**LLM Professional Law (Postgraduate Diploma in Law)**

**Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences**

**School of Law**

This document is presented in three sections:

## Section One

This section will provide students with key information on their learning experience and how it will be continuously enhanced this will include;

* Programme Philosophy and Aims
* Programme Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategy
* Statements of Intent for key learning experience themes

This section aims to address Quality Enhancement and Learning & Teaching excellence across the student learning experience.

## Section Two

This section addresses regulatory and quality assurance requirements for the purposes of programme validation and mapping of the student learning experience.

## Section Three

This section collates the Module Guides from across the programme.

## Section One

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| Programme Philosophy |
| The LLM Professional Law (PGDL) programme provides a knowledge-led and practice-based education in English Law, delivered by a team of academics which includes internationally recognised researchers and respected former professional practitioners. The programme provides a rigorous academic discipline and allows non-law graduates to satisfy the first part of the academic stage of qualification required to become a solicitor or barrister as required by the relevant professional bodies.The programme provides comprehensive and critical coverage of the foundations of legal knowledge plus an eighth area of study required in order to meet the requirements of the professional bodies in terms of learning outcomes, general transferable skills and regulations in relation to admissions and assessment. In addition you will engage with the research and scholarship required to gain a Masters qualification. The programme is therefore relevant to you if you are aiming for a career in professional legal practice or if you are seeking Masters level study in law within a practice-led context. The programme places an integrated understanding of the law and its function within the context of an increasingly globalised environment and will also enable you to gain essential transferable and enhanced skills, such as critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, and project planning. The Law School’s location in the centre of the thriving and diverse City of Birmingham, puts it in close proximity to the Business and Legal communities and enables collaborations with external partners and stakeholders. Your learning is therefore facilitated through engagement with real and authentic problems and challenges; you will apply and synthesise the theoretical and practical aspects of the discipline of law to reach effective, practice-led solutions whilst also applying recognised research theories and methodologies in order to create a substantial piece of academic writing and research at Masters level. Key employability skills are embedded within the learning and teaching. Our highly acclaimed, nationally recognised, Mooting Society, our Student Legal Society and Student Debating Society also provide extra-curricular opportunities for you to practise, develop and enhance the transferable skills you have developed.You will learn in the environment of a School of Law whose core values are social justice and access to justice. We aim to enable you to develop a critical awareness of the role of law in influencing social change. We will equip you with the skills and knowledge to make a difference in issues of fairness, equality and access to justice. |
| Programme AimsThis section articulates the programme level learning outcomes framed by the five themes of the Academic Plan. |
| 1. Pursuing Excellence
 | To provide you with the opportunity to obtain knowledge and understanding of such areas of law as are required by the Joint Academic Standards Board composed of the Bar Standards Board and the Solicitors Regulation Authority so that you will obtain a qualifying law degree within an institution that promotes excellence in scholarship and practice-led learning that is transferable into both the legal sector and other professional institutions.To develop your ability to understand and use the English language with precision, orally and in writing, in relation to legal and other areas of professional practice, in order to make effective oral and written presentations which are coherent and comprehensible to others within a scholarly and workplace environment.At the Masters stage of study you will appreciate research as a standalone process through an increased awareness of different research theories as well as develop a sound grasp of established research methodologies. Through the demonstration of a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to research and enquiry you will produce an extended piece of work that will link with a subject or issue already studied during the PGDL stage of your programme.  |
| 1. Practice-led, knowledge-applied
 | To provide you with knowledge of the English Legal System and the substantive rules of English Law within their political, historical, global, economic and institutional context. To explore the relationship between law and ethical and moral issues, incorporating the ways in which lawyers and legal scholars can bring about social change through the application of legal principles and debate.To develop the skills necessary to assimilate knowledge, frame appropriate questions, marshal coherent and rational argument, and relate theory and practice in order to draw independent and balanced conclusions through the ability to plan strategically for your own learning methods and provide a structured response to meaningful feedback.The ability to analyse, critically evaluate and produce a synthesis of well-established and innovative legal rules, doctrine, policy, principles and concepts; to apply this to a diverse range of practical and theoretical issues and problems, recognising and making evaluative judgements about the appropriateness of different methods of problem solving, in order to make a reasoned choice from relevant alternatives and to present this information in an appropriate format within the workplace environment.In addition to using skills developed on the PGDL stage of the programme you will apply your knowledge of advanced research techniques to create and interpret your enhanced knowledge in law. In order to successfully do this you will need to make sound personal and reasonable judgements in the research undertaken during the Masters stage of study. Doing so will help you demonstrate specialist and critical knowledge of a legal topic or issue. |
| 1. Interdisciplinary
 | Taught modules during the PGDL stage are set in context of the LLB (hons) degree and the JASB requirement of studying the core foundation areas of English Law. In addition to this student will have the opportunity to undertake an American Legal Placement which is a Level 7 20 credit version of the long running and successful module established on the LLB (and also, previously, the GDL). The UK placement option module is also based on the long running and well established module that currently runs on the LLB at Level 6.Part of a suite of Masters Courses in the School of Law, as a student studying the LLM Professional Law (PGDL) you will have access to the same training in research as other Masters students and you will be allocated a supervisor during the dissertation/live project/placement. Where possible to do so you will be invited to events where common issues pertinent to study on the LLM Legal Practice, LLM International Business Law or International Human Rights can be identified. This will be done through the introduction of ‘LLM Days’ throughout the academic year. |
| 1. Employability-driven
 | To provide opportunities for you to develop your own employability, specifically practitioner, professional, and enhanced analytical, self-reflective critical and research skills in legal education at Masters level. Employability and professional skills are embedded into the programme. Other skills developed will include a range of pervasive skills, such as: making relevant use of numerical and statistical information derived from primary and secondary resources when constructing an argument, conducting research electronically and making appropriate use of the internet to locate relevant information and solve problems. You will produce work which is presented and formatted using standard software packages and have the opportunity to engage in placement and project opportunities with our expanding range of collaborative partners. You will work co-operatively with others and practice professionalism in every aspect of your programme.  |
| 1. Internationalisation
 | To set law and legal practice in the context of contemporary, social, cultural and economic factors within local, national and international contexts. The opportunity to undertake some study abroad will be available at the Masters stage of the programme. |

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| Programme Learning Outcomes |
| 1. Enable a non-law graduate to demonstrate thorough knowledge of the legal system in England and Wales, its relationship with European Union law and the fundamental areas of English law, including an appreciation of the political, historical, global, economic and ethical contexts in which the legal system and the substantive legal principles operate and how these substantive areas relate to each other.
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| 1. Critically analyse, evaluate and produce a synthesis of well-established and innovative legal rules, doctrine, policy, principles and concepts; to apply this to a diverse range of practical and theoretical issues and problems, within a practice-led learning environment.
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| 1. Confidently apply acquired knowledge to complex legal situations in order to make sophisticated judgements based on reasoned-choice, and where there is ambiguity or uncertainty recognise potential alternative solutions supported with sound evidence to deliver rational arguments to justify conclusions.
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| 1. Demonstrate the ability to learn autonomously and develop a rigorous approach to research that uses both primary and secondary sources to generate acquisition of comprehensive legal knowledge in regards to the theory and application of law in the fundamental areas of English law and an additional law option.
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| 1. Assume responsibility for further enhancing skills necessary for professional practice and to refine current employability skills, to use the English language with precision, orally and in writing, in relation to legal issues, in order to make effective oral and written presentations which are coherent and comprehensible to others and meet expectations in the workplace; to develop other pervasive skills, including: making relevant use of numerical and statistical information derived from primary and secondary sources when constructing an argument, producing work which is presented and formatted using standard software packages, working co-operatively, ethically and professionally with others.
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| 1. To develop a comprehensive knowledge and critical understanding of established research theories in addition to the intellectual, practical skills and techniques applicable to conducting a significant piece of legal research or undertaking an extended project or placement that demonstrates advanced appreciation of a legal subject studied on the programme to Master’s level.
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| Programme Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy  |
| This section explains the learning and teaching approaches, activities and experiences that your programme will offer, the range of assessments and types of feedback and feedforward you will encounter, and explain how these will support your continuous learning throughout the programme, and explain the expectations we have of you in this learning partnership.**Learning and Teaching**Our approach to Learning and Teaching is experiential and practice-led with opportunities for you to develop relevant employability skills, embedded throughout the programme. This programme will support you in becoming an active autonomous learner during the teaching, learning and assessment process. All modules are studied at Level 7. They build on a working knowledge of English legal method acquired during an intensive induction at the beginning of the programme. This knowledge is gained through pre-reading, directed learning, online learning and supportive face to face sessions. The aim of this induction is to help you in your transition into this new discipline by enabling you to understand the mechanics of English law and how to learn the law. It includes introductory training in legal research.Experiential learning is achieved through face to face and online delivery which includes lectures, developing the knowledge you have gained from prior reading which will then be applied within seminars with a focus upon peer led learning, developing your skills in legal analysis and evaluation. Many of our modules are team taught, thus providing you with a wide variety of rich and diverse academic styles and expertise.Throughout the PGDL stage you will be given the chance to practice legal skills including legal research, problem-solving, advocacy and drafting in order to develop and practice these transferable skills which will be valuable, whatever your final choice of future career. Many teaching and interactive sessions and mooting workshops take place in our life-sized court rooms offering you a real life, practice-led experience in which to practise and hone your legal and professional skills. Throughout the Masters stage you will be given the opportunity to develop and apply comprehensive and systematic research techniques to demonstrate originality and advanced scholarship appropriate to this level of your studies. All sessions on the programme have objectives which are supplemented by learning activities which support the module’s learning outcomes and assessments. This is made transparent in the module guide which identifies the various learning activities. The programme expects you to participate in activities and discussions which are hosted on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle. All learning activities will be supported both in teaching sessions and on the VLE. The VLE will also offer interactive practice-orientated opportunities to test and apply your legal knowledge and skills. We also have a wealth of online resources available to you via our online virtual town, called Shareville. This resource engages your initiative and autonomous decision making skills by requiring you to apply autonomously your legal knowledge to creatively resolve problems across a range of legal institutions, such as courts and a solicitor’s office.We expect you to attend all face to face teaching sessions and to participate actively in all online delivery. Preparation for all sessions will be required but will be identified in advance of the teaching session. This compulsory advance preparation will enable you to get the most from your contact time and will further develop your autonomy. Advance preparation is a crucial skill that is expected you will demonstrate once in the workplace whether or not that workplace is in professional practice. We will provide you with feedback through our VLE to consolidate your learning. You will have the opportunity to undertake a dissertation at an overseas institution at the Masters stage of study .There is also the opportunity to undertake an international placement. You will also have the opportunity to engage with international subjects such as EU Law to help you to appreciate the global context within which English law operates.EmployabilityOur curriculum endorses practice-led learning, develops cognitive, critical and analytical skills as principal foundations. Employability is embedded throughout the programme in order to facilitate the enhancement of applied skills demanded within the legal profession and prescribed by the professional bodies, but which are also transferrable across a variety of other graduate careers and necessary to succeed in the modern workplace. Assessment strategyThe programme offers a diverse range of assessments, which are practice-led and knowledge-applied providing an opportunity for you to demonstrate your legal knowledge and employability skills within each module. Our assessment strategy is designed at programme level and incorporates a broad range of practice-led techniques. The assessment strategy for the programme as a whole focusses on five key principles:* assessment as part of your learning
* providing you with feedback on formative (practice) assessment during your studies which is directly relevant to your final assessment
* integrating key legal and general transferable skills into assessment
* providing innovative, practice-led and engaging assessments to enable you to apply your knowledge and
* providing you with a balance of different types of assessments across the programme

