminster
Location of Delivery	Various university sites, primarily Little Titchfield Street, Riding House Street (see annex)
Mode of Study	FT PT
UW Course Code	
JACS Code	
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	(Where applicable)
Professional Body Accreditation	
Date of initial course approval	1998
Date of Programme Specification	March 2010

Admissions Requirements

A 2.2 Honours degree, or equivalent from a non-UK institution (with an average of 55% or above) in law, social science, international relations or related discipline/subject from a recognised institution, but consideration will be given to applicants who lack standard qualifications but have significant professional experience in the relevant field or related professional qualifications. Each case will be considered on its own merits. Where English is not your first language, proof of competence will be required. This will normally take the form of either an IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.5 in the writing element or TOEFL 600 (paper)/ 92 overall with a minimum of 20 in the writing element (computer).

Accreditation of Prior Learning

The University operates a system of awarding credit for prior learning, either

accredited (APL) or experiential (APEL). If students think their prior experiential (for example work experience) or certificated (for example other study they may have undertaken) learning may qualify them for accreditation and thereby exemption from one or more modules they should contact the Course Leader in the first instance.

In respect of prior certificated learning the student will be required to submit specific evidence (such as original transcripts and syllabi) which will be considered by the Course Leader.

In respect of prior experiential learning the Course Leader will either allocate the student with a Mentor, or will perform this role himself. The Mentor will assist the student in making their claim and will then pass it, together with their assessment of it, to a second assessor who will be a member of the Course Team, for an independent assessment. Once the second assessment has been made, the assessors make a joint agreed report to the AP(E)L Assessment Board. The Board comprises Marco Roscini, Course Leader, Chair of the Subject Board (TBA) and one other member of the Course Team drawn from within Westminster Law School. It is the Board which makes the final assessment of what credit, if any, should be awarded to the student in respect of prior experiential learning. "Pass" only is generally deemed appropriate for APEL credits, although in some cases percentage marks may be awarded and can contribute to Merit or Distinction calculations.

Any credit awarded for prior certificated or experiential learning will be notified to the Conferment Board. Until a student who has applied for APL/APEL has been formally advised of the outcome of their application for credit, they should register for and participate in their normal module load, including any modules for which they are seeking credit.

Aims of the course

The course aims to develop in students a knowledge and understanding of International Law. It also aims to develop the students' specific skills that are applicable to the field of International Law and broader transferable skills that are relevant to this subject area.

Employment and Further Study Opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e., employability 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 widely available 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
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will inform the service delivered to students.

The programme equips the student for the practice of law in a specialised area subject to any necessary professional requirements. Graduates are employed, inter

alia, in specialist legal practice, the Bar, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, dispute resolution, consultancy, the public sector, legal and professional training, the diplomatic service, EU institutions and the academia.

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. They threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to demonstrate:

- i) a critical awareness of international law and the doctrinal and evidentiary aspects of general customary law and treaty law and the place of judicial and arbitral decisions in the system of international law
- ii) the ability to critically evaluate both the theoretical and practical application of law to the subject area.
- iii) a clear understanding of the materials of study and the ability to interpret those materials
- iv) a range of developed personal and transferable skills, including: communication, analytical and problem-solving skills; independent study, research and time-management skills.

Specific Skills

The core curriculum consists of the Public International Law module which is designed to create a common framework of learning focused on generating a critical approach to the so-called fundamental principles of this area of enquiry. The core curriculum also includes the Dissertation module, which is a major piece of self-managed work conducted under the supervision of a member of the course team with appropriate expertise. This module incorporates workshop sessions which introduce students to basic research methods to assist students who may not have undertaken self-managed research during their undergraduate programme.

The balance of the LLM programme is a matter of choice for students from a menu of option modules which are offered to allow students to follow their own interests and which reflect not only the areas of expertise and interests of staff in the Law School but which we believe to be areas of important contemporary or developing significance in the field of International Law. Full details of these modules are to be found later in this handbook.

Key Transferable skills

The student will be able to work effectively as part of a team analysing problems at a detailed level, formulating and presenting solutions. The student will be able independently to present complex arguments, both orally and in written analyses, engaging confidently in academic and professional communication with others. Students will be able to undertake complex research acting independently, making the best use of a range of available resources, and to present the results of this research in a useful and clear form. Students will also be equipped with the independent learning ability to enable them to continue professional study, making professional use of others where appropriate. The student will be able to operate in

complex and specialised contexts and reflect on personal performance.

