

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1.	Awarding Institution:	The University of Law
2.	Final Award:	Master of Arts in Law
3.	Exit / Intermediate awards	Postgraduate Diploma in Law (120 credits) Postgraduate Certificate in Law (60 credits)
4.	Programme Title(s):	MA Law (Conversion)
5.	Accredited by:	N/A
6.	Total Credits:	180
7.	Level:	FHEQ Level 7
8.	Mode of Study:	Blended Attendance and Online Full time and part time
9.	Language of Study:	English
10.	Length of Programme:	49 weeks full time and 98 weeks part time (excluding summer break depending on start date), including induction.
11.	Criteria for admission:	Applicants must have achieved a first degree Class 2:2 (or equivalent) and above or its equivalent. International students whose first language is not English will be required to pass the IELTS test at 6.5 (6.0 in each of the four heads.)
12.	UCAS code (if relevant):	N/A
13.	HECOS codes (if relevant):	100485 - Law
14.	Date of Production/Revision:	May 2021
<p>15. Aims and Rationale of the Programme</p> <p>The MA Law (Conversion) is designed to provide a comprehensive law conversion course which covers the Academic Component of training for the Bar required by the Bar Standards Board (BSB), and core academic areas of Functioning Legal Knowledge (FLK) required for students aiming to sit the Solicitors Regulation Authority's (SRA) centralised Solicitor Qualification Exam 1 (SQE1) or SQE 2. SQE 1 focuses on the legal knowledge required and comprises 360 multiple choice questions some of which will be single best answer questions.</p> <p>The MA Law (Conversion) programme is relevant to students who have graduated in a discipline other than the law and have not undertaken any previous study of the law e.g. a law degree or conversion programme.</p> <p>In particular, the programme aims are as follows:</p>		

- To develop students' knowledge and understanding of the key principles of law underpinning the Functioning Legal Knowledge (FLK) for the SRA SQE1 & 2 Assessment and the Academic Component of Bar training.
- To provide students with the key intellectual skills (analysis, synthesis, problem-solving) and practical skills necessary for either practice as a lawyer or legally-related employment or further academic study of law.
- To develop systematic and in-depth understanding of key principles of law.
- To equip students with legal research techniques and the ability to analyse and effectively communicate legal research;
- To develop key skills and behaviours for future lawyers.
- To develop skills required for answering professional SBAQ-style questions.
- To provide flexibility in delivery modes to increase learner access to the profession.
- To cater for a range of learning preferences through a variety of learner-centred activities and using a range of learning opportunities.

16. Programme Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students should be able to:

A. Knowledge and Understanding

1. Demonstrate detailed, systematic and comprehensive knowledge, and an in-depth understanding of, principles in the foundational law of England & Wales as studied on the programme, and the context that shapes such principles;
2. Identify and apply legal principles within the foundational law of England & Wales as studied on the programme;
3. Develop an in-depth understanding of principles and values of law and justice, and of ethics;
4. Understand the core principles required within the modules studied on the programme by the current Solicitors Regulatory Authority Solicitors Qualifying Examination 1 Assessment Specification, and to satisfy the Academic Component of Bar training for the Bar Standards Board; and
5. Demonstrate detailed, systematic and comprehensive knowledge, and an in-depth understanding of:
 - (a) new areas of law including current issues or developments at the forefront of the areas studied; and
 - (b) current research and practical scholarship in relation to specific areas of law and practice both domestically and internationally, as appropriate.

B. Intellectual Skills

1. Critically analyse relevant sources of law and complex real or hypothetical problems, and evaluate a range of solutions in the light of the legal issues raised, making critical judgements on the merits of particular arguments, taking account of relevant legal, financial, commercial and practical considerations;

2. Critically evaluate legal concepts and the relationship between legal concepts, values, principles and the rule of law;
3. Demonstrate critical evaluation of current research and advanced scholarship in the areas studied on the programme including, where appropriate, evaluation of methodologies;
4. Devise and sustain a legal argument, recognising ambiguity and using synthesis, employing tailored evidence both orally and in writing;
5. Demonstrate appropriate research strategies across both primary and secondary sources, including Law Commission reports, legal opinions and academic opinions, and apply such strategies to present reasoned conclusions;
6. Critically evaluate current research and scholarship in selected areas of study, and provide personal and reasoned judgements on the selected areas of study based on that evaluation; and
7. Process a large quantity of complex data and apply that information to the resolution of individual problems.

