

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Undergraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	LL.B (Honours)
4	Programme Title	Bachelor of Laws in Global Legal Studies with Honours
5	UCAS/Programme Code	M105
6	Programme Accreditation	None
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Law
8	FHEQ Level	Level 6
9	Last updated	May 2024

10 Programme Aims

To provide a programme which:

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, with a focus on law in a global context.
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 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.
8. Enables students to develop their communication, language and inter-cultural skills.
9. Provides students with the opportunity to gain soft skills highly valued by employers.
10. Provides 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.

To fully:

11. Teach the foundations of legal knowledge.
12. Meet and, in Stages 2 and 4, exceed the requirements of the QAA Benchmark Statement for Law degrees.
13. Conform to the criteria for a level 6 award laid down in the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and comply with University policies.

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', these being Public Law, Contract, Land Law, Criminal Law, Tort, European Union Law and Equity
- A2 The principal institutions and processes of the law
- A3 Legal topics beyond the Foundations of Legal Knowledge; including options offered at partner universities abroad
- A4 Multi-disciplinary and / or theoretical perspectives used to analyse the law and legal processes
- A5 Intercultural perspectives
- A6 Demonstrate understanding of foreign legal jurisdictions and greater understanding of diversity of legal systems.
- A7 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, to enable students to acquire a basic level of knowledge and understanding through lectures. Although lectures are still used there is more diversity of approach within seminars and, at Stage 4, alternative teaching methods such as workshops, moots and mock conferences are used within some modules.

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

Thirdly, to deliver seminars so as to provide opportunities for students to engage in problem-solving exercises, the discussion of legal principles and theoretical issues, and to 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 year abroad.

Assessment Strategy

At Stage 1 knowledge and understanding is assessed by means of formative and summative essays and unseen examinations. Assessment across modules is diversified, involving a mix of examinations, coursework and presentation exercises.

At Stage 2, assessment is by a combination of coursework and examination.

At Stage 3, assessment is by a combination of reflective essay and assessment as outlined by Partner Institutions. 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 LAW2110. For the avoidance of doubt, a passing performance is the successful attainment of an average passing mark according to the mark scheme of their host University 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 might be willing to exercise its discretion and certify completion of the exchange year abroad, notwithstanding academic failure to attain an average Pass in either module, where there are relevant and significant personal extenuating circumstances brought to the attention of the Board. 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 upon completion of the relevant programme. Candidates who successfully pass the year will be progressed to stage 4 of the Global Legal Studies programme. Candidates who fail to pass the year or who are for any reason denied entry by a partner University or host country may at the discretion of the Board of Examiners be eligible to be transferred to programme M101, culminating in the award of the degree of Bachelor of Laws, and will complete their final year on this alternative programme.

At Stage 4 there is a mix of methods extending from modules employing the same regime as for Stage 2 to those assessing solely on the basis of examination, coursework, a research paper or a dissertation. The problem-based learning module draws together elements of coursework and a portfolio of evidence as its assessment elements.

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, and preparing for and delivering oral presentations. In addition, students may participate in mooting and client-interviewing exercises.

Assessment Strategy

B1 to B4 are formatively assessed by seminar essays and unseen mid-session examination, and summatively by examinations and assessed coursework. Many optional modules involve summative coursework, and those which do not maintain formative exercises. 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 developed initially in Stage 1 and then further developed and demonstrated *via* seminar assignments, 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 intranet guides 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. Students can further enhance their proficiency with these skills by pursuing research based assessed coursework and research topic or dissertation modules at Stage 4 and, throughout the programme, by voluntary participation in mooting and client-interviewing competitions within and outside of the Law School.

Assessment Strategy

C1 is assessed at all stages of the programme by means of coursework and examinations. To facilitate transition to university-level study, an element of written assessment and examination in all four Stage 1 modules is formative in nature. Thereafter, in Stages 2 and 4, the balance of assessment is summative in nature. Oral presentation exercises address the C2 requirement that students be able to speak with precision on legal issues. Throughout the course coursework and unseen examinations 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 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
(c) reflect on the learning process using feedback

D4 Work in teams

D5 Adapt and operate in a different cultural environment

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, finally, develop oral skills by optional participation in mooting. 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 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.

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 can be assessed in the form of an oral presentation in some modules. 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 four 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, completion of compulsory written work and preparation for examination assessment. Modules in the programme vary from 20 credits to 100 credits. There are four stages in total, giving an overall requirement of 480 credits.

Stage 1 and 2 consist of a compulsory diet in which students are introduced to the foundations of legal studies and global understanding. For academic reasons, due to the progressive nature of the programme and the need to prepare students for later subject study, all Stage 1 and 2 subjects are designated as core or compulsory. They, together, provide the context within which legal techniques of thinking and expression are developed.

In Stage 3 students 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 LAW2210 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 4.

Stage 4 allows students to select modules from the prevailing options list, with the caveat that students on the Global Legal Studies programme will have two compulsory modules, in Public International Law and Global Constitutional Law. 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 4 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)

The programme offers the Foundations of Legal Skills in order to underpin the work undertaken by students should they wish to progress to study and examination for registration with the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board. The programme also offers a global perspective that is particularly attractive to employers specialising in international law.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[M105 Programme Regulations 2024-25](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Both before and during the year abroad, the Law School's Director of International Partnerships and Programmes and the Degree Programme Director for the programme act as first points of contact for students who elect to take part in the exchange programme, and provides advice and guidance on matters relating to the exchange year abroad. For this purpose, the School liaises with the Global Opportunities Team and with the partner universities abroad. The Law School provides advice and guidance sessions to ensure that students choose the right host university for them. During the year abroad, where appropriate, colleagues may visit Newcastle Law School students at host partner universities, and will arrange telephone and/or video call discussions where the need arises.

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

Each member of Law School staff is regularly subject to a structured review of teaching. Large-group and small-group teaching are reviewed in alternating one-yearly cycles. The review is in the form of teaching observation, coupled with a briefing in advance and a de-brief after the observation. The review is conducted by a full-time member of the Law School's teaching staff. Results are relayed to the Head of School and fed back to staff on an individual basis. Where necessary, such general issues are referred to Student-Staff Committee for further consideration.

As well as the Degree Programme Director and Senior Tutor Team conducting progress checks on individual students in each semester, the Personal Tutorial provides a routine mechanism for checking progress. The Board of Studies annually reviews progression rates, distribution of degree classes and graduate employment statistics.

15 Regulation of assessment

Course requirements

Progression is subject to the University's Undergraduate Progress Regulations and Undergraduate Examination Conventions. In summary, students must pass, or be deemed to have passed, 120 credits at each Stage. Limited compensation up to 40 credits and down to a mark of 35 may be applied in line with the University Regulations, and there are resit opportunities, with certain restrictions. Additional programme-specific requirements can be found in the Programme Regulations.

Weighting of stages

The marks from Stages 2 and 4 will contribute to the final classification of the degree as specified in the relevant Degree Programme Regulations.

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.