

Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For students starting in Academic Year 2023/24

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	LLM Criminal Law and Criminal Justice
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time Modular Part-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	One year full time/ two years part time/ up to five years modular
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	n/a
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2023/24 is £8,900</p> <p>Part-time fee for 2023/24 is £4,900*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2023/24 is £17,700</p>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. Overview of the Programme

The LLM in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice enables students to utilise knowledge of substantive aspects of criminal law and how the criminal justice system works in practice and procedure to interrogate notions of criminality, impact of crime on society and societal responses including the role of law in combatting crime. The programme utilises a variety of theoretical perspectives in order to interrogate case law, statute and law reform processes, policy documents, work practices, guidance and research. It adopts the interdisciplinary focus of the Law School's other existing Masters' programmes and provides a programme addressing the processes of criminalisation through a socio-legal perspective.

3. Aims of the programme

The aims of this programme are to introduce key principles of interdisciplinary, socio-legal and criminology

research methods and scholarship, facilitate the development of higher-level critical analysis, and develop the students' capacity for original thinking in relation to the complex issues arising in socio-legal scholarship. More specifically, the aims of the programme are to enable students to:

- develop a practical and theoretical understanding of the function of criminal law and of the processes of the criminal justice system
- develop a critical awareness of the social and political contexts which influence the development of law and practice
- adopt a critical perspective in the assessment and evaluation of research, law scholarship, policy and practice in respect of the criminalisation systems and processes
- acquire critical and analytical skills to interrogate practical contemporary criminal law issues and to justify decisions
- work independently in a coherent, focused and productive way
- embrace inter-disciplinarity via the student experience of learning and teaching provided by a range of academics, professionals and policy makers

The programme is structured in a way that allows students in full-time employment to maintain their employment while studying, with teaching for each module taking place over an intensive 3-day period. The programme, therefore, is designed to appeal to both the 'conventional' postgraduate student and those already engaged professionally in the criminal justice sector, such as Crown Prosecution Service, Probation, Home Office, Court Service and Police, Prison Service, criminal justice mental health services and the wider third sector engaged in the support of victims and offenders.

4. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to demonstrate:

- coherent and advanced comprehension of the modules studied;
- critical appraisal of a range of legal and criminological theories, principles, conceptual frameworks and methodologies;
- an ability to discriminate legal principles and institutions from perspectives that draw on alternative theoretical, doctrinal or historical analyses;
- advanced research skills, in particular those demanded by an extended self-directed study project;
- a critical interdisciplinary evaluation of the relationship between criminal law, criminal justice institutions and society in the context of one or more broad areas of socio-legal scholarship;
- analytical ability about the complex issues relating to research in criminal law and justice and an ability to communicate and explain those issues to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- an ability to assess and critique current research within the criminal law and criminal justice paradigm, including a critical appraisal of the range of methodological issues arising in socio-legal scholarship and, where appropriate, to formulate new hypotheses and critical arguments;
- an ability to engage with, evaluate and respond to criticism and alternative arguments;
- where relevant, an ability to generate critical perspectives on the relationship between theory and practice and integrate academic knowledge with professional practice.

The programme will equip students for further study in the form of a postgraduate research programme, such as a PhD, by providing comprehensive research training and an introduction to key criminal law and criminal justice thinkers and scholarship. It will also provide students who wish to practice in the area of criminal law and criminal justice with a higher-level qualification which it is anticipated will assist in gaining employment or furthering their career within those related occupations.

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- apply, with the use of independently gathered research, legal and non-legal knowledge to a range of complex problems relating to criminal law and criminal justice policy and practice;
- manipulate a range of sources, recognising their relative values;
- recognise, assess and rank particular arguments and, where appropriate, provide a reasoned choice between a number of possible solutions or arguments;

- work effectively in a group to solve problems or to advance a learning objective;
- negotiate a range of electronic information management tools;
- take responsibility for and manage general learning development.

