

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	LLM
4	Programme Title	LLM Law and Society (Legal Research)
5	Programme Code	5865 F/P
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8	FHEQ Level	7
9	Last updated	July 2021

10 Programme Aims

1. To comply with prevailing University policies;
2. To meet the requirements for a programme at level 7 of the FHEQ
3. To support the law research pathway in the NINE DTP and to equip students with the necessary research skills to apply through Newcastle Law School for ESRC PhD funding under the +3 studentship funding system for PhD projects.
4. To provide learning opportunities to enable graduates to acquire the knowledge and understanding, skills and aptitudes necessary to undertake advanced research in the social sciences in general and in law and society in particular.
5. To contribute to the University's objectives by providing high quality research training to an increasing number of postgraduates and enhancing their key skills and employability.
6. To produce graduates who are capable of successfully undertaking and completing advanced research projects.
7. To produce graduates who can proceed to careers in research in Universities, the public sector, the voluntary and community sector or the private sector.
8. To provide an LLM that develops the student's skills to understand and analyse law, governance and policy in the national, European and international context.

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.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should have:

- A1. a critical understanding of key principles and doctrines in a range of legal subjects;
- A2. a critical appreciation of the key institutions relevant to those legal subjects;
- A3. a critical understanding of relevant theoretical perspectives (including those drawn from other disciplines) on the legal and policy issues raised by the subjects studied by the student;
- A4. familiarity with contemporary research and scholarship in these legal subjects;
- A5. an awareness of the steps involved in completing a research dissertation;
- A6. developed and increased their knowledge and practice of doctrinal, quantitative and qualitative research techniques (as relevant) and, in particular, those pertaining to current research in law and society;
- A7. developed an awareness of the position of their research dissertation within the wider research debates and literature in law and society.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Students have the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding from a variety of teaching methods. First, in some subjects lecturers make presentations on selected areas. These may take the form of traditional lectures, or of introductory presentations in seminar groups. Second, in all subjects, handouts are made available to students which both present basic information relevant to the legal subject and indicate further reading which students are required to undertake to advance their understanding and knowledge. Third, students participate in seminars in all of their chosen legal subjects. Students must prepare for such seminars through undertaking set reading, and by applying that reading to specific problems or issues set for discussion. Group discussions within seminars are then based around these set problems/issues. Finally, the compulsory written work set in all modules (including the compulsory dissertation) provides students with a further opportunity both to develop, and to test, their knowledge and understanding.

Assessment Strategy

These are assessed by three means:
(a) assessed essay(s) (where compulsory in each module); and/or
(b) an unseen examination paper in each module; and
(c) the dissertation.

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:
B1. analyse legal issues, including identifying and ordering 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 and
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 assessed coursework essays, research papers, the dissertation, examinations and preparing for and delivering oral presentations.

Assessment Strategy

These are assessed by three means:
(a) assessed essay(s) (where compulsory in each module); and/or
(b) an unseen examination paper in each module; and
(c) the dissertation.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:
C1. engage in legal problem-solving (insofar as appropriate for the legal subject studied) by identifying relevant issues, applying relevant concepts, principles and rules, making judgements and reaching conclusions supported by sound and informed reasoning;
C2. engage in theoretical reflection on the legal subjects being studied, including identifying the criteria by which the law's regulation might be evaluated and making judgements thereon supported by sound and informed reasoning;
C3. write, speak and think with care and precision in the analysis and synthesis of the law;
C4. identify issues for research and retrieve accurate and relevant legal and other sources in primary and secondary form, both in paper and digital formats; and
C5. evaluate and apply appropriate research methodologies for the pursuit of advanced research in the areas of law and society.

Teaching and Learning Methods

These skills are developed generally through preparation for seminars and participation within seminars, and through students' written assignments (including the compulsory dissertation) and examinations. Skills C3 and C4. are also the focus of the compulsory module and the supervisory arrangements which accompany the students' research for, and preparation of, their dissertation. Skill C5 is assessed through the preparation of a research proposal and though modules in qualitative and quantitative research methods.

Assessment Strategy

These are assessed by three means:
 (a) by assessed essay(s) (where compulsory in each module); and/or
 (b) by an unseen examination paper in each module; and
 (c) by the dissertation.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:
 D1
 (a) read, interpret and understand legal English language accurately in relation to complex technical texts and
 (b) present argument intelligibly and accurately;
 D2 word process essays and other academic work in an appropriate form, use the internet and email and demonstrate some competence in digital information retrieval;
 D3
 (a) act independently in organising time, tasks and meeting deadlines;
 (b) undertake independent research both in areas already studied and those investigated without prior study and
 (c) reflect on the learning process using feedback.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Under D1, the ability to argue orally is developed primarily through seminars and further developed in Law 8152 (Applied Research Methods in Law), where students present on their dissertation topics. Again under D1, literacy is developed through coursework assessments, seminar papers (where required), and the dissertation. D2 and D3 are introduced in induction and practised throughout the programme. 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.

Assessment Strategy

D1, 2 (part) and 3 (part) are assessed by assessed essays, exams and the dissertation. There is no formal assessment of the use of email skills, nor of student reflection on the learning process using feedback.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features**Basic structure of the programme**

Duration: 1 year (FT); 2 years (PT)

The programme involves the study of compulsory and elective modules to a value of 180 credits on legal research skills and law. With the Degree Programme Director's permission students can choose up to 20 credits of alternative level 7 elective modules available in other schools.

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

Opportunity to acquire advanced research skills targeted to conducting advanced research to PhD level in the field of law and society. Opportunity to engage in specialised study of key legal topics relevant to law and society, and also to choose among related subjects of relevance to specific areas of legal knowledge.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[5865 Programme Regulations 23-24](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

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

[Generic Information](#)

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.

[Generic Information](#)

Accreditation reports
n/a

Additional mechanisms
n/a

15 Regulation of assessment

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

[Generic Information](#)

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

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/>

The School Brochure: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/nuls/study/>

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

The Degree Programme Handbook

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. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.