

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

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	LLM Law with SQE Preparation LLM Law with SQE Preparation with Placement (see Annex)
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	15 months Full-time option: 15 months; 'with placement' version: 21-27 months
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus Online
Accreditation (if applicable)	n/a
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	UK students: Full-time fee for 2026/27 is £14,700 International students: Full-time fee for 2026/27 is £14,700 The fee for the placement is calculated at 20% of the regulated Home undergraduate tuition fee for that year of study.

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.

2. Overview of the Programme

The LLM is an academically focused Masters programme which incorporates specialist SQE 1 & 2 Preparation modules from a trusted external provider. This offers an exciting and uncommon opportunity to develop your legal knowledge and expertise while ensuring you receive the dedicated, expert training to equip you for success in your SQE 1 & 2 professional examinations. There is a built-in flexibility in the modes of study that will enable you to combine this course with part-time work or voluntary work in a legal advice setting. It is also a course that combines online and in-person study. Study is online for the SQE preparation modules, with directed learning offered by a professional organization we have selected for the high quality of their tuition and track record in preparing students for professional examinations of this kind. With the remainder of your programme delivered in person, on campus, you will have the choice of academic pathways for further study which can align to your interest and employment aspirations. These pathways will enable you to utilize postgraduate study to specialise in a particular area of law, gaining more from the programme than is offered on traditional vocationally focused courses.

Teaching for the optional modules is delivered in person, on campus is either in intensive 3-day blocks or in a weekly pattern across the semester. The final element of the Masters programme is a dissertation or extended case study or project where you can do a 'deep dive' into your chosen area of legal research and demonstrate your expertise in this area.

3. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Develop critically reflective knowledge of a range of legal and non-legal theories, principles, conceptual frameworks and methodologies;
- Develop the ability to apply their legal knowledge to the practice of law;
- Develop extensive legal research skills, both academic and practical;
- Acquire the knowledge necessary to attempt SQE I and II;
- Develop an ability to critically reflect on their own professional practice and the relationship between theory and practice and integrate academic knowledge with their own professional practice.

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 reflective knowledge of a range of legal and non-legal theories, principles, conceptual frameworks and methodologies;
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse legal principles and how the principles are utilised in the practice of the law;
- Demonstrate subject specific and non-subject specific research skills, in particular those demanded by an extended self-directed study project;
- Demonstrate creative thinking about the issues relating to the variety of complex and intersectional aspects of law and practice and an ability to communicate those issues to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- Demonstrate an ability to evaluate and respond to criticism and alternative arguments;
- Where relevant, demonstrate an ability to critically reflect on their own professional practice and the relationship between theory and practice and integrate academic knowledge with their own professional practice.

For the SQE modules you will develop competency in the practice-based application of the law and rules of ethics across the following practice areas for SQE 1 LAW-30148:

- Business Law & Practice Dispute Resolution (with contract and tort),
- Public & EU Law,
- Legal Services & Legal Systems,
- Property Practice (with land law),
- Criminal Law & Practice,
- and Wills and Administration of Estates (with trusts and solicitors accounts),

with the aim of developing Functioning Legal Knowledge within the meaning given to the term in the context of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination.

SQE2 LAW-40102

This module is designed to prepare students to successfully pass the Solicitors Qualifying Examination 2 set on behalf of the Solicitors Regulation Authority and mapped to the statement of competence of a solicitor. It covers the mandated legal skills set within the appropriate areas of legal practice. It develops competency in the following Legal Skills:

- Advocacy
- Interviewing
- Attendance note taking/legal analysis
- Case and matter analysis (including negotiation strategies)
- Drafting
- Research

- Writing

in the following practice areas: Criminal Litigation, Dispute Resolution, Property Practice, Wills and Intestacy, Probate Administration and Practice, Business Law and Practice together with, pervasively, Professionalism and Ethics, with the aim of developing the skills required for the second Solicitors Qualification Examination (SQE2).

