

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Taught Postgraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	LLM
4	Programme Title	Emerging Technologies and the Law
5	Programme Code	5887F/P
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8	FHEQ Level	7
9	Last updated	May 2022

10 Programme Aims

The LLM in Emerging Technologies and the Law has the following programme aims:

1. To provide students with an understanding of the emerging regulatory issues arising from new technological developments
2. To engage in technology-focused, research-led teaching that links expertise to substantive module content
3. To furnish students with an understanding of the role of law in governing technologies in their broader social, economic and political contexts
4. To develop students' critical thinking, research and reflection skills
5. To develop students' resilience, self-reliance and organisational abilities, including in the context of writing a Masters level dissertation
6. To produce graduates with the potential to thrive in a range of different positions whether in the public or private sector, at national or international levels
7. To generate the skills and interests necessary to encourage doctoral study

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 demonstrate a critical understanding of:

A1 the complexities of governance and regulation in fields of emerging technology

A2 the substantive module content of subjects directly pertaining to, or relevant to, Law and Emerging Technologies

A3 the range of theoretical and methodological approaches applicable to the study of Law and completion of a dissertation in an area of Law and Emerging Technologies

A4 important and contemporary scholarship in a range of disciplines relevant to the understanding of the law, regulation and governance of emerging technologies

Teaching and Learning Methods

Students have the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding from a variety of teaching methods, facilitating competence with a range of different learning styles. Teaching is predominantly based on workshop formats, in which classes contain elements of interactive lecture, lecturer-guided activities, and student-led discussion. The emphasis in these classes is placed on student preparation, based on a combination of required reading, Canvas-facilitated activities, and directed research. Opportunities for additional guidance are provided in the context of each module through mechanisms such as drop-in sessions, assessment surgeries and project supervision meetings.

Assessment Strategy
The LLM assessment strategy is based on principles of high-impact activity and diversity of assessment, ensuring that students are made familiar with a wide range of different assessment techniques aimed at developing their transferrable skills. Assessments may include a combination of traditional unseen exams, open-book take-home exams, essay and problem solving assessments, directed writing activities such as drafting policy reports or citizen/consumer guidance documents, as well as elements of oral presentation and argumentation.
Intellectual Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: B1 critically reflect upon and determine an appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approach to answering a research question on a dissertation topic of their choosing B2 analyse, assess and synthesise complex legal and regulatory arguments B3 exercise critical judgement in the identification of both relevant and convincing arguments relating to challenges and issues arising in the substantive module content B4 demonstrate awareness of the broader social, political and economic issues that influence both technology regulation and technological development
Teaching and Learning Methods
Given the workshop-based nature of the teaching and learning methods this programme proposes, students have the ability to develop these intellectual skills through engagement with the whole range of modules offered on the programme, with the compulsory modules on Legal Research: Theory and Method and Law and Emerging Technologies being particularly pertinent for developing skills B1-B4.
Assessment Strategy
In addition to the above stated assessment strategy applicable to knowledge (the methods being equally applicable to the development of intellectual skills), all students will submit a written dissertation, which will assess their ability to conduct self-disciplined, independent (yet guided) research in order to answer a research question of their own design.
Practical Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: C1 demonstrate legal problem-solving and reflective skills, appropriate and relevant to the modules of study C2 critically evaluate legal arguments in the context of the regulation of emerging technologies C3 engage in basic interdisciplinary thinking and reasoning in order to better understand the complexities of legal challenges posed by emerging technologies C4 use legal databases, case and legislation repositories and institutional websites to gather appropriate data
Teaching and Learning Methods
Engagement in classroom activities, including discussions and debates will help with the development of these skills, which will be supplemented with directed reading activities facilitated through Canvas and the additional skills training provided by the Law School library staff and ASK.
Assessment Strategy
These practical skills are assessed in a formative manner through the observation of participation and engagement in class. Formatively and summatively, these skills are tested across the diverse range of assessments provided in individual modules, as well as in the writing of the dissertation.
Transferable/Key Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: D1 demonstrate the ability to make persuasive arguments in oral and written form

D2 effectively regulate their own learning, demonstrating skills of organisation, time-management and independent working
 D3 communicate complex ideas and arguments to a range of different target audiences
 D4 demonstrate professionalism, collegiality and maturity in their engagement with others

Teaching and Learning Methods

Engagement in classroom activities, including discussions, law/policy drafting exercises and legislative and/or judicial simulations will help with the development of these skills, in particular the Legal Skills: Theory and Method module, which will be supplemented with the additional skills training provided by the Law School library staff and ASK.

Assessment Strategy

These key transferrable skills are assessed in a formative manner through the observation of participation and engagement in class. Formatively and summatively, these skills are tested across the diverse range of assessments provided in individual modules, such as drafting policy recommendations acting as a member of European Commission working staff, or writing expert advice for a body such as OFCOM, as well as in the self-discipline required in writing the dissertation.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

The programme is available on a full-time or part-time basis. Students have 100 credits of compulsory modules (20 credits for the Legal Research module, 20 credits for the Law and Emerging Technologies module, and 60 for the dissertation). Students have 80 credits of optional modules, which can include taking modules outwith the Law School upon consultation with the PGT DPD.

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

The programme is specifically designed to appeal to both Law and non-Law graduates, providing skills training in addition to substantive module content. Furthermore, its emphasis on holistic understandings of the challenges posed by emerging technologies guarantees a constantly evolving, dynamic curriculum that is informed by experts, highly topical and relevant to a range of stakeholders, and provides graduates with a nuanced understanding of regulatory issues concerning a range of different technologies that will be attractive to prospective employers.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[Programme Regulations 2025-26](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

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

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

Accreditation reports

Additional mechanisms

15 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

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In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:
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The University Prospectus: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/#subject
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Degree Programme and University Regulations: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/
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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.