Keele Graduate attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to 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. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/>

5. How is the programme taught?

The LLM in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice is a modular programme that is delivered through a combination of intensive 3-day blocks of teaching and directed independent study. The teaching sessions are scheduled in this way to minimise disruption to employment and other responsibilities, allowing students to combine this programme with employment. Each module consists of tutor-led group discussions, lectures, and self-directed research. In addition to the subject-specific content of each module, there is also guidance and advice on Masters-level study skills, such as advanced legal research and developing critical analysis and critical writing skills.

All modules (save for the dissertation) are taught through 20 hours of contact time, delivered as an intensive three-day 'block' of teaching. Before they begin the taught modules, students will receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use materials available in libraries and elsewhere (including electronic sources). They will also be provided with an introduction to studying Law at Keele University via an online information pack and pre-course reading list.

During each taught module, students will 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. Each module is assessed through written work.

Guidelines are provided for the production of coursework assignments and dissertation, and these are reinforced by seminars and individual supervision, which focus specifically on essay planning and writing, and research methodology. Detailed written and, if requested, oral feedback is provided on all course work. There is also time set aside during each module and outside of the modules, if preferred, for students to consult individually with teaching staff and receive guidance and feedback on assessment and module performance.

While away from Keele, between teaching blocks, students will benefit from directed reading, additional resources posted on Teams together with a Teams based discussion channel for 'virtual' interaction between students.

6. Teaching Staff

The programme is delivered on an inter-disciplinary basis by an international faculty, which has a diverse body of expertise and qualifications in a number of disciplinary areas of practice and research. The bulk of the teaching will be provided by members of Law and Criminology teams with contributions from expert academic staff in other disciplines, including Health. Individual staff biographies can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/law/staff/>. The course also includes a significant number of sessions delivered by external speakers who are expert in their field as a practitioner or researcher.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

7. What is the structure of the programme?

In order to achieve the LLM qualification, students must first successfully complete four taught modules, before

undertaking a course in research training and producing a dissertation. Each taught module is worth 30 credits, while the dissertation module, which includes research training, is worth 60 credits. To achieve an LLM, 180 credits are required. Credit cannot be given for the dissertation module unless all taught modules are completed and passed successfully.

Whilst it is likely that most students will study over two years, students have the flexibility to choose whether to complete the entire programme in one year as a full-time student or to take one of our flexible part time pathways. If part-time, students may choose any of the following options:

- Take all four taught modules in year one and the dissertation in year two
- Take two taught modules per year for two years and the dissertation in year three
- Take one taught module per year for four years and the dissertation in year five
- Take another combination of taught modules over any period of time up to four years, followed by the dissertation.

If students do not wish to take the dissertation module, they may complete their studies after satisfactory completion of the four taught modules (120 credits) with a Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip), or after satisfactory completion of any two of the taught modules (60 credits) with a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert). Students who wish to finish after only one taught module may apply to have those credits applied to a different programme at a later date.

The LLM in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice programme consists of 5 core modules, 4 developed specifically for this programme from Law and 1 from Criminology.

Law modules

LAW-40078 - Contemporary Issues in Criminal Law and Justice (taught module)

LAW-40080 - Mental Health: Criminal Law and Justice (taught module)

LAW-40084 - Sexual conduct: Criminal Law and Justice (taught module)

LAW-40082 - Dissertation (LLM Criminal Law and Criminal Justice)

Criminology module

CRI-40027 - Contemporary Criminology: Theory and Practice (taught module)

Dissertation module: the dissertation module runs through the whole of the year. It is mainly comprised of personal study and research under the guidance of an individual supervisor. At the start of the year students will attend one day intensive research training class which is designed to equip students with the necessary research skills to plan, research and write a dissertation. Students select their own topic, titles being approved by the course team. Students submit a dissertation proposal for feedback. Approximately halfway through the academic year students submit to supervisors for feedback a draft chapter and an annotated list of contents. At a recall day partway through the year students give an oral presentation to the group on their progress.

