

Course Information Sheet

LLB (Hons) Law

Entry Requirements

Modules

Year 1: Legal Method & Skills

This module introduces students to fundamental aspects of the English legal system, sources of law, legal personnel, the doctrine of precedent, and principles of statutory interpretation. The key theme running throughout the module is that law is dynamic and changing. The module enables students to develop their basic legal skills, including fact handling, case reading, analysis of statutes, and legal research, together with more transferable skills in oral and written communication and group working. There is particular emphasis upon key aspects of writing skills, including referencing and enabling students to understand and conform to the conventions of good academic practice. All the transferable skills developed are important to enhance employability. The module also requires students to be aware of the importance of these fundamental legal aspects and skills in enabling substantive law to be studied and practised effectively.

Year 1: Constitutional & Administrative Law

This module is all about legal power: where it is located in the British constitution and how, and by whom, its use is scrutinised and checked. Constitutional and administrative law is foundational for all law students because it provides a broad framework in which all other areas of substantive law operate. It is an interesting and varied subject area which has undergone significant change in recent decades. The first part of the module focuses on the constitution of the United Kingdom. It aims to provide students with a solid foundation in the main structures, relationships and themes in domestic constitutional law. Consideration will be given to questions such as: What are the key features of the constitution? Where is power located in the United Kingdom? What is parliamentary supremacy and how has it been affected by EU membership and the Human Rights Act 1998? After considering key areas of constitutional law, the module moves on to administrative law and related matters. The focus will be on the main non-parliamentary ways in which decision-makers are held to account. This will involve looking at inquiries and ombudsmen and the important function of judicial review. Finally students will be introduced to the area of human rights and civil liberties, particularly the substance and impact of the Human Rights Act 1998, and the nature and extent of police powers. Emphasis will be placed throughout on the dynamic nature of the British constitution, with reference being made to relevant contemporary events as appropriate.

Year 1: Contract Law

This module provides a foundation of the basic principles relating to the formation of contracts. An overview of English contract law and the European dimension. This subject develops the idea of consensus and the rules and principles governing enforceability, performance and discharge of contracts. Students are introduced to common law and equitable principles as well as relevant

legislation. In addition to studying 'black letter' law students are encouraged to critically assess the law and to evaluate it in its social, political and economic context. The knowledge and understanding gained through the study of this module will enable students to develop specialist knowledge in other areas of such as Employment Law.

Year 1: Foundations of Criminal Law

This module enables students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the general principles of criminal law, of selected criminal offences and specific defences. The emphasis of the module will be upon the academic aspect of the subject rather than the procedural.

Year 2: European Union Law

This module builds on the introduction to the institutional foundations of EU Law in the compulsory modules at Level 4. The module begins by revising the nature of EU law, before discussing how EU law operates in practice, the enforceability of EU law through the national domestic courts and the relationship of the European Court of Justice to domestic courts. The module then discusses essential topics of EU substantive law and will answer a series of questions about the practical effects of EU law. These include examining the nature of the single market in goods and persons, the implications of the creation of European citizenship and the extent of the rights of persons to move freely within the EU.

Year 2: Law of Tort

This module is designed to enable the student to develop a thorough knowledge and understanding of the major areas of the law of tort; including key concepts and principles and such detailed rules as are necessary to illustrate those broad principles as they apply in particular situations. This study will enable the student (i) to gain a sound knowledge and understanding of the principles of tort, (ii) to suggest solutions to factual problems and (iii) to apply this knowledge and understanding to the critical analysis of contemporary issues relating to the law of tort. Students will study all the major torts.

Year 2: Equity & the Law of Trusts

The purpose of this module is to introduce the student to the concept of property and proprietary rights, as they are recognised and protected in equity, and to explore the nature of the trust. It will include an historical account of the development of, and distinction between, law and equity before examining the nature of equitable rights and remedies. This study will enable the student (i) to gain a sound knowledge and understanding of the principles of equity and the law of trusts; (ii) to develop the skills of critical analysis and problem-solving to contemporary issues in this area of law; and (iii) to suggest reasoned solutions to factual problems.

