


PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION (Undergraduate)	 Newcastle University
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1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	LL.B (Honours) LL.B (Honours) (European Legal Studies) LL.B (Honours) (International Legal Studies) LL.B (Honours) (with Placement Year) LL.B (Honours) (Advanced Legal Studies)
4	Programme Title	Bachelor of Laws with Honours Bachelor of Laws with Honours (European Legal Studies) Bachelor of Laws with Honours (International Legal Studies) Bachelor of Laws with Honours (with Placement Year) Bachelor of Laws with Honours (Advanced Legal Studies)
5	UCAS/Programme Code	M101 1506U (European Legal Studies) 1125U (International Legal Studies) 1451U (with Placement Year) 1722U (Advanced Legal Studies)
6	Programme Accreditation	This programme satisfies the Common Protocol on the Academic Stage of Training version 2 developed on 13 11 2018
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Law
8	FHEQ Level	Level 6
9	Last updated	July 2021

10	Programme Aims
	<p>To provide a programme which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivers a rigorous liberal education in the discipline of law informed by scholarship and research. 2. Enables students to develop an understanding of the nature of law and the theoretical and multi-disciplinary influences on its development. 3. Develops students' analytical, problem-solving and critical skills in relation to how law is made, interpreted, applied and developed. 4. Provides students with opportunities to study a range of specialist law modules often linked to specific research interests of teaching staff, approved non-law modules and, where appropriate, to engage in extended research. 5. Offers students the opportunity to spend a period of study at one of the Law School's partner universities abroad or undertake a placement during their studies. 6. Develops intellectual and key skills to equip students for future learning and employment. 7. Produces graduates who are equipped for training and employment in the legal professions and in other fields of employment or to undertake postgraduate study. <p>To fully:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Satisfy the requirements of the Common Protocol on the Academic Stage of Training (version 2). This includes the need for the purposes of the Bar to to teach the foundations of legal knowledge.

9. Meet and, in Stage 3, exceed the requirements of the QAA Benchmark Statement for Law degrees.
10. Conform to the criteria for a level 6 award laid down in the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and comply with University policies.

The LLB with Placement Year will additionally:

11. Provide students with the experience of seeking and securing a position with an employer.
12. Facilitate independent self-management and proactive interaction in a non-university setting.
13. Provide a period of practical work experience that will benefit current academic study and longer term career plans.
14. Enable students to ethically apply their knowledge and skills in the work place, reflect upon their development and effectively evidence and articulate their learning in relevant future settings.

The LLB with European Legal Studies or International Legal Studies will additionally:

15. Enable students to develop their communication, language and inter-cultural skills.
16. Provide students with the opportunity to gain soft skills highly valued by employers.
17. Provide students with the opportunity to study areas of Law not offered by Newcastle University, and gain disciplinary insights into different legal systems and legal cultures, enhancing their overall levels of knowledge and understanding.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Law.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1 The major concepts, values, policies, principles and rules which form the 'Foundations of Legal Knowledge' (England, Wales and Northern Ireland), these being Criminal Law, Equity and Trusts, Law of the European Union, Obligations 1 (Contract), Obligations 2 (Tort), Property/Land Law, Public Law (Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights Law). Subject to the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union and/or any agreement made on European Law in future. European Law will continue as one of the foundation subjects for the foreseeable future.
- A2 The principal institutions and processes of the law
- A3 Legal topics, from a range of options, beyond the Foundations of Legal Knowledge; including options offered at partner universities abroad for students accepted onto one of the LL.B (Hons) (ELS) or LL.B (Hons) (ILS) degrees
- A4 Multi-disciplinary and / or theoretical perspectives used to analyse the law and legal processes
- A5 Intercultural perspectives

The LLB with Placement Year will additionally enable students to:

- A6 Apply personal and professional development strategies to prioritise, plan, and manage their own skills development and learning.
- A7 Research, select and apply relevant knowledge aimed at enhancing their own skills and effectiveness in specific duties at their placement.
- A8 Demonstrate an understanding of a work environment, how it functions and their contribution to it.

A9 Relate their work based learning to other areas of personal development, including academic performance.

The LLB with European Legal Studies or International Legal Studies will additionally enable students to:

A10 Demonstrate understanding of foreign legal jurisdictions and a greater understanding of diversity of legal systems.

A11 Demonstrate the ability to adapt to different learning and legal environments.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The Law School teaching and learning methods to enable knowledge and understanding are as follows:

First, a diverse range of teaching methods are designed to enable students to acquire a basic level of knowledge and understanding through a diverse range of teaching methods. Especially at Stage 3, alternative teaching methods such as workshops, moots and mock conferences are used within some modules.