All modules on the programme for each session will be supported by learning activities which will help increase your confidence and make it clear what we expect from you in the final assessments. We will always give you an opportunity to practice for the final assessment. You will receive feedback on your practice attempt and an indication of the grade that would have been awarded where appropriate. Our feedback will focus on how you can develop and improve your work before the final assessment. The assessment you undertake has been devised to fit with the ethos of the programme and the way it is taught: it is based on authentic situations encountered in professional practice and focussed on finding solutions to legal problems, applying legal principles and evaluating the implications of particular courses of action. Our strategy embeds good practice in assessment and feedback to improve your learning and support your success. Each of the final assessment points on this programme are aligned to the module learning outcomes. The structure of topic areas is broken down in each session and an explicit reference will be made to how each session or learning activity contributes to each final assessment point on the programme. Throughout each module, you will have the opportunity to receive feedback from your tutor and your fellow students which will help you to prepare for assessments with confidence. Due to Professional Body requirements at least two of the foundation areas delivered in the PGDL stage of the programme must be assessed by unseen examination. In accordance with the professional bodies requirements you will be permitted three attempts at assessments that comprise the Common Professional Examination (CPE) components of the programme which are as follows: * Constitutional & Administrative Law
* Law of Obligations
* EU Law
* Criminal Law
* Property Law (which incorporates Equity and the Law of Trusts)

ONE OTHER AREA OF STUDY :* American Legal Placement
* Independent Research Project

You will be awarded a pass mark in the assessment where have achieved a mark of at least 40% in each of the CPE components. After your first sit in a module which constitutes a CPE component, if you are unsuccessful in any of your assessments, there will be a first resit opportunity and final resit opportunity for which your mark (provided that you pass the assessment) will be capped at 40%.For the Masters stage of the LLM Professional Law (PGDL) programme you must study and complete the following modules:* Advanced Legal Research Methods
* Dissertation/Live Project/Placement

