

# LLM Programme Handbook 2020-21

## 3. The curriculum - what you will study

### 3.1. Programme Specification

The Programme Specification is the formal University document which sets out the aims, outcomes, structure and intended student experience of the programme(s). The Programme Specification for LLM is as follows:

#### SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Awarding body:</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Teaching institution and location:</b>	Oxford Brookes University Headington Campus Oxford OX3 0BP United Kingdom
<b>Language of study:</b>	English
<b>Final award/s:</b>	Master of Laws (LLM)
<b>Programme title:</b>	International Law (LLM-ILZ) Human Rights Law (LLM-HRL) Commercial Law and International Trade (LLM-CIT)
<b>Interim exit awards and award titles available:</b>	Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in: International Law (PGD-LAW/ILZ) Human Rights Law (PGD-LAW/HRL) Commercial Law and International Trade (PGD-LAW/CIT) and Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in International Law (PGC-LAW/ILZ)
<b>Brookes course code:</b>	SS63
<b>UCAS code:</b>	N/A
<b>JACS code:</b>	M100
<b>HECos code:</b>	100485
<b>Mode of delivery:</b> <b>(Mode of Study given in brackets)</b>	Face to face/on-campus (full-time) Face to face/on-campus (part-time)
<b>Duration of study:</b>	Full-time: 1 year (maximum duration: 5 years) Part-time: 2 years (maximum duration: 5 years)

<b>Subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:</b>	N/A
<b>Professional accreditation attached to the programme:</b>	N/A
<b>Apprenticeship Standard:</b>	N/A
<b>University Regulations:</b>	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at  <a href="http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations">www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations</a>

## SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

This is a taught postgraduate degree designed to equip students with advanced knowledge of public international law and the specialised areas of human rights and commercial law. Its purpose is to set international law in the context of a globalised world with the challenges that entails, and it offers a choice of modules covering topics in international economic and trade law, human rights, and commercial law. These modules are based on, and draw from, the research interests of the teaching staff and are fundamentally important areas of international law and policy. Students should not only become professionally competent in their specialised studies but should be able to understand and engage with questions of how the law operates in the wider global policy context and future developments.

The programme is distinctive because of the wide range of areas of study which can be taken either in specialised groups, such as commercial law and international trade or human rights law, or as a broader mix of topics allowing students to cross over traditional boundaries of study in the LLM in International Law. To allow all students to engage across the traditional boundaries of their study area, certain modules are available to all. This makes crosscutting issues such as anti-corruption measures, governance issues and the protection of social welfare available to all students on the programme.

More specifically, the programme aims to:

- Develop knowledge of current issues in key aspects of international law, policy, and practice; commercial law, policy practice; human rights law, policy, and practice.
- Provide an awareness of the historical, theoretical, and philosophical underpinnings of various aspects of legal thought.
- Understand the operation of international institutions in various areas of policy and legal practice.
- Analyse critically legal developments within a global community.
- Develop skills in working independently on research, evaluation and writing and as part of a group in pooling and communicating ideas and knowledge.

## SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

### 3.1 Academic literacy

- Advanced knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of a range of international institutions and agencies.
- Systematic understanding of the application of international law within international institutions.
- Advanced disciplinary knowledge of the specialist area of study covered by the named award for which the student is registered.
- Ability to critically engage in contemporary debates within the specialist area of study and to evaluate and communicate complex ideas
- Ability to communicate to an audience using relevant media, write fluently and effectively, contribute to informed discussion of topics related to International Law, and present a coherent argument

### 3.2 Research literacy

- Ability to design and undertake a research project in the discipline.
- Comprehensive understanding of appropriate research methodologies and advanced scholarship in the specialist area of study.
- Ability to use relevant methodologies to interpret knowledge and address complex problems.
- Critical awareness of current issues facing the international community from a legal, theoretical, and practical perspective.

### 3.3 Critical self-awareness and personal literacy

- Demonstrate initiative and take personal responsibility for setting objectives, prioritising competing tasks and time management.
- Ability to learn independently, using an appropriate range of research and disciplinary skills.
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in the planning, execution, and completion of a significant research project.

### 3.4 Digital and information literacy

- Confidently to use appropriate technology to search for high quality information
- Identify and critically assess online resources
- Adopt appropriate technologies for the academic and professional presentation of research work

### 3.5 Active citizenship

- Knowledge of the global, transnational, and national impact of international institutions and agencies.
- Critical awareness of cultural, social, and political issues that affect diverse international actors both at global and local level
- Ability to question one's own perspective and actively engage with issues of equity, sustainability, and social justice.

## SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

### 4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Each of the named awards which make up the LLM Programme can be studied either in full-time mode (over 12 months) or part-time mode (over 24 months). The availability of optional modules is dependent on the availability of teaching staff, and the final decision is made by the Subject Coordinator. Module choice will be restricted by choice of named award (pathway). Advice on selecting optional modules is available through the academic adviser.

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status
LAW7001	Principles of International Law	20	7	Compulsory (ILL)/Acceptable (HRL)
LAW7002	War Law	20	7	Acceptable (ILL)(HRL)
LAW7004	International Human Rights Systems	20	7	Compulsory (HRL)/Acceptable (ILL)
LAW7007	Law of International Business Transactions	20	7	Compulsory (CIT)
LAW7010	<i>International Refugees and Migrants (not running 2020-21)</i>	20	7	<i>Acceptable (ILL)(HRL)</i>
LAW7011	<i>International Investment Law (not running 2020-21)</i>	20	7	<i>Acceptable (ILL)(CIT)</i>
LAW7012	World Trade Law	20	7	Compulsory (CIT)/Acceptable (ILL)
LAW7013	International Economic Law	20	7	Compulsory (ILL)(CIT)
LAW7014	<i>International Commercial Arbitration (not running 2020-21)</i>	20	7	<i>Acceptable (CIT)</i>
LAW7015	International Intellectual Property Law	20	7	Acceptable (ILL)(HRL)(CIT)
LAW7016	International Corporate Governance	20	7	Acceptable (CIT)
LAW7017	Law and Practice of Human Rights	20	7	Compulsory (HRL)
LAW7018	Advanced Issues of Business Transactions	20	7	Compulsory (CIT)
LAW7019	Independent Study Module	20	7	Acceptable (ILL)(HRL)(CIT)
LAW7046	<i>Inequality, Diversity and Human Rights (not running 2020-21)</i>	20	7	<i>Acceptable (HRL)</i>
LAW7047	Theory of Human Rights	20	7	Compulsory (HRL)/Acceptable (ILL)
LAW7048	Dissertation	50	7	Compulsory

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status
LAW7049	Advanced Legal Research Methods	10	7	Compulsory

In addition to the modules above, LAW7008 International Criminal Law and LAW7045 Banking and Financial Law will not run in 2020-21.

a) **LLM/PGDip in International Law (ILZ)**

Students studying for the LLM in International Law are required to follow this course structure:

*ILL-S1 Compulsory*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7001	Principles of International Law	S1	20
LAW7049	Advanced Legal Research Methods	S1	10

*ILL-S1 Options (Choose 2 from 4)*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7004	International Human Rights Systems	S1	20
LAW7011	<i>International Investment Law (not running 2020-21)</i>	S1	20
LAW7012	World Trade Law	S1	20
LAW7047	Theory of Human Rights	S1	20

*ILL-S2 Compulsory*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7013	International Economic Law	S2	20
LAW7048	Dissertation	S2 & S3	50

*ILL-S2 Options (Choose 2 from 4 options)*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7002	War Law	S2	20
LAW7010	<i>International Refugees and Migrants (not running 2020-21)</i>	S2	20
LAW7015	International Intellectual Property Law	S2	20
LAW7019	Independent Study Module	S2	20

Students studying for the LLM in International Law are required to complete a 15,000-word dissertation on a topic related to any of the modules available on the Programme as agreed with the Dissertation Module Leader. Full-time students will normally begin preliminary work on the dissertation in semester 1 and formalise the topic and structure of the dissertation in semester two. The main work on the dissertation will normally take place from June to mid-August.

Students who wish to take the Independent Study Module MUST first discuss this with the LLM Subject Co-ordinator.

In part-time mode, the course could follow the following structure:

YEAR ONE	
<b>Semester One</b>	
Principles of International Law (20 credits)	Advanced Legal Research Methods (10 credits)
<b>Semester Two</b>	

International Economic Law (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)
<b>Summer</b>	
Preliminary work on Dissertation	
<b>YEAR TWO</b>	
<b>Semester One</b>	
Optional Module (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)
<b>Semester Two</b>	
Optional Module (20 credits)	
Dissertation	
<b>Summer</b>	
Dissertation (50 credits)	

Students who achieve a minimum of 120 credits in either full or part-time mode and who follow the same programme rules as for the LLM in International Law, except for the Advanced Legal Research Methods and Dissertation modules, will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in International Law.