Year 2: Legal Research Skills

This module builds on the skills of academic research and writing which were introduced at Level 4. It provides a sound grounding for more advanced research and writing needed at Level 5 and beyond. In particular, this module will provide guidance, support and information in order to prepare and equip you for the Major Project in your final year of study. Key practices permeating the module include the planning and design of high quality work, selection and synthesis of appropriate research material, effective communication, critical thinking and ethics. Practical exercises will help you develop your ability to employ these practices effectively. The module contributes to the

transferable skills held in high regard by employers, particularly the ability to manage information effectively, to work independently and to communicate effectively orally in presentations and through writing.

Year 2 (Optional): Family Law

This module explores the ways in which the state regulates the formation and termination of marriage. In addition, it addresses some ways in which the state may regulate conduct within the marriage or within non-marital family units (eg domestic violence and other conduct) by regulating occupation of the family home and by methods of controlling harassment and molestation. The module additionally addresses the economic issues which confront marital and non-marital families and explores the legal and equitable solutions which have emerged. It examines property rights and the family home, statutory interventions and the adjutive jurisdiction. It also explores the relationship between private decision-making and state imposed solutions. Teaching is by large group sessions and tutorials. In addition to providing a structured outline and an introductory framework and outline of topics, large group sessions will be used for a variety of activities, including interactive and break-out sessions and assessment technique. Tutorials are supported by learning materials and are mainly problem based, but the law and its operation in society is also critically evaluated within tutorials. Students are required to read and analyse primary and secondary sources and, with limited guidance, engage in independent study, discussion, application and evaluation as appropriate. In addition to face to face large group sessions and tutorials, students will also engage in additional learning activities via the VLE. The module content is highly relevant to professional legal practice in the context of Family Law. However, this module also develops a number of employability skills which are transferrable and highly valued by employers within a wide range of workplace settings. The regular weekly tutorials require students to apply the law to fictitious, but realistic, scenarios, thereby developing problem solving and analytical and critical thinking skills. The module also enhances cultural sensitivity through its reference to a diverse range of family forms, including gay and cohabiting couples, sometimes from feminist, and other critical, perspectives. The assessment helps to cultivate research and written communication skills.

Year 2 (Optional): Company Law in Context

This module introduces students to the fundamental principles of company law and will set the legal framework in which business entities operate. The module aims to capture the dynamism of company law and to develop the student's awareness of the place and function of company law in a practical and theoretical context. The module aims to develop an understanding of the legal principles and theories underpinning the law relating to companies and focuses on four major areas: 1. Corporate personality, rights and liabilities 2. Corporate governance and corporate social responsibility 3. Shareholders rights and remedies 4. Companies in financial difficulties The module will facilitate both a 'black letter' and socio-legal approach to law and will provide both a practical and theoretical framework for the law relating to company law. Students will be encouraged to adopt a critical approach to their study of the law relating to companies by considering the external factors which influence corporate law, such as political, economic and social issues. Teaching is by large group sessions and tutorials. In addition to providing an outline and/or an introductory critique to enable students to undertake further guided study, large group sessions will be used for a variety of activities, including assessment technique. Tutorials focus on selected topics, primary sources and journal articles which students are required to read and, with limited guidance, analyse and, as appropriate, discuss or apply in the context of problem-solving.

Year 2 (Optional): Human Rights Law

This module considers the law and philosophy of human rights. It begins by examining the nature of rights, why they exist and their purpose. It looks at philosophical and theoretical perspectives of rights from ancient times to the present day. Students will also study international and regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights at the UN, the European Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-American Human Rights system. Having considered this it moves on to consider specific human rights and human rights violations. Much of the module discusses contemporary human rights concerns. For instance, issues such as enforced disappearance, torture and the use of human rights in armed conflicts. The final part of the module will examine responses to massive human rights violations such as truth commissions and domestic prosecutions. Teaching is by large group sessions and seminars. Large group sessions will normally be interactive and invite and expect student participation. In addition to providing a structured outline and an introductory critique of topics and concepts, large group sessions will also consider exam/essay technique and give general feedback upon formative and summative assessment tasks. Seminars will focus on discussion of selected topics and concepts, with some non-complex problemsolving. Both large group sessions and seminars will provide students with oral feedback upon their progress. Formative assessment exercises will be undertaken during the module, upon which students will receive written feedback. In seminars the emphasis is student-centred enabling students to develop their oral communication skills through contribution to discussions. The module contributes to the development of skills valued by employers, including the ability to manage complex information, problems solving and the communication of appropriate solutions, time management and the ability to work independently. The subject matter of the module also increases students' cultural sensitivity and awareness of diversity and difference.

