

International Legal Studies 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 Legal Studies [FHEQ Level 7]
Interim/exit awards:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) or Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) [FHEQ Level 7]
Programme Admission:	UK and international students
Programme entry dates:	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.

Changes schedule

1. April 2024: Annual changes for 2024/25 academic year.
2. July 2025: Annual changes for 2025/26 academic year, including changes to academic regulations.
3. September 2025: Specification reformatted and made accessible for publication.
4. June 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry, focussed curriculum and updated references.

Programme overview

The LLM International Legal Studies is designed to provide a challenging and stimulating programme of study which considers law in its international social, economic and political contexts. The two core modules studied provide the student with a detailed understanding of key global issues in law and focus on developing their skills to research; analyse and discuss important issues in international law, in the context of sustainable development and regulatory theory and practice. Students also prepare for the final part of the Masters programme which is a dissertation through which they can study a particular topic of their choice in detail. The optional modules offered allow students to follow a particular interest with a focus on global legal issues.

The programme is taught by research active staff at the University of Bradford School of Law and Social Sciences who have a particular interest and expertise in the issues students will study, and

they will therefore have access to cutting edge research and thinking. The LLM International Legal Studies is not aimed at preparing students for a particular professional path, instead it seeks to develop their critical thinking, research, analytical and communication skills which will help them succeed in their chosen field. Therefore, the programme is of interest to anyone wishing to deepen their understanding of law in a global context and graduates are likely to go on to pursue a variety of paths including careers in; business, legal practice, teaching and academia.

Programme aims

The programme is intended to:

- A1. provide students with detailed knowledge about law in its international context which enables them to evaluate research and advanced scholarship in specific aspects of legal study in its international context. This includes the capacity to evaluate existing theories and methodologies and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses
- A2. develop their ability to work with their knowledge of legal principles and apply them to new situations in order to arrive at imaginative and innovative solutions and interpretations
- A3. Develop excellent communication skills including writing skills commensurate with LLM level study and advanced scholarship
- A4. develop their advanced legal research skills, help them to gain a comprehensive understanding of research techniques available, together with the ability to employ suitable research methods and to appreciate factors relevant to research design in order to facilitate the completion of a substantial research project in their chosen area of law in an international context

Programme Learning Outcomes

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

- 1. demonstrate a detailed understanding, at a practical and theoretical level, of the international context in which law operates.
- 2. appreciate the conceptual relationship between legal provisions in any given area and their underlying theoretical and/or policy frameworks which are context specific.
- 3. analyse complex problems, both factual and theoretical, and show an ability to synthesise and critically assess the relevance of the law to a considered solution.
- 4. carry out research using primary and secondary legal and other relevant material and data.
- 5. evaluate arguments, assumptions and abstract concepts in order to formulate judgements and identify a range of solutions to a given problem.
- 6. evaluate arguments and assumptions and abstract concepts in order to use that analysis to support their own hypotheses and suggestions.

7. demonstrate the capacity to work independently and reflect on their own learning in order to identify their strengths and weaknesses and identify opportunities for lifelong learning.
8. write to professional standards for an academic audience and be able to prepare a variety of different outputs suitable for a variety of audiences.
9. demonstrate an understanding of how the boundaries of knowledge are extended through academic research which requires an in-depth critical exposition in an agreed area, based on the examination of primary and/or secondary data.
10. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research and advanced scholarship and use a range of research methods and research design in order to complete a substantial research project.

Assessment strategy

To effectively assess whether a student has achieved a module's learning outcomes, a combination of assessment approaches is typically applied. 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 Legal Studies 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.

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 Legal Studies 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.

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. 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 School's 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.

To ensure that all students have the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively engage with the programme, at the beginning of their programme of study students should attend a series of pre-recorded online lectures as part of the introductory module, Foundations of Skills and Law. This module provides an introduction to legal concepts, institutions and sources as well as academic writing and research skills.

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.

