

Quality Assurance

Masters, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate in International Law

Programme Specification: Postgraduate

Information for students: the programme specification is the definitive document summarising the structure and content of your degree programme. The document aims to clarify to potential and current students what you can expect from the study of the subject over the course of your programme.

Names of programme(s) and award title(s)	LLM in International Law PGDip in International Law PGCert in International Law <i>Named degrees:</i> LLM in International Law and the Environment LLM in International Law and Human Rights LLM in International Law and Politics LLM in International Commercial and Business Law LLM in International Law and Global Health
Mode of study	Full time / part time / modular
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Duration:	One-year full time / two years part time/two or more years (up to five years) modular basis

External Examiner(s) names: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

1. What is the philosophy of the Programme?

The aim of the LLM in International Law is to provide students from a diverse range of countries with the opportunity to study the fundamentals of International Law at an advanced level as well as to explore more specialised issues of contemporary significance in International Law fields such as human rights, environmental protection, global health or trade. The programme adopts the interdisciplinary focus of the Law School's other existing PGT programmes. Students will be given the chance to choose from a wide range of elective modules offered within the Law School as well as other Schools within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences such as the School of Social, Political and Global Studies (SPGS) and the Keele Business School (KBS).

Why study international law?

There has never been a more exciting time to study international law. International law finds itself at the forefront of public debates more than ever before. The prosecution of war criminals, the fight against climate change, the management of pandemics, or the regulation of global financial markets are all areas in which international law plays a major role. International law does not only affect the behaviour of states and intergovernmental institutions. Neither is it simply a discipline of diplomats, academics and philosophers. International law today dominates the activity of transnational corporations, NGOs and individuals, from footballers to victims of human rights violations. As a result, governments, international institutions, NGOs, businesses and law firms are increasingly looking for individuals capable of dealing with complex issues of transnational law.

Why study international law at Keele?

The Keele Law School has a long tradition of academic expertise in the field of international law. International law has been taught at Keele by world-renowned experts such as Michael Akehurst and Patrick Thornberry. Continuing this tradition, in recent years, the Keele Law School has invested heavily in the area of international law. Students will be taught by dynamic academic staff with a wide range of expertise and research interests.

Keele's LLM in International Law is distinctive. The LLM is built upon a 'pathway' structure, where students are given the chance to choose from a wide range of modules not only offered within the Law School, but also by SPGS and KBS - making this programme truly interdisciplinary. In addition to international law electives, these elective modules will be arranged in five pre-established pathways:

- Commerce and Business

- Global Health
- Environment
- Human Rights
- Politics
- + possibility of learning modern languages (see below).

Students taking at least 30 credits in one of these sub-disciplines (and completing the other programme requirements) will be awarded a 'pathway' LLM, i.e.:

- LLM International Law and the Environment
- LLM International Law and Human Rights
- LLM International Law and Politics
- LLM International Commercial and Business Law
- LLM International Law and Global Health

Students will also have the opportunity to deepen their understanding and knowledge of the pathway subjects in the context of the dissertation. Students may of course choose their elective modules across the various pathways; in which case they will be awarded a general LLM in International Law.

The pathway structure enables students to tailor their programme of study according to their professional needs and intellectual preferences, giving them full flexibility and control over their learning experience.

What are the aims of the programme?

The aims of the LLM in International Law are to:

- Provide students with a practical and theoretical understanding of the role, nature and functioning of international law
- Encourage students to develop a critical awareness of the social, historical and political contexts in which international law operates
- Provide a degree of specialisation in areas of international law of professional or intellectual interest to students
- Develop students' research skills in the context of supervised research on an agreed topic in public international law and encourage the production of original and creative scholarship
- Encourage students to develop critical, analytical and problem-solving skills which can be applied to a wide range of legal and non-legal contexts
- Provide a strong educational foundation that enhances a student's prospects of professional, commercial or academic employment.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the LLM in International Law will be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and close understanding of international law concepts, rules and institutions within a policy context
- Demonstrate critical awareness of current problems and new insights in the discipline of international law
- Demonstrate awareness of the relevance of international law to current international affairs
- Articulate a clear assessment of differing critical positions, demonstrating skills of judgment and reasoning
- Use the specific techniques and methodologies of international legal scholarship
- Identify and use primary and secondary materials in international law
- Analyse problems arising in international law and formulate reasoned and justified legal arguments
- Plan and successfully undertake a large piece of independent research
- Evaluate and respond to criticism and alternative arguments
- Think creatively and independently about international law issues.

