

Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For students starting in Academic Year 2024/25

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	LLM in International Law Named degrees: LLM in International Commercial and Business Law
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	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time Two or more years (up to five years) modular basis
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	UK students: Full-time fee for 2024/25 is £9,800 Part-time fee for 2024/25 is £5,400* International students: Full-time fee for 2024/25 is £19,500

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

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

2. Overview of the Programme

The aim of the LLM in International Law is to provide students from a diverse range of countries with the opportunity to study the fundamentals of International Law at an advanced level as well as to explore more specialised issues of contemporary significance in International Law fields. The programme adopts the interdisciplinary focus of the Law School's other existing PGT programmes. Students will be given the chance to choose from a wide range of optional modules offered within the Law School as well as other Schools within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences such as the School of Social Sciences and the Keele Business School

(KBS).

Why study international law?

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

Why study international law at Keele?

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

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

- Commerce and Business
- + possibility of learning modern languages (see below).

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

- LLM International Commercial and Business Law

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

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

3. Aims of the programme

The aims of the LLM in International Law are to:

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

4. What you will learn

Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and close understanding of international law concepts, rules and institutions within a policy context
- Demonstrate critical awareness of current problems and new insights in the discipline of international law
- Demonstrate awareness of the relevance of international law to current international affairs
- Articulate a clear assessment of differing critical positions, demonstrating skills of judgment and reasoning
- Use the specific techniques and methodologies of international legal scholarship
- Identify and use primary and secondary materials in international law

- Analyse problems arising in international law and formulate reasoned and justified legal arguments
- Plan and successfully undertake a large piece of independent research
- Evaluate and respond to criticism and alternative arguments
- Think creatively and independently about international law issues.

Career opportunities

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

The 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 and ethical awareness**. 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?

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

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

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

6. Teaching Staff

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

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?

1. Compulsory Modules 60 credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foundations of International Law (sem. 1) - Introduction to International Economic Law (sem. 1) - International Law and Human Rights (sem. 2) - Advanced International Law (sem. 2)
2. Optional Modules 60 credits	Optional modules from Law, SPGS, KBS, GEG or the Language Centre (see list below)
3. Dissertation 60 credits	(LAW-40039) 15,000 to 20,000 words dissertation on an international law topic

Students have the flexibility to choose whether to complete the entire programme in one year as a full-time student or to take one of our flexible part-time pathways. Credits cannot be awarded for the dissertation unless all taught modules are successfully completed. Through the flexible part-time pathways, students may choose from the following options:

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

Modules

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

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

International Law optional modules:

- Transnational Commercial Law (Law, 15 credits)
- Regulating Data and the Digital World (Law, 15 credits)
- International Refugee Law (Law, 15 credits)
- Human Rights and Global Politics (Law, 15 credits)
- International Environmental Law (Law, 15 credits)
- International Development: Environment and Conflict (SPGS, 15 credits)
- Economic Development and Environmental Transformation (GEG, 15 credits)
- International Business Context (KBS, 15 credits)
- Contemporary Challenges in Global Business (KBS, 15 credits)
- The Changing International Agenda (SPGS, 15 credits)
- Comparative European Politics (SPGS, 15 credits)

Race and Justice: Civil Rights in the US (SPGS, 15 credits)

Transnational Crime (Law, 15 credits)*

Commerce and Business optional modules:

Transnational Commercial Law (Law, 15 credits)

Regulating Data and the Digital World (Law, 15 credits)

International Business Context (KBS, 15 credits)

Contemporary Challenges in Global Business (KBS, 15 credits)

Modern Languages:

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

Mandarin Chinese*

French*

German*

Japanese*

Russian*

Spanish*

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

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

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

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

Module Lists

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Introduction to International Economic Law	LAW-40037	15	Semester 1
Foundations of International Law	LAW-40040	15	Semester 1
Dissertation	LAW-40039	60	Semester 1-2
International Law and Human Rights	LAW-40038	15	Semester 2
Advanced International Law	LAW-40042	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Economic Development and Environmental Transformation (Masters)	GEG-40006	15	Semester 1
International Environmental Law	LAW-40043	15	Semester 1
Transnational Commercial Law	LAW-40060	15	Semester 1
International Business Context	MAN-40114	15	Semester 1
The Changing International Agenda	PIR-40093	15	Semester 1
International Development: Environment and Conflict	PIR-40152	15	Semester 1
Transnational Crime	LAW-30094	15	Semester 2
Human Rights and Global Politics	LAW-40046	15	Semester 2
International Refugee Law	LAW-40058	15	Semester 2
Contemporary Challenges in Global Business	MAN-40118	15	Semester 2
Comparative European Politics	PIR-40096	15	Semester 2
Race and Justice: Civil Rights in the U.S.	PIR-40119	15	Semester 2

Learning Outcomes

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

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Knowledge and close understanding of international law rules, doctrines and institutions within a policy context	Advanced International Law - LAW-40042 Introduction to International Economic Law - LAW-40037 International Law and Human Rights - LAW-40038 Foundations of International Law - LAW-40040
Awareness of current problems and new insights in the discipline of international law	Foundations of International Law - LAW-40040 Transnational Commercial Law - LAW-40060 Introduction to International Economic Law - LAW-40037 Advanced International Law - LAW-40042 International Refugee Law - LAW-40058 International Law and Human Rights - LAW-40038
Awareness of the relevance of international law to current international affairs	Foundations of International Law - LAW-40040 International Refugee Law - LAW-40058 Advanced International Law - LAW-40042 Introduction to International Economic Law - LAW-40037 International Law and Human Rights - LAW-40038 Transnational Commercial Law - LAW-40060

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Grasp of the specific techniques and methodologies of international legal scholarship	Introduction to International Economic Law - LAW-40037 Advanced International Law - LAW-40042 Foundations of International Law - LAW-40040 International Law and Human Rights - LAW-40038
Assessment of differing critical positions, demonstrating skills of judgment and reasoning	Compulsory modules + international law optional modules
Confidence in identifying and using primary and secondary materials in international law	All modules + Dissertation
Ability to analyse problems arising in international law and to formulate reasoned and justified legal arguments	Advanced International Law - LAW-40042 International Law and Human Rights - LAW-40038 Introduction to International Economic Law - LAW-40037 Compulsory modules + international law optional modules
Ability to think creatively and independently about international law issues	All modules + dissertation

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Ability to plan and successfully undertake a large piece of independent research	Dissertation
Ability to evaluate and respond to criticism and alternative arguments	All modules + dissertation

8. Final and intermediate awards

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

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

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

The programme is assessed principally, though not exclusively, through written work. Written work may be in the form of research essays (2,000 to 5,000 words), final examinations, blog discussions or reflective portfolios. Through the essays, students demonstrate their understanding of a particular area of international law (or one of the other taught subjects, i.e., politics/commerce & business) as well as their ability for original thinking and high-level written communication skills. Other written assignments such as blogs and reflective portfolios allow students to demonstrate their understanding of the relevance of international law to current international affairs and their ability to respond to alternative arguments or to reflect on their own learning. The final form of

assessment is the dissertation, which is an extended (15,000 - 20,000 words) and in-depth piece of writing that brings together all of the skills that students have learned throughout the programme.

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

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

10. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

11. University Regulations

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

13. How are students supported on the programme?

Students are allocated an Academic Mentor, whose role is to assist students with personal or academic problems, to advise on pastoral issues, and to provide individual supervision and feedback on written assignments. Students will have personal meetings with their tutor throughout the academic year. Contact is also maintained via telephone and email. The dissertation supervisor will offer direct advice and supervision in the production of the dissertation. The course director, the dissertation coordinator and the director of education for the Law School are also available to assist students.

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

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

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

also join the Keele Postgraduate Association (<http://kpa.org.uk/>).

The Law School also offers a small library and a postgraduate study room available to students on this programme.

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

ENL-40001: Academic English for Postgraduate Students 1 - semester 1

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

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

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

14. Learning Resources

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

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

Keele University Library

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

Computer Facilities

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

The Keele Moot Court

Part of the teaching will take place in our brand-new Moot Court, a flexible high specification facility located at the heart of the Law School. The Moot Court is fully equipped with state-of-the art audio-visual equipment and will be used for a variety of teaching and co-curricular activities such as mooting, client interviewing or the Faculty Model United Nations Project.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

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

There is an active research community within the School of Law and postgraduate students are invited to participate in the wide range of seminars and other research activities, such as workshops and academic conferences held at Keele. A research seminar programme is organised each year, where members of staff

present their latest work. There are also other lectures and research seminars organised in other Schools and Research Institutes within the University that may be of interest to students. Students will be informed of these via their Keele email address.

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>

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 30 August 2024

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.1	2023/24	ANGELICA RUTHERFORD	30 October 2023	Changes to optional modules and semester of delivery: LAW-40037 moved from SEM2 to SEM1; LAW-40038 moved from SEM1 to SEM2; PIR-40078 moved to SEM2. Removal of ETH-40042, LAW-40047 and LAW-40058
1	2023/24	AWOL ALLO	18 April 2023	
1	2022/23	AWOL ALLO	08 August 2022	