

International Human Rights Law and Development LLM Programme Specification

Academic Year:	2026/2027
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Main Location:	City Campus
Qualifications Framework:	HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: QAA 2024)
Target Degree Award:	Master of Laws (LLM) international Human Rights Law and Development [Level 7]
Intermediate/exit awards:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) or Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) [FHEQ Level 7]
Programme Admissions:	UK and international students
Programme Start Month:	September, January
Programme Modes of Study:	12 months full-time (September start) 15 months full-time (January start)

Please note: The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford is accepted. [View our Student Contract for further details.](#) Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them

Minor modification schedule

1. May 2023: Added 2 new options, updated foundations module.
2. July 2025: Annual changes for 2025/26 academic year, including changes to academic regulations.
3. June 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry, focussed curriculum, updated references and admissions.

Programme overview

The LLM in International Human Rights Law and Development allows students to develop in-depth understanding of human rights law in its multi-layered form, with a critical emphasis on its complementarity with development. This nexus between human rights and development which is increasingly being recognised at the international level including through the proliferation of development-oriented rights (third generation rights) and adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals form a critical focus of this LLM. Modules on the programme explore traditional aspects of human rights law as well as more global challenges such as terrorism, gender, migration, climate change and conflict and peacebuilding. The student can consider critical questions surrounding these issues and develop and demonstrate knowledge and recognised

competences essential to effective legal and ethical responses to human rights challenges; enabling them to pursue careers in a wide variety of fields, ranging from private legal practice in human rights law; as well as policy-oriented careers in government departments, intergovernmental organisations third sector organisations or academia.

The programme draws upon the interdisciplinary research strengths of the School of Law and Social Sciences and is aimed at preparing the student for a range of professional paths in human rights law by deepening their knowledge of the subject, developing their critical thinking, research, analytical and communication skills which will help them succeed in their chosen field. The programme is also designed to be accessible not only to Law graduates who want to pursue a career in legal practice, but also students from a range of academic backgrounds who intend to apply their knowledge of human rights law in various exciting professional contexts such as within government departments, intergovernmental organisations, third sector organisations or academia.

To ensure that all students have the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively engage with the programme, there is an intensive 20 hours introductory module taught over the first two weeks of the academic year which provides an introduction to legal concepts, institutions and sources as well as academic writing and research skills. The two core modules provide the student with knowledge of the broader regulatory context and sustainability dimension of issues arising from human rights law violations and the development dimension. A further 4 optional modules which the student may choose from a pool of specialist international human rights law and development modules will deepen their knowledge of this subject area.

The programme will be delivered on campus. There will be two enrolments each academic year in September and January. The September programme will run for 12 months whilst the January programme will run for 15 months. Students on the 15-month programme may have the opportunity to undertake an internship subject to their securing a place. A 24-month part time route is also available.

The capstone project is either a dissertation of 15,000 words or an advanced report pursuant to an internship. This will provide the student with the opportunity to research and prepare a substantial analysis of a specialist area of interest to them as well as demonstrate understanding of the complex policy and practical dimensions of the subject, thereby preparing them with the knowledge and skills for their chosen career.

Programme aims

The programme is intended to:

- A1. Deliver a programme of study in international human rights law and development that is contemporary, of policy and practical relevance, and reflects the expertise of the School of Law and Social Sciences.
- A2. Ensure the accessibility of the programme to students from diverse backgrounds and various career trajectories.

- A3. Develop subject knowledge and understanding and provide training in discipline skills to enable graduates to pursue varying careers in international human rights law and development or related fields.
- A4. Encourage participative, independent and reflective learning and the development of personal and professional skills.
- A5. Enable students to understand the complexities of international human rights law and development at an advanced level and in its ever-changing contexts.
- A6. Equip students to have mastery of the subject, conduct effective research and to critically analyse and assess the specific areas of study undertaken and apply this learning in the relevant practical context.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Degree award of Master will:

1. Have a systematic and critical knowledge of the substantive concepts, values, principles and rules in international human rights law and development and their theoretical underpinnings within the framework of the wider legal environment in its historical, socio-political and economic contexts, including the role of contemporary developments.
2. Demonstrate critical knowledge of the institutions and procedures operating at the international, regional and local levels in international human rights law and development and their impact on the development of law and policy.
3. Conduct independent research which demonstrates the ability to evaluate approaches to legal research in this subject, develop appropriate research designs and techniques to investigate propositions/hypotheses.
4. Have an advanced understanding of the role of law in each sub-subject area covered and its shortcomings and limitations as well as the interrelationship between International human rights law and development.
5. Generate clear, concise and coherent communication orally and in writing in which style, scope and depth are appropriate to task, purpose and audience, whether working independently or as a group
6. Employ relevant competencies and strategies to engage constructively with international human rights law in various roles
7. Identify and apply critical learning gained to current developments and debates in international human rights law
8. Demonstrate initiative and independence in systematic academic inquiry, using relevant techniques to gather, evaluate and manage evidence, data and information from appropriate sources.