Curriculum

LLM International Legal Studies 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 pre-Masters module Foundations of Law and Skills, which will provide them with the foundation necessary to study for the Master of Laws programme. There will be a "diagnostic test" at the end of the module to establish a baseline of knowledge to target additional support for students. Based on the results of the test, the LLM programme team will prepare additional support for students in the form of additional sessions (e.g training on learning technologies, academic skills advice sessions etc), in the identified areas from the test. The sessions will be delivered during the LLM course.

Table 0: LLM International Legal Studies Induction Module (FHEQ Level 6)

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period
LAW6029-Z	Foundations of Law and Skills	Exempt	Induction

In the main programme, students will study two 20 credits of core modules (one in each of semester 1 and 2). These modules will provide the student with knowledge of the broader regulatory context and the implications for human rights protection and development.

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, the student will also study four optional 20 credits modules. This will bring the total of the taught modules the student has studied to 120 credits. The modules studied provide the student with detailed subject knowledge and the skills they will need to successfully complete the degree.

September entry students will study the "Semester 1" group first, January entry "Semester 2" first.

In Semester 1, students study Sustainable Development Law in Contemporary Business and Society and select two options from Table 1:

**Table 1: LLM International Legal Studies (FHEQ Level 7):
Semester 1 Campus Modules**

Mod. Code	Module Title	Credit	Select
LAW7030-B	Sustainable Development Law in Contemporary Business and Society	20	Core
LAW7081-B	Data Protection and Privacy Law	20	Option
LAW7037-B	International Banking and Finance Law	20	Option
LAW7031-B	International commercial contracts and e-commerce	20	Option
LAW7082-B	International Company and Corporate Governance Law	20	Option
LAW7007-B	International Competition Law	20	Option
LAW7093-B	International Energy Law and Just Transition	20	Option
LAW7021-B	International Environmental Law	20	Option
LAW7043-B	International Human Rights Law	20	Option
LAW7008-B	International Intellectual Property Law	20	Option
LAW7045-B	International Trade and Investment Law	20	Option
LAW7080-B	Law and Ethics of Technology and Artificial Intelligence	20	Option
LAW7085-B	Law of Financial Crime	20	Option

In Semester 2, students study Regulatory Theory and Practice and select two options from Table 2:

**Table 2: LLM International Legal Studies (FHEQ Level 7):
Semester 2 Campus Modules**

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Selection
LAW7035-B	Regulatory Theory and Practice	20	Core
LAW7041-B	Business, Human Rights and Environment	20	Option
LAW7040-B	Climate Change Law and Policy	20	Option
LAW7039-B	Cyberlaw	20	Option
LAW7074-B	Emerging Issues in Law (Summer School)	20	Option
LAW7023-B	Immigration and Refugee Law	20	Option
LAW7047-B	International Commercial Dispute Resolution	20	Option
LAW7083-B	International Insolvency Law	20	Option
LAW7073-B	International Law of Taxation	20	Option
LAW7084-B	Legal technology	20	Option
LAW7076-B	Regulation of Capital Markets and Securities	20	Option
LAW7078-B	Regulation of Financial Technologies and Virtual Assets	20	Option

Module LAW7074-B starts later than other modules and is taught/studied between May and June. Modules run according to availability and demand and the list of modules available in any one year will be notified to the student at the beginning of the programme - students will be notified later and asked to reselect if an option is not going to run.

In addition to the assessed components of the programme, the student will have access to a number of skills-based career booster courses as part of the Faculty career booster programme. As well as other non-assessed courses available to students on programmes delivered in Bradford. These students also have the opportunity to attend sessions on study and presentation skills in order to assist with the preparation of their personal development portfolio. A range of beginner, intermediate and advanced level language courses (currently French, German, Spanish and Japanese, or Business English in the case of non-UK students.) are also available to Bradford students.

LLM Dissertation

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 3: LLM International Legal Studies 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

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](#)).

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 Legal Studies 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-legal-studies/>