

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes **LLB Honours Degree programme in Law**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2015**.

The aims of the LLB Honours Degree programme in Law are:

- to provide a sound and extensive knowledge in the foundations and content of the law of England and Wales;
- to develop a rigorous grounding and understanding of the fundamental doctrines and principles underpinning the common law and to critically evaluate legal developments;
- to examine law in practice and to develop problem solving, research and personal skills and key transferable intellectual skills required by the legal professions and employers;
- to engage students in the process of reading and analysing legal texts, to develop independent thinking and judgement regarding sources of law and how it is made and developed;
- to encourage students to appreciate broader international and comparative perspectives of law;
- to promote critical dialogue on the role of law within a modern societal context and an appreciation of its continuing social and political importance;
- to encourage students to take progressive responsibility for their own study through independent and guided research;
- to develop key legal communication skills;
- to develop legal research skills and e-resource search and IT techniques; and
- to foster the capacity for independent learning essential to continuing personal development.

The programme is delivered in three stages with a combination of mandatory courses and a range of optional courses. The mandatory courses provide students the content of the law of England and Wales with an opportunity to obtain a Qualifying Law Degree, as defined by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board for England and Wales.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme, and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

### Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate a wide range of Knowledge and Understanding and Skills and other attributes, specifically: Intellectual Skills; Subject Practical Skills; and, Transferable Skills as follows:

### *A Knowledge and understanding*

Students will develop and demonstrate a sound knowledge in the foundations and content of the law of England and Wales and the fundamental doctrines and principles which underpin the common law. In particular, the programme provides opportunities for students to achieve the following outcomes:

1. The principal foundations and features of the English Legal System, including its legal institutions, procedures, and sources of law. Included in this is European Union (EU) Law and the legal relationship of the various EU institutions to the United Kingdom and other EU Member States.
2. The core foundations, concepts, values and rules operating in a range of substantive areas within the English Legal system, drawing on the fundamental principles underpinning the common law, as well as an in depth knowledge of selected specialist areas of law.
3. The relationship between the law and society within its historical, socio-economic and contemporary political context.

### *Skills and other attributes*

Students will develop a wide range of Intellectual Skills; Subject Practical Skills; and, Transferable Skills as follows:

#### B: Intellectual skills

Demonstrate the ability to:

1. Recognise and rank items and issues in terms of their relevance and importance.
2. Gather, retrieve and synthesize information.
3. Produce a synthesis of relevant doctrinal and policy issues in relation to a law topic.
4. Make a critical judgement of the merits of particular arguments.
5. Present and make a reasoned choice between alternative solutions.
6. Independently acquire knowledge and understanding in areas previously studied.
7. Reflect constructively on own learning and seek and make use of feedback.
8. Acquire problem-solving techniques and be able to present coherent, concise legal arguments and advice.
9. Research independently and identify relevant material in providing appropriate answers to legal problems, using a variety of paper and electronic sources.

#### C: Subject practical skills

Demonstrate the ability to:

1. Write clearly, succinctly and accurately in the format of a piece of legal advice.
2. Recognise the legal issues arising from a situation of reasonable complexity.
3. Identify relevant factual data in formulating sound legal advice regarding client counselling and advocacy skills.
4. Conduct independent legal research using both paper and electronic sources, including research into areas of law not previously studied.
5. Provide an informed and reasoned opinion based on case law and statute of the possible legal solutions.

6. Identify the legal and related issues which require to be researched.
  7. Effectively locate and use primary and secondary legal and other relevant sources.
  8. Produce a legal opinion using a variety of practitioner skills, including a synthesis of relevant legal issues, concise argument and critical judgment.
- D: Transferable skills  
Demonstrate the ability to:
1. Understand and use the English language orally and in writing proficiently in relation to legal materials and give presentations.
  2. Demonstrate appropriate communication skills and the ability to express complex principles of law in clear written and spoken English.
  3. Read complex and technical and other materials and present them in a way that is comprehensible to others, including accurate drafting, note-taking, and summarisation.
  4. Use correct legal terminology and correct methods of citation and referencing.
  5. Where appropriate present and analyse material in numerical form.
  6. Word process written work and use a range of electronic databases and other information sources.
  7. To become proficient in the use of internet and email (with appropriate level of formality) for a professional subject.
  8. Ability to work in a group and time manage work load.

### **Teaching, learning and assessment**

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, coursework/essay, oral presentations and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by formal examinations, coursework, examined essays, oral presentations and the optional dissertation. In addition, students may be involved in workshops and may produce various forms of creative work. The programme is informed by national standards of legal education, and good practice across the legal higher educational sector. It includes elements of problem-based learning and encourages students to develop their own independent learning skills and reflective learning practice.

Students are expected to be active partners in their studies with shared responsibilities for their learning and achievement. The programme is designed to meet the academic needs of the students, and to producing students who engage fully with the intellectual challenges of undertaking a degree in Law. The programme focuses on developing key (transferable) skills outcomes relevant both to the specific courses and to the overall Law programme as a whole, encompassing both classroom-based teaching methods such as traditional seminars and lectures, and also directed independent study.

A feature of this degree is employability for professional practice whereby students are expected to engage with the legal world outside their degree programme by working with the Careers Centre to engage in understanding the legal professions within their contemporary context and by engaging in a range of legal-related activities, for example, court visits (reflecting on the proceedings), shadowing legal professionals, prison visits, as well as a wide range of other extra-curricular activities, such as attending guest lectures and engaging with practitioners in the field. Students will participate and engage with numerous opportunities provided by the Careers team as an integral part of their overall educational experience, including developing a professional portfolio and developing their cv.