9. Reflect critically on professional and career development needs and to take action to maintain the knowledge and skills required of a practitioner in international human rights law and development.
10. Plan and execute a range of assignments, including essays and presentations in which style and, scope and depth are appropriate to the task
11. Design and carry out, with appropriate ethical approval, an original and self-directed research project which draws upon a comprehensive and critical review of relevant literature.
12. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in completion of an advanced, original and self-directed research project using critical reflective communication to deepen understanding of the learning process, with appropriate documentation.
13. Recognise and be able to critically reflect on own values, experiences and orientation in ones' own academic work.

Assessment strategy

The assessment strategy on this programme is robust, adopting a range of assessment methods, thereby and aiming to be inclusive, and giving students the opportunity to play to their strengths while also developing areas of weakness. Assessment is based on the skills and knowledge developed throughout the programme and the LLM International Human Rights Law and Development employs a variety of assessment methods- both formative and summative. The assessments are structured in such a way as to help the student demonstrate that they meet the learning outcomes of each module and the programme overall. There are no timed, closed book examinations for this programme. Instead, we use a variety of programme work assignments to develop and test their research, critical thinking, problem solving and writing skills. The student might therefore be asked to write a traditional academic essay, to create a portfolio of activities, to write a book review or develop a research plan. The type of assessment for each module will be specified in the module descriptor with more detail being available in the module handbook.

To effectively assess whether a student has achieved a module's learning outcomes, a combination of assessment approaches is typically applied. There is a balance of formative and summative assessments, including feedback during individual and group task to ensure that students are supported effectively in their learning and are able to produce their best work for the summative assessment. Formative assessment is built into specific modules but not all, the expectation being that the student develops as independent learners, they will need to rely less on this form of support and can transfer the skills learned from one module to another.

The LLM International Human Rights Law and Development aims to support their learning in a number of ways. Firstly, there is the scheduled class time, and we expect the student to attend all scheduled classes. Classes all contain a variety of activities from traditional lecture style input by the tutor to explain often complex ideas and principles, to individual and group tasks to allow the student to practice the skills and knowledge they have been developing. In addition, all module

leaders provide a detailed module handbook which includes a list of relevant reading material. The programme team also uses the VLE, in order to make additional material available, host discussions and provide programme related information and links.

We therefore cater for a variety of learning styles and preferences and aim to create an inclusive and inspiring learning environment where the student can engage with the material studied in the ways most suitable to them. However, we also want the student to push themselves out of their comfort zone, learn new things and develop intellectually and personally and we therefore hope they will engage in as many of the activities as possible to give the best possible chance of achieving the learning outcomes and demonstrating this through various assessments.

Learning and teaching strategy

This LLM programme aims to integrate applied and theoretical knowledge with assessment processes that test knowledge, application and analysis of the subject. To this end, the learning, teaching and assessment strategy for this programme has been developed to help them build their knowledge incrementally over the year of study and to develop their research, critical thinking and writing skills. Teaching on the programme will typically involve a combination of formal workshop styled seminars, group discussions, directed reading and personal research. Each 20 credits module represents approximately 200 hours of study time broken down into formal tutor led contact hours in class as well as engagement via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and independent study. Case study analysis and discussion is used to contextualise learning and the application of techniques. Students also work in small groups which encourage participative learning, provide experience of working with people from different cultures and help develop organisational skills.

All taught modules have a two-hour teaching slot every week throughout the Semester in which they are taught. In the early part of the programme, most of these slots will be used as class time with lecturer input, individual and group work activities. A module manual is provided with each module to provide clear instructions, guidance and details of the preparatory work required. Additional support materials – cases, video clips, audio recording, lecture notes/slides, etc. are also provided via the Canvas virtual learning environment (VLE). As their confidence with the material and research skills increase, the student will be expected to work more independently and lead sessions either alone or within a group. The student will be set research and writing tasks, be expected to contribute to discussions online, engage with other activities supported through the VLE or meet with their tutors to discuss a particular task or their progress generally.

The student is expected to take responsibility for their own learning and engage with the materials and ideas provided. The student must therefore prepare for all teaching sessions and take all opportunities offered to develop their skills and knowledge.

Study abroad opportunities

This programme is not recommended for opportunities to study abroad at another University for a semester due to how dissertation support and supervision is spread out.

Students can still explore opportunities for short international activities (1-6 weeks) that are held over the summer periods by speaking to the University International Opportunities team. Further information about short [internships and placements](#) and [study abroad opportunities](#) is published on the University's website.

Assessment, continuation and award regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations for postgraduate taught courses published on the University's Website ([Regulation 9](#)).

