

Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught For Academic Year 2026/27

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MA Law and Society MA Law and Society with Placement (see Annex)
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	Part time: commonly 2 years but by agreement up to 5 years on a modular basis Full time: one year 18-24 months for the placement option
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 2026/27 is £10,400</p> <p>Part-time fee for 2026/27 is £5,700*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2026/27 is £18,200</p> <p>The fee for the placement is calculated at 20% of the regulated Home undergraduate tuition fee for that year of study.</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.

* These fees are for new students. 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

Law is a fascinating, complex and practically significant social phenomenon. From the regulation of private conflicts to the structure of government, virtually no aspect of our social lives is outside its grasp. The MA in Law and Society at Keele allows you to gain a rigorous understanding of law and legal institutions from an interdisciplinary perspective rooted in the Sociology of Law. The programme should be particularly attractive to

emergent researchers who desire to pursue an intensive programme of study in law and society.

It is a selective programme that delivers high quality postgraduate training to students wishing to pursue a PhD in law and socio-legal studies or a career in the public and Non-Governmental Organisation sectors. The MA leads to an understanding of research methods, provides training in innovative methods, enables the acquisition of transferable skills and promotes genuine interdisciplinarity. It provides an ideal space for you to develop key employability skills (academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness and social and ethical responsibility) through a suite of foundational core modules in law and society with a flexible choice of optional modules. These provide opportunities for external engagement and varied range of assessment modes attuned to a career in legal and policy work and research.

The MA in Law and Society is designed to accommodate both students who intend to pursue doctoral studies including funded studentships, as well as students who are seeking a career in the public sector, third sector and think tanks. We offer two pathways for the MA that cater for different career paths: Pathway One offers a balance between core foundational modules and wide selection of optional modules. Pathway Two is a research methods intense pathway for students who intend to pursue a PhD and intend to apply for PhD funding.

This course may be studied full-time (1 year) or part-time (commonly 2 years but by agreement up to 5 years). The MA consists of 180 Level 7 credits, made up of 120-credit taught modules and a 60-credit dissertation. If you do not wish to complete the full 180 credits, you may choose to achieve a Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits) or a Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits).

3. Aims of the programme

This programme will provide you with comprehensive research training both from a practical and theoretical perspective, and an introduction to key socio-legal scholarship. In doing so, it will equip you for further postgraduate research (e.g. a PhD). It will also provide those of you who wish to pursue a career in the public and Non-Governmental Organisation sectors with foundational socio-legal research skills combined with a good selection of optional modules so that you will develop a sound footing for policy work and research.

The employability skills developed include the ability to:

- Apply, with the use of independently gathered research, legal and non-legal knowledge to a range of complex problems relating to law and society
- Analyse 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
- Develop and defend arguments, demonstrating an ability to evaluate and respond to criticism and alternative arguments
- Define and pursue in-depth and independent research on a particular subject
- Synthesise a variety of empirical and theoretical perspectives
- Where relevant, integrate academic knowledge with professional practice
- Assess and prioritise the information, research, technology and preparations needed to complete tasks and assignments
- 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
- Develop competence in research methods and a good grounding in the preparation for research, including framing research questions, research design, data collection and analysis, dissemination and research ethics.

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:

- Appraise the relationship between legal institutions and society in the context of one or more broad areas of socio-legal scholarship
- Demonstrate the ability to manage research and to conduct and disseminate research taking into consideration appropriate standards and ethical principles

- Demonstrate original thinking about the complex issues related to interdisciplinary scholarship and an ability to analyse and communicate these ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Critically evaluate current research within the law and society paradigm, identify the origins of scholarship in law and society, evaluate the range of methodologies used in such scholarship, and where appropriate propose new hypotheses
- Synthesise ideas and themes in law and society research, evidence of developing research and analysis skills to a high level
- Critically engage with and demonstrate an understanding of the breadth of epistemological positions that provide a basis and context for theory construction, research design, and the selection of appropriate analytical techniques
- Demonstrate an understanding of the basis of probability, sampling and techniques of statistical analysis
- Develop advanced research skills and techniques relevant to their choice of proposed research

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate sound understanding of principles of research design and application of a broad range of research methods
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the scientific method and of the nature of reflexivity
- Evaluate how law and society research differs from and draws on other established techniques of research
- Demonstrate self-direction in planning and carrying out research, tackling research problems and implementing research tasks

Keele Graduate attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social, environmental and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

5. How is the programme taught?

Learning and Teaching Methods:

Modules are delivered either semester long or as an intensive two to five day 'block' of teaching. Before they begin the taught modules, you will be provided with an introduction to studying Law at Keele University via an information pack, pre-course reading list and induction sessions. During each taught module, you 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 comprehension of the subject. Modules are assessed, principally, though not exclusively, through written work in the form of an essay. Other assessments will include a critical commentary, a research proposal, a book review, a legal brief, a reflective diary and an education poster for a lay audience.

Enabling Learners to Achieve the Stated Learning Outcomes:

You will receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use materials available in libraries and elsewhere (including electronic sources). 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.

6. Teaching Staff

The programme is delivered by an international faculty, which has a diverse body of expertise and qualifications in both legal practice and research. Most members of the Law School teach on our postgraduate programmes, including the core and elective modules for the programme. Individual staff biographies can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/law/people/>

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?

To achieve the MA qualification, you must successfully complete taught modules to the value of 120 credits and a dissertation worth 60 credits (180 credits are required in total). When choosing your taught modules, if you are on pathway one, you may select no more than 60 credits from any of the optional modules listed below. If you are on pathway two, you may choose no more than 30 credits of optional modules from the list below. You 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. Through the flexible part time pathways, you may choose from the following options:

- Take all 120 credits from taught modules in year one and the dissertation in year two;
- Take 30 credits from taught modules per year for four years and the dissertation in year five;
- Take 60 credits from taught modules per year for two years and the dissertation in year three;
- Take another combination of modules over any period of time up to four years, followed by the dissertation.

Please note that international students who require a Tier 4 visa are not eligible to study part-time.

If you do not wish to take the dissertation module, you may complete your studies after achieving 120 credits from taught modules with a Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip), or after 60 credits with a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert). If you wish to finish after gaining less than 60 credits from taught courses, you may apply to have those credits applied to a different programme at a later date.

If you are a legal practitioner who wishes to complete a module for Continuing Professional Development purposes only and without completing the assessment, you are not required to complete the compulsory modules and may exit with zero credits and a certificate of attendance after the module's teaching has been completed. *The Continuing Professional Development Certificate of Attendance* is recognised by the Law Society of England and Wales (for Continuing Professional Development purposes).

We offer two pathways on the MA that cater to different career paths:

- **Pathway One** offers a balance between core foundational modules and a selection of optional modules.
- **Pathway Two** is a research methods intense pathway for students who intend to pursue a PhD and intend to apply for funded studentships or who have successfully been awarded funding from the ESRC (or another body).

You choose your pathway after enrolment during the first two weeks of study. You will receive the same award title for both pathways.

Each pathway consists of several compulsory modules and a choice of options. The compulsory modules are foundational modules both theoretically and methodologically. They introduce you to the principles and practice of socio-legal scholarship through a range of teaching and learning techniques, which draw on the internationally recognised research expertise of staff within the School. The compulsory modules also introduce you 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.

Pathway One:

Compulsory Modules:

- LAW-40126 Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches (new module) (30 credits) (yearlong)
- LAW-40044 Dissertation (60 credits) (SEM1-3)

Optional Modules:

You must choose **one** of the following modules:

- SOC-40018 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy (30 credits) (Sem 1) **OR**
- SOC-40020 Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science (30 credits) (Sem 2)

You then choose your additional 60 credits from the modules offered here or by the Law School below.

Proposed Pathway 1 optional modules:

- LAW-40128 Equality, Human Rights and Social Justice (30 credits)
- LAW-40130 Community Outreach and Socio-legal Advocacy (30 credits)

Proposed Options from other PGT programmes:

MA in International Law and relevant pathways

MA in Medical Ethics and Law

Pathway Two:

Compulsory Modules:

- LAW-40126 Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches (new module) (30 credits) (yearlong)
- SOC-40018 Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy (30 credits) (Sem 1)
- SOC-40020 Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science (30 credits) (Sem 2)
- LAW-40044 Dissertation (60 credits)

You can choose an additional 30 credits from the optional modules offered by the Law School

Proposed Pathway 2 optional modules:

- LAW-40128 Equality, Human Rights and Social Justice (30 credits) (Sem 1)
- LAW-40130 Community Outreach and Socio-legal Advocacy (30 credits) (Sem 2)

Proposed Options from other PGT programmes:

MA in International Law and relevant pathways

MA in Medical Ethics and Law

Module Lists

Level 7

Pathway 1

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches	LAW-40126	30	Semester 1-2
Dissertation	LAW-40044	60	Semester 1-3

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Principles of International Law	LAW-40106	30	Semester 1
Equality, Human Rights and Social Justice	LAW-40128	30	Semester 1
Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy	SOC-40018	30	Semester 1
International Environmental and Climate Law	LAW-40110	30	Semester 2
International Law, Security and Warfare	LAW-40112	30	Semester 2
International Human Rights Law	LAW-40124	30	Semester 2
Community Outreach and Social Legal Advocacy	LAW-40130	30	Semester 2
Law of the EU Internal Market	LAW-40132	30	Semester 2
Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science	SOC-40020	30	Semester 2

Level 7 Module Rules

Students must choose either Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy (SOC-40018) or Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science (SOC-40020)

Pathway 2

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches	LAW-40126	30	Semester 1-2
Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy	SOC-40018	30	Semester 1
Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science	SOC-40020	30	Semester 2
Dissertation	LAW-40044	60	Semester 1-3
Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Equality, Human Rights and Social Justice	LAW-40128	30	Semester 1
Community Outreach and Socio-legal Advocacy	LAW-40130	30	Semester 2
International Law, Security and Warfare	LAW-40112	30	Semester 2
International Human Rights Law	LAW-40124	30	Semester 2
International Environmental and Climate Law	LAW-40110	30	Semester 2
Principles of International Law	LAW-40106	30	Semester 1

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 the relationship between legal institutions and society in the context of one or more broad areas of socio-legal scholarship	Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches plus all optional modules
Demonstrate the ability to manage research and to conduct and disseminate research taking into consideration appropriate standards and ethical principles	Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches, Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy, Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science
Demonstrate original thinking about the complex issues related to interdisciplinary scholarship and an ability to analyse and communicate these ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences	All modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Critically evaluate current research within the law and society paradigm, identify the origins of scholarship in law and society, evaluate the range of methodologies used in such scholarship, and where appropriate propose new hypotheses	Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches, Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy, Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science
Synthesise ideas and themes in law and society research, evidence of developing research and analysis skills to a high level	All modules and dissertation
Critically engage with and demonstrate an understanding of the breadth of epistemological positions that provide a basis and context for theory construction, research design, and the selection of appropriate analytical techniques	Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches, Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy
Demonstrate an understanding of the basis of probability, sampling and techniques of statistical analysis	Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate sound understanding of principles of research design and application of a broad range of research methods	Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches, Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy, Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science
Demonstrate a critical understanding of the scientific method and of the nature of reflexivity	Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy, Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science
Evaluate how law and society research differs from and draws on other established techniques of research	Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches, Foundations of Social Research: Design and Philosophy, Qualitative and Quantitative Methodologies in Social Science
Demonstrate self-direction in planning and carrying out research, tackling research problems and implementing research tasks	Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches and Dissertation

8. Final and intermediate awards

Master's Degree MA Law and Society	180 credits	Students wishing to gain the MA in Law and Society must successfully complete modules for a total of 180 credits.
Postgraduate Diploma	120 credits	Students who wish to gain the Postgraduate Diploma qualification must successfully complete modules for a total of 120 credits in the following configuration: Compulsory Module: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches (30 credits) and an additional 90 credits from taught compulsory and optional modules
Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits	Students who wish to gain the Postgraduate Certificate qualification must successfully complete modules for a total of 60 credits in the following configuration: Compulsory Module: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations in Law and Society: Theories and Methodological Approaches (30 credits) and an additional 30 credits from taught compulsory or optional modules

Placement option: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the placement in order to graduate with a named award including the 'with Placement' wording.

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 Function of the Methods of Assessment

The programme is assessed principally, though not exclusively, through written work. Written work may be in the form of research essays, critical commentaries, research proposals, critical book reviews. They test the students' ability to identify and critique socio-legal theoretical approaches and to critically engage with key concepts in socio-legal research. They also test students' understanding and grounding in social science research methods and preparation for practice. The research proposal tests the students' understanding and application of socio-legal theory as well as providing students with a working draft of their dissertation proposal (if applicable). It also tests the students' ability to plan a programme of work, a skill that will be necessary not only for the dissertation but also for the remaining elective modules. For the essay, students are expected to critically analyse current socio-legal scholarship and to apply that knowledge to legal examples or proposed law reform (4-5,000 words). For the critical book review, students are required to review one of a selected list of monographs. The task will be to critically analyse the particular socio-legal approach taken by the author. Students will also be engaged in other forms of assessment centred on empirical inquiry, such as data collection, analysis and other issues relating to research conduct, such as the consideration and management of access and ethical issues. Other forms of assessment may include weekly online assignments, examinations, online case commentaries, group presentations, assignments and annotated bibliography, case analysis, reflective diary and reflective portfolio. Prior to choosing their electives, students are provided with details of the forms of assessments for each elective module. 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 learn throughout the programme (15-20,000 words).

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. This takes the form of feedback on participation in group discussions, submission of essay plans to tutors for feedback ahead of essay submission, and feedback from dissertation supervisors on one substantial chapter prior to final submission. 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 Law and Society programme (MA, PGDip, PGCert and individual modules) is open to graduates with a first or second class honours degree (or overseas equivalent) in Law or a related discipline (such as sociology, criminology or politics), 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, unless they hold a previous degree that was taught and examined in English. The minimum score for entry to the MA is academic IELTS 6.5 (with no subtest below 5.5) or equivalent.

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?

Within the School, students are allocated an Academic Mentor, whose role is to assist students with personal or academic problems, advise on pastoral issues, and to provide individual supervision and feedback on written assignments. Once a dissertation supervisor has been allocated, this person will also become the Academic Mentor. Should any issues arise that the Academic Mentor cannot assist with, students will be referred to the relevant university service or the course director. The course director is also available to assist students should any issues arise with the Academic Mentor/dissertation supervisor. The postgraduate director for the Law School is also available should the course director be unable to assist. The course director will advise students in relation

to choice of elective modules, if requested.

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.

University services available to all students including the counselling services, disability and dyslexia support, international student support and careers and employability can be contacted via the Student Services Centre at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentservices/>. More information about these services is available in the university prospectus and on the website.

14. Learning Resources

The programme is taught through a combination of contact time, independent study, and web-based learning resources. Self-study materials comprise both traditional text based resources and a range of electronic multi-media resources that will be accessed through the Keele Learning Environment (KLE). 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: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/li>. Students can access the various materials available on-line using the recommended username and password. Details on these are available from the Library website: <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/>

The Keele Moot Court:

The Moot Court is 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 is used for a variety of teaching and co-curricular activities.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

Continuing Professional Development

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.office@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.

Legal practitioners who wish to complete a module for Continuing Professional Development purposes only and without completing the assessment are not required to complete the core modules and may exit with zero credits and a certificate of attendance after the module's teaching has been completed. *The Continuing Professional Development Certificate of Attendance* is recognised by the Law Society of England and Wales (for Continuing Professional Development purposes).

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/qa/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>

19. Annex - Placement

MA Law and Society with Placement

PGT Placement Summary

Students can apply directly for the 'with Placement' degree programme, or transfer onto the 'with Placement' degree programme by the end of May or the end of October each academic year for students starting their studies in September or January, respectively.

International students can apply directly for the 'with Placement' degree programme. However, if they wish to transfer onto this programme while studying, they should discuss this with Immigration Compliance and Advice (ICA) and their Programme Director. If the transfer request can be approved in line with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) rules, students should be aware that a visa extension would be required.

Students accepted onto the 'with Placement' programme will complete an extra 6 - 12 months of study (the placement), depending on the duration of their placement, with a relevant placement provider after they have completed the taught component of their programme.

Admission to the Postgraduate Placement module is dependent on students i) achieving minimum academic standards and, ii) securing a placement via a competitive, employer-led selection process. The University does not guarantee placements for students who have registered for the 'with Placement' programme or for those who transfer on to the programme. All students will be provided with a detailed timeline, including deadlines, of the date by which their placement would need to be secured.

Students who successfully pass 180 credits plus the non-credit bearing Postgraduate Placement module will be awarded the degree title of 'XXXX with Placement'. Students who are unable to secure a placement, fail to satisfactorily complete their placement, or who fail the non-credit bearing Postgraduate Placement module will revert to the standard degree title of the one-year master's programme. Failure of the placement will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 7 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the 'with Placement' option.