Full details of the course and assessments for individual courses can be obtained on the School website and more specific information is listed in the Law student handbook.

<https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/criminologyandsociology/home.aspx>

### Details of the programme structure(s)

The programme is delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). The programme contains a combination of mandatory courses and a range of stage two and three specialist options courses. The mandatory courses provide students the content of the law of England and Wales with an opportunity to obtain a Qualifying Law Degree, as defined by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board for England and Wales. In each case the structure encourages students, particularly in stages two and three, to develop their own interests through informed choice among specialist options. In stage three all students have the opportunity to write a dissertation.

#### Single Honours Degree programmes

##### **Stage one:**

Students must take the following mandatory courses:

LL1001 Public Law (Constitutional, Administrative and Human Rights Law)	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL1002 The Law of Contract	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL1003 Criminal Law	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL1004 The English Legal System, Methods and Legal Practice (Legal Skills)	1 unit	(30 Credits)

##### **Stage two:**

Students must take the following mandatory courses:

LL2001 Land Law	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL2002 Law of Torts	1 unit	(30 Credits)

Students must also take 2 units (60 credits) from the following courses:

LL2003 International and Comparative Human Rights Law	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL2004 Law of Evidence	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL2005 Public International Law	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL2006 Family Law	1 unit	(30 Credits)

##### **Stage three:**

Students must take the following mandatory courses:

LL3001 European Union Law (EU Law)	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL3002 Equity and the Law of Trusts	1 unit	(30 Credits)

Students must also take a further 2 units (60 credits) from the following courses:

LL3003 Law Dissertation	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL3004 Company Law	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL3005 Medical Law	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL3006 Advocacy and Court Practice	1 unit	(30 Credits)

LL2003 International and Comparative Human Rights Law**	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL2004 Law of Evidence**	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL2005 Public International Law**	1 unit	(30 Credits)
LL2006 Family Law**	1 unit	(30 Credits)

\*\*Students may not take this course if taken in Stage Two.

#### **These courses are mandatory courses which must be taken and passed in order to obtain a Qualifying Law degree.**

LL1001 Public Law (Constitutional, Administrative and Human Rights Law)
LL1002 The Law of Contract
LL1003 Criminal Law
LL2001 Land Law
LL2002 Law of Torts
LL3001 European Union Law (EU Law)
LL3002 Equity and the Law of Trusts

+Please note that not all courses run each year. A full list of courses including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the

<https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/criminologyandsociology/home.aspx>

### **Progression and award requirements**

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway as outlined in the College's Undergraduate Regulations. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. Failing marks of 30 – 39% can normally be condoned in up to 30 credits across stages 1 and 2. In the final stage failing marks in up to 30 credits can be condoned. However, on some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage or to qualify for a particular degree title and this will put restrictions on courses in which failing marks can be condoned (see programme structure above for details).

Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two and three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage three.

For further details on progression and award requirements please see the College's Undergraduate Regulations.

### **Student support and guidance**

- Overall responsibility for the programme is the Programme Director for Law but the first point of contact for students is their personal advisor (see Student Handbook).
- Personal Advisers: All students are allocated a personal adviser in Law who meets with them regularly throughout the programme, with set compulsory sessions each term. The adviser's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. Students meet with their personal advisers at least four times during the first term in small groups of no more than six students. There are four scheduled meetings that are compulsory and responsibility for meetings is placed on the student in between these set times (see Student Handbook).
- All staff are available and accessible through dedicated office hours system on a weekly basis during term.
- Representation on the Staff-Student Committee.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources, including on OSCOLA citation and referencing.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service liaison officer.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Disability & Dyslexia Services (ESO) for students with special needs (see Student Handbook).

See Student Handbook for further information regarding Student Support.

### **Admission requirements**

The standard conditional offer for Law is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the School also has some flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. In these cases students are advised to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

### **Further learning and career opportunities**

The LLB is linked to employability and professionalism. Students will have extensive support from the Royal Holloway Careers Service which is part of the Careers Group, University of London Careers. As a mandatory part of the English Legal System, Methods and Legal Practice (Legal Skills) course students will work with the Careers Service to assist them in preparing and presenting a professional curriculum vitae and how to present cover letters and other documents in a professional format. Some time will focus on professional interview preparation as well. They will also have placement opportunities. For further details to add the [Careers Service](#).

Students will also have the opportunity to take optional courses in selected areas to develop their expertise, including a research dissertation in an area of law. Students may also take courses focusing on professional practice including, the Law Externship; Advocacy and Practice in Magistrates' Court.

### **Indicators of quality and standards**

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4\* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour and 3\* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4\* or 3\* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. This result placed Royal Holloway 31st overall in the UK for 4\* and 3\* research and 33rd based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score.

The programme outcomes are referenced to the QAA benchmark statements for Law and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008). In addition, curriculum design has been informed by the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education 2010. See attached Mapping exercise attached.

### **List of programmes**

All the programmes are taught by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and lead to awards of the University of London. Programmes in Law are subject to accreditation by a professional body (see below). The QAA subject benchmark statement in Law describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see [www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)).

### **Single Honours Degree programmes in Law**

LLB(Hons) (M100)