Secondly, to take the basic exposition further it is a universal requirement for students to engage in independent learning, using reading lists directing them to primary and secondary sources.

Thirdly, so as to provide opportunities for students to engage in problem-solving exercises, the School delivers seminars and workshop within which students can engage in the discussion of legal principles and theoretical issues, and check their learning and understanding

Fourthly, in all modules there is a requirement to submit written work (either on a formative or summative basis). This gives a further opportunity to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding.

Finally, students are given the opportunity to further develop their knowledge and understanding of intercultural perspectives through participation in the study abroad programme or the placement year.

Assessment Strategy

At Stage 1 the emphasis is on testing knowledge and understanding. Assessment across modules is diversified, involving a mix of examinations, coursework, online assessments, group oral presentations, negotiation /client interviewing exercises, poster presentations, reflective logs.

At Stage 2 and 3 there is a mix of assessment methods including examination, coursework, poster presentations, conference papers, research papers, skills based assessment such as mediation and in Stage 3 only, students additionally are given the chance to complete a larger, in-depth piece of research through a dissertation.

Candidates who have completed the exchange year abroad at a European partner institution shall be eligible to be considered for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Laws (European Legal Studies). Students who have completed the exchange year abroad at a non-EU/EEA partner institution shall be eligible to be considered for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Laws (International Legal Studies). The Board of Examiners (BoE) will certify that candidates have completed the Exchange Year Abroad upon receipt of academic transcripts from Partner Universities where the transcripts demonstrate that the candidate has produced a passing performance of the overall year. In this instance candidates will be deemed to have passed LAW2100. For the avoidance of doubt, a

passing performance is the successful attainment of an average mark of at least 40 (on the Newcastle scale) across modules undertaken during the exchange year. A failing performance in particular modules can therefore be outweighed by a strong performance in other modules. The BoE retains the right to exercise its discretion and certify completion of the exchange year abroad, notwithstanding academic failure to attain an average of 40 across the exchange year abroad, where there are relevant and significant PEC circumstances brought to the attention of the Board. Marks and credits attained during the Exchange Year Abroad will not directly input into aggregate or average marks of a student's degree performance for the purposes of determining overall degree classification. Nonetheless, account may, at the discretion of the BoE, be taken of relevant assessments in the Exchange Year Abroad in awarding the degree class at the end of Stage 3.

Candidates who have completed a careers placement between stages 2 and 3 of the LL.B (Hons) programme shall be eligible to be considered for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Laws with Honours (with Placement Year). The Board of Examiners (BoE) will certify that candidates have completed the NCL3000 module with a passing performance upon receipt of confirmation of passing performance from the Careers Service. In the absence of such confirmation, the BoE retains the right to exercise its discretion and certify completion of the placement year where there are relevant and significant PEC circumstances brought to the attention of the Board. Marks and credits attained during the placement year will not directly input into aggregate or average marks of a student's degree performance for the purposes of determining overall degree classification. Nonetheless, account may, at the discretion of the BoE, be taken of relevant assessments in the placement year in awarding the degree class

For the avoidance of doubt, all other candidates not eligible for the Bachelor of Laws (European Legal Studies), Bachelor of Laws (International Legal Studies) or Bachelor of Laws (with Placement Year) shall be eligible to be considered for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Laws with Honours.

Failure to complete the Exchange Year Abroad and thus receiving a Fail in LAW2100, or failure to complete the Placement Year and thus receiving a Fail in NCL3000, will result in candidates being eligible to be considered for the degree of Bachelor of Laws with Honours, and thus transferred from the 1125U ILS programme, the 1506U ELS programme or the 1451U Placement programme, to the M101 LL.B (Hons) programme for the remainder of their degree studies.

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- B1 Analyse: to identify and order issues by relevance and importance
- B2 Synthesise materials derived from diverse sources
- B3 Exercise critical judgement by discriminating between the merits or otherwise of particular arguments
- B4 Exercise skills of evaluation in making a reasoned choice between competing solutions or arguments.

Teaching and Learning Methods

B1 to B4 are primarily developed and demonstrated through seminar discussions, problem-solving and in researching and writing seminar essays and assessed coursework essays, research papers, dissertations, examinations, preparing for and delivering oral presentations and preparing for and participating in mooting, mediation, negotiation and client-interviewing exercises.