Summary schedule of modules

Semester 1			
Research training day	Research skills sessions and introductory sessions to Criminal Law Theory		
Block 1 - compulsory	CRI-40027 - Contemporary Criminology: Theory and Practice	Criminology	30 credits
Block 2 - compulsory	LAW-40078 - Contemporary Issues in Criminal Law and Justice	Law	30 credits
Semester 2			
Block 3 - compulsory	LAW-40080 - Mental Health: Criminal Law and Justice	Law	30 credits
Block 4 - compulsory	LAW-40084 - Sexual conduct: Criminal Law and Justice	Law	30 credits
Semesters 1 & 2	LAW-40082 - Dissertation (LLM Criminal Law and Criminal Justice)	Law	60 credits

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
Level 7	180	0	0	0	0

Module Lists

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Health and Embodiment	LAW-40027	30	Semester 1
Contemporary Issues in Criminal Law and Justice	LAW-40078	30	Semester 1
Dissertation (LLM Criminal Law & Criminal Justice)	LAW-40082	60	Semester 1-2
Mental Health: Criminal Law and Justice	LAW-40080	30	Semester 2
Sexual conduct: Criminal Law and Justice	LAW-40084	30	Semester 2

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 7

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate original critical thinking about the complex issues related to interdisciplinary scholarship and an ability to communicate and explain these ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences	All modules
Critically appraise and evaluate legal and criminological theories and concepts, the relationship between the functions of criminal law and criminal justice institutions within the social/public context, and ability to discriminate the legal/institutional principles from alternative, doctrinal or historical perspectives.	Contemporary Issues in Criminal Law and Justice - LAW-40078 Health and Embodiment - LAW-40027 Sexual conduct: Criminal Law and Justice - LAW-40084 Mental Health: Criminal Law and Justice - LAW-40080 Dissertation (LLM Criminal Law & Criminal Justice) - LAW-40082 LAW-40078 - Contemporary Issues in Criminal Law and Justice is assessed by assignment. LAW-40082 - Dissertation (LLM Criminal Law and Criminal Justice) is assessed by dissertation. All other modules: Principal form of assessment, essays.
Critically evaluate current research within the law and society paradigm; evaluate the origins of scholarship in law and society, evaluate the range of methodologies used in such scholarship, and where appropriate formulate new hypotheses	Contemporary Issues in Criminal Law and Justice - LAW-40078 Health and Embodiment - LAW-40027 Sexual conduct: Criminal Law and Justice - LAW-40084 Dissertation (LLM Criminal Law & Criminal Justice) - LAW-40082 Mental Health: Criminal Law and Justice - LAW-40080 LAW-40078 - Contemporary Issues in Criminal Law and Justice is assessed by assignment. LAW-40082 - Dissertation (LLM Criminal Law and Criminal Justice) is assessed by dissertation. All other modules: Principal form of assessment, essays.

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Synthesise and critique ideas and themes in criminal law, criminal justice and society research, evidence of developing research and analysis skills to a high level	Health and Embodiment - LAW-40027 Contemporary Issues in Criminal Law and Justice - LAW-40078 Sexual conduct: Criminal Law and Justice - LAW-40084 Dissertation (LLM Criminal Law & Criminal Justice) - LAW-40082 Mental Health: Criminal Law and Justice - LAW-40080 Assignment, Essays, Dissertation

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate self-direction in planning and carrying out research, tackling research problems and implementing research tasks	Dissertation (LLM Criminal Law & Criminal Justice) - LAW-40082

8. Final and intermediate awards

LLM	180 credits	You will require at least 150 credits at Level 7
Postgraduate Diploma	120 credits	You will require at least 90 credits at Level 7
Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits	You will require at least 40 credits at Level 7

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The programme is assessed through written work and oral presentations. These assessments test the students' ability to critically analyse current criminal law and criminal justice scholarship and to apply that knowledge to legal examples or proposed law reform. Through the essays, oral presentations and dissertation, students will also demonstrate their systemic theoretical understanding of the relationship between criminal law and criminal justice within the social context and apply interdisciplinary socio-legal and criminological theory to critique this. These assessments will also evaluate students' ability to demonstrate original thinking and high-level written communication skills. Additional formative assessment within the programme includes class participation.