Career opportunities

The LLM in International Law will enable entry into a range of occupations where specialist expertise knowledge is needed. It provides an ideal basis for those seeking employment as international law practitioners in relevant national and international organisations (government agencies, UN bodies, NGOs and so on), multinational corporations, or transnational law firms. Equally, the programme will equip students for further study in the form of a postgraduate research programme, such as a PhD, by providing appropriate research training and an introduction to key thinkers and scholarship.

Graduate attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to further develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing

information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Whilst you will undoubtedly have already developed these skills and abilities to varying degrees, such existing capabilities can always be deepened and enriched. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to develop further as a well-rounded postgraduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in during and after your studies at Keele. Please refer to the programme webpages for a statement of how you can achieve the Keele Graduate Attributes through full engagement in the programme and other educational opportunities at Keele. Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

2. How is the Programme taught?

The programme is taught principally through semester-long modules. During each taught module, students take part in lectures, tutor-led seminars and discussions, small group exercises, and case studies. Each module is accompanied by extensive independent study and throughout the course students are encouraged and required to undertake independent reading to both supplement and consolidate the classes and to broaden individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use materials available in libraries and elsewhere (including electronic resources). They are also provided with an introduction to studying Law at Keele via an online information pack and pre-course reading list. Detailed written and, if requested, oral feedback is provided on all course work. There is also time set aside during each module for students to consult individually with teaching staff and receive guidance and feedback on assessment and module performance. Lecturers will hold weekly office hours during which they are available for consultation with students.

The dissertation is principally an independent research project, but support is provided in preparing a dissertation proposal through dissertation workshops and through the mentoring of a supervisor or supervisors. A graduate research workshop may also be organised at the end of Semester 2 during which students are given an opportunity to present their work-in-progress and receive feedback from fellow students and teaching staff.

The programme is delivered on an inter-disciplinary basis by an international faculty, which has a diverse body of expertise and experience in a number of disciplinary areas of practice and research. The bulk of the teaching is provided by members of the Law School but, depending on the student's choice of options, teaching may also involve academic staff from other Schools, including the School of Social, Political and Global Studies (SPGS) and the Keele Business School (KBS). Individual staff biographies can be found at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/law/people/academicstaff/>

3. What is the Structure of the Programme?

1. Core Modules 60 credits	- Foundations of International Law (sem. 1) - International Law and Human Rights (sem. 1) - Introduction to International Economic Law (sem. 2) - Advanced International Law (sem. 2)
2. Elective Modules 60 credits	Electives from Law, SPGS, KBS, or the Language Centre (see list below)
3. Dissertation 60 credits	15,000 to 20,000 words dissertation on an international law topic

The programme is structured around four core 15-credit modules: Foundations of International Law (Sem. 1); International Law and Human Rights (Sem. 1); Introduction to International Economic Law (Sem. 2); and Advanced International Law (Sem. 2). These core modules set the scene for the programme by providing an in-depth introduction to the core principles, structures and categories of public international law, human rights law and international economic law. These modules also introduce students to the research skills and critical analysis necessary for the successful completion of a Master's programme.