Assessment Strategy

B1 to B4 are assessed summatively at all Stages using a variety of assessment methods including examinations, assessed coursework. Many Stage 3 optional modules involve summative coursework and in addition, research papers and dissertations are used to assess these skills.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- C1 Engage in legal problem-solving by identifying relevant issues, applying relevant concepts, principles and rules, identifying evidence needed, making judgements and reaching supported conclusions on the basis of sound and informed reasoning
- C2 Write, speak and think with care and precision in the analysis and synthesis of the law
- C3 Structure argument and analysis
- C4 Identify issues for research and to retrieve accurately relevant legal and other sources in, as appropriate, primary and secondary form, both in paper and digital formats.

Teaching and Learning Methods

C1 is introduced initially in Stage 1 and then further developed in Stage 2 and demonstrated throughout the degree programme *via* seminar assignments, through workshops, examinations and compulsory written work. C2 and C3 are inculcated by means of regular seminar work, examinations and compulsory written work. Induction activity, Law School guides, for example on library research skills, and some Stage 1 modules specifically address C2 and C4 and the latter skill is further developed *via* seminars and compulsory written work. C1-C4 are further developed and demonstrated through oral presentations and client-interviewing. Students can further enhance their proficiency in these skills by pursuing research based assessed coursework and research topic or dissertation modules at Stage 3. In addition these outcomes can be pursued by voluntary participation throughout the programme in mooted and client-interviewing competitions within and outside of the Law School as well as other available extra curricula opportunities.

Assessment Strategy

C1 is assessed at all stages of the LL.B (Hons) programme by means of coursework, examinations and skills assessments. Oral presentation, poster presentations and negotiation exercises in Stage 1 address the C2 requirement that students be able to speak with precision on legal issues. Throughout the course coursework and unseen examinations and other forms of assessment address C2, C3 and C4.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- D1 (a) read, interpret and understand English language accurately in relation to complex technical texts; (b) present argument intelligibly and accurately
- D2 Present essays and academic work in an appropriate form, use the internet and email and demonstrate competence in digital information retrieval
- D3 (a) act independently in organising time, tasks and meeting deadlines

<p>(b) undertake independent research both in areas already studied and those investigated without prior study</p> <p>(c) reflect on the learning process using feedback</p> <p>D4 Work effectively as a team member and engage in group work.</p> <p>D5 Adapt and operate in a different cultural environment (where students have taken part in study abroad)</p> <p>The LLB with Placement Year will additionally enable students to:</p> <p>D6 Reflect on and manage own learning and development within the workplace.</p> <p>D7 Use existing and new knowledge to enhance personal performance in a workplace environment, evaluate the impact and communicate this process.</p> <p>D8 Use graduate skills in a professional manner in a workplace environment. Evaluate the impact and communicate the personal development that has taken place.</p>
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Teaching and Learning Methods

D1, D2 and D3 are introduced in induction at Stage 1. Under D1, the ability to argue orally is developed primarily through seminars or interactive lectures and further developed in modules in which oral presentations are formally assessed. Students may, also, develop oral skills by participation in mooting, client interviewing, negotiation and mediation as well as other activities. Again under D1, literacy is developed through seminar essays and course work assessments. D1 and D2 are developed further in induction at Stage 2. Coursework provides the opportunity for students to develop and demonstrate IT & C literacy (D2). D3 is developed by preparation for seminars and researching and writing coursework essays, research papers and dissertations. D4 is developed through group exercises in seminars and workshops in particular modules. Students may also develop team work skills further by participation in mooting and client-interviewing, and in group oral presentations. D5 is developed through participation in the exchange year abroad. Many of these outcomes are further developed through participation in extra curricular activity offered by the School such as pro bono schemes.

Assessment Strategy

D1 is assessed through seminar essays, assessed coursework, unseen examinations, oral presentations and an optional research paper and dissertation. There is no formal assessment for D2 but it is indirectly assessed through coursework essays, research papers and dissertations. There is no formal assessment for D3 but it is indirectly assessed through coursework essays, team work exercises, oral presentations, research papers and dissertations. D4 is not formally assessed but the product of a team work exercise is assessed on a group basis in the form of an oral presentation. D5 is not formally assessed by Newcastle Law School but indirectly through assessment undertaken at a host university during the exchange year abroad.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

The programme is studied full time over three years based on 30 weeks attendance per year.

Each year of study is known as a Stage. Each Stage must have modules to a total credit value of 120. Every 10 credits of a module's value is designed to take 100 hours of student time inclusive of contact time in lectures and seminars, independent learning and preparation for and completion of any form of assessment. All modules in the programme are 20 credits apart from the Dissertation which is 40 credits (Stage 3). There are three stages in total, giving an overall requirement of 360 credits.

Stage 1 consists of a compulsory diet in which students are introduced to the foundations of legal studies. For academic reasons, due to the progressive nature of the programme and the need to prepare students for later subject study, all six Stage 1 subjects are designated as core. They, together, provide the context within which legal techniques of thinking and expression are developed.