Year 3: Civil Litigation

This Module covers the basic law and procedure involved in acting in a civil litigation claim. It deals with interviewing a client and taking instructions in a basic litigation matter. The module will be case study based and set in the context of a personal injury matter but will also require the students to consider other causes of action such as a simple breach of contract. The students will be required to apply their knowledge relating to liability and quantum to a practical scenario. Following taking client instructions the students will have to consider the legal and evidential basis of the claim and what steps need to be taken in the Personal Injury Protocol. The students will also consider costs and funding. Students will then look at following all the steps in the Protocol. Following pre action steps students will look at what happens if a claim cannot be settled pre action and how, when and where to issue Part 7 (CPR) proceedings. The students will draft a simple claim and looks at the procedural steps that need to be taken to issue a claim in the County Court and serve a claim on a Defendant. Following service we will consider the drafting and filing of a defence. The next steps to be covered will be allocation to track, what case management directions will be given and how, in practice, we comply with standard case management directions. Students will then look at what happens if a claim cannot be settled and how a claim is listed and heard at trial. Students will also consider routine interim application that can be made in proceedings and also how negotiation works in practice including how to make a Part 36 offer of settlement.

Year 3: Land Law

This module, which must be successfully completed for a qualifying law degree, begins with an introduction to wider theories of property law before demonstrating the difference between

proprietary and non-proprietary rights and traditional legal and equitable principles. The classes will then focus on key topics within land law, with an emphasis on problem-solving. The theme of this module is the 'family home' and fictitious homes will be used to demonstrate the legal and social problems that have to be balanced in the application of land law. Students are therefore encouraged to understand and relate to sociopolitical aspects of land law as well as its practical applications.

Year 3: Major Project

This module supports you in the preparation and submission of your undergraduate Major Project or dissertation. This individual Major Project module allows you to engage in a substantial piece of individual research focused on a topic relevant to your legal studies. The chosen topic will require you to identify/formulate problems and issues, conduct bibliographical research (and adopt any other research methods appropriate to your project), determine solutions and engage in critical evaluation, including formulating proposals for legal reform where appropriate. The assessment will take the form of a substantial written report not exceeding 8,000 words (+ a 300 word abstract). Within that, research findings may be presented in a range of media appropriate to the nature of the information. In addition to the Major Project itself, you will construct a preliminary research plan through which you will showcase and develop your research question and how you intend to address it. Information and guidance for the module will be provided in a dedicated Module Guide and has also been explained to you in your year two Effective Legal Research Theory and Practice module. You will be allocated a supervisor to assist you in formulating your research approach, discuss and agree your methodology (including the possible need for ethics clearance if the need arises as agreed with your supervisor) and act as a facilitator and guide. You will be expected to make regular reports to your supervisor on the progress of your work. The supervisory process will normally be conducted through face-face meetings but some supervision may take place via email and telephone. Regular contact with the project supervisor should take place, so that the project is closely monitored and guided appropriately. The written guide, explains the role of the supervisor, referencing and presentation requirements and an indicative timetable for the completion of the various stages of their work.