In addition, students will take 60 credits from a suite of optional modules offered by the Law School, SPGS and KBS. Availability of these elective modules will depend on timetabling and other circumstances but may include:

International Law Electives:

- International Environmental Law (Law, 15 credits)
- International Humanitarian Law (Law, 15 credits)
- Transnational Crime (Law, 15 credits)*
- International Refugee Law (Law, 15 credits)

Human Rights Electives:

- Foundations of Human Rights (Law, 15 credits)

- Equality, Discrimination and Minorities (Law, 15 credits)
- Human Rights and Global Politics (Law, 15 credits)

Environmental Electives:

- International Environmental Law (Law, 15 credits) (must be taken for the award of the 'Environment' pathway)
- Dimensions of Environmental Politics (SPGS, 15 credits)
- Climate Change: Governance, Power and Society (SPGS, 15 credits)
- Economic Development and Environmental Transformation (GEG, 15 credits)

Global Health Electives:

- Global Health Law (Law, 15 credits)
- Covid-19 in Law, Policy and Practice (Law, 15 credits)
- Healthcare, Justice and Society (Law, 30 credits)

Politics Electives:

- The Changing International Agenda (SPGS, 15 credits)
- Comparative European Politics (SPGS, 15 credits)
- Civil Rights in the US (SPGS, 15 credits)

Commerce and Business Electives:

- Transnational Commercial Law (Law, 15 credits)
- International Arbitration (Law, 15 credits)
- International Business Context (KBS, 15 credits)
- Contemporary Challenges in Global Business (KBS, 15 credits)

Modern Languages:

As part of their degree, students will have the option of taking up to 30 credits in Language Studies. Language studies, particularly in the core UN languages, enable students to increase their range of transferable skills. Keele currently offers courses in:

- Mandarin Chinese*
- French*
- German*
- Japanese*
- Russian*
- Spanish*

* Modules marked with an asterisk are Level 6 modules. Students may only take 30 credits at Level 6 and may not take modules from Level 6 for which they were previously registered at Keele University.

NOTE: all modules are subject to availability and the decision as to whether elective modules run or not in any given year is taken at the beginning of the Autumn Semester.

Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered	Principal forms of assessment (of the Learning Outcome) used
Knowledge and close understanding of international law rules, doctrines and institutions within a policy context	Introduction to International Law; Advanced International Law	Examinations and essays
Awareness of current problems and new insights in the discipline of international law	Foundations of International Law; Advanced International Law; Introduction to International Economic Law; International Law electives	Essays and computer tasks
Awareness of the relevance of international law to current international affairs	Foundations of International Law; Advanced International Law; Introduction to International Economic Law; International Law and Human Rights; International Law electives	Reflective blogs, case studies, exams and essays

Assessment of differing critical positions, demonstrating skills of judgment and reasoning	Foundations of International Law; Advanced International Law; Introduction to International Economic Law; International Law and Human Rights; International Law Electives	Reflective blogs, case studies, exams and essays
Grasp of the specific techniques and methodologies of international legal scholarship	Introduction to International Law; Advanced International Law	Essays and examinations
Confidence in identifying and using primary and secondary materials in international law	All modules + Dissertation	Essays and dissertation
Ability to analyse problems arising in international law and to formulate reasoned and justified legal arguments	Core modules + international law electives	Case studies, presentations and examinations
Ability to plan and successfully undertake a large piece of independent research	Dissertation	Dissertation
Ability to evaluate and respond to criticism and alternative arguments	All modules + dissertation	Essays, dissertation and graduate workshop
Ability to think creatively and independently about international law issues	All modules + dissertation	Essays, reflective blogs and dissertation

In order to achieve the LLM qualification, students must successfully complete 120 credits of taught modules before producing a dissertation of between 15,000 – 20,000 words. The dissertation module, which includes research training, is worth 60 credits. To achieve an LLM, 180 credits are required. Students may begin preparatory work on the dissertation during the taught part of their programme but cannot be awarded credits for the dissertation until they have completed and passed all the taught modules.

If students do not wish to take the dissertation module, they may complete their studies after successfully completing 120 credits of taught modules [including the four core modules] with a Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip), or after completing 60 credits [including two core modules] with a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert). Students who wish to finish after completing only 30 credits may apply to have those credits applied to a different programme at a later date (depending on the programme).