University Regulations limit the number of attempts at assessments for this module to three. After your first sit, if you are unsuccessful in any of your assessments, there will be a first resit opportunity and final resit opportunity for which your mark (provided that you pass the assessment) will be capped at 50%. |
| The Whole Experience We recognise that there are key aspects to every programme (critical learning themes) that need to be addressed to ensure we are inclusive, holistic and open about how your programme fits into your wider university experience and your ambitions for the future. Below are Statements of Intent to explain how you will experience these critical learning themes. Each section offers a brief explanation of the theme, why it is important, and how your programme addresses these.  |
| Widening ParticipationThe programme has been designed to enable non-law graduates to engage in the study of law at post-graduate level in order to complete the academic stage of training as required by the relevant professional bodies. This widens participation in the professional community by offering a programme of study which offers a professional legal qualification for those wishing to become solicitors or barristers. In addition the programme has been designed to offer the opportunity to engage in a scholarship and develop high level research skills at Masters level. Higher education has a vital role to play in improving social mobility. The University’s Strategic Plan highlights our responsibility in supporting economic, social and cultural improvement in the city region. We are committed to providing access, retention and progression for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and underrepresented groups. We do this by forging strong relationships with local colleges and schools, providing defined and clear progression routes to facilitate lifelong learning. In the Faculty, our open days encourage applicants from all backgrounds to access the University and we provide bursaries to support students progressing from our partner colleges and schools. Many of our students are classified as ‘mature’ (over 21) and we try to deliver our programme flexibly to help students with families or other commitments. We also provide substantial support for all students during their time with us. Each student is allocated a personal tutor and can access a range of additional support through ASK, the University's integrated and confidential student enquiry service. Essentially, ASK is a one-stop-shop for student queries, linking students with advice on health and wellbeing, careers, finance, visas, and student records.RecruitmentAs part of the Universities Partnerships and Recruitment Department we have a number of staff charged with outreach, events, information and Guidance for potential students. We provide recruitment events on and off campus. These events can take the shape of subject talks, master classes, guest lectures, taster days and bespoke visits. The Partnerships and Recruitment Department interacts with key local schools and colleges. These partners are frequently offered places on visits and events. They also can request specialised visits from departments within the University and Faculty Officers will facilitate the provision of specialised subject talks and masterclasses in Law as needed. Student Support – Progression and Retention Every student on the programme is allocated a personal tutor and we ensure that our students are invited to both group and individual meetings throughout the year, in addition to operating an ‘open door’ policy and providing set times (known as office hours) during the week where we can see students without appointment if you require additional help or support. We also invite you to meet and go through your assessment feedback with the marking tutor to ensure that you have understood and can use the comments provided to enhance your future submissions. We collaborate closely with the Centre for Academic Success which offers workshops, individual advice sessions and small group tutorials to all University students on a variety of subjects including use of English, study skills, maths and other technical topics. Staff from the Centre for Academic Staff take part in our student induction programme and we promote their services throughout our modules and within the assessment feedback process. We provide additional academic support sessions to offer support and guidance to students who need to re-sit a final assessment (s). Our Student Law Society offers further opportunities for you to interact and work together on legal pursuits, career enhancement and social activities, offering you support through interacting with your peers. We have strong links with Birmingham Law Society and once you have joined the programme you will automatically become a member of the Society which provides you with a range of activities and events throughout the year brining you into contact with local member for the profession.Inclusivity We make every effort to ensure that we provide an inclusive environment, where explicit consideration is given to the full diversity of our students. We provide an environment which complies with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Our curriculum is designed to ensure that all students succeed to their potential, regardless of any protected characteristics (disability, sexuality, religion, gender and/or other socio-cultural identities). Most importantly, we recognise that diversity leads to a richer learning experience for all.If you declare a disability, Student Services will consider ways in which we may offer you further support with your studies. They may feel it is appropriate for you to have a Support Statement. If so, once this has been agreed, your requirements will be carefully managed by the programme’s Senior Personal Tutor who will meet with you to discuss how the support identified will be put into place. You can then expect your adjustments and requirements to be incorporated by the tutors who teach or support you on the programme. For example, we can provide learning materials in large print and produce transcripts where audio recordings are used. Staff will ensure that your requirements are complied with, retaining confidentiality in the process. Information & Digital Literacy As a student, you are expected to have high levels of digital and information literacy both at University and outside. JISC (the Joint Information Systems Committee), an organisation which encourages the use of digital technologies in UK Higher Education, defines digital literacies as 'those capabilities which fit an individual for living, learning and working in a digital society'. This goes beyond the ability simply to use technology effectively: it is an essential ‘life skill’ to be able to access, process and assimilate information in the broadest sense. The ability to articulate that information and to construct new understanding is also critical to graduate success, whether you have been exposed to using technology from an early age and are a 'digital native', or have not yet acquired these skills. Throughout your programme, therefore, you will be encouraged to recognise different types of information and resources, to develop your ability to question the validity of that information or resource, and to recognise the importance of both print and online resources to facilitate development of your own knowledge.Many of your assessments on this programme are required to be submitted on-line, this may involve a variety of platforms; the most extensively used on this programme is the VLE, Moodle. You will be encouraged to appreciate the importance of following instructions carefully as our e-submission protocols contain a number of important rules and requirements that must be adhered to in relation to hand-ins. Many of your learning activities are also provided on Moodle. Sustainability & Global Citizenship This University is committed to integrating sustainability into the curriculum. The notion that we should all seek to find ways to support reduced waste, increased recycling, and lower levels of environmental impact will be familiar, but this is a narrow view of sustainability. Our curriculum also considers sustainability in terms of its connection with Global Citizenship. The United Nations defines Global Citizenship in education as:‘enabling students to develop the attributes, behaviours and skills needed to work and live in a way that safeguards ecological, social and economic wellbeing, both in the present and for future generations’.We encourage you to live and work more sustainably whilst recognising the impact that your decisions, and actions, have on the local, national and global communities to which you belong. We have made a commitment as an institution to create graduates with a global outlook (Graduate Attributes) and each of our programmes will now include an internationalised programme aim - the inclusion of sustainability within that is a logical connection. The Faculty and Programme demonstrates internationalisation by: * Contributing to international scholarly activity and knowledge exchange
* Providing and promoting a range of accessible opportunities for international and intercultural learning, for example, we have offered trips to visit various EU institutions and headquarters
* Facilitating on going intercultural and international dialogue, collaborations and partnerships
* Proactively developing inclusive learning outcomes, practices, skills, and/or attitudes appropriate for diverse societies, culture and individuals
* Adapting the content, language, pace and modes of delivery and assessment to the learning context and the diversity of learners
* Viewing and utilising the diversity of the academic community (whether differences in cultural and educational backgrounds, country of origin or languages spoken) as a key learning resource
* Using flexible and inclusive approaches that appreciate and respect individual differences in knowledge, education and culture.