The Programme subscribes to the University's and the SEEC's list of HE transferable/employability skills, namely:

- group working
- learning resources
- self evaluation
- management of information
- autonomy
- communication
- problem solving

All modules, to some extent, teach or/and assess these skills. Additionally, most modules offer the student an opportunity to practise these skills (see detailed module descriptions below (section 9)).

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods

Learning

Within tutorial sessions module leaders will develop modes of learning appropriate to the subject-matter of their module which might, for example, include small group work, problem-based tutorials, review sessions, workshops, debates and so on, as well as the more conventional student presentations.

Students should be clear that a postgraduate programme of study demands a much greater amount of individual work than they may have been used to at the undergraduate level. Thus, while a student may only be required to attend classes for 6-12 hours a week depending upon whether they are part-time or full-time and depending upon which modules they have chosen, they will nevertheless be expected to be studying independently for the remainder of the working week.

Teaching

Formal 'lectures' will be used on a whole-class basis, not only to develop a framework of essential knowledge on a topic by topic basis, but also to provide a common foundation for learning within each module.

The teaching and learning strategy will emphasise a student-centred approach developed within smaller groups involving close, interactive group-work focusing on a range of student (and occasionally staff) presentations within structured tutorials.

Assessment

There are various forms of assessment according to the module requirements, including coursework, in-class tests, examinations and presentations. The specific forms of assessment within each module have been determined solely by the learning outcomes of that module. Coursework as an assessment method, alone or in conjunction with presentations/examinations, reflects the emphasis that the LLM International Law puts on developing the legal research skills of the students.

In a number of modules, formative work is given out during the semester and evaluative feedback provided to students. In other modules, module leaders hold revision sessions to guide the students on examination techniques, research methods, etc.

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

Full-time students

The recommended module sequence for the full-time course would be as follows:

Semester One (January-March)

Public International Law (core)	20 credits
Option module 1	20 credits
Option Module 2	20 credits
Dissertation (core)*	60 credits

*The dissertation runs over semester 1 and 2 and the 60 credits refer to the weighting over the whole academic year. Most of the work will take place in the second semester.

Semester Two (September-December)

Dissertation (continued, see above)	
Option Module 3	20 credits
Option Module 4	20 credits
Option Module 5	20 credits

For part time options and a complete list of all available options please see sections 7.3 and 7.4.

NB: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Support for Students

On arrival, an induction programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the school in which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the School Administration. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes the Library, which across its four sites, holds printed collections of 412,000 books, 1,600 journal subscriptions and substantial audio visual collections. Access to over 6,500 electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books, exam papers and links to recommended websites) is facilitated through infoLinX, the library portal.

There are over 3,500 computers spread over the University available for students use. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students can access course materials and communicate with staff and other students via message boards.

At University level, Services for Students provide advice and guidance on

accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The International Office provides particular support for international students. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University.

Reference Points for the course

Internally

In line with the university teaching and learning policy, all LLM/MA programmes place a strong emphasis on encouraging student's self-motivation and active in-depth learning. The university modular framework is strictly adhered to and programme design and delivery is in accordance with the university quality assurance handbook. These programmes are taught by staff engaged in high quality research in specialist areas of law evidenced by the School's Research Assessment Exercise rating.

Externally

All programmes are subject to the scrutiny of external examiners involved in similar programmes in other institutions and satisfy the SEEC level descriptors. There is no professional or regulatory body requirement.

Quality Management and Enhancement

Course Management

The Course is managed by a Course Leader within Westminster Law School. The School also offers MAs, MPhils and PhDs.

The School has away-days each year to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of its courses. Staff in the School undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by their colleagues leading to staff development through course attendance or research activity. Staff in the School attend events organised by the Academic Standards and the Teaching and Learning Groups around current teaching, learning and assessment issues.

Full time teaching staff on the course are encouraged to research and publish their research. This is in line with the School's strategic plan and commitment to the research excellence framework.

Course approval, monitoring and review

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. The Panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other Universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic Course Review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the School to ensure that it is running effectively and that issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from External Examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the School action

plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student comment is taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the course committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the committee to represent the views of their peer group in the discussions held at the committee. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the Course Committee.

All students are asked to complete a Module Feedback questionnaire at 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. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which provides valuable feedback about a range of University services.

Students meet with Review Panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course Committees and the National Student Survey and the University's internal surveys are part of the Schools quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course:

<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/schools/law/postgraduate-legal-studies/llm-international-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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