

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	LLB Law and Commercial Law Students may also graduate with: LLB Law LLB Law and Legal Practice LLB in Law and Human Rights (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Cert HE (LLB) Dip HE (LLB)
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year?	(via LLB Law with Foundation Year)
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home Department/other teaching departments	Law Department
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years) Part-time (4 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Bar Standards Board Solicitors Regulation Authority (for those who began their studies before September 01 2022)
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	Law
UCAS code	M103
Birkbeck Course Code	UBLLAWCL_C (part-time 3 years) UUBLLWCL_C (full-time 4 years)
HECoS Code	100485
Start date of programme	Prior to 2003/4
Date of programme approval	Prior to 2003/4
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	2024-25
Date of last revision to document	5/8/2022

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Requirement for those who have recently studied qualifications with a UCAS tariff equivalence : 96-120 UCAS tariff points/ A-levels (CCC-BBB).

- For mature students with experience: no specific A-level requirement. Admission is at the discretion of the admissions tutor.
- Certificate of Higher Education in Legal Methods (from Birkbeck): successful completion with a minimum mark of 50% enables entry to the LLB with optional credit for a first-year module.
- Applicants may be required to complete a written exercise in reasoning and analysis if they do not meet UCAS tariff.
- Applicants are required to demonstrate that they meet the College's English language requirements.
- Credit for previous equivalent law studies may allow transfer into Year 2 at the discretion of the admissions tutor.

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a tariff calculator for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

The LLB (Hons) in Law and Commercial Law provides a comprehensive grounding in the seven foundational subjects of English law and extend students' legal knowledge and understanding in specialist areas through a broad range of research-led teaching on optional modules with a focus on Commercial Law.

The LLB (Hons) in Law and Commercial Law offers students an opportunity to graduate with a qualification in an area of legal study that is popular amongst a significant number of our graduates. The pathway prepares students with a rounded set of core competencies, including the basics of company law, commercial law and broader modules in commercial law.

After commencing of the degree, students have the option to change specialisation from Commercial Law to either the general LLB Law or the two other pathways offered; the LLB Law and Human Rights and LLB Law and Legal Practice.

Professional Qualification

The programme satisfies the first stage (academic) of professional qualification laid down by the Bar Standard's Board (<http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/>) and the Solicitor's Regulation Authority (for those who began their degrees before 01 September 2022) (<http://www.sra.org.uk/home/home.page>). It also provides a foundation for the functional legal knowledge tested on the Single Qualifying Exam (Part One) set by the Solicitor's Regulatory authority.

Students who successfully complete study of the LLB Law and Commercial Law are guaranteed progression to the University of Law, which provides short and long courses to prepare students for sitting the Single Qualifying Exam (parts one and two).

More specifically, the School of Law at Birkbeck aims to:

- Provide a comprehensive grounding in foundational subjects of English law and extend students' legal knowledge and understanding in specialist areas;
- Provide students with an understanding of major legal concepts, values, principles and rules of the legal system, legislation and case law;
- Provide students with extensive careers support and opportunities
- Provide a broad appreciation of the range of possible approaches to legal scholarship;
- Promote a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of law which enables students to make use of theoretical frameworks developed in law, the humanities and social sciences;
- Place the study of law within its historical, ethical, social, political, cultural and economic context;
- Provide students with a range of subject specific and transferable skills which develop their capacity to learn, meet the needs of the wider society and prepare students for employment or further studies.

Distinctive Features

The most distinctive feature of the LLB programme is that its structure of teaching is designed for students who need to balance study with paid work, family or other commitments but desire to study in an environment led by academic staff with extensive research expertise and publications in the field. Specific features include:

- Classes are standardly taught between 6pm and 9pm, Monday –Thursday
- Access to a full range of optional modules in the fields of human rights, criminal justice, commercial and legal practice as well as to a range of distinctive optional subjects relating to the research of academic staff.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status	Likely teaching term
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	LALA157S4	Legal Systems and Methods	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
4	LADD033S4	Constitutional and Administrative Law	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
4	LADD034S4	Contract Law	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
4	LALW056S4	Criminal Law	30	Compulsory	T2-T3
Year 2					
5	LADD037S5	Tort Law	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
5	LALW095H5	Foundations of Property	15	Compulsory	T1
5	LALW096H5	Land Law	15	Compulsory	T2
5	LALW066H5	Law of the European Union	15	Compulsory	T3
5	Various	45 credits of level 5 option modules	45	Options	T1/T2/T3

Year 3					
6	LALW097H6	Trusts Law	15	Compulsory	T1
6	LADD039H6	Jurisprudence and Legal Theory	15	Compulsory	T2
6	Various	90 credits of level 6 option modules	90	Options	T1/T2/T3
Part-Time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	LALA157S4	Legal Systems and Methods	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
4	LADD033S4	Constitutional and Administrative Law	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
4	LADD034S4	Contract Law	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
Year 2					
4	LALW056S4	Criminal Law	30	Compulsory	T2-T3
5	LADD037S5	Tort Law	30	Compulsory	T1-T2
5	Various	30 credits of level 5 option modules	30	Option	T1/T2
Year 3					
5	LALW095H5	Foundations of Property	15	Compulsory	T1
5	LALW096H5	Land Law	15	Compulsory	T2
5	LALW066H5	Law of the European Union	15	Compulsory	T3
5	Various	15-credit level 5 option module	15	Option	T1/T2
6	Various	30 credits of level 6 option modules	30	Option	T1/T2
Year 4					
6	LALW097H6	Trusts Law	15	Compulsory	T1
6	LADD039H6	Jurisprudence and Legal Theory	15	Compulsory	T2
6	Various	60 credits of level 6 option modules	60	Option	T1/T2/T3

Note: 60 credits in optional modules must be taken from the Commercial Law list for this pathway.

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student

Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

Option: Student can choose to take this module

LLB (Hons) in Law and Commercial Law –

The LLB (Hons) in Law and Commercial Law offers students an opportunity to graduate with a qualification in an area of legal study that is popular amongst a significant number of our graduates. The pathway prepares students with a rounded set of core competencies, including the basics of company law, commercial law and broader modules in commercial law.

Students on the Commercial Law pathway would need to complete 60 credits in optional modules classified as Commercial Law modules. These include:

- Introduction to Commercial Law (15 credits, Lv5)
- Consumer Law (15 Credits; L5)
- Labour Law (15 Credits, L5 or L6)
- Banking and Monetary Law (15 Credits Lv 6)
- Competition Law (15 credits, Lv 6)
- Intellectual Property Law (30 Credits, L6)

List of Law Optional Modules

(Students may also take optional modules from other programmes across the College)

Offered at Level 5

Equality and Diversity (LADD002H5)

Introduction to Comparative Law (LALA094H5)

Introduction to Commercial Law (LALW082H5)

Offered at Levels 5 and 6

Consumer Law (LALA101H5) (LALW054H6)

Housing Justice and the Law (LALW012H6) (LALW011H5)

Human Rights (LALW007S5) (LALA003S6)

Labour Law (LALW034H5) (LALW024H6)

Legal Argument and Language (LALA227H5) (LALW026H6)

Secrecy, National Security & the Law (LALW018H5) (LALW019H6)

Optional Modules Offered at Level 6

Child Law (LADD006H6)

Adult Relations (LADD062H6)

Banking and Monetary Law (LALW016H6)

Competition Law (LALW090H6)

Contemporary Issues in Medical Law and Ethics (LALW049H6)

Cyberspace Law (LALW001H6)

Evidence (LALW076H6)

Immigration Law I Fundamentals of UK Law (LALA144H6)

Intellectual Property Law I (LALW045S6)

Intellectual Property Law II (LALW094S6)

Law History and Political Violence (LALA135H6)

Media Law (LALW007S5)

Mooting & Trials Skills (LALW055H6)

Principles of Medical Law & Ethics (LALW050H6)

Transformative Lawyering (LALW083H6)

Undergraduate Dissertation (LADD049S6)

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

The School of Law employs a variety of teaching and learning strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved. In particular we promote student learning through lectures; seminars; virtual learning; private tutorials; web based independent skills tutorials; weekend and pre-sessional skills workshops; public lectures and research seminars.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. We use a variety of assessment methods. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment:

- independent research essays,
- problem scenario essays,
- seen and unseen exams,
- workbooks,
- group work,
- oral presentations,
- reflective journals and creative and critical thinking exercises.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate general law related skills
- Identify, explain and critically assess the main characteristics of the legal system, including general familiarity with its institutions and procedures;
- Present a sound and accurate understanding of the detail of the law and its context in relation to most areas of law studied;
- Identify and demonstrate depth of knowledge of some of the political, economic, commercial, social and cultural factors that inform and underlie legal theory and doctrine;
- Understand complex aspects of the problems, tensions and contradictions within certain legal theories and doctrines;
- Identify and critically analyse contemporary legal debates.

Subject specific skills

- Demonstrate systematic knowledge and understanding of a wide range of legal concepts, values, principles and rules of English law and an ability to explain the relationships between them in a number of particular areas,
- Accurately state the law in key areas of foundational subjects, including but not limited to: Constitutional and Administrative Law, Contract Law, Criminal Law, Tort, Law, Property Law, Equity Law, and Law of the European Union
- Demonstrate the ability to critically discuss contemporary public and scholarly debates which are relevant to law in the UK Transferrable skills
- Demonstrate research and writing skills in the context of writing a postgraduate Research Project
- Demonstrate self-direction in formulating an original research question and independent learning ability suitable for writing a postgraduate Research Project

Careers and further study

You will find [subject] graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Barristers
- Solicitors
- Para-Legals
- Advocates
- Policy Researchers

A law degree from Birkbeck will provide students with not only a broad range of transferable skills, but knowledge and understanding of the English legal system that may be relevant within a diverse range of jobs and roles.

Birkbeck's Law graduates will complete with a set of valuable attributes, for example:

- The ability to work as part of a team
- High-level oral and written communication skills in English
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing types of information
- The ability to present yourself and an argument

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

In addition to the centralised support offered by the College, the School of Law also has bespoke careers support, including:

- Internship and clinical practice opportunities
- Scholarship schemes
- Birkbeck Mooting team (award winning)
- The Legal Practice Conversation Series
- Practitioner Engagement – 'Visiting Lawyers'
- Practitioner Engagement in Teaching.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal

tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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