Student Engagement This University is renowned across the sector for its commitment to Student Engagement, which aligns with Aim 5 of the University’s Strategic Plan: ‘we will become recognised as the sector leader for student engagement’. We are committed to the notion that where students participate fully in all aspects of University life this creates a coherent, active and vibrant learning community. This, in turn, increases students’ sense of ownership of their learning experience (both at programme and institutional level) which leads to greater levels of student satisfaction. There are therefore significant opportunities for you to participate in OpportUNIty student engagement initiatives, which operate through a partnership between the University and the Students’ Union. The aim is to enable students to work as co-designers and collaborators with staff on projects that strengthen the development of the University learning community and enhance the student experience; offering support for Student Academic Partner [(SAP)](https://icity.bcu.ac.uk/celt/student-engagement/SAP-Projects) projects and for initiatives around Student Academic Mentoring [(StAMP)](https://icity.bcu.ac.uk/celt/student-engagement/StAMP-Projects). The University’s [Student Engagement Policy](https://icity.bcu.ac.uk/Notice/Student-Engagement-Policy) sets out the University's expectation of what engagement should look and feel like for students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.The School of Law has its own societies that are open for all students to join. The Student Legal Society organises many academic initiatives and competitions to enhance your learning opportunities. It also offers trips and social activities, like the Student Law Ball. The renowned Student Mooting Society is managed and organised by students and has its own mentoring structure. It has been highly successful in major national mooting competitions. We actively encourage you to participate in the activities of the Mooting Society as a means of developing and enhancing the professional bodies’ prescribed general transferable skills. We very much value the contribution and input of our students to the design, delivery and management of the programme. There are elected student representatives on the School Academic Board and there are regular highly influential Student Forum meetings. We are keen to receive and respond promptly to feedback and information obtained from these events. The content and design of your programme benefitted substantially from the feedback of students who were studying on the existing programme through an away day and focus groups. Our students also help with the School’s research. If you select the American Legal Placement then you will be are given the opportunity to apply for the position of student editorial assistant. If successful, training is offered on the editing process and students then work in teams on a paper, supervised by our postgraduate research students. If engaged on this project, you will be required to demonstrate the ability to work independently, to work to deadlines, to be self-motivated and to develop great attention to detail in matters of scholarship, all skills that will be very valuable in the workplace. It is great to see students who have assisted in research projects return to us for PhD study. Students are also recruited to act as research assistants for members of the Centre for American Legal Studies (CALS). Our Pro Bono Committee members are also involved in research on real life cases and assist with University seminars and fund raising activities. Partnership EngagementEngagement with partners is a key BCU priority which features strongly in the University’s 2020 Strategic Plan. Our partners include students, the wider educational community and external stakeholders such as employers and cultural and social organisations. Through our partnership working, we aspire to be recognised in the region as a collaborator supporting economic, social and cultural improvement in the city region. We see our students as partners in their learning and we try to involve you in every level of decision making within the University. We are committed to building on our strong partnerships with education providers in the city and region and are pro-active in developing relationships with our local schools and colleges. Employers are particularly valued partners, advising us on our curriculum developments, providing internship and work experience opportunities for you and contributing to your learning and teaching activities. Our overseas partnerships provide opportunities for you to mix with students from different countries and to gain different perspectives, as well as opportunities to undertake a period of study overseas.The Law School has an Advisory Board made up of employers and alumni. The Advisory Board has fed directly into the structure and design of your programme and continues to provide an extremely valuable guide in helping us to ensure that our programmes align with the needs of employers in the legal professions and in the wider business sector. We also employ visiting lecturers who also practice within the legal sector and in many cases contribute to our internship provision. We have many collaborative links across the City and beyond, which include employers (law firms, barristers’ chambers and leading businesses), Birmingham Law Society, pro-bono organisations, Birmingham Community Law Centre, Bradical, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Reprieve and Amicus, whom provide a rich source of information and advice on employability matters and sector developments and requirements.When moving to the Master’s stage of study you will have the opportunity to network with the research community in the School of Law to help you determine the subject of your intended dissertation or with other BCU students or staff to potentially collaborate on a live project. We are expanding our collaborative links both nationally and internationally and some of these could be beneficial to you should you wish to organise your own placement instead of a dissertation or live project. Induction & TransitionWe know how important it is for you to adjust smoothly and successfully to university life and our induction and transition support helps you to adapt to the different experiences you will have, enabling you to develop confidence and independent learning skills that will enable you to be successful on your programme and prepare you for graduate level employment or further study. In addition to the wide range of University induction events, the programme also provides a mandatory two week Postgraduate Learner Programme. During this time you will gain, practice and demonstrate foundation knowledge in English legal method. At this stage you will be introduced to your personal tutor and will have your first meeting with them. We also introduce you to our main body of teaching staff and make sure that you understand the requirements of your programme, including what you can expect from us, and of what we expect from you. You will have the opportunity to meet the students who currently run the various student organisations and committees, such as the Student Legal Society and the Mooting Society and external speakers wherever possible.We will send you some pre-reading material before you join us and may ask for more information from you to ensure that we provide you with the best possible experience when you arrive. Our induction also introduces you to the wider University and the support, help and provision that is available from all areas of the institution.Your experience and success We want you to get the most out of your time with us and we aim to provide you with a great learning and assessment experience to help you achieve this. Your education is a partnership. We can provide you with learning materials, guidance and stimuli, but you will need to engage with the University and take full advantage of everything it has to offer in order to be successful in your studies. As a minimum you need to attend and engage with the lectures and seminars we provide for you. We monitor your attendance and will contact you to offer and advice if we notice you are not attending regularly. If at any point during your time with us you are struggling with any aspect of your course, your personal tutor is available to discuss all matters with you and can act as a gateway to a great number of support mechanisms to get you back on track. Remember to keep in touch with us at all times. The feedback we give you is an excellent way for you to ensure that you are meeting the level that you have set for yourself at any particular time in the programme.If you wish to pursue training to become a Solicitor then we offer the Legal Practice Course or alternatively should you wish to enhance your legal learning in a specific theme of law we offer Masters degrees in International Business Law or International Human Rights. Alternatively we offer PhDs in Law.If you have commitments outside of University that may impact upon the times that you can come into the University to study, discuss the situation with your personal tutor who may be able to propose some flexibility within the programme in certain areas. Support and Personal Tutoring Your Personal Tutor is there to advise you on your academic progress and can also direct you to additional help, if you need it. You can expect to meet your Personal Tutor for formal meetings three times a year but he or she will also be available if you need additional help or guidance. In addition, every School also has a Student Success Adviser, a recent graduate who has also experienced life as a BCU student. During the Masters stage of the programme if you elect to undertake a dissertation you will be allocated to a Dissertation Supervisor who will offer guidance and study support. If you are having any problems, your Student Success Adviser can also help you. The University also offers the Centre for Academic Success, the Careers Service, Child Care facilities, Finance/Money Matters advice, Health and Wellbeing advice, Visas and Immigration advice, and Student Mentoring. All of these services can be accessed direct or via our ‘one stop shop’, ASK. Personal Development PlanningWe offer you the opportunity to undertake a work-based internship if you opt to study American Legal Practice. We have internships that you can apply for in the USA, giving our programme a truly international flavour. Employability (including Birmingham City University Graduate Attributes) As part of the CPE component of the programme you are required to demonstrate general transferable skills in order to satisfy the academic stage of training as prescribed by the professional bodies. Those general transferable skills will be delivered pervasively throughout the PGDL stage of the programme. These general transferable skills have been mapped to the PGDL modules to ensure comprehensive coverage. Our programmes aim to provide our graduates with a set of skills and attributes which prepare them for their future careers. The BCU Graduate:* is professional and work ready
* is a creative problem solver
* is enterprising
* has a global outlook

The Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences is committed to practice-led learning and teaching that will give you experiences of the world of work through a range of activities which could include work internships, voluntary work, live projects, problem-solving, case studies, visits to businesses and social enterprises. Our practice-led teaching and assessments which simulate ‘real world’ tasks (as well as the optional American internship) help prepare you for the experience of the world of work. These experiences will contribute towards the BCU Graduate Attributes that will prepare you for graduate level employment. In addition, the University has introduced the Graduate+ programme, which is an extra-curricular awards framework that is designed to augment the subject-based skills that you develop through your programme with broader employability skills and techniques that will enhance your employment options when you leave university. The key components of the programme are:* A personalised approach for each student
* Each student to complete a range of activities and build points towards completion of the award.
* Recognised activities will include cross-university opportunities, careers development, ‘employability’ activities delivered within Faculties, part-time work experience, volunteering and community action
* All elements will be clearly linked to the University’s new graduate attributes.

We regularly invite alumni to tell you about their career experiences after leaving University. They are well placed to advise you on issues such as how to secure a Training Contract as a prospective solicitor, how to obtain a pupillage as a barrister, how to work in international human rights organisations and how to succeed in business. The Law School is proud of the success of our hard working and dedicated graduates.Our dedicated careers service offers a wide range of online and face-to face services to help you develop your employability skills, plan your career and access the latest job opportunities. You can make an individual appointment with a careers advisor and the team of employment advisors supports students and graduates in securing graduate-level employment, by offering support with job searching, tailoring CVs and applications and help with interview techniques.  |

## Section Two

This section addresses the key regulatory and quality assurance requirements for validation. The programme learning map tracks the programme level learning outcomes, credit structure and (where appropriate) KIS data, assessment and feedback scope and forms, module delivery mode and module learning outcomes, and any exit awards that are possible from the programme.