Year 3 (Optional): Agency & Sale of Goods Law

The module consists of two subject areas: Agency and Sale of Goods. The study of Agency involves examination and critical reflection of the choices commercial parties need to make given the case-law and impact of the Commercial Agents Regulations. This study applies to all forms of agency contract, including those of travel and estate agents, commercial factors, shipping and insurance brokers. The rights and obligations of the parties will be considered both under the agency contract itself and under contracts made by agents on their principal's behalf. The study of the law of sale of goods is relevant to all, whether in business or as a consumer. The module will focus on transfer of ownership and the implied terms relating to fitness for purpose, quality etc. Both legislation and case-law are covered. Prior study of the Law of Contract is advisable. The study of both areas is designed to improve students' commercial awareness and sensitivity to often conflicting interests of commercial parties. Teaching is by lectures and tutorials. Lectures provide an outline and/or an introductory critique. Tutorials focus on selected topics, statutes and cases which students are required to read, critically analyse and apply to problem and essay questions. Learning is supported through the VLE. The module will enhance a range of Employability Skills including problem-solving, analytical skills, decision-making skills and oral communication. This module is especially relevant to all students attracted to business, professional or commercial careers, as well as students aiming to

work as commercial lawyers. Assessment is by means of coursework, which comprises two elements (i) a case study and (ii) an essay critically evaluating an aspect of the law. NB Students on the LLB (Hons) will not be eligible for compensation in this module.

Year 3 (Optional): Child Law

This module explores the interesting and sometimes complex area of law relating to children. It concentrates, in the main, on private law provisions and the issues arising from them. Particular attention will be paid to the dynamic nature of the relationship between parents, children and the state. The module also addresses the topical issue of alternative dispute resolution in cases concerning children. Students will use primary and secondary sources and will undertake wide-ranging independent study. Teaching is by large group sessions and tutorials. Large group sessions provide an outline and an introductory critique. They will normally be interactive and invite and expect student participation. Some sessions will focus upon assessment technique and give feedback upon formative assessment. Tutorials focus on selected topics, statutes and cases which students are required to read and analyse and, as appropriate, discuss or apply in the context of problem-solving. This Module develops a wide range of transferable employability skills including research, time management, critical thinking, flexibility, stress tolerance, problem solving and analysis, written and oral communication (expressing ideas clearly and confidently). In addition, students will develop their ability to work as part of a group and also to self-manage their learning. Reflective learning practice will enable students to enhance the skills they acquire on the module and increase their competencies. Students will gain knowledge of Child Law, its relevance and the reality of its application in a contemporary society, which requires interpersonal sensitivity. The employability skills developed throughout this module are highly transferable and very much valued by employers.

Year 3 (Optional): Criminal Litigation

This module covers the basic law and procedure involved in acting in a criminal case. It deals with interviewing a client and taking instructions in relation to a criminal charge. The module will be based on a case study. The case study will start with the arrest of a client and goes through caution, practice and procedure in the police station and the test for charging. This will include police powers of arrest and search and the rights of the person detained in the police station. Students will cover the professional conduct aspects of attending at the police station and of conducting the case to its conclusion. The students will also consider costs and funding. Post charge, students will cover the first court appearance, including bail and pleas. They will then move onto taking further instructions, building a defence case, practical application of evidence and trial venue, followed by summary trial. Large Group Sessions will provide a structured framework for the topics and will identify relevant procedural rules and practical steps that have to be followed at each stage of a case. They will be interactive and they will invite and expect student participation and encourage the students to apply their legal knowledge to practical scenarios and also to evaluate and analyse factual and legal information. They will also cover some aspects of the course that are not included in the workshop scenario such as Crown Court procedure and trial on indictment. This module must be taken by those students seeking to complete the National Association of Licensed Paralegal's (NALP) Higher Diploma in Paralegal Studies. The role of the paralegal will be stressed throughout. Workshops will have a practical focus and the students will have to consider and determine in advance at what stage the case study is at procedurally and what steps need to be taken to further the client's aims. In the workshop they will complete the relevant procedural or practical step and advise the client accordingly. The workshops will require the students to utilise interviewing, negotiation, drafting,

legal writing skills and consider the use of advocacy in criminal litigation. Workshops will require students to apply their knowledge practically, think commercially and have regard to the realities of costs effective criminal defence work as well as the role of the CPS in the prosecution. This module develops a wide range of range of transferable employability skills including research, interviewing, letter drafting, legal writing, and precise legal and factual analysis. It enables students to develop their oral and written communication skills. Students will develop commercial awareness skills through focussing on the commercial practice of criminal litigation. Additionally, the employability skills of client relationships and client focus are taught in the context of client care requirements. Time management, organisational adaptability, project management and problem solving skills will be at the fore when preparing for workshop sessions which are based on transactions likely to be encountered by employed lawyers. Whilst this module is particularly useful for those wishing to go into practice as lawyers or paralegals, the employability skills developed are highly transferable and will be very useful and attractive in a wide range of careers.