C. General Transferable Skills

1. Use intellectual, practical and technological skills and techniques applicable to legal research, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in law, and apply these skills in order to retrieve and evaluate accurate, current and relevant information from a range of sources, making personal and reasoned judgments in the areas of law studied;
2. Communicate concepts and principles clearly, both orally and in writing, using a range of media, in a structured and professional manner;
3. Use language proficiently, presenting knowledge or opinions to others, succinctly, accurately, comprehensively and in a way that is grammatically correct;
4. Collaborate effectively within a group setting, demonstrating collaborative and mutually supportive teamwork, and the ability to achieve identified goals; and
5. Develop transferable skills for employment requiring the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, independent learning, and the exercise of initiative in complex and unpredictable situations.
6. Appraise relevant ethical and policy issues which underpin the areas of law and practice studied;
7. Develop techniques applicable to advanced legal scholarship and research, including those relating to engagement in high level synthesis and critical evaluation; and
8. Critically evaluate established methods and methodologies of legal research and enquiry, and use such methods to create, interpret and communicate advanced legal knowledge.

D. Professional Skills and Attributes

1. Apply legal principles to provide structured responses in the context of academic and problem-based learning, in line with the requirements of the SRA/BSB, including the ability to successfully attempt Single Best Answer Questions as used in centralised professional qualification assessments;
2. Develop the attributes of self-management and self-reflection, including the assumption of personal responsibility for academic, personal and professional development, and the ability to learn from experiences and environments, making effective use of feedback and a willingness to acknowledge and correct errors; and
3. Engage with their own personal and professional development, and take responsibility for their academic integrity.

Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other reference points to inform programme outcomes

- The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), and
- Solicitors Regulatory Authority Solicitors Qualifying Examination 1 Assessment Specification.

17. Programme Structure, Levels, Modules and Credits

The MA Law (Conversion) is offered for study by blended attendance at a University Campus either full-time over one year, or part-time over two years. It is offered for study online for the same periods.

Full Time:

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
ELS & Constitutional 15 credits	Admin Law & Human Rights 15 credits	Dissertation in Law 60 credits
Contract Law 15 credits	Land Law 15 credits	
Criminal Law 15 credits	Law of Organisations 15 credits	
Tort Law 15 credits	Equity & Trusts 15 credits	
Skills & Behaviours (non-credit-bearing)		

Part Time:

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5	Semester 6
ELS & Constitutional 15 credits	Criminal Law 15 credits	Admin Law & Human Rights 15 credits	Law of Organisations 15 credits	Dissertation in Law 60 credits	
Contract Law 15 credits	Tort Law 15 credits	Land Law 15 credits	Equity & Trusts 15 credits		
Skills & Behaviours (non-credit-bearing)					

The programme consists of a short pre-course study (as preparation for the ELS & Constitutional Law Module) and induction, eight substantive modules, an additional non-credit bearing module – Skills & Behaviours. Legal Method, Public and EU Law, have all been replaced by two modules: Constitution (English Legal System, Constitutional Law, and Retained EU Law), and Admin & Human Rights.

The Master's part of the programme consists of the study and completion of a Dissertation in Law module, with four workshops introducing students to the basics of planning and executing a Master's level research project. All substantive modules are at FHEQ level 7 and are core to the award.

For the conversion components of the programme, assessments are comprised of 40% Single Best Answer Questions. The other 60% varies between the modules. The modules, timing, respective credits and assessment modes are set out below.

Module	Semester FT	Semester PT	Credits	Assessment Mode
Conversion component				
Contract Law	S1	S1	15	SBAQs 20Q, 45m + Closed book exam* 1h45, 2 questions. One question (Critical Evaluation) with advance documentation
ELS & Constitutional Law	S1	S1	15	SBAQs 20Q, 45m + Coursework, 2000 words
Tort Law	S1	S2	15	SBAQs 20Q, 45m + Closed book exam* 1h45, 2 questions. One question (Critical Evaluation) with advance documentation
Criminal Law	S1	S2	15	SBAQs 20Q, 45m + Oral (10 minutes' presentation + 10 minutes' Q&A)
Land Law	S2	S3	15	SBAQs 20Q, 45m + Closed book exam* 1h45, 2 questions. One question (Critical Evaluation) with advance documentation
Admin Law & HR	S2	S3	15	SBAQs 20Q, 45m + Coursework, 2000 words
Equity & Trusts	S2	S4	15	SBAQs 20Q, 45m + Closed book exam* 1h45, 2 questions. One question (Critical Evaluation) with advance documentation
Law of Organisations	S2	S4	15	SBAQs 20Q, 45m + Oral (10 minutes' presentation + 10 minutes' Q&A)
Skills & Behaviours	1&2	1-4	0	None
Master's Component				
Dissertation in Law	S3	S5-6	60	Dissertation, 8000w plus Oral (15 minutes' presentation + 30 minutes' Q&A)
			180 total	

Formative assessments for the conversion component of the programme will comprise a mock of 1 hour exam, 10 minute uploaded presentation or 1000 word coursework as appropriate.

Materials will be delivered online via ELITE. Students will receive physical copies of manuals for the academic component, and online SQE manuals for the practical component of the programme.

The learning model will be ULaw's Prepare, Engage, Consolidate.

Study materials will include:

- soft-copy Law Manuals;
- soft-copy Business Law Manual;
- introductory videos for each unit;
- additional preparatory online tutorials covering particular areas of complexity as necessary;
- short-answer preparatory activities to test the student's knowledge and understanding of key legal principles to enable success in SBAQs;
- longer-form prepare and engage activities;
- consolidate media; and
- SBAQs delivered during the practical component of study via the Synap app.

Engage activities will be delivered in person for blended attendance mode, and via asynchronous activities for the online mode.

18. Programme Outcomes, Learning & Teaching and Assessment Strategies

A. Knowledge and Understanding

- Demonstrate detailed, systematic and comprehensive knowledge, and an in-depth understanding of, principles in the foundational law of England & Wales as studied on the programme, and the context that shapes such principles;
- Identify and apply legal principles within the foundational law of England & Wales as studied on the programme;
- Develop an in-depth understanding of principles and values of law and justice, and of ethics;
- Understand the core principles required within the modules studied on the programme by the current Solicitors Regulatory Authority Solicitors Qualifying Examination 1 Assessment Specification;
- Demonstrate a high level of knowledge and understanding at the forefront of the areas of law and practice studied; and
- Apply detailed and comprehensive knowledge of relevant law and legal practice to progress transactions or matters relevant to the area of professional practice studied in accordance with any rules of professional conduct or ethics.

Learning and Teaching Methods

For all modules, the learning model incorporates a blend of learner-centred activities. In addition to completing and receiving feedback on tasks, learners will be part of a community with many opportunities for peer learning including participation in discussion and provision of peer feedback as well as participation in teaching and, in the case of the online modules, real time tutor support sessions.

Assessment Methods

Students will be assessed by a combination of part-unseen examinations, orals and written coursework assignments.

In each module students will have the benefit of a formative assessment aligned to the methodology of the particular summative assessment.

Additional formative assessment of knowledge and understanding will take place through the Tests and feedback received on Tasks.

In the dissertation, the student will select a specialist research area and, under supervision, complete a 8,000 word research project, concluding with an oral presentation and questions.

B. Intellectual Skills

- Critically analyse relevant sources of law and complex real or hypothetical problems, and evaluate a range of solutions in the light of the legal issues raised, making critical judgements on the merits of particular arguments, taking

Learning and Teaching Methods

Within the learning model outlined above, the intellectual skills will be primarily developed both in preparation for, and executing the tasks, whether this is in workshops or online.