The final form of assessment is the dissertation, which is an extended and in-depth piece of writing that brings together all of the skills that students have learned throughout the programme. As part of the dissertation year students are also required to prepare a dissertation proposal and give an oral presentation. Assessment of the proposal and presentation is as a competency assessment.

Assessment procedures:

All essay, assignments, oral presentations and dissertations will be marked by the relevant module leader and moderated in accordance with university guidelines. Senior members of academic staff from other universities are appointed to act as external examiners on the Programme, in compliance with the University's guidance and procedures.

Students are also supported through formative (non-mark-bearing) assessment throughout the programme. In addition to those noted above, this takes the form of feedback on participation in group discussions, submission of essay plans to tutors for feedback ahead of essay and assignment submission, and feedback from dissertation supervisors on the choice of title, dissertation proposal, annotated content plan, and one draft chapter.

10. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

11. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

The LLM in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice programme is open to graduates with a first or second class

honours degree in Law or in a related discipline (such as criminology, sociology, politics, history, or social work), or any other person (with or without a degree in another discipline) who can demonstrate appropriate professional qualifications and/or experience. Applications are encouraged from a broad range of interests, expertise and professional backgrounds. The programme provides the opportunity to extend knowledge in the field of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at Masters level thereby enhancing career prospects within the world of Criminal Justice and the University provides career advice through the Careers and Employability service (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/careers/>). Candidates who do not meet the usual criteria will be considered. It may be possible to recognise prior learning (RPL) up to a maximum equivalent of 60 credits.

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 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-session English Language course before they start their degree studies.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

13. How are students supported on the programme?

Students are allocated an Academic Mentor, whose role is to assist students with personal or academic problems, and to provide individual supervision and feedback on written assignments. Students will have personal meetings with their Academic Mentor during and if convenient to the student, between block attendance. Contact is also maintained via telephone, email and Teams. The dissertation supervisor will offer direct advice and supervision in the production of the dissertation. The course director 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 the internet). 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 if requested, oral feedback is provided on all course work. Furthermore, the School offers dedicated Learning Development sessions to students who inquire for further guidance and support in learning skills.

Each module is supported with a designated Keele Learning Environment (KLE) page and a designated Teams space which will include materials for students, such as 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 in the university prospectus and at <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/student-services/> (Student Support) and at <https://www.keele.ac.uk/library/> (Library). Students may also join the Keele Postgraduate Association, www.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

14. Learning Resources

The programme is taught through a combination of contact time, independent study and web-based learning resources.

The Library has many resources for your subject, both on campus and online. You can access the various materials available on-line using the recommended username and password. Details on these are available from the Library website at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/library/>.

The Law School also offers a small library.

Computer facilities

For information about IT Services please consult the IT Services website: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/it/>. IT Services 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 students may need. Printing facilities are available in the library building.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

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 are advised to contact the Law Office (law.office@keele.ac.uk) for further information.

There is an active research community within the School of Law and the wider Faculty 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 you. You will be informed of these via your Keele email address.

16. Additional Costs

Activity	Estimated Cost
Total estimated additional costs	£XXX

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

17. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners

on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving 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

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

18. The principles of programme design

This programme was designed to complement the University's framework the 'Keele Learning Principles'. The programme is expanding the focus on interdisciplinary engagement in the 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.

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

b. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

c. Keele Learning Principles; Keele Curriculum Design Framework

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 22 June 2023

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
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