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- apply, with the use of rigorous independent research, legal and non-legal knowledge to a range of complex problems relating to the relevant area of law 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;
- where relevant, demonstrate an ability to critically reflect on their own professional practice and the relationship between theory and practice and integrate academic knowledge with their own professional practice.

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- communicate clearly, effectively and appropriately to the relevant audience;
- work effectively in a group to solve problems or to advance a learning objective;
- gain legal drafting, legal writing, client interviewing and advocacy skills (module dependent);
- negotiate a range of electronic information management tools;
- take responsibility for and manage their general and specific learning development.

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?

Compulsory Modules:

Online Delivery of SQE modules

SQE 1 LAW-30148

The module content includes online instruction, personal 1-2-1 supervision, core e-texts with integrated multiple-choice tests, audio-visual media, flashcard exercises and client/ethical based case studies with multiple choice tests using automated feedback. Learning activities include: The study of substantive law and procedure by reading and reviewing resources, including e-text and media. The development of understanding and application through testing and review (integrated formative MCTs and flashcards). Consolidation and assessment through a formative best answer multiple choice test (with automated feedback) on the application of law, procedure and principles of professional ethics to a client-based scenario. Supervisors will also be available to guide students and respond to their questions through the units via online conferences, discussion groups, course announcements, and group feedback on learning activities.

SQE 2 LAW-40102 see example timetable at this link:

[LINK to Solicitors Legal Skills module: example timetable full-time 10-week course](#)

Optional Modules:

Block Delivery

Once per semester, per module, students attend an intensive 3 day 'block' of teaching on campus. There is preparatory work and consolidation and group work following each block.

Modules consist 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. Additionally, practice based legal skills such as legal drafting, writing, negotiation and advocacy will be supported by an experienced practitioner tutor.

All modules (save for the dissertation) are taught through 18-20 hours of contact time, delivered as an intensive three-day 'block' of teaching.

While away from Keele, between teaching blocks, students will benefit from directed reading, additional resources posted on the KLE.

Weekly tutorial semester long modules

In common with the block delivered modules but delivered in smaller weekly activities, 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 coursework.

Guidelines are provided for the production of coursework assignments and dissertations and these are reinforced by seminars and individual supervision, which focus specifically on report writing, case study analysis, planning and writing, reflection and methodology. During the first core module students will also have a dedicated reflection workshop, explaining how to reflect and how to usefully use it to embed their professional development during the programme. 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 the Learning Development Support Tutor and receive guidance and feedback on assessment and module performance.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways.

For example:

The SQE modules LAW-30148 is available online for maximum flexibility and provides instant automated feedback with reasoning as to why an answer was correct or incorrect so students may reflect upon their answer and knowledge.

Dissertation/Extended Project:

The training for this module takes place over two full days from the September after completion of the SQE modules and taught optional modules, i.e. 12 months after the start of the programme. This includes an initial research training day introducing students to a L7 dissertation, and a further day part way through the semester focussed on developing research skills further.

6. Teaching Staff

The programme is delivered by legal academics and practitioners. The bulk of the teaching will be provided by members of the Law school with contributions from expert legal practitioners. Individual staff biographies can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/law/staff/>. The course also includes a number of sessions delivered by external speakers who are expert in their field as a practitioner or researcher.

The SQE preparatory modules LAW-30148 and LAW-40102 will be taught by staff from the College of Legal Practice. These staff are experienced in preparing students for the forms of assessment in the Solicitors Qualifying Exam.

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?

The LLM Law with SQE Preparation is designed to allow students to acquire the in-depth knowledge and understanding of the law in a variety of key areas of research strength of the School of Law coupled with the necessary postgraduate vocation assessment preparation course delivered by an expert partner to prepare students to take the new Solicitors Qualifying Examinations (1&2). The two SQE preparation modules LAW-30148 and LAW-40102 are delivered by the College of Legal Practice (CoLP).