Many of the tasks will involve the performance of the intellectual skills of

<p>account of relevant legal, financial, commercial and practical considerations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse complex legal issues systematically, making sound judgements in the absence of complete data in complex situations; Critically evaluate legal concepts and the relationship between legal concepts, values, principles and the rule of law; Demonstrate critical evaluation of current research and advanced scholarship in the areas studied on the programme including, where appropriate, evaluation of methodologies; Demonstrate intellectual independence including the ability to ask and answer cogent questions about legal issues, identify gaps in and acquire knowledge, and engage in critical analysis and evaluation; and Devise and sustain a legal argument, recognising ambiguity and using synthesis, employing tailored evidence both orally and in writing. 	<p>analysis, synthesis and the exercise of critical judgment.</p> <p>Students will receive feedback on each task. Substantial preparation and research will be required from primary and other sources.</p> <p>Assessment Methods</p> <p>For the intellectual skills, these outcomes will be formatively assessed through the tasks and also via a formal formative assessment aligned to the methodology of the summative assessment.</p>
<p>C. General Transferable Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use intellectual, practical and technological skills and techniques applicable to legal research, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in law, and apply these skills in order to retrieve and evaluate accurate, current and relevant information from a range of sources, making personal and reasoned judgments in the areas of law studied; Communicate concepts and principles clearly, both orally and in writing, using a range of media, in a structured and professional manner; Use language proficiently, presenting knowledge or opinions to others, 	<p>Learning and Teaching Methods</p> <p>As for the intellectual skills above, within the established learning model the general transferable skills will be primarily developed both in preparation for, and through the tasks. In preparation for each task, students will be required to conduct comprehensive preparation often involving the undertaking of research accompanied by the evaluation of the data and its presentation as part of the task. The research will invariably involve the use of information technology and occasionally require the evaluation and presentation of numerical or statistical data.</p> <p>The practical ethos of the course means that students will be required to present accurate and precise conclusions.</p> <p>Students will complete both oral and written tasks and will receive specific feedback on</p>

<p>succinctly, accurately, comprehensively and in a way that is grammatically correct;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate effectively within a group setting, demonstrating collaborative and mutually supportive teamwork, and the ability to achieve identified goals; • Develop transferable skills for employment requiring the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, independent learning, and the exercise of initiative in complex and unpredictable situations; • Identify and address, where relevant, the ethical aspects of the areas of professional practice studied; • Where applicable demonstrate self-analysis and an ability to reflect on their learning; and • Assume responsibility for the continued development of their own learning. 	<p>their communication skills as well as the substantive content of the task.</p> <p>Assessment Methods</p> <p>The general transferable skills will generally be assessed within the formative and summative assessment methods outlined in paragraph A. above.</p> <p>The output of the skills (for example the product of the research, ability to formulate and communicate the results) will all feed through into the relevant assessment points, whether formative or summative.</p>
<p>D. Professional Skills and Attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply legal principles to provide structured responses in the context of academic and problem-based learning, in line with the requirements of the SRA/BSB, including the ability to successfully attempt Single Best Answer Questions as used in centralised professional qualification assessments; • Develop the attributes of self-management and self-reflection, including the assumption of personal responsibility for academic, personal and professional development, and the ability to learn from experiences and environments, making effective use of feedback and a willingness to acknowledge and correct errors; and • Engage with their own personal and professional development, and take responsibility for their academic integrity. 	<p>Learning and Teaching Methods</p> <p>The essence of the University's student-centred approach to learning is that from the outset students will be expected to assume responsibility for their learning and develop self-analysis. The hallmarks of this approach are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning arises from student activity rather than passivity • Students must assume increased responsibility and accountability for the learning, leading to an increased sense of autonomy • The development of a reflective approach to the learning process on the part of the student • The tutor acts as a facilitator not instructor. <p>Comprehensive guidance will be given to students during induction and in the Student Handbook on the student-centred learning model and what is expected of them.</p>

	<p>Students will be expected to complete all of the tasks and to act upon the comprehensive feedback received by identifying and working on areas of development.</p> <p>Particular emphasis is placed on students attempting Test Your Knowledge SBAQs and MCQs, and then on tutor feedback on such attempts.</p> <p>Assessment Methods</p> <p>The output of these skills will be assessed, both formatively and summatively, in the assessment methods outlined in A. above, particularly those requiring the production and submission of work through the self-management of the student.</p> <p>These skills will also be tracked through the contact with personal tutors.</p>
<p>19. Inclusive Considerations</p>	<p>Manuals designed with inclusivity in the brief. SBAQs by their nature are anonymised and neutral.</p> <p>Designers trained and briefed to follow Inclusivity guidelines.</p> <p>ULaw is committed to widening participation and diversity across all programmes and endorses the SRA's approach to accessibility and flexibility while maintaining academic standards.</p> <p>The exclusively online delivery model helps the University to meet the needs of students from the broadest possible range of backgrounds and enables students to engage in higher education who might not otherwise have that opportunity.</p>
<p>20. Prior Credits considered for RPL</p>	<p>Prior credit may be recognised up to 90 credits, and will be considered on a case by case basis, where syllabus and outcomes are substantially addressed at Level 7 or equivalent.</p>

Version history:

Version	Amended by	Revision summary	Date
V1.0	Head of Quality Assurance	First iteration, as per programme approval.	May 2021