The programme structure is detailed in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Programme Structure

**PGDL / LLM Professional Law (PGDL) - Qualifying**

**Structure and Delivery All level 7**

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| Induction & Introduction to the English Legal System, Legal Skills, Method and Reasoning (Two weeks on-line prior to the start of the programme. Two weeks Face-to-Face via Legal Method) |
| **PG Cert Stage** (Term 1) | Criminal Law\*(20 credits)on-line resources + 2 hour seminar per week | Law of Obligations\*(20 credits)on-line resources + 2 hour seminar per week | Constitutional & Administrative Law\*(20 credits)on-line resources + 2 hour seminar per week |
| Learning Outcomes and assessment at Level 7 (PGCert) |
| **PG Dip Stage** (Term 2) | Property Law\*(20 credits)on-line resources + 2 hour seminar per week | EU Law\*(20 credits)on-line resources + 2 hour seminar per week | Option Module\*(20 credits)* Independent research project (20 Credits)
* UK Legal Placement Module (20 Credit)
* US internship

  |
| Learning Outcomes and assessment at Level 7 (PGDip) |
| **Masters Stage** (Term 3 - Summer or Following Autumn) | Advanced Legal Research Methods (20 Credits)  |
| Dissertation (40 Credits) OR Extended UK Placement |

\* Compulsory modules which demonstrate coverage of the PSRB’s seven foundations of legal knowledge “plus one further area of legal study”. Students who wish to complete the academic stage of training by undertaking the Common Professionals Examination are required to pass all of these modules.

**Option Modules**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Credit** | **Estimated student numbers from this Programme** | **Delivery Pattern** | **Comment** |
| **PG Dip Stage** |  | 30-40 |  |  |
| UK Legal Placement (New) | 20 | 15 | * teaching sessions Professional skills
* Placement.
 | Module includes online delivery of preparation for placement |
| American Legal Placement  | 20 |  |  |  |
| Independent Research Project | 20 | 20 |  |  |
| **Masters Stage** |  |  |  |  |
| Advanced Research Methods (LLM Module) | 20 | 10 | On-line module | Can be delivered in conjunction with students studying on other LLM programmes  |
| Dissertation (New)  | 40 | 5 | * teaching sessions
 | ALRM a pre-requisite  |
| Extended UK Placement (New) | 40 |  | * teaching sessions – Professional skills
* Placement.
 | ALRM a requirement. Module includes online delivery of preparation for placement |

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| **Level 7** Core Modules | **Core A** | **Core B** | **Core C** | **Core D** | **Core E** |
| Credit level (ECTS value) | Constitutional & Administrative Law 20 | Criminal Law20  | EU Law20 | Law of Obligations 20 | Property Law20 |
| Study Time (%) S/GI/PL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assessment method | Examination | Examination | 1. Examination
 | 1. Written Legal Opinion
2. Exam
 | 1. Professional memorandum
2. Exam
 |
| Assessment scope | 1.5 hours restricted book unseen exam | 1.5 hours restricted book unseen exam | 1.5 hours restricted book unseen exam | 1. 3,000 words
2. 1.5 hours restricted book unseen exam
 | 1. 3,000 words
2. 1.5 hours restricted book unseen exam
 |
| Assessment week |  |  |  |  |  |
| Feedback scope  | 20 days | 20 days  | 20 days | 20 days | 20 days |
| Delivery mode | Standard | Standard  | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Learning Outcomes  | 1. To identify, explain and appraise the sources of UK constitutional law, constitutional institutions, and key constitutional principles.
 | 1. To critically appraise key principles of criminal law within a philosophical, historical and ethical context.
 | 1. To demonstrate a critical appraisal of the constitutional role of the European Union in the context of UK Law.
 | 1. To undertake effective legal research in the law of obligations.
 | 1. To demonstrate comprehensive advanced knowledge and critical understanding of the key principles, rules and concepts in property law.
 |
| 1. To critically analyse and evaluate the role of UK constitutional institutions in the legislative process, mechanisms for their accountability, and current issues impacting on the UK constitution.
 | 1. To analyse and evaluate relevant sources of law to propose possible solutions and alternative arguments on the application of the criminal law.
 | 2. To critically evaluate the legal regulatory framework relating to the European Union’s Single European Market. | 2. To apply advanced knowledge to advise competently on matters of contract law and tort law.  | 2. To demonstrate competence in advising on land law matters and trust law matters in the application of relevant legal principles and in critically evaluating property law principles. |
| 1. To identify, explain and appraise key principles of UK administrative law and its mechanisms for reviewing Executive action, legislation, and protection of individual rights.
 | 1. To construct and evaluate legal arguments using sophisticated research skills.
 | 3. To analyse the procedural and substantive legal rules in order to construct effective legal advice. | 3. To construct and evaluate legal arguments on matters of contract law and tort law and critically analyse principles in the law of obligations. | 1. To communicate legal advice and recommendations for reform of property law or practice effectively and professionally.
 |
| 1. To evaluate the effectiveness and application of administrative law mechanisms in problem scenarios involving challenging the State’s power to make laws that impact on the rights of individuals.
 | 1. To present and communicate coherent, persuasive oral arguments using appropriate legal language and structure.
 | 4. To communicate and apply complex legal principles in clear and well-constructed written work | 4. To communicate effectively relevant legal principles, proposed solutions and supportive reasoning in professional writing using appropriate referencing conventions.  | 4. To construct and evaluate legal arguments on matters of land law and trust law and analysis of property law principles. |
| Programme Aim Links | 1🗹 2🗹 3🞏 4🗹 5 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🞏 4🗹 5🞏 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🗹 5🗹 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🞏 4🗹 5🞏 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🞏 4🗹 5🞏 |
| Linked PSRB (if appropriate)  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Level 7** Core modules | **Core F** | **Core G** |
| Credit level (ECTS value) | Advanced Legal Research Methods 20 | Dissertation/Live Project/Placement40 |
| Study Time (%) S/GI/PL |  |  |
| Assessment method | Dissertation Proposal  | DissertationLive ProjectPlacement |
| Assessment scope | 3,000 words | Dissertation 8,000Live Project 8,000Placement 7,000 |
| Assessment week |  |  |
| Feedback scope  | 20 days | 20 days |
| Delivery mode | Online | Flexible |
| Learning Outcomes  | 1. To critically review the extent and nature of existing legal research on a chosen topic within the scope of the postgraduate programmes in law
 | 1. Design and construct a disciplinary-relevant study that shows deep critical engagement.
 |
| 1. To apply knowledge of advanced legal research methods to formulate a proposal for meaningful legal research on a chosen topic within the scope of the postgraduate programmes in law
 | 2. Undertake autonomous research and/or work experience making use of specialist literature and resources and systematically interpreting relevant data and information  |
| 1. To present a structured detailed design for the conduct of meaningful research on a chosen topic within the scope of the postgraduate programmes in law
 | 3. Critically reflect on the work or study undertaken and present findings in an authoritative manner using appropriate referencing. |
| 1. To present a scholarly plan of research in a format compliant with OSCOLA
 | 4. Critically evaluate complex legal rules and the effectiveness of institutions and procedures relevant to the chosen study. |
| Programme Aim Links | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🗹 5🞏 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🗹 5🗹 |
| Linked PSRB (if appropriate)  |  |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Level 7** Option modules | **Option 1** | **Option 2** |
| Credit level (ECTS value) | American Legal Placement20 | Independent Project20 |
| Study Time (%) S/GI/PL |  |  |
| Assessment method | Placement or Non-placement | Research Project |
| Assessment scope | Placement (6 weeks) – Host ReportNon-placement (3,000 words) - Memo | 3,000 words |
| Assessment week |  |  |
| Feedback scope  | 20 days | 20 days |
| Delivery mode | Flexible | Flexible |
| Learning Outcomes  | 1. To critically analyse materials and present reasoned conclusions on an American legal due process issue.
 | 1. To critically investigate and appraise an area of law, policy or jurisprudence in detail using an appropriate range of research resources.
 |
| 1. To evidence sophisticated skills in legal research, analysis and reasoning, and factual investigation.
 | 1. To construct a coherent and sustained scholarly argument through a piece of academic writing on the chosen area of law, policy or jurisprudence
 |
| 3. To demonstrate sophisticated communication skills. | 1. To critically analyse and evaluate norms, arguments, or concepts in the chosen area of law, policy or jurisprudence.
 |
| 4. (interning students) To organise and manage legal work including litigation.(non-interning students) To organise and manage legal writing and drafting. | 1. To present a scholarly analysis of the chosen area of law, policy or jurisprudence in a format compliant with OSCOLA.
 |
| Programme Aim Links | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🗹 5🗹 | 1🗹 2🗹 3🗹 4🗹 5🞏 |
| Linked PSRB (if appropriate)  | **Option A** | **Option B** |

## Section Three

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| **Level 7 Programme** |
| Entry Requirements and pre-requisites, co-requisites & exclusions | Accreditation of Prior Experience or Learning (APEL) | Study Time Breakdown  | Exit award(s) |
| A good honours degree (minimum 2:2) in any disciplineInternational applicants have the equivalent of UK honours degree (minimum 2:2) and must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 in each category) or equivalent.Where required the student must also obtain a Certificate of Academic Standing. | In line with university, faculty and programme guidelines | **Scheduled** learning and teaching activities(including time constrained blended or directed tasks, pre-sessional and post-sessional tasks) | 32% | Postgraduate Certificate in Law (60 credits)Postgraduate Diploma in Law (120 credits)LLM Professional Law (180 credits) |
| **Guided Independent** learning (including non-time constrained blended tasks & reading and assessment preparation) | 63% |
|  |  |
| **Impact of options** (indicate if/how optional choices will have a significant impact) | Option choices will impact on professional exemptions available. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |