



Programme Specification

A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study leading to an award from
The University of Sheffield

1	Programme Title	Law
2	Programme Code	LAWU101
3	JACS Code	M200
4	Level of Study	Undergraduate
5a	Final Qualification	Bachelor of Laws (LLB)
5b	QAA FHEQ Level	6
6a	Intermediate Qualification(s)	None
6b	QAA FHEQ Level	Not applicable
7	Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable
8	Faculty	Social Sciences
9	Department	Law
10	Other Departments involved in teaching the programme	None
11	Mode(s) of Attendance	Full-time
12	Duration of the Programme	3 years
13	Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Not applicable
14	Date of production/revision	February 2024

15. Background to the programme and subject area

The School of Law at Sheffield is one of the largest in the country and has a strong and long-standing reputation for excellence in both teaching and research. In the most recent Research Excellence Framework (2021), 91 per cent of the School's research was rated as world-leading or internationally excellent. The School's research outputs were rated 2nd nationally by quality (58 percent achieved the highest possible score).

All undergraduate law degree programmes seek to provide students with a knowledge of key legal rules and concepts and the essential skills required by a lawyer, whilst providing a route of entry into the legal profession for students who wish to practise as lawyers. The Sheffield LLB programme, in common with Sheffield's other law degree programmes, seeks to place law in its social, economic, political, historical and philosophical context. Thus not only does the degree provide students with a knowledge of legal rules but also helps them develop a critical understanding of the operation of those rules in society. The critical and analytical skills required by a lawyer are valuable in many other contexts and not only for students who seek entry into the legal professions. The skills of legal reasoning and independent thinking prepare students to succeed in many future careers.

Traditionally UK law degree programmes have concentrated on the study of domestic law. However, law does not exist in a vacuum and globalisation means that domestic law is increasingly subject to influences from abroad, including the Council of Europe and the EU, but also from the wider international community. The focus of the LLB is on the Law of England and Wales but it seeks to reflect the growing internationalisation of domestic law by studying the Law of England and Wales in its wider international context. This includes, in view of the future withdrawal of the UK from the EU, consideration of the changing relation between UK domestic law and EU transnational law.

The programme therefore concentrates on the contemporary development of the common law system viewed in context, and gives students knowledge of the fundamentals of law – from concept to application – with scope for specialising in the final year. Subject to satisfactory progress, all students also have the opportunity, should they wish to take it, to transfer to the LLB Law (With a Year Abroad) programme and study law abroad for one year at

one of our partner institutions of higher education overseas.

Many students study law with a view to entering the legal profession as either a solicitor or barrister. The LLB is compliant with the QAA subject benchmark statement for law and contains the seven "Foundations of Legal Knowledge" subjects as well as the skills associated with graduate legal work such as legal research.

Graduates from the LLB fare well in the employment market. In particular, the School's graduates are highly valued by the legal profession and those who wish to do so generally obtain employment in the profession, many going on to obtain training contracts with leading UK law firms as shown by destination data.

Further information is available at www.shef.ac.uk/law.

16. Programme aims

The programme aims to:

- 1) provide a broad but critical understanding of law in general (especially a critical appreciation of the place of law in society), and the leading institutional and doctrinal features shaping the development of domestic law and its place in the European and international context.
- 2) provide a syllabus that satisfies the professional exemption requirements, whilst, at the same time, permitting students to pursue a scheme of study that is responsive to their particular interests.
- 3) provide a framework within which students may proceed at Level 3 to an entirely optional regime of study of law and criminology modules to fit their particular interests.
- 4) inculcate the highest standards of legal scholarship in matters of precision, clarity, integrity, and imagination.
- 5) inculcate the distinctive skills associated with legal research and writing, legal argument and legal reasoning, and legal analysis and critique.
- 6) inculcate a range of generic skills, particularly: the acquisition, use, and evaluation of primary and secondary source material; communication; and problem-solving.
- 7) more broadly, we aspire to encourage students 'to discover and understand' and to develop the professional skills they need to be equipped with in order to be confident in their ability to pursue excellence and independent thinking in their life after university.

17. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding:	
K1	of the principal sources of law and of the means by which laws are made.
K2	of the institutions through which the law is administered and of the personnel responsible for its administration and who practise law.
K3	of the fundamental doctrines, key elements and general principles which underpin the study of law, including in particular the 'Foundations of Legal Knowledge' as identified in the Joint Statement of the Law Society and the General Council of the Bar, namely Public Law in the UK and the EU, Criminal Law, the Private Law of Obligations (including Contract, Torts and Restitution), the Law of Property (including Land Law, Equity and Trusts).
K4	of legal concepts, values, general principles, rules, and terms relevant to a range of legal areas, and the relationship between them.
K5	of the social, political, economic, cultural and historical forces which shape and have shaped the development of legal rules, and of the place of law in society.
K6	of the international influences shaping the development of the modern law and the place of domestic law in the European and international context.

Skills and other attributes:

Students will be able to demonstrate that they can:

S1	apply knowledge and understanding (as detailed in K1 – K6) to describe, explain and critique primary domestic, European and international legal source materials, including statutes, statutory instruments, decided cases and international treaties.
S2	research and analyse the law from a range of primary and secondary sources, including material identified through independent research.
S3	devise and sustain arguments and/or to solve problems using ideas and techniques at the forefront of the discipline, in particular where necessary utilising legal materials to construct arguments on points of law.
S4	critically analyse and evaluate legal and other arguments and, where appropriate, compare and choose between competing arguments.
S5	accurately and effectively communicate findings and arguments, both orally and in writing.
S6	make appropriate use of information technology, in particular for communication and research.
S7	efficiently manage their own learning, and make appropriate use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline).

18. Teaching, learning and assessment**Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:**

At Level 1, the foundations of legal knowledge (**K1 - 4**) are covered. This core knowledge is then expanded upon, through more critical and in-depth examinations of the foundations of legal knowledge at Level 2, with a particular emphasis placed upon the various influences to which law is subject. At Level 3 students focus their study around their chosen areas of interest, deepen their knowledge in all respects and engage in independent research (**K1 - 6**).

The knowledge base (**K1 - 6**) is developed through a combination of learning methods, including team-based learning sessions, workshops, lectures, seminars, tutorials, online resources and exercises, coursework and directed reading and through independent study. At all levels, different modules adopt different combinations of these methods.

Under the guidance of staff, a series of **team-based learning** sessions are staged through Level 1 to challenge students within groups to discover the core areas of legal knowledge required on the degree.

Lectures provide an overview framework of subject-specific areas of study and of the key issues and arguments, with this framework supplemented by various **online resources and exercises**.

The knowledge base is then developed through **directed and self-directed reading** of primary and secondary source materials and through independent research.

Seminars, tutorials and workshops provide an opportunity to test knowledge and understanding of key substantive areas and clarify any areas of uncertainty. Within these fora students are encouraged to problem-solve, often in teams, and present solutions and arguments to the group.

Skills are developed in the first place through a specially designed skills module, *CLASS (Core Legal and Study Skills)* which runs throughout the degree programme and is specifically designed to highlight the intellectual and practical skills needed to study law. All other modules build on the introduction of skills within *CLASS* and apply them to the further study of law.

Lawyering skills (S1 - 5) are primarily developed through individual and group-work set within team-based learning sessions, workshops, seminars and tutorials, where students undertake problem solving and critical analysis exercises. Lectures also contribute to the development of these skills by providing demonstrations of their application. The balance between these different methods varies from module to module ensuring appropriateness to the academic content.

Generic and legal skills (S1 – 4), and in particular **written communication skills (S5)** and **IT skills (S6)**, are further developed by **coursework** requiring students to provide written answers to either legal problem questions (hypothetical fact situations raising legal issues requiring application of legal rules to the facts) or

essay questions (requiring critical analysis of arguments and propositions).

Research skills (S2) are developed through preparation for team-based learning sessions, workshops, seminars and tutorials and in the completion of coursework. A key component in the development of legal research skills and **IT skills (S6)** is the requirement that all students complete a research-based module at Level 3 (chosen from a portfolio of research-based modules). Students are prepared for this challenge, in particular receiving specific training in the *WINS* module.

Oral communication skills (S6) are developed through participation in team-based learning sessions, workshops, seminars and tutorials.

General personal skills of **personal organisation** and **time management (S7)** are stressed throughout the degree, especially within the *CLASS* module. Such attributes are further developed through self-directed study, preparation for team-based learning sessions, workshops, seminars and tutorials and managing the process of creating and submitting coursework.

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods:

A range of assessment methods is used across the curriculum. The aim is to balance the use of different assessment methods both within and across each level of the programme. The principal methods used are examinations (which may be wholly or partly seen or wholly unseen, and in which students may be permitted the use of a range of materials) and assessed coursework, normally in the form of an essay or solution to a problem. But other methods are used throughout the degree, including group assessment and self-reflection. A combination of assessment methods are used in some modules.

Knowledge and understanding (K1 – K6) of the law is tested throughout the degree through examination and coursework. Examinations require students, under time pressure, to apply knowledge and understanding to a series of legal questions. Coursework challenges students to demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding through extended legal arguments. At Level 2 and 3, assessments are designed to test higher levels of critical understanding of the law (**S1**).

Research skills (S2) are demonstrated by assessed coursework and by seen examination questions, within a range of different modules. At Level 3, all students are required to study a module which is assessed by way of a substantial piece of research-based coursework.

Problem solving (S3) skills are tested by problem questions in examinations and assessed coursework.

Skills of **critical analysis (S4)** are tested by essay questions in assessed coursework and examinations.

Written communication (S5) skills are tested generally through coursework and examinations.

Oral communication (S5) and skills of **IT (S6)**, **personal organisation** and **time management (S7)** are indirectly assessed in the preparation of assessed coursework and also in examinations. A number of modules, including *Public Law in the UK and the EU* and *Remedies in Private Law*, contain an element of group assessment. Progression on a range of professional skills must be demonstrated for the successful completion of the *CLASS* module which runs throughout the degree programme.

19. Reference points

The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:

[Subject Benchmark Statements](#)

[Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

[University Strategic Plan](#)

[Vision and Strategic Plan – Education](#)

The research interests of the staff of the School of Law.

20. Programme structure and regulations

In the first year of the programme all the modules are compulsory, as the student is introduced to basic legal skills and legal rules, and the foundations of legal knowledge. A key integrating focus for the first year is provided by the year-long skills module, *Core Legal and Study Skills (CLASS)*. This module begins the programme with a concentrated two-week introduction into the study of law, focussing on legal systems, essential legal knowledge and the legal and graduate tools needed to engage with the law. *CLASS* continues throughout Level 1 (and the entire programme) as a support module, alongside *Law of Obligations (Contracts, Torts & Restitution)*, *Criminal Law and Justice* and *Contemporary Issues in Law and Justice* in the first semester, and *Public Law in the UK and the EU*, *Property Law (Land Law, Equity and Trusts)* and *Remedies in Private Law* in the second semester. As well as being introduced to all the foundations of legal knowledge, students are required to consider the diverse social, economic and philosophical perspectives on law (especially in *Contemporary Issues in Law and Justice*) and problem-solve for the benefit of 'imaginary' clients (especially in *Remedies in Private Law*). Collectively the Level 1 modules engage the student in a range of skills-based activities, some of which require teamwork and the presentation of results in oral as well as written form.

At Level 2, students continue with their study of the Foundations of Legal Knowledge, but are allowed flexibility in choosing areas of law upon which to focus. Once students have studied sufficient Foundations of Legal Knowledge for professional Qualifying Law Degree purposes, Level 2 students also have some room to choose modules which consider the theory and purpose of law (*Understanding Criminology: Advanced Level Introduction*) or are available on the other School of Law degree programmes. Modules at Level 2 are pursued to a deeper level than Level 1 in terms of the detail of the law and other content covered, with leading research staff using their research to underpin and illustrate the substantive material covered. At Level 2 the international dimensions of law are emphasised through the *CLASS* module. Students are invited to apply to study law for a year abroad at one of our partner institutions and/or study the *Foundations of International Law*.

At Level 3, students shape their own programmes of study by choosing from a variety of optional modules on aspects of law and criminology. The School's size means that it can offer a wide range of options, reflecting the diverse range of teaching and research interests of the School's staff, and allowing students to build on their knowledge of the core areas of law which have been developed at Levels 1 and 2. The one compulsory element of Level 3 is that students are required to undertake a significant piece of research, as offered through a portfolio of research-based modules.

Detailed information about the structure of programme and individual modules are published in the University Calendar available on-line at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/calendar>

21. Student development over the course of study

Level 1: Students are introduced to:

- foundational skills and expectations of graduate study (*CLASS*).
- basic skills of legal method and reasoning, and the principal sources of legal rules (*CLASS*).
- the critical evaluation of law and its role in society (especially *Contemporary Issues of Law and Justice*).
- the Foundations of Legal Knowledge (*CLASS*, *Contemporary Issues of Law and Justice*, *Law of Obligations (Contracts, Torts & Restitution)*, *Criminal Law and Justice*, *Public Law in the UK and the EU*, *Property Law (Land Law, Equity and Trusts)* and *Remedies in Private Law*).

Students practise and demonstrate their understanding through a range of exercises and assessments.

Students at Level 1 are eased into undergraduate study with the assistance of the supporting year-long *CLASS* module and Personal and Academic Tutors, with tuition more intensive than at later stages of the programme.

Level 2: Students continue their study of the foundations of legal knowledge by choosing from a limited selection of advanced substantive law modules. In their chosen areas, students are expected to deepen their knowledge and understanding through being challenged to problem-solve and analyse highly technical and often very contemporary legal challenges.

It is expected that students at this level will have begun to develop their skills of problem solving and critical analysis and to develop their potential for self-directed study. Tuition in some modules is therefore less intensive than at Level 1. However, seminar, tutorial or workshop group leaders are aware that these are students at Level 2 and will be offering the appropriate level of support.

Level 3: Students expand the breadth of their legal study by choosing to study from an extensive range of

specialised options, which offer the potential to study some of the most contentious and new areas of law and interrogate different perspectives on the law. All students are required to showcase their research and creative skills through the study of at least one module from a portfolio of courses that require the completion of an extensive piece of coursework.

It is expected that students at this level will demonstrate the level of skills expected of an Honours level graduate in accordance with the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications and will be able to engage critically with discussions about developments in thinking in the subject. Students are expected to have developed a degree of self-direction in their study and tuition at this level will therefore be less intensive than at Level 2, with a greater emphasis on self-directed reading and on seminar, tutorial or workshop classes. Students will be expected to build on their oral and written communication skills which have developed during Levels 1 and 2, so that a greater degree of critical analysis is expected in seminars, tutorials or workshops and in written examinations and coursework at Level 3.

22. Criteria for admission to the programme

Detailed information regarding admission to programmes is available from the University's On-Line Prospectus at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/courses/>

23. Additional information

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programme and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching department(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid>.