

Programme Title: LLB Law and Politics (with a year in Practice)



Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of award and field of study:	LLB Law and Politics in Practice
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	4 years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	
QAA Benchmark Group:	Law/Politics
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	The LLB degree is a Qualifying Law Degree. This programme is a Qualifying Law Degree which means that it meets the academic requirements. It also provides a sound academic basis for students who wish to take the Solicitors Qualification Examination to become a solicitor.
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	Department of Law

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

School of Politics and International Relations

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

Programme outline

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

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

The third year is spent on an internship with a legal practitioner.

Aims of the programme

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

Graduate Attributes

This programme is closely aligned with the QMUL graduate attributes and in particular seeks to develop the following:

Communicate effectively in a range of formats for different purposes with a diverse range of people

Respect, listen to, and value others and their opinions

Recognise and value your individual worth and identify the contributions you can make

Engage critically and reflectively with knowledge

Demonstrate an innovative and creative approach to problem solving

Apply your disciplinary expertise to broader contexts and society

Collaborate with a diverse range of colleagues

Act honestly, fairly and ethically, including in academic conduct

Promote socially responsible behaviour for a global sustainable future

Conduct efficient searches of websites to locate relevant information; able to exchange documents by email and manage information exchanged by email

Work in groups as a participant who contributes effectively to the group's task

Conduct searches efficiently using a number of electronic retrieval systems

Outside the programme, students may choose to take part in the work of the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre, in a student-led Pro-Bono legal advice scheme, and in mooting.

This programme will allow students on the LLB Law and Politics programme an opportunity to undertake the internship with a legal practitioner in their third year.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Students will gain experience in legal practice and to develop skills and attributes of a successful legal practitioner. The module will develop the student in the workplace so that they can contextualise the learning that they have done in their first years of study. Students who successfully complete the programme will demonstrate achievement in all the following areas.

Subject-specific

1. Identify and apply knowledge to difficult situations of significant legal complexity, through the analysis of facts and the production of well-supported conclusions in relation to them.
2. Recognition of sophisticated legal and related non-legal issues and formulation of a clear and coherent research plan.
3. Production of a clear and accurate presentation of the law on a topic directly from primary sources and use of techniques of legal interpretation to complex issues arising from them.

Skills

1. Take initiative in the design and managing of their own projects and find their own sources (both legal and non-legal).
2. Make independent assessment of their own progress, present work in timely fashion for feedback and assistance, and establish a programme of action based on feedback given.
3. Write and use orally fluent and complex prose, using legal terminology correctly.
4. Read and compare a range of complex works within and about law and to summarise their arguments accurately.

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

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

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

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

Academic Content:	
A 1	demonstrate knowledge of a substantial range of major concepts, values, principles and rules of those systems
A 2	explain the main legal and political institutions and procedures of those systems
A 3	demonstrate the study in depth and in context of some substantive areas of the legal and political systems
A 4	acquire and use knowledge of concepts, values, principles and rules of the legal system studied during a year in placement

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	demonstrate the study in depth and in context of some substantive areas of the legal and political systems
B 2	identify and retrieve up-to-date legal and political information, using paper and electronic sources
B 3	use primary and secondary legal and political sources relevant to the topic under study
B 4	recognise and rank items and issues in terms of relevance and importance
B 5	bring together information and materials from a variety of different sources
B 6	produce a synthesis of relevant legal doctrinal and policy issues in relation to a topic
B 7	make a critical judgement of the merits of particular arguments
B 8	present and make a reasoned choice between alternative solutions

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

How will you learn?

Teaching for the core modules is typically through lectures (to the whole year group) and tutorials (groups of about 15 students). By attending lectures you hear from experts in a legal field who will also be setting and marking your examinations. Lectures may have several different goals: to provide an introduction to a particular topic; to cast light on the context of a module; to provide alternatives to orthodox approaches; to provide an overview of the topic; to explain particularly difficult aspects of a topic; to introduce comparative aspects of a topic; to cover reform proposals and recent reforms in the law which are not covered in the textbooks.

Elective modules make use of a variety of teaching methods. Small group work often include discussion structured around questions and readings distributed in advance. Talking about law fluently is a vital part of developing legal reasoning skills. By expressing ideas you are able to refine and reflect on them. Tutorials and seminars are supportive environments in which ideas can be exchanged and difficulties can be ironed out.