In order to sit the externally run SQE1 and SQE2 examinations, additional fees will be payable to the assessment provider Kaplan SQE Ltd. All assessments must be booked via Kaplan SQE Ltd.

The overall structure for a full time student over the course of 16 months is as follows:

Module	Credits	Timescale
Induction and Course guidance	0	Early September
SQE Preparation Solicitors Legal Knowledge (delivered by partner)	30	September - December
SQE 1 Assessment (provided by third party and subject to additional costs https://sqa.org.uk/)	N/A	January
Keele LLM Modules Total 60 credits	60	January - April
SQE Preparation 2 Solicitors Legal Skills (delivered by partner)	30	April - July
SQE 2 Assessment (provided by third party and subject to additional costs https://sqa.org.uk/)	N/A	July
Keele Dissertation or Extended case Study/project	60	September - January with focused writing from late July

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 7	120	60	60

Module Lists

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
SQE 1 preparation	LAW-30148	30	Semester 1
SQE 2 preparation	LAW-40102	30	Semester 2
Dissertation/Extended Case Study/Project LLM SQE Preparation	LAW-40104	60	Semester 2-3

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Life, Death and the Human Body	ETH-40040	30	Semester 2
Healthcare, Justice and Society	ETH-40042	30	Semester 2
Mental capacity	LAW-40029	30	Semester 2
International Economic and Commercial Law	LAW-40114	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

Students who wish to take either ETH-40042 or ETH-40040 are advised to have previously undertaken either a medical ethics, philosophy, or medical law course or module. Students who have not previously undertaken such a course will be directed towards advance reading they will need to complete before undertaking those modules.

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

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Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Appraise and evaluate the relationship between law and the practice of the law across a variety of legal areas and topical debates	All modules
Critically evaluate the economic, societal and political pressures which influence the development of both law and legal and professional practice	All modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate original thinking about the interpretation of issues related to the implementation of employment law and policies/procedures and an ability to communicate these ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences	All modules
Demonstrate self-direction in planning and carrying out legal and socio legal research.	Extended project/case study/Dissertation
Synthesise ideas and themes in law and practice and develop drafting and analysis skills in the application of the law to complex scenarios to a high level	All modules but particularly the extended project/case study/Dissertation

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Reflect on their personal and professional development in understanding and applying law and practice of the law	All modules except extended project/case study/Dissertation

8. Final and intermediate awards

Master's Degree	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

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 following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- Complex single answer multiple choice questions
- Reflective diary
- Extended case study
- Essay
- Assignment
- Simulated skills assessment
- Presentations
- Reports

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.

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 submission, and feedback from dissertation supervisors on the choice of title, dissertation proposal, an annotated table of contents, and one substantive chapter.

The programme is assessed through coursework with the exception of the Core SQE Preparation modules which mirror the Solicitors Qualifying Examinations themselves. LAW-30148 and LAW-40102 both mirror the assessment strategy used and directly map to the syllabus of the SQE 1&2 assessments. The feedback for SQE1 assessment builds upon several format assessments and provides instant feedback which can be utilised by students then taking the actual SQE assessment. Please note that this must be booked separately and is subject to additional fees payable directly to Kaplan SQE Ltd as the designated assessment provider of the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

The coursework assessments for the optional module assessments test the students' ability to critically analyse current socio-legal scholarship and to apply that knowledge to legal examples or proposed legal development and law reform. Through the coursework, reports, and practice-based case studies used, students will also demonstrate their systemic understanding of the relationship between law and the legal practice of employment law, gaining an appreciation of the complex nature of employment relationships, the role of law in regulating them and the practical implications of the same. These assessments will also evaluate students' ability to demonstrate original thinking and high-level written communication skills.

The final form of assessment is the extended project/case study/dissertation of between 15-20,000 words. This in-depth piece of writing brings together all of the skills that students have learnt throughout the programme. As part of the final section of the programme students are also required to prepare a project/case study/dissertation proposal and planner. By allowing students to focus on a case study or extended project they can tailor their final assessment to meet the needs of their employer organisation and concentrate on implementation of the practice elements of employment law.

Assessment procedures:

All essay assignments and dissertations will be marked by members of the teaching team and moderated in accordance with university guidelines. Where anonymity cannot be maintained a sample and all borderlines will be second marked to ensure consistency and absence of bias.

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.

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 Law with SQE Preparation programme is open to graduates with a first- or second-class honours degree in Law. As it is specifically designed for students seeking qualification as a solicitor there is a necessary pre-requisite of a law degree or equivalent conversion course (CPE or GDL in core foundational areas of law).

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-sessional 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 academic-related queries or issues. Students will have personal meetings with their mentor during and if convenient to the student, between

block attendance, and on at least 3 occasions during their programme of study. Contact is also maintained via telephone, email and via MS 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, as well as the Learning Development Support Tutor in the School of Law, and the Student Experience and Support Officer. For this programme there will also be a Link Tutor who will oversee the liaison and welfare of students on the programme including the time when they study the modules provided by the partner organisation.

All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use materials available in libraries and elsewhere (including the internet) as part of the full induction day at the start of the programme. 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 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. For modules LAW-30148 and LAW-40102 the CoLP will be responsible for the provision of all teaching materials and tuition. This will be based in their own VLE details of which will be sent directly to students on this programme.

Employability

The School of Law is rightly proud of the employability options available to students on all our programmes. As a medium size law school we are able to offer opportunities for professional development including CLOCK (www.clock.net) an innovative and award winning activity created by Dr Jane Krishnadas at Keele and now found across the country. Our students support some of the most vulnerable in society to navigate their way through elements of the court system. We support litigant in person through signposting and work as McKenzie friends.

The Legal Advice Clinics at Keele offer an opportunity for students to acquire Qualifying Work Experience to enhance their employability but also possibly reduce the time necessary to qualify as a solicitor. This is dependent upon their time and areas of legal practice and subject to character and suitability requirements. For further detail see [SRA | Qualifying work experience for candidates | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

We work closely with our student societies to offer a number of employability events throughout the year from our annual Law Fair (exclusive to Keele students), speed networking, Keele in the City and Legal Dining event.

We have close links with a number of law firms and our alumni across both legal and other sectors. Our alumni range from Judges, to journalists to barristers and solicitors as well as those working in a variety of fields such as legal tech. Our alumni continue to support and inspire our students by actively participating in our events and employability initiatives as well as guest lectures.

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 at <https://www.keele.ac.uk/ssds/> (Student Support and Development Services). Students may also join the Keele Postgraduate Association.

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.

Both CoLP modules LAW-30148 and LAW-40102 will be taught entirely online.

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 on-line using the recommended username and password. Details on these are available from the Library website at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/library/>.

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.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

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

Activity	Estimated Cost
Total estimated additional costs	£4,564 (October 2023 onwards)
Solicitors Qualifying Examination fees payable to Kaplan SQE Ltd	

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/>

Although CoLP will also have external examiners in place, the overall responsibility for monitoring quality and the student experience will remain with Keele.

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. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: [Subject Benchmark Statement: Law \(qaa.ac.uk\)](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/subject-benchmark-statements/law)

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

d. Statement of Competence for a solicitor- Solicitors Regulation Authority. [SRA | Statement of solicitor competence | Solicitors Regulation Authority](http://www.sra.org.uk/sra/about/competence)

19. Annex - Placement

LLM Law with SQE Preparation 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: 19 August 2026

What's Changed

Minor modification: optional module LAW-40110 (Environmental and Climate Law) removed.

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2026/27	LAURA PRITCHARD-JONES	10 June 2026	
1	2025/26	SONJA DALE	17 June 2025	
1	2024/25	SONJA DALE	17 September 2024	
1	2023/24	SONJA DALE	17 September 2024	