Year 3 (Optional): Employment Law

This module explains the sources and institutions of Employment Law and examines the law relating to the formation, content and termination of contracts of employment, the nature of the employment relationship and the status of employees and others performing services. The protection offered to employees in relation to dismissal and the impact this has on employers is discussed. Issues of business reorganisation and managerial prerogative and their relationship with the law of employment are considered through the law relating to redundancy and transfer of undertakings. The module also considers issues of discrimination in employment (including equal pay). Knowledge of contract law is recommended. Teaching is by large group sessions and on-line tutorial debate. Large group sessions provide an outline of the basic legal framework and of those issues of particular academic or practical interest. The on-line tutorials provide a forum for students to apply their knowledge and understanding, to engage in critical evaluation and to further their understanding of the impact of this area of law by discussion and analysis. The module contributes to research, analytical and critical thinking skills, and electronic communication skills all which are transferable skills highly valued by employers. Additionally, the module develops key employability skills such as commercial awareness, decision making and interpersonal skills. Employment law is a subject that gives students knowledge of the workplace and the relationship between employers and employees and so is particularly valued in careers such as Human Resources Management.

Year 3 (Optional): The Law of Information, Intellectual Property and Social Media

This module is designed to enable the student to develop a thorough knowledge and understanding of the major areas of the law of information, intellectual property and social media including key concepts and principles and such detailed rules as are necessary to illustrate those broad principles as they apply in particular situations. This study will enable the student (i) to gain a sound knowledge and understanding of the law relating to information, intellectual property and social media, (ii) to suggest solutions to factual problems and (iii) to apply this knowledge and understanding to the critical analysis of contemporary business and social issues relating to the law of information, intellectual property and social media. Teaching is by large group sessions and seminars. In addition to providing a structured outline and an introductory critique of topics and concepts, large group sessions will be used to consider research methods, relevant case law and statutory material. Seminar groups will focus on selected topics, cases, journal articles and other materials which students are required to read and analyse and, as appropriate discuss or apply in the context of

problem solving. Particular emphasis is placed on student discussion, application and evaluation of the law as it operates in business and society. The module develops a wide range of legal skills including those directly linked to employability and in particular employers producing, using and processing personal data information and those initiating or using social media, patents, trademarks and copyright material. The student will also develop skills of research, problem solving, analysis and application.

Year 3 (Optional): Public International Law

Issues of Public International Law are frequently in the news, whether it concerns the actions of states (such as the use of force against another state) or the role of the individual (such as the responsibility of individuals for war crimes under international criminal law). This module examines the international dimension of law, covering the essential principles of Public International Law and will develop students' ability to evaluate and analyse legal issues in the international context. The content of the module is grouped around five key themes: the nature and sources of international law; statehood and territory; the resolution of disputes and the enforcement of international law; the individual and responsibility under international criminal law and the legal regulation of the use of force. Large group sessions will introduce the key principles of public international law. They will also include some exercises in the practical application of these principles to current issues. A key element of the module is enabling students to identify, locate and analyse public international law source material and some time in large group sessions will be devoted to this. Tutorials will provide students with the opportunity to analyse factual situations and apply the relevant law. During the module, students will be expected to complete the formative assessment exercise (upon which written feedback will be provided). The module contributes particularly to the following skills: the identification, location and analysis of public international law source material; the analysis and application of public international law and written communication skills. This module develops students' employability skills in a number of ways. In particular, students will develop their ability to analyse complex issues and problem solve in order to identify appropriate solutions. They will develop team working skills, time management skills and a sense of responsibility. Students will be encouraged to develop cultural sensitivity, since Public International Law is a subject by default exposed to the complexity of international relations.

*We aim to ensure that all optional modules run as scheduled. If for any reason an optional module cannot be run, we will advise you as soon as possible and help you choose an alternative module.