**b) LLM in Human Rights Law (HRL)**

Students studying for the LLM in Human Rights Law are required to follow this course structure:

*HRL – S1 Compulsory*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7004	International Human Rights Systems	S1	20
LAW7047	Theory of Human Rights	S1	20
LAW7049	Advanced Legal Research Methods	S1	10

*HRL – S1 Options (Choose 1 from 2 options)*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7001	Principles of International Law	S1	20
LAW7046	<i>Inequality, Diversity and Human Rights (not running 2020-21)</i>	S1	20

*HRL – S2 Compulsory*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7017	Law and Practice of Human Rights	S2	20
LAW7048	Dissertation	S2 & S3	50

*HRL – S2 Options (Choose 2 from 4 options)*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7002	War Law	S2	20
LAW7010	<i>International Refugees and Migrants (not running 2020-21)</i>	S2	20
LAW7015	International Intellectual Property Law	S2	20
LAW7019	Independent Study Module	S2	20

Students studying for the LLM in Human Rights Law are required to complete a 15,000-word dissertation on a topic related to any aspect of the Human Rights Law as agreed with the Dissertation Module Leader. Full-time students will normally begin preliminary work on the dissertation in semester 1 and formalise the topic and structure of the dissertation in semester two. The main work on the dissertation will normally take place from June to mid-August.

Students who wish to take the Independent Study Module MUST first discuss this with the LLM Subject Co-ordinator.

In part-time mode, the course could follow the following structure:

<b>YEAR ONE</b>	
<b>Semester One</b>	
International Human Rights Systems (20 credits)	Advanced Legal Research Methods (10 credits)
<b>Semester Two</b>	
Practice of Human Rights (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)
<b>Summer</b>	
Preliminary work on Dissertation	
<b>YEAR TWO</b>	
<b>Semester One</b>	
Theory of Human Rights (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)
<b>Semester Two</b>	
Optional Module (20 credits)	
Dissertation	
<b>Summer</b>	
Dissertation (50 credits)	

Students who achieve a minimum of 120 credits in either full or part-time mode and who follow the same programme rules as for the LLM in Human Rights Law, except for the Advanced Legal Research Methods and Dissertation modules, will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights Law.

**c) LLM/PG Dip in Commercial Law and International Trade (CIT)**

Students studying for the LLM in Commercial Law and International Trade are required to follow this course structure:

*CIT S1 Compulsory*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7007	Law of International Business Transactions	S1	20
LAW7012	World Trade Law	S1	20
LAW7049	Advanced Legal Research Methods	S1	10

*CIT –S1 Options (Choose 1 from 2 options)*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7011	<i>International Investment Law (not running 2020-21)</i>	S1	20
LAW7016	International Corporate Governance	S1	20

*CIT – S2 Compulsory*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7013	International Economic Law	S2	20
LAW7018	Advanced Issues of Business Transactions	S2	20
LAW7048	Dissertation	S2 & S3	50

*CIT – S2 Options (Choose 1 from 3 options)*

Module Code	Module Title	Semester	Credits
LAW7014	<i>International Commercial Arbitration (not running 2020-21)</i>	S2	20
LAW7015	International Intellectual Property Law	S2	20
LAW7019	Independent Study Module	S2	20

Students studying for the LLM in Commercial Law and International Trade are required to complete a 15,000-word dissertation on a topic related to any aspect of Commercial Law and International Trade as agreed with the Dissertation Module Leader. Full-time students will normally begin preliminary work on the dissertation in semester 1 and formalise the topic and structure of the dissertation in semester two. The main work on the dissertation will normally take place from June to mid-August.

Students who wish to take the Independent Study Module MUST first discuss this with the LLM Subject Co-ordinator.

In part-time mode, the course could follow the following structure:

<b>YEAR ONE</b>	
<b>Semester One</b>	
Law of International Business Transactions (20 credits)	Advanced Legal Research Methods (10 credits)
<b>Semester Two</b>	
Advanced Issues of International Business Transactions (20 credits)	International Economic Law (20 credits)
<b>Summer</b>	
Preliminary work on Dissertation	
<b>YEAR TWO</b>	
<b>Semester One</b>	
World Trade Law (20 credits)	Optional Module (20 credits)
<b>Semester Two</b>	
Optional Module (20 credits)	
Dissertation	
<b>Summer</b>	
Dissertation (50 credits)	

Students who achieve a minimum of 120 credits in either the full or part-time mode and who follow the same programme rules as for the LLM in Commercial Law and International Trade, except for the Advanced Legal Research Methods and Dissertation modules, will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Commercial Law and International Trade.

#### 4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

For each of the LLM pathway awards, students require a total of 180 M-level credits (level 7). Students who gain a minimum of 120 M-level credits will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in each of the pathways. Students who gain 60 M-level credits will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate.



For those who successfully complete the requirements (including the dissertation) for one of the specialists LLM awards in the programme, the resulting award will be the LLM (Master of Laws) in the pathway.

### **Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate**

Students who achieve a minimum of 120 credits and who follow the pathway programme rules, except for the Advanced Legal Research Methods and Dissertation modules, will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma named pathway. Students who do not achieve 120 credits but who complete a minimum of 60 credits in any of the taught modules will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in International Law.

Candidates may receive one of the following classifications in the overall degree/diploma/certificate results: "Distinction" for 70% and above; "Merit" for 60% to 69%; and a "Pass" for 50% to 59%. An average of 49% or less results in a fail grade.

### **4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

N/A

## **SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT**

A wide diversity of teaching methods is employed throughout the LLM programme. These methods are described in the modular handbooks and their effectiveness is monitored and analysed by students and staff in the module evaluation system and the LLM Annual Review process. Teaching methods include:

- staff-led lectures
- tutor/group-led seminars
- analysis of case studies
- group presentations
- individual presentations
- workshop sessions on communication, legal skills and library and IT sources
- individual and small group tutorials

These teaching methods are used to ensure that students can develop knowledge and understanding of the modular subject matter, conduct and present their own research into their topics and explore the relevant theoretical and practical difficulties and challenges. Throughout the taught modules, students receive feedback from staff and their peers during seminars and after the presentations, and they receive detailed feedback on their submitted written work (see below). This approach requires students to develop advanced levels of Academic Literacy, Research Literacy, Critical Self-Awareness and Personal Literacy, and Active Citizenship. Research Literacy and Digital literacy is taught and practised through the Advanced Legal Research Methods module and is required for seminar preparation and presentations in all modules.

Classes are held every week in each module. Teaching methods are predominantly based on seminars and workshops that require students to carry out preparatory study. Lectures may be used where appropriate to the material and the needs of the students. Sessions in Advanced Legal Research Methods are a mixture of lectures, workshops, seminars, group exercises and practice writing. Students therefore have 12 hours contact time which divides roughly into 2 hours of lectures, 12 hours of workshops, and an expected 1 hour of individual tutorials across both semesters. In the other, predominantly 20-credit modules, teaching and learning is through a combination of lectures and seminars or seminars in sessions of three hours requiring previous study and preparation by the students. Students therefore have 30 hours contact time, and 170 hours self-directed learning for each module. Throughout the teaching terms, students may meet with tutors to discuss any difficulties they may have in their reading or issues in which they are particularly interested. This is particularly the case as students develop their ideas for the content and structure of their dissertations and are invited to discuss their research project with potential supervisors.

The course specifically supports students who do not have a legal background, as well as international students whose first language is not English. Advanced Legal Research Methods is designed to impart the necessary writing and oral skills and prepare the students for advanced legal study of the international field. This preparation includes practical writing exercises, individual and group presentations.

### **5.1 ASSESSMENT**

Both summative and formative assessments are incorporated into the LLM programme. Methods of assessment are described in the module handbooks and monitored and evaluated using the student feedback procedures and the LLM Annual Review Process.

Summative assessment methods include:

- coursework assessments
- oral presentations
- group work



- dissertation assessments

Formative assessment methods include:

- formative assessment through class feedback processes
- informal tutor discussion
- oral feedback on group and individual presentations
- written feedback on individual work

These assessment methods are used to ensure that students demonstrate competency in International Law and their chosen specialised topics by requiring one or more pieces of assessed coursework in each module.

The design of assessment at the University is guided by the Assessment and Feedback Policy for Taught Programmes. It can be found at [www.brookes.ac.uk/getmedia/f614bd44-70b4-4d1a-85d8-1fd580819d3a/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy.pdf](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/getmedia/f614bd44-70b4-4d1a-85d8-1fd580819d3a/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy.pdf). This ensures that assessment feeds directly into learning so that students can understand what they have achieved and how they can improve. Students are provided with opportunities in their classes and individually to discuss the assessment process with module leaders and are encouraged to reflect on their feedback and assessment to improve their own learning strategies and outcomes. The assessment criteria are published in the programme handbook and discussed in Advanced Legal Research Methods and by module leaders in relation to module-specific assessment tasks.

The Advanced Legal Research Method module is designed to support the coherent development of all requisite skills across the programme. Additionally, the ALRM assignments are linked to the pathways to ensure there is a match between the research skills developed and the content of the pathway. In addition to summative assessment, students engage in marking exercises involving both self-marking and peer-marking. This provides students with an early opportunity to engage with the marking criteria and the standards required for M-level work. They are given support in terms of designing their dissertation as a research project, including peer marking past students' dissertation titles and research questions (anonymised). Given the students' projected profile, the teaching team of Advanced Legal Research Methods also looks, particularly during the first semester, to identify and offer additional individual support for students with weaknesses skills, such as legal writing.

The pathway assignments ensure that students are encouraged and assisted to develop their academic and research literacy, become critically aware of their own ability to manage their time and work, carry out independent learning, present their ideas effectively, and think through the problems involved in advanced legal analysis. The Brookes Attributes are addressed in detail at module level (please see separate module descriptors to show how this is achieved), but overall, the attributes are assessed as follows:

*Academic Literacy:* This is assessed in all modules in every piece of coursework and the dissertation. Students must demonstrate an ability to understand, analyse and communicate complex ideas, critically reflect on the application of law in a wide range of policy contexts and challenges.

*Research Literacy:* All assessed coursework and class presentations in seminars require research skills. Students receive detailed feedback on their returned essays and on their presentations. The Advanced Legal Research Methods also offers generalised class feedback and individual feedback in discussions with tutors in dedicated sessions. The dissertation proposal is assessed, along with a reflective research diary, as part of the Advanced Legal Research Methods module.

*Critical Self-awareness and personal literacy:* These are implicit in all LLM modules – students need to meet deadlines and to be organised in their approach to their work to meet assessment requirements. All coursework receives written feedback and personalised face-to-face feedback from the module leader, and students are thereby encouraged to reflect on their own performance. In modules where students give presentations, such as International Intellectual Property Law, students receive formative feedback on their presentations and are encouraged to assess their own progress. The compulsory module of Advanced Legal Research Methods is partly assessed based on a reflective diary in which students record their experiences (good and bad) of identifying, exploring, and organising a suitable research topic for the dissertation.

*Digital and Information Literacy:* Digital literacy is required by the need to word process all coursework, written presentations, and the dissertation and to make electronic submissions through Moodle in the compulsory module of International Law and the dissertation. Preparation of coursework and presentations require all students to access digital resources, including legal databases, international organisation websites and materials placed on Moodle.

*Active Citizenship:* The relationship between the global and local role of law underlies all the programme's modules. It is particularly explicit in modules such as Principles of International Law, International Human Rights Law, War Law, the Law of International Business Transactions, International Economic Law, and International Intellectual Property Law. Comparative national legal sources are frequently used in these and other modules. Questions of equity, sustainability and social justice also arise in modules such as Principles of International Law, International Economic Law, and International Human Rights Law and Law. All of these modules are designed to foster learning not just of the technical aspects of law but also the global political, social, cultural and economic context in which law operates, and thus promote the values and skills which will enable our students to work and live in a multicultural, global world.

## 5.2 ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The programme conforms to the University Regulations [B4. Regulations for Postgraduate Taught Programmes](#).

## SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

### 6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements of the LLM programmes, as well as English language requirements are listed here:

- [www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/llm-in-international-law](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/llm-in-international-law)
- [www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/llm-in-commercial-law-and-international-trade](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/llm-in-commercial-law-and-international-trade)
- [www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/llm-in-human-rights-law](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/llm-in-human-rights-law)

Please also see the University's general minimum postgraduate entry requirements here: [www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/postgraduate-courses/](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/postgraduate-courses/)

### 6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED

N/A

### 6.3 JOB ROLE/EMPLOYER PROFILE (DEGREE & HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS)

N/A

## SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Graduates may go on to employment as practising lawyers, academics, government officials and working in a variety of capacities in NGOs and international organisations. The range of skills developed through the assignments are designed to ensure that students have strong transferable skills. Additionally, visiting speakers take lectures on topics in certain modules on the pathways. Certain modules, themselves, are designed to engage with practical, real-life issues and students take part in simulations, mooted exercises and so on. On the Human Rights Law pathway, the students can enter an internal competition on humanitarian law and may be accepted for the final of the international competition.