Stage 2 comprises a compulsory diet of core modules that progress from Stage 1 and complete the foundations of legal knowledge, conferring not only the essential core knowledge but also further development in legal skills. Stage 2 also includes an optional element of 40 credits of Law modules.

Between Stage 2 and Stage 3, students may either:

- (i) Spend an exchange year abroad studying at a partner university. Students enrol for a full year programme in the relevant university. Tuition at partner institutions will be in English and foreign language skills are not essential. The host institution's assessment procedures apply. During the exchange year abroad, particular opportunities arise for students to increase understanding and awareness of intercultural perspectives (A5) and to demonstrate organisational ability, teamwork, and the ability to adapt, and to operate in a different culture (D3-D5). As noted above in the Assessment Strategy, the Year Abroad will be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail, recorded in the 120 credit LAW2100 module, and marks will not directly input into aggregate or average marks, or overall degree classification. Nonetheless, account may, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, be taken of relevant assessments in the Exchange Year Abroad in awarding the degree class at the end of Stage 3. Students who have satisfactorily completed the exchange year abroad are eligible for the award of either the degree of LL.B with Honours (European Legal Studies) or the degree of LL.B with Honours (International Legal Studies), as appropriate.
OR
- (ii) Spend a year on a careers placement. Students will spend a year in industry in which they will complete 1131 hours of placement activity and a small amount of scheduled teaching. During a placement year, students will have the opportunity to develop skills in applying personal and professional development strategies to their own skills (A6), and using graduate skills in the professional environment (D7). As noted above in the Assessment Strategy, the placement year will be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail, recorded in the 120 credit NCL3000 module, and marks will not directly input into aggregate or average marks, or overall degree classification. Nonetheless, account may, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, be taken of relevant assessments in the placement year in awarding the degree class at the end of Stage 3. Students who have satisfactorily completed the placement year are eligible for the award of the degree of LL.B (Honours) (with Placement Year).

Both the exchange year abroad and the careers placement year are optional, and students may if preferred progress directly from Stage 2 to Stage 3. Stage 3 allows students to select modules from the prevailing options list. A feature of this Stage is that, apart from the 40 credit dissertation, Law module options are of 20 credits in value. This means that finalists will often study across six subjects thus offering the opportunity for greater breadth whilst also allowing students to specialise in areas of particular interest that link to career aspirations and/or academic development. Stage 3 modules extend students to develop depth of understanding and, in several instances, cross-disciplinary study (e.g. through the use of sociological, philosophical, economic, medical and ethical perspectives). The Law School allows, subject to approval, final year students to select up to 40 credits outside of the Law list of options. This facility is used by a relatively small group who, for example, wish to resume language study, or take up a subject relevant to prospective employment (e.g. marketing or business enterprise) or academic interests (e.g. history or sociology).

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

Following the introduction of the BSB's new rules in 2019 and the introduction of the SRA's Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) in autumn 2021, the Joint Statement requirements will be as follows:

For the Bar: the Bar Standard's Board only regulatory involvement in undergraduate law will be the continuing requirements that law degrees are compliant with the QAA subject benchmark statement for law and that degree courses contain the seven "Foundations of Legal Knowledge" subjects as well as the skills associated with graduate legal work such as legal research. Foundations of legal knowledge subjects remain compulsory for all students who wish to be called to the Bar and practise as a barrister in England and Wales. It will be the responsibility of Authorised Education and Training Organisations (AETOs) to ensure compliance with these arrangements. The seven foundations of legal knowledge are Criminal Law, Equity and Trusts, Law of the European Union, Obligations 1 (Contract), Obligations 2 (Tort), Property/Land Law, Public Law (Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights Law). Subject to the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union and/or any agreement made on European Law in future. European Law will continue as one of the foundation subjects for the foreseeable future.

For Solicitors: For undergraduate law degree courses that start after the introduction of the SQE (autumn 2021), the current Joint Statement requirements will no longer apply. Under the proposed SQE, students will need to hold a degree or equivalent qualification or experience, but they will no longer need to study for a QLD or CPE recognised or approved by the SRA. The SRA will no longer specify the academic content of law degrees. However, the SQE will ask students to demonstrate the knowledge set out in the Statement of Legal Knowledge. This includes the seven foundations of legal knowledge subjects

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)
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[M101 1506U 1125U 1451U 1722U Programme Regulations 21-22](#)

13 Support for Student Learning
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Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

Accreditation reports

This programme satisfies the Common Protocol on the Academic Stage of Training version 2 developed on 13 11 2018.

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/#subject> Degree

Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.