Curriculum

The LLM International Human Rights Law and Development is made up of two distinct parts. First, students will study six taught modules which cover Semesters 1 and 2. They will subsequently undertake a research project which culminates in the writing of their dissertation.

At the beginning of the course (usually September or January), students will be required to complete a compulsory non-credit bearing module Foundations of Law and Skills, which will provide them with the foundation necessary to study for the LLM. Students will study two 20 credits of core modules (one in each of semester 1 and 2). These are Sustainable Development Law in Contemporary Business and Society (20 credits) and Regulatory Theory and Practice (20 credits). These modules will provide the student with knowledge of the broader regulatory context and the implications for human rights protection and development.

Table A: LLM Human Rights Law and Development Core Taught Modules (both routes)

Mod. Code	Module Title and Level	Credit	Study in
LAW6029-Z	Foundations of Law and Skills [FHEQ Level 6]	0	Induction
LAW7030-B	Sustainable development law in contemporary business and society [FHEQ Level 7]	20	Semester 1
LAW7035-B	Regulatory Theory and Practice [FHEQ Level 7]	20	Semester 2

Sustainable Development Law in Contemporary Business and Society explores the principle of sustainable development and its implementation, including the impacts and responsibilities of businesses in the modern context and their impacts on society and human rights.

The Regulatory Theory and Practice module will introduce the student to a critical examination of the underlying theories and rational for regulation and a critical discussion of the various approaches to and forms of regulation, with a focus on the business dimensions of this practice and the implications for human rights.

In addition to the core modules, students select four optional 20 credits modules from the list of specialisms in international human rights and development law.

September entry students will study the "Sem 1" modules first, January entry students will study the "Sem 2" modules first.

Table B: LLM Human Rights Law and Development Module Options: Select Four

Mod. Code	Module Title	Credit	Period
LAW7081-B	Data Protection and Privacy Law	20	Semester 1
LAW7093-B	International Energy Law and Just Transition	20	Semester 1
LAW7021-B	International Environmental Law	20	Semester 1
LAW7043-B	International Human Rights Law	20	Semester 1
LAW7080-B	Law and Ethics of Technology and Artificial Intelligence	20	Semester 1
LAW7041-B	Business Human Rights and Environment	20	Semester 2
LAW7023-B	Immigration and Refugee Law	20	Semester 2
LAW7084-B	Legal Technology	20	Semester 2
LAW7074-B	Emerging Issues in Law (Summer School)	20	Semester 2*

Module LAW7074-B starts later than other modules and is taught/studied between May and June.

The modules studied, in addition to a taught component of the dissertation module will provide the student with subject knowledge and skills necessary to complete the final research project- a dissertation or an advanced report following an internship.

The taught component (8 hours) of the dissertation module will start in Semester 2 and will build on the introductory material in the non-credit bearing Foundation of law and Skills, focusing on a variety of empirical material and the methods used to gather empirical data.

The taught modules studied provide the student with detailed subject knowledge and the skills they will need to successfully complete the final part of the LLM programme which is their dissertation. The student will complete the dissertation or an advanced report following an internship.

Table C: Human Rights Law and Development Dissertation (FHEQ Level 7): Assigned One

Module Code	Module Title	Module Credit	Study period	Selection
LAW7032-E	Dissertation	60	Ns Academic Year	BDA : September entry
LAW7032-E	Dissertation	60	Ns Academic Year	BDB : January entry

In addition to the assessed components of the programme, students will have access to several skills-based professional courses as part of the Faculty of Management, Sciences & Engineering Career Booster programme as well as other non-assessed courses available to students on programmes delivered in Bradford.

Admissions

We are proud to be [one of the most inclusive universities in the UK](#). All our students have potential, and we believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to benefit from higher education, no matter what their background or circumstances. We take the time to understand the background of our applicants, understand their journey to education, and make decisions based on an applicant's potential to thrive at university and beyond.

Applicants to LLM International Human Rights Law and Development will typically have an undergraduate degree in a social science discipline (which may or may not be in law) classified Lower Second (2:2 or 50%) or higher. Examples of other equivalent international qualifications are provided on the [University of Bradford page for a country or region](#).

For international students, the level of English required is listed on the [University of Bradford English language requirements website](#). Exceptionally, holders of a UK degree awarded within 2 years prior to entry to the Bradford programme may be exempt from these English test requirements. International applicants who do not meet the IELTS requirement can take a [University of Bradford pre-sessional English course](#).

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience. Applicants through this route can provide evidence of their interests and work experience and may be interviewed.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University of Bradford has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Find more information about [recognition of prior learning decisions](#) on the University website.

People thinking of studying with the University of Bradford don't need to wait for the start of the year to contact our Disability Service. The University can arrange for anyone to talk to this team about what support is on offer at Bradford including an invitation to our Get Set Day. To contact the Disability Service please complete the [request support form](#).

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page:

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/international-human-rights-and-development/>