A considerable amount of independent study is expected throughout the programme. This involves reading cases, legislation and academic texts. Independent study may also involve working with other students in pairs or small groups: students are encouraged to set up informal study groups to help each other get to grips with topics before or after tutorials and seminars.

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

The approach to learning during the year of the internship will be in the form of work-based learning. Students will learn by observation and by gaining practical skills and experience in the relevant area.

How will you be assessed?

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

During the placement year, assessment will be through a reflective portfolio and an oral presentation of such portfolio.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

Students are required to take 120 credits each year at Queen Mary. Modules are either 30 credits or 15 credits.

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

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

The third year is the placement year. Students will be required to keep a weekly reflective journal, which will be presented as a portfolio at the end of the internship. Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis and the placement year is a 120-credit module. This module does not count towards the degree classification.

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

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Public Law	LAW4001	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Law in Context	LAW4008	15	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Contract Law I: Formation and Vitiation	LAW4104	15	4	Core	1	Semester 1
Contract Law II: Terms, Breach and Remedies	LAW4105	15	4	Core	1	Semester 2
Thinking Politically: Introduction to Concepts, Theories and Ideologies	POL110	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Background to Politics	POL108	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2
Global Histories	POL109	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2

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Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

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

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Experience in Legal Practice	LAW5000	120	5	Compulsory	3	Semesters 1 & 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 4

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Tort Law	LAW5001	30	5	Core	4	Semesters 1 & 2
Equity and Trusts (level 6)	LAW6056	30	6	Core	4	Semesters 1 & 2
Elective Law module(s)		30	6	Elective	4	Semesters 1 & 2
Elective Politics module(s)		30	6	Elective	4	Semesters 1 & 2

What are the entry requirements?

As for M13 LLB Law with Politics

AS/A-level:

Typical tariff or grades required: AAA (GCE A-level).

Excluded subjects: General studies, critical thinking.

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International Baccalaureate:

Subjects and grades: Minimum of 37 points overall with combined total of 18 points from three higher level subjects.

Vocational and other qualifications:

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

IELTS 7.0

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

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

The Programme Convener will be responsible for the academic content and quality of the programme and any changes to the curriculum in addition to ensuring a regular liaison with SPIR to maintain a consistent quality of teaching across the programme. The Law undergraduate office is responsible for the overall administrative delivery of the programme, ensuring SPIR is provided with all necessary student and organisational information in order to effectively deliver its module(s) and general QMUL administration for students on the programme, including any issues relating to registration, complaints, pastoral care, appeals, and award for the programme.

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

QMUL Law Department

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

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

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

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

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

Feedback

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

Student Support

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

Feedback and Advice Hours

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

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Reading lists are reviewed yearly and additional support provided to students with accessibility needs. Lectures for core modules are Q-Reviewed and released to students weekly. Most of the elective modules are also Q-Reviewed.

Programme-specific rules and facts

Standard bachelors programmes

To progress from one developmental year standard regulations apply, <https://arcs.qmul.ac.uk/media/arcs/policyzone/academic/Academic-Regulations-2023-24.pdf>

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

The designated modules are as follows:

- Obligations I (Contract): satisfied by taking and passing LAW4005 Elements of Contract Law at QMUL
- Obligations II (Tort): satisfied by taking and passing LAW5001 Tort Law at QMUL
- Criminal Law: satisfied by taking and passing LAW4002 Criminal Law at QMUL
- Equity and the Law of Trusts: satisfied by taking and passing LAW5003 Equity and Trusts or LAW6056 Equity and Trusts (Level 6) at QMUL
- Law of the European Union: satisfied by taking and passing LAW4001 Public Law and the 15-credit module LAW5105 Law of the EU at QMUL
- Property Law (Land Law): satisfied by taking and passing LAW4006 Land Law at QMUL
- Public Law (Constitutional and Administrative Law): satisfied by taking and passing LAW4001 Public Law and the 15-credit module LAW5106 Administrative Law at QMUL.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

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

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

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

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

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Shahida Uddin

Person responsible for management of programme:

Nigel Spencer

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

May 2024

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: