

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	Master of Laws (LLM) International Law Master of Laws (LLM) International Law with Professional Placement
2	Course Code	PT1178 PT1260
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable

6	Course Description
	The LLM International Law provides you with an exciting opportunity to understand and apply the law to issues of global concern. The programme contains many opportunities to both understand the subject in depth and practise the skills required in the field of international law and development. It is an excellent stepping stone for those interested in careers in these fields and who wish to act as global citizens. The course covers issues of civil and political importance to individuals across the fields of human rights and the law's response to conflict. You can choose from a range of options to tailor and design your Master's degree and will have the opportunity to broaden your knowledge through multidisciplinary study in one option from our MA International Relations and Security Studies. The University's Employability Framework is embedded throughout the course to help prepare you for your future career and the development of advanced academic and transferable skills is central to the course outcomes. The LLM is distinctive in providing you with an intensive preparatory module on transferable skills that also supports your transition to Master's level study. There is an emphasis on independent study and work-readiness. To support this, you can choose between a placement in a work setting or a dissertation in the third semester. The LLM International Law with Professional Placement offers a more intensive course for those who can commit to its longer duration, where you will undertake the dissertation followed by a longer placement thereafter.

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Master of Laws (LLM) International Law	7	180
	Master of Laws (LLM) International Law with Professional Placement	7	240
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Diploma International Law	7	120
	Postgraduate Certificate International Law	7	60

8	Variation from the University Regulations
	None.

9	Delivery Patterns			
Mode(s) of Study		Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
Full Time		City Centre	12 months (Sep intake) 15 months (Jan intake)	PT1178 PT1260
Part time		City Centre	24 months (Sep intake) 30 months (Jan intake)	PT1771 PT1840
Full Time with Professional Placement		City Centre (and placement provider)	18 months (Sep intake) 21 months (Jan intake)	PT1371 PT1322

10	Entry Requirements	
	Home	Minimum 2:2 class UK degree or international equivalent in any subject area.
	EU/International	IELTS: 6.5 overall with 6.0 minimum in all bands If an applicant does not meet the required IELTS score, they may be eligible for one of our pre-sessional English courses (see: https://www.beta.bcu.ac.uk/international/your-application/english-language-and-english-tests/pre-sessional-english-courses). An applicant must have a Secure English Language Test (SELT) to study on the pre-sessional English course (see: https://www.bcu.ac.uk/international/your-application/english-language-and-english-tests/pre-sessional-english-courses) For other accepted qualifications see: https://www.bcu.ac.uk/international/your-application/english-language-and-english-tests/accepted-qualifications.
	Access	An international applicant can enter the LLM through the Pre-Masters course offered by BCU International College. See: https://bcuic.bcu.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/law/

11	Course Aims	
	The LLM International Law aims to nurture critically aware and professionally adept future global citizens. A cornerstone of the course is the development of a systematic understanding of international law. This is cultivated in tandem with a critical awareness of the discipline and an ability to creatively apply its ideas and doctrines. This knowledge and understanding will be built on – and learned through – the utilisation of research methodologies to identify and critically evaluate sources of information, and apply them to problems. As Masters students and future professionals, the course team will help you learn how to act autonomously with your individual studies and career plans, and also in collaboration and partnership with staff and other students. On the latter, the course will simulate situations faced by practitioners of international law, for example, this might include diplomatic negotiations and/or	

	arguing in writing and verbally for innovations and changes to government policy. The course aims to provide assessments where you demonstrate your communication skills with complex problems in international law, whether in writing or verbally. At various points in the course, beginning in the core Advanced Skills module, you will learn how to reflect on your practice and position in a global world. These objectives can be summarised as the following: • A systematic understanding and knowledge of international law; • An ability to deal with complex issues and a critical awareness of the discipline; • Competence with and critical awareness of research methodologies; • Creative and purposive application of knowledge; • Work collaboratively and reflexively with others; • Written and verbal communication skills; and, • Reflective praxis for professionalism and citizenship. These objectives form the basis for the learning outcomes of the course.
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12	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding
1	A detailed, accurate and ordered knowledge of the principal and distinctive features of international law and the international legal system, including the key concepts, values, principles and institutions
2	Make coherent and reasoned judgments on complex issues of international law, showing an awareness of the discipline's historical, philosophical and cultural roots, implications, and limitations
3	Assess and question the extent of knowledge on an area of international law using research methodologies while acknowledging and pinpointing the limits of those methodologies
4	Apply new knowledge to problems in international law to propose solutions and/or original hypotheses leading, where possible, to more ethical, inclusive and/or fairer outcomes
	Skills and other attributes
5	Solve problems in partnership with others by building relationships based on mutual respect and understanding of the positions of others
6	Articulate complex ideas on issues of international law, and related areas, in written and oral pieces of work for specialist or non-specialist audiences that meet academic conventions for referencing and using material, and/or that adhere to the norms and practice of professional workplaces
7	Question beliefs and create strategies for one's future career and role in society as a professional in international law (or related fields)

8	Apply theoretical learning to a long form project and enhance employability through a placement and reflective exercise. Work independently and collaboratively to build professional skills that help lead to employment opportunities in related fields. [Professional Placement Course].
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13	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	The goal of the Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy is to provide opportunities, support and reliable measures of the course learning outcomes as realised across the modules. Its overall goal is to develop autonomous, critical and reflective learners, who are able to take responsibility for their studies and career plans and imagine their position in wider global society. To achieve this, the objectives in the strategy set out below incorporate key elements of the Quality Assurance Agency's Subject Benchmark Statement Law including equality, diversity and inclusion; accessibility; sustainability; and enterprise. The first objective when you join the course is to enable your smooth transition from undergraduate study. It is vital to help you feel part of the academic and university community, understand how to meet the demands of Level 7 study, grasp the language and conventions of the discipline, and to see how to realise your own personal projects on the course. Teaching and assessment strategies in the core modules prioritise support for cultivating belonging and inclusiveness through personal study and career planning with tutors, and collaborative working to build a scholarly and welcoming community. The targeted assessments on writing, reflection and research skills in the Advanced Skills module will help identify and triage any of you in need of help as you transition to Level 7 study. As you learn the fundamentals of academic writing and research at Masters level you will have support from the Centre for Academic Success. A second key objective is ensuring the course represents values of equality and accessibility for students. There is emphasis in several core and optional modules on critical and reflective engagement with the history, culture and underpinning philosophy of international law. This recognises that the discipline can often prioritise American, European and White voices or interpretations making other contributions invisible. Crucial to understanding this wider literature is making sources accessible for a variety of learners using audio, visual and literary sources in addition to orthodox journals and texts. Accessibility is also reflected in the variety of assessments, which will be flexible and adjusted to any students with disabilities. The teaching team will develop your digital skills and norms to locate reliable sources and use artificial intelligence appropriately and sensibly. Thirdly, it is vital for teaching, learning and assessment to reflect broader global concerns such as the Sustainability Development Goals. You are encouraged in classroom activities and through role-play based assessment in core and optional modules to engage with themes of injustice, threats to rights, environmental breakdown, for example, by both critically analysing the evidence base and by proposing innovative solutions and new interpretations. These forms of assessment will help you practice interpersonal skills as well providing opportunities for creative thinking. Lastly, throughout the course you will be supported to develop your professional and civic identities and agency to have an entrepreneurial and civic mindset. From the base in the core modules, where study and career plans are prepared, you have opportunities in the placement module or in the extended placement award to apply your knowledge and skills in the workplace. You will be provided with reflective tools and exercises to build your self-knowledge, social awareness and better understand your motivation to work in international law and related fields. Throughout the options, you will be challenged to consider your role in wider cultural and societal contexts as highly influential citizens.

The above strategy, which underpins the achievement of the course learning outcomes, is complemented by a range of experiential learning opportunities and involvement in the School's research community:

- The American Legal Practice Internship: all postgraduate students have access to this module and its opportunity to intern in legal practices and charities in the United States;
- Annual field trip to international courts and tribunals in Amsterdam and The Hague;
- School of Law Research Seminars and External Events: you are invited to attend and sometimes deliver research seminars with staff;
- Student Research Collaborations: you are invited to collaborate with staff on active research projects, alongside the opportunity to be featured in the School of Law student journal *Forward Thinking* (<https://www.bcu.ac.uk/law/research/student-research-collaborations>).

The course is underpinned by the university employability framework. By following the framework, we aim to support you in becoming experienced, informed, globally and culturally aware, aspiring, clear on your professional identity, and self-aware.

15	Course Requirements		
15a	Level 7: <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling _120_ credits):</i>		
	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	LAW7137	Public International Law	20
	LAW7179	International Human Rights Law	20
	LAW7171	Advanced Skills	20
	LAW7177	Dissertation/Live project	60
		OR	
	LAW7154	Placement <i>(not available on LLM International Law with Professional Placement)</i>	60
	 <i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least _60_ credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:</i>		
	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
	LAW7123	International Criminal Law	20
	LAW7176	Development and International Cooperation Law	20
	LAW7178	International Environmental Law	20

	LAW7180	International Humanitarian Law	20
	LAW7157	International Refugee Law: Core Concepts and Critical Perspectives	20
	CRI7063	Regulating Conflict and Facilitating Peace: The Role of International Law in Global Politics	20

In order to qualify for the award of LLM International Law with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete all of the Level 7 modules listed above as well as the following Level 6 module:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PLA6001	Professional Placement	60

15b Structure Diagram

Full-time: September starters

If you are a September intake student studying on a full-time basis, you will complete the course in 12 months.

Semester 1 (Sept-Dec)	Core LAW7137: Public International Law (20 credits) Core LAW7171: Advanced Skills (20 credits)	1 International Law option from: LAW7123: International Criminal Law (20 credits) LAW7176: Development and International Cooperation Law (20 credits)
		OR 1 International Relations option: CRI7063: Regulating Conflict and Facilitating Peace: The Role of International Law in Global Politics (20 credits)
Semester 2 (Jan-May)	Core LAW7179: International Human Rights Law (20 credits)	2 International Law options from: LAW7180: International Humanitarian Law (20 credits) LAW7157: International Refugee Law (20 credits) LAW7178: International Environmental Law (20 credits)
Semester 3 (Jun-Aug)	Core LAW7177: Dissertation/Live project (60 credits) OR	

	LAW7154: Placement (60 credits)	
Semesters 1-2 (Sept-May) Professional Placement <i>(if opted for LLM International Law with Professional Placement)</i>	Professional Placement (60 credits)	

Full-time: January starters

If you are a January intake student studying on a full-time basis, you will have up to 15 months to complete the course. This will give you the option to complete all taught modules before attempting the Dissertation/Live Project/Placement module.

Semester 2 (Jan-May)	Core LAW7137: Public International Law (20 credits) Core LAW7171: Advanced Skills (20 credits)	1 option from: LAW7180: International Humanitarian Law (20 credits) LAW7157: International Refugee Law (20 credits) LAW7178: International Environmental Law (20 credits)
Semester 1 (Sept-Dec)	Core LAW7179: International Human Rights Law (20 credits)	2 options from: LAW7123: International Criminal Law (20 credits) LAW7176: Development and International Cooperation Law (20 credits) OR 1 of the above options with: CRI7063: Regulating Conflict and Facilitating Peace: The Role of International Law in Global Politics (20 credits)
Semester 2 (Jan-May)	Core LAW7177: Dissertation/Live project (60 credits) OR LAW7154: Placement (60 credits)	
Semesters 3-4 (Jun-Dec) Professional Placement <i>(if opted for LLM International Law with Professional Placement)</i>	Professional Placement (120 credits)	

Part Time

If you are a student studying on a part-time basis, whether September or January intake, you will have up to 24 or 30 months to complete the course.

Year One

Semester 1 and semester 2	Complete 3 core modules (60 credits)
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Year Two

Semester 1 and semester 2	Complete 3 elective modules (60 credits)
Semester 3	Dissertation/Live Project (60 credits) OR Placement (60 credits)

16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

LLM International Law

8% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours*
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Scheduled Learning	154/149
Directed Learning	678/688
Private Study	968/963
Total Hours	1800

*Depending on choice between Dissertation and Placement

LLM International Law with Professional Placement

6% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours*
Scheduled Learning	154
Directed Learning	978
Private Study	1268
Total Hours	2400

*There is a minimum of 600 hours on PLA 6001 (Professional Placement module) spread across Directed Learning and Private Study.

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	82%
Exam	0%
In-Person	18%