4. How is the Programme assessed?

The programme is assessed principally, though not exclusively, through written work. Written work may be in the form of research essays (2,000 to 5,000 words), final examinations, blog discussions or reflective portfolios. Through the essays, students demonstrate their understanding of a particular area of international law (or one of the other taught subjects, i.e., human rights/environment/politics/commerce & business/global health) as well as their ability for original thinking and high-level written communication skills. Other written assignments such as blogs and reflective portfolios allow students to demonstrate their understanding of the relevance of international law to current international affairs and their ability to respond to alternative arguments or to reflect on their own learning. The final form of assessment is the dissertation, which is an extended (15,000 – 20,000 words) and in-depth piece of writing that brings together all of the skills that students have learned throughout the programme.

Students are supported through formative (non-mark-bearing) assessments throughout the programme. These may take the form of feedback on participation in group discussions, submission of essay plans to tutors for feedback, short reports, group presentations, short online exercises, or mock examinations.

5. What are the typical admission requirements for the programme?

The LLM in International Law is open to graduates with a first or second class honours degree (or foreign equivalent) in Law or a related discipline (such as Politics, Criminology, Sociology or History), or any other person with appropriate professional qualifications and/or experience. Applications are welcome from current legal practitioners.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the LLM is academic IELTS 6.5, TOEFL 91 or equivalent. Students who have taken one of the English language qualifications but did not achieve the required grade may be admitted to the programme provided that they study on a pre-sessional English Language course before they start their degree studies.

6. How are students supported on the programme?

Students are allocated a personal tutor, whose role is to assist students with personal or academic problems, to advise on pastoral issues, and to provide individual supervision and feedback on written assignments. Students will have personal

meetings with their tutor throughout the academic year. Contact is also maintained via telephone and email. The dissertation supervisor will offer direct advice and supervision in the production of the dissertation. The course director, the dissertation coordinator and the postgraduate director for the Law School are also available to assist students.

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use materials available in libraries and elsewhere (including electronic resources). Guidelines are provided for the production of coursework assignments and dissertations and these are reinforced by seminars and individual supervision, which focus specifically on essay planning and writing and research methodology. Detailed written and oral feedback is provided on all course work.

Each module is supported with a designated KLE page which includes materials for students, including handouts and copies of lecture presentations, links to external resources, such as relevant websites and journal articles. There will also be a monitored discussion forum.

Central university services available to all students include: the central library together with a dedicated law librarian; an international office; a student counselling service; and a disability office. More information about these services is available online at <https://www.keele.ac.uk/studentservices/> (Student Services). Students may also join the Keele Postgraduate Association (<http://kpa.org.uk/>).

The Law School also offers a small library and a postgraduate study room available to students on this programme. Students whose first language is not English are offered language classes, facilities and services by the University's Language Centre. Following diagnostic English language assessment, students may be required or recommended to take English language classes offered by the Language Centre. In addition to modules on English for academic study, students have access to one-to-one tutorials for individual help and advice, and to a wealth of resources for self-study and practice. Any student, international or otherwise, can request a 30 min 1-1 session if they need it. Students requiring English language support (on testing) will be allocated to one or two of the following modules:

- ENL-40001: Academic English for Postgraduate Students 1 - semester 1
- ENL-40004: Academic English for Postgraduate Students 1-B - semester 2
- ENL-40002: Academic English for Postgraduate Students 2 - semester 1 or 2

For students required to undertake these English Language modules, determination of progression to the dissertation module (as outlined above) will include an evaluation of the student's engagement and performance on the respective English Language modules.

7. Learning Resources

The main body of the course is delivered through self-study materials, which comprise both traditional text-based resources and a range of electronic multi-media resources that will be accessed through the KLE and MS Teams; this latter resource is also used to enhance student support during the period of the course and provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and discussion.

There are also regular research seminars presented by Keele or external staff that take place throughout the academic year and to which postgraduate students are invited. These provide a useful complement to the taught sessions and, for those students considering research degrees, provide an insight into academic research in practice.

