



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 (Extended Programme)
2	Programme Code	SLWT004
3	JACS Code	M200
4	Level of Study	Postgraduate
5a	Final Qualification	LLM
5b	Position in the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications	7
6a	Intermediate Qualification(s)	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
6b	Position in the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications	7
7	Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable
8	Faculty	Social Sciences
9	Department	Law
10	Other Department(s) involved in teaching the programme	None
11	Mode(s) of Attendance	Full-time
12	Duration of the Programme	2 years
13	Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Not applicable
14	Date of production/revision	February 2024, March 2026

15. Background to the programme and subject area

This programme builds on the School of Law's successful existing LLM programme that permits the development of intellectual, practical and transferable skills. A postgraduate qualification in law is of increasing importance to employers. Students who study successfully for an LLM are more likely to be able to secure employment in law firms, in industry and with government departments and with other national and international public bodies. The School of Law has a strong record of graduate employment and, as well as becoming practising lawyers, graduates have entered diverse professions such as banking and commerce, marketing and advertising, teaching (including University lecturing) and research. Many international graduates have found enhanced employment prospects both in the UK and in their country of origin. Teaching is informed by the research activities of the staff. The School of Law at Sheffield is one of the largest in the country. 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).

The staff in the School has expertise in all areas of Corporate and Commercial Law and International Law. Further information is available at the departmental web site: www.shef.ac.uk/law.

By extending the LLM programme over two years, this programme allows students who are not from common law backgrounds and are not native speakers to develop the skills necessary to excel in the LLM. This programme has been designed on the basis of our experience teaching students from these backgrounds. The aim is to nurture the skills of legal analysis, critical thinking and sustained argument which are essential for success at LLM level, and greatly enhance employability. These are the aspects of the LLM programme which, in our experience, students from these backgrounds find the most challenging. We will also ensure that students have the language skills and cultural familiarity necessary to thrive in the English university context. Hence the extended programme ensures that students develop their legal, critical, argumentative, linguistic and cultural skills in a number of interrelated ways. During their first year, they will take part in a number of undergraduate

modules, attending lectures and seminars, tutorials or workshops, gaining familiarity with common law methods and English legal culture. They will also experience the different forms of assessment used during an undergraduate law degree in the UK. They will take part in an introductory module (known as CLASS – Core Legal and Study Skills), which provides a solid foundation for legal studies, and is tailored to their needs. During the first year, students will also take two LLM modules, which introduce them to the advanced requirements of the LLM degree; the remainder of the LLM modules are studied in the second year. During the first year, students will also develop their language skills through taking part in modules delivered by the University of Sheffield's English Language Teaching Centre. Modules have been selected to enhance students' reading and writing skills, and to give them familiarity with the English university system. Students will also have access to an online subscription to the Financial Times which will help familiarise them with the business world, and to gain familiarity with high quality writing on a daily basis. Students will have access to a Personal and Academic Tutor (P&AT) who will support their academic and personal development, giving them feedback on their work and helping them to find their feet in the University. Where appropriate, the P&AT will be a Mandarin speaker who has familiarity with China, and will also help students plan for their future. The skills they develop during their time with us will make them more employable in their home country, in particular with law firms, banks and companies, which place a premium upon good English language ability combined with legal skills.

Students will then build on the knowledge of English common law and the legal system they have acquired as they progress to the second year. During that year, they will take two further undergraduate modules, along with the remaining six LLM modules. Finally, they will write a dissertation under the supervision and support of a subject specialist.

16. Programme aims

This programme aims to:

- equip students with skills in common law analysis and method, and extended legal argument.
- develop student understanding of aspects of national and international legal doctrine, as appropriate to the field in question.
- develop student understanding of the theoretical underpinnings and practical applications of aspects of national and international law, as appropriate to the field in question. In particular, by offering students research-led teaching delivered by staff who will often also have practical experience in the field in question.
- provide an environment where students from different legal cultures can interact and, by studying together, learn from each other.
- inculcate the highest standards of legal scholarship: precision, clarity, integrity and imagination.
- develop a range of generic abilities, particularly: the acquisition, use, and evaluation of primary and secondary source material; communication and presentation skills; problem-solving and teamwork.
- encourage the distinctive skills associated with legal research and writing, legal argument and reasoning, and legal analysis and critique. In particular, to enable students to pursue a course of directed independent research.
- enhance the linguistic, cultural and academic integration of students, enabling students to maximise their potential in all aspects of their course.
- assess students over a range of knowledge, understanding and skills, and to identify and support academic excellence.
- provide students with knowledge and skills that will enhance their employability with law firms, companies and banks.
- support students as they develop the discipline-specific knowledge and skills necessary for success in the LLM.
- introduce students to the teaching, learning and assessment methods used in UK universities by giving them access to undergraduate lectures and seminars, tutorials or workshops during their two years of study.

17. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding:	
K1	Sound knowledge of the basic substantive legal principles of the fields of law studied.
K2	Sound knowledge of theoretical underpinnings and practical applications of the fields of law studied.
K3	Sound knowledge and critical understanding of the structures and usage of legal materials.
K4	Sound knowledge and critical understanding of the mechanics of judicial reasoning.
K5	Sound knowledge of parliamentary law-making.
K6	Sound knowledge and practical and critical understanding of the methodologies used to analyse the law.
K7	Sound knowledge and critical understanding of the relationship between society and the law.

Skills and other attributes:	
S1	Familiarity with common law analysis and method, and its application in a number of core areas of the law.
S2	Enhanced skills in English language, with specific emphasis on legal, economic, political and business terminology.
S3	A high level of competence in the productive skills of essay writing and problem solving and the ability to analyse the law critically.
S4	Skills in acquiring, using, and critically evaluating information about the law within a socio-legal setting gained from a variety of sources, including teachers, journal articles, monographs, textbooks and works of reference, newspapers, and electronic sources.
S5	Familiarity with the essential primary and secondary source material appropriate to the programme of study, alongside a regard for the impartial analysis of values expressed therein.
S6	The ability to carry out individual study and research, and to participate in group activities such as seminars, tutorials or workshops.
S7	Familiarity with bibliographic and research skills, including such IT skills as word-processing, e-mail and use of the internet.
S8	Further transferable skills, valuable for employment, including information gathering, the development of individual resourcefulness, analytical thinking, the ability to identify problems and ways of resolving them, the critical appreciation of source material, the ability to construct and sustain logical argument on the basis of such material, and the ability to present such argument clearly in both oral and written forms.

18. Teaching, learning and assessment

Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

Seminars, tutorials or workshops, which may be either staff-led or student-led, are at the heart of the programme. They are designed to reinforce information imparted through independent study by allowing students to work through, analyse, understand and respond to that information. In all cases the aim is to expose students to as much original legal material as possible. Seminars, tutorials or workshops thus contribute both to the achievement of knowledge and understanding (K1-K7) and to the development of key skills (S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S8).

Independent study is essential to the successful completion of the programme. New students are introduced to study skills through information in the online Student Handbook, through material presented during the LLM induction day, through feedback on formative assessment tasks as well as through the CLASS module, which supports the acquisition of basic legal and study skills, and LAW685 Legal Research and Writing Skills, which supports the acquisition of research and writing skills necessary for LLM modules and the dissertation. The amount of independent study broadly expected for each module is clearly set out in the course information, although it is recognised that this will vary from student to student. A focus on independent study prepares students for their written assessments and also for the dissertation of 10,000-12,000 words, which all students are required to produce. The dissertation is supervised by a member of staff specialising in the field in question, but nevertheless requires a great deal of independent study and research from the student. Independent study and the dissertation in particular thus contribute to the development of all the programme learning outcomes, but

is especially important in refining skills S3-S8.

Lectures, which students will attend alongside undergraduate students, enhancing their listening skills and deepening their legal knowledge, contributing to skills S1, S2, S4, S5, S7 and S8.

Interactions with Personal & Academic Tutors at regular meetings, which give students the opportunity to reflect upon and discuss their progress in acquiring the skills and other attributes which the programme aims to deliver, and to obtain feedback on formative and summative assessment (S1, S2, S3, S5 and S8).

English Language and Culture classes delivered by the ELTC will enable students to improve their legal English, receive feedback on the language-related aspects of their assessments, and gain greater familiarity with English university culture (S2, S3 and S8).

Students will use the **online learning environment (Blackboard)** to access learning materials encountered in lectures and seminars, tutorials or workshops, subject to the School of Law's policy (S7, S8).

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

Regular formative assessment will be used, particularly during the first year and during semester 1 of the second year, to monitor the student's progression through the programme and to pick up and rectify areas of potential weakness. Feedback on assessments will be delivered by subject specialists, and feed forward will be provided by Personal & Academic tutors at regular meetings. Oral presentations test organisational and communication skills.

For the majority of modules, summative assessment will be via research essay. For most modules a research essay is the best means of testing both subject knowledge and research skills whilst encouraging autonomy in student learning. In some modules, however, alternative modes of assessment are deployed. In particular, there are a small number of modules that assess in part by means of oral presentation (either in the form of a moot or client interview) and there is a second small group of modules that assess by means of the preparation of a written paper that mirrors those developed by lawyers in practice (either in the form of a skeleton argument for legal proceedings or a submission to a public enquiry). These modules will give the students an opportunity to develop different transferrable skills whilst still requiring them to engage in legal research. In the case of the modules that assess by means of oral presentation arrangements will be made to film the students so as to enable external examiners to review the appropriateness of the marks awarded.

Students will also take undergraduate modules during both years of their study. These modules will be non-credit bearing and assessed on a pass/fail basis. In those modules, summative assessment usually takes the form of an exam (although in some cases there is also an assessed essay). Students will take the same assessments as the undergraduate students. Students will be supported throughout by their Personal and Academic Tutor, who will provide feedback on assessment (both formative and summative), assistance with the acquisition of study skills, and other advice and support as necessary. Summative assessment also requires the completion of a dissertation designed to test both research and writing skills and the students' ability to analyse and challenge the law.

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 departmental staff and the research strategy of the School of Law.

20. Programme structure and regulations

Compulsory Components

Year 1 Semester 1

- Compulsory non-credit bearing module on *Legal Research and Writing Skills* which students must complete. Students are required to submit an essay for feedback, but this assessment is purely formative and no pass/fail mark will be awarded.
- Compulsory *Core Legal and Study Skills (CLASS)* module which will be taught alongside undergraduate students. This module is purely formative, but students are required to engage in a range of written and oral activities. Personal and Academic Tutors deliver small group sessions and students are able to seek feedback from their Personal and Academic Tutors if desired.
- English for Academic Purposes module '*Reading and Writing*', delivered by specialist staff within the English