

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION
(Taught Postgraduate)**



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	LLM
4	Programme Title	LLM in International Law and Global Challenges
5	Programme Code	5820F/P
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8	FHEQ Level	7
9	Last updated	May 2026

10 Programme Aims

1. To comply with prevailing University policies and QAA codes of practice;
2. To meet the requirements for a programme at level 7 of the FHEQ;
3. To enable students to:
 1. acquire specialised legal knowledge and legal skills in the subject-matter of various legal topics of relevance to International Law
 2. have the opportunity to acquire specialised knowledge in other related areas
 3. develop a greater understanding of the nature of law and regulation, both generally and within the specific context of the subject-matter of International Law
 4. develop their research, organisational and presentation skills, and their capacity and opportunity for independent learning
 5. develop other key skills that will equip students for future learning and employment.

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:

- A1. have a critical understanding of key principles and doctrines in a range of legal subjects related to international law;
- A2. have a critical appreciation of the key institutions relevant to those legal subjects;
- A3. have 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; and
- A4. be acquainted with contemporary research and scholarship in these legal subjects.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Students have the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding from a variety of teaching methods. First, in some subject's lecturers make presentations of selected areas of legal material. These presentations 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) provide students with a further opportunity both to develop, and to test, their knowledge and understanding.

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.

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, dissertation, examinations, and preparing for and delivering oral presentations.

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.

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; and
C4. Identify issues for research and to retrieve accurate and relevant legal and other sources in primary and secondary form, both in paper and digital formats.

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 study of research skills and the supervisory arrangements which accompany the students' research for, and preparation of, their dissertation.

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 workshops. Again under D1, literacy is developed through course work 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

The programme consists of 100 credits of compulsory modules covering Public International Law, Legal Research: Theory and Method, and a dissertation.

In addition, students must choose 80 credits of optional modules, with at least 40 of these credits coming from a prescribed list of modules which reflects the programme's theme of international law, and with up to 40 of these credits coming from a broader a list of modules including other modules available in the Law School and (with the Degree Programme Director's permission) modules from other schools.

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

Opportunity to engage in specialised study of key public international law topics and also to choose among related subjects of relevance to public international law as well as some degree of wider choice of modules if desired.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[Programme Regulations 2026-27](#)

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

n/a

Additional mechanisms

n/a

15 Regulation of assessment

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

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/>

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.