Keele University Library

The library has many resources available, both on campus and online. Further information about the library can be found at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/library/>. Students can access the various materials available on-line using the recommended username and password. Details are available from the Library website: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/library/usingthelibrary/onlineresources/>.

Computer Facilities

For information about IT Services please consult the IT Services website: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/it/>. IT Services is located in the library building and is responsible for the computing infrastructure in the university and for the support of all staff and students undertaking academic computing tasks. There are a large number of 'open access' PCs available for students. All student PCs use a standard platform, which includes software such as Microsoft Office, web browsers, and other standard applications you may need. Printing facilities are available in the library building. You must ensure that you have read form CC.03, which is the Conditions of use of the Computer Facilities. Opening Hours: in order to check if the computer facilities and the Help Desk are open, you should telephone: 01782 733636 or 733838. Further information can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/it/>

The Keele Moot Court

Part of the teaching will take place in our brand-new Moot Court, a flexible high specification facility located at the heart of the Law School. The Moot Court is fully equipped with state-of-the art audio-visual equipment and will be used for a

variety of teaching and co-curricular activities such as mootings, client interviewing or the Faculty Model United Nations Project.

8. Other learning opportunities

Students on the LLM have the opportunity to apply for a work placement with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the UN Human Rights Committee. The work placement normally takes place during the Committee's summer session (August). Further information will be provided at the start of the academic year.

It is possible for students to register on a single module (modular programme of study) for Continuing Professional Development or other purposes. Students may choose to attend the module without completing the assessment, but no credits would be awarded for this. Students should contact the postgraduate administrator (law.postgrad@keele.ac.uk) for further information.

There is an active research community within the School of Law and postgraduate students are invited to participate in the wide range of seminars and other research activities, such as workshops and academic conferences held at Keele. A research seminar programme is organised each year, where members of staff present their latest work. There are also other lectures and research seminars organised in other Schools and Research Institutes within the University that may be of interest to students. Students will be informed of these via their Keele email address.

9. Quality management and enhancement

The programme is managed by the course review committee, chaired by the course director and consisting of module leaders and tutors. The committee meets annually to review feedback from students, assessment results and other relevant information to monitor the course. This committee reports to the Director of Postgraduate Studies and the Postgraduate Committee, which monitor all programmes to review any common issues arising across the programmes or other areas of note that have not been addressed elsewhere.

The programme is reviewed at regular intervals through a combination of module evaluation forms, which are completed by students to give feedback on each module; meetings of the Staff-Student Liaison Committee, a forum for students to raise any ongoing issues that need to be brought to the course directors attention; and informal feedback resulting from conversations between students and module leaders. Each of these forums feed into ongoing reviews of the programme by the teaching team. All tutors in the Law School also participate in regular peer observation of teaching, which is used to identify teaching strengths and areas of development. The programme will undergo an Annual Programme Review at the end of each academic year.

In addition to this, the quality and standards of learning are regularly discussed and monitored by the School Education Committee.

Senior members of academic staff from other universities are appointed by the University's Senate to act as external examiners on the Programme. They are responsible for:

- Approving all examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the Programme and assessment procedures.

10. The principles of programme design

This programme was designed to complement the University's Learning and Teaching and Assessment strategies. In particular, the University's focus on internationalisation and interdisciplinary study in the undergraduate programme is expanded, through this programme, to postgraduate study. It is in keeping with the University's commitment to a flexible postgraduate curriculum and to developing innovative taught postgraduate programmes that draw on internationally recognised research expertise. It was also designed in a way that meets and closely reflects the requirements of the Quality Assurance Agency's Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

11. Programme Version History

Version History	Date	CHANGES / NOTES
Date first created	30 January 2013	
Revision history	22 November 2016	For 17/18: Minor updates to staff, etc., inclusion of modular duration, inclusion of Language Centre provision, inclusion of UN work placement opportunity.
	06 February 2019	List of elective modules updated
	21 December 2020	List of elective modules updated + addition of new pathway

Date approved	FEC 26 th January 2021	
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