Placement Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the with Placement programme aims to provide students with:

1. In-depth experience of a relevant workplace and the variety of ways in which their skills can be used in the world outside the university.
2. The opportunity to further develop their employability through skills development and reflection, enhanced organisational and sector knowledge, and networking and interpersonal communication.

Entry Requirements for the Postgraduate Placement Module

Admission to the Postgraduate Placement module is dependent on students i) achieving minimum academic standards and, ii) securing a placement via a competitive, employer-led selection process including successful application and interview. Therefore, the University cannot guarantee placements for students who have registered for the 'with placement' programme.

To be eligible to progress onto placement, students will need to have:

- Passed all of their first Semester modules (i.e., obtained an average mark of at least 50%). Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded, performance on individual assessments in these modules will be considered.
- Completed an online Health and Safety training session prior to commencing their placement and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- Secured a relevant placement via a competitive, employer-led selection process including successful application and interview.

Progression onto the Postgraduate Placement module is then conditional on passing all taught modules from the Spring and Autumn semesters, excluding the research project/dissertation.

Students with up to 30-credits of re-assessment awarded as first attempts owing to approved exceptional circumstances, and who otherwise meet the progression requirements, may progress onto the Postgraduate Placement module and retrieve their outstanding credits during their placement. All other students who have failed one or more modules will not be eligible to progress onto the Postgraduate Placement module. This applies even if they have assessment attempts remaining. These students will revert to the standard degree title of the one-year master's programme.

International students only:

- Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with Immigration Compliance and Advice (ICA) and their Programme Director. If the transfer request can be approved in line with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) rules, students should be aware that a visa extension would be required (this can be applied for within the UK) once the placement opportunity is confirmed. The cost of this would be the student's own responsibility, but ICA will be able to provide advice and guidance on the process.
- International students who do not complete their placement or cannot secure a placement opportunity, but who do pass 180 credits of the taught element of the course, will be transferred to the non-placement version. This will be reported to UKVI as "early completion" and their Student Visa would be cancelled. UKVI would not issue any refund for overpaid Immigration Health surcharge in this instance.
- Provided students have passed 180 credits of the course and met all other eligibility criteria, they will still be eligible to apply for the Graduate Route.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on their placement via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff from the Placement and Project Managers (PPM) team who will be assigned to the student as their placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic). If the student has any academic queries whilst on placement they will be signposted to the relevant member of academic staff (i.e., Academic Mentor, Programme Director or module leader).
- Formal contact with the student during the placement. The placement supervisor will meet once with the student, and their line manager (physically / virtually) at the midway point of their placement. Additional meetings may be arranged if required.
- Placement providers will be issued with guidance on how to raise concerns about students as part of the placement approval process.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Placement' programme will be able to:

1. Understand and discuss the variety of ways in which skills developed during their study can be deployed in non-academic contexts.
2. Develop broader organisational/sector understanding and reflect upon their activities in this context.
3. Assess their own strengths and weaknesses in an employment context.
4. Articulate their placement skills and experiences effectively and through a variety of means (verbal and written).

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Postgraduate Placement module which provides a structure to ensure that students make the most of the placement as an integrated learning experience. Students will complete an initial skills audit and placement plan when they begin their placement and submit a final placement portfolio which includes a reflective diary completed during placement.

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Placement' programme are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the placement, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the 'with Placement' programme must successfully complete the zero-credit rated module 'Postgraduate Placement'.
- In order to ensure a high-quality placement experience, each placement provider will sign a tripartite learning agreement (analogous to a service level agreement), and a health and safety checklist.
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will submit a placement proposal and will be assigned a placement supervisor (from the PPM team). The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the required criteria, the placement organisation meets all health and safety expectations, and a tripartite learning agreement is signed by all parties.
- The placement student will also sign up to an agreement outlining their responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the University and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Placement

Tuition fees for students on the 'with Placement' programme will be charged at 20% of the standard Undergraduate annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1.

Students will be responsible for meeting the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement, but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider. As part of the placement approval process, all students will be referred to the Student Financial Support team for advice and guidance regarding scholarships, bursaries and access to additional funding.

International students who require a visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 10 June 2026

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2025/26	FABIENNE EMMERICH	17 June 2025	
1	2024/25	FABIENNE EMMERICH	13 September 2024	
1	2023/24	EZGI TASCIOGLU	18 April 2023	
1	2022/23	EZGI TASCIOGLU	09 August 2022	