

Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For students starting in Academic Year 2023/24

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MA in Safeguarding Adults: Law, Policy and Practice
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 £8,000</p> <p>Part-time fee for 2023/24 is £5,800 for year 1 and £3,000 for year 2*</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 MA in Safeguarding Adults programme enables students to examine the law, policy and practice relating to adult safeguarding. It will utilise 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.

3. Aims of the programme

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

- Develop a practical and theoretical understanding of safeguarding adults
- Develop a critical awareness of the social and political contexts in which law and practice is located.
- Develop a critical perspective in the assessment and evaluation of research, law scholarship, policy and practice in adult safeguarding.
- Develop critical and analytical skills in order to interrogate practical legal problems and to justify decisions.
- Develop the ability to work independently in a coherent, focused and productive way.
- Encourage inter-disciplinarity via the student experience (that is, inter professional student groups, learning and teaching provided by a range of academics, professionals and policy makers.)

The programme is structured in a way that allows students to maintain full-time 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 this area of activity, in social work, health, the legal profession or otherwise.

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
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to demonstrate:

- Coherent and extended comprehension of the modules studied;
- Critically reflective knowledge of a range of legal and non-legal theories, principles, conceptual frameworks and methodologies;
- An ability to analyse legal principles and institutions from perspectives that draw on alternative theoretical, doctrinal or historical analyses;
- Subject specific and non-subject specific research skills, in particular those demanded by an extended self-directed study project;
- A systemic and interdisciplinary analysis of the relationship between legal institutions and society in the context of one or more broad areas of socio-legal scholarship;
- Creative thinking about the complex issues relating to research in law and society and an ability to communicate those issues to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- An ability to evaluate current research within the law and society paradigm, including an evaluation of the range of methodological issues used in socio-legal scholarship and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses, syntheses and arguments;
- An ability to evaluate and respond to criticism and alternative arguments;
- Where relevant, an ability to critically reflect on the relationship between theory and practice and integrate academic knowledge with professional practice.

This 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 socio-legal thinkers and scholarship. It will also provide students who wish to practice in the area of adult safeguarding (whether as lawyers, social workers, health professionals or administrators) 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 law and practice in adult safeguarding;
- 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.

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate original thinking about the complex issues related to interdisciplinary scholarship and an ability to communicate these ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Demonstrate self-direction in planning and carrying out research, tackling research problems and implementing research tasks;

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 MA in Safeguarding Adults is a modular programme that is delivered through a combination of intensive 3 or 4-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 elective module is assessed through written work.

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. 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 the KLE together with a KLE based discussion page 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 the Law and Social Work Schools with contributions from expert academic staff in other disciplines, including Health, Gerontology and Sociology. 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 programme leader is Dr Laura Pritchard-Jones, who has extensive experience of both legal practice and academic research in relation to social work generally and adult safeguarding in particular.

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 MA qualification, students must first successfully complete four taught modules, each assessed by a 5,000 word essay, before undertaking a course in research training and producing a dissertation of between 15,000 -20,000 words. Each taught module is worth 30 credits, while the dissertation module, which includes research training, is worth 60 credits. To achieve an MA, 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 modules per year for two years and the dissertation in year three
- Take one module per year for four years and the dissertation in year five
- Take another combination of 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 four taught modules (120 credits) with a Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip), or after satisfactory completion of any two modules (60 credits) with a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert). Students who wish to finish after only one module may apply to have those credits applied to a different programme at a later date.

The compulsory modules, 'The Emergence of Safeguarding Adults' and 'Safeguarding Adults: Interventions', set the scene for the programme by introducing students to the principles of law and practice surrounding vulnerable adults and inviting an examination of the theoretical basis for state intervention. These modules also introduce students to the research skills and critical analysis necessary for the successful completion of a Master's programme, with a particular focus on interdisciplinary socio-legal research methods.

Thereafter, students will take two further optional modules, usually 'Mental Capacity' and 'Safeguarding and Carers', though students may substitute for either of these a module from another Master's programme offered by the Law School. Availability of these optional modules will depend on timetabling but may include:

- Foundations and Principles of Child Care Law and Practice
- Contemporary Issues in Child Care Law and Practice
- Children and Medicine
- Looked After Children
- Principles of Mental Health Law
- Best Interests Assessor

Dissertation module: the dissertation module runs through the whole of the final 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 a two day research training block 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 and external examiner. Students submit a dissertation proposal for feedback and at a recall day partway through the year students give an oral presentation to the group on their progress.

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
Level 7	120	60	60	0	0

Module Lists

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Safeguarding Adults: Interventions	LAW-40032	30	Semester 1
The emergence of adult safeguarding	LAW-40033	30	Semester 1
Dissertation - Law (60 credits)	LAW-40015	60	Semester 1-3

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Mental capacity	LAW-40029	30	Semester 2
Safeguarding and carers	LAW-40031	30	Semester 2
Principles of Mental Health Law	LAW-40072	30	Semester 2
International Refugee Protection	LAW-40074	30	Semester 2

Level 7 Module Rules

LAW-40072 can only be taken in place of LAW-40031.

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
Appraise and evaluate the relationship between legal institutions and society	The Emergence of Safeguarding Adults Safeguarding Adults: Interventions
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 propose new hypotheses	All modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Synthesise ideas and themes in law and society research, evidence of developing research and analysis skills to a high level	All modules but particularly the dissertation

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate original thinking about the complex issues related to interdisciplinary scholarship and an ability to communicate these ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences	Safeguarding Adults: Interventions - LAW-40032 The emergence of adult safeguarding - LAW-40033 All modules
Demonstrate self-direction in planning and carrying out research, tackling research problems and implementing research tasks	Dissertation

8. Final and intermediate awards

Master's Degree	180 credits
Postgraduate Diploma	120 credits
Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance.

The programme is assessed through written work. These assessments test the students' ability to critically analyse current socio-legal scholarship and to apply that knowledge to legal examples or proposed law reform. Through the essays, students will also demonstrate their systemic understanding of the relationship between law and society and apply interdisciplinary socio-legal 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 and the maintenance of a reflective diary.

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. 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.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

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?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:
<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

The MA Safeguarding Adults programme is open to graduates with a first or second class honours degree in Law, Health Practice or Social Work or in a related discipline (such as sociology, criminology or politics), 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.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. It may be possible to recognise prior learning (RPEL) up to a maximum equivalent of 60 credits, however no RPEL will be allowed for a prior Best Interests Assessor module taken at another institution. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:

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

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 MA 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-sessional English Language course before they start their degree studies.

13. How are students supported on the programme?

Students are allocated an academic mentor, whose role is to assist students with 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 during and if convenient to the student, between block attendance. Contact is also maintained via telephone and email. The students' reflective diary provides a basis for discussion of learning aims. 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.

Each module is supported with a designated KLE and Teams page 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.

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 Services). Students may also join the Keele Postgraduate Association <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/lifeoutsideofstudy/sukpa/>.

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.

Keele University Library

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

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 students may need. Printing facilities are available in the library building. Students must ensure that they 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, students should telephone: 01782 733636 or 733838. Further information can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/it/>

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 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 you. You will be informed of these via your Keele email address.

16. Additional Costs

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/ga/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

18. The principles of programme design

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>

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 18 April 2023

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2022/23	LAURA PRITCHARD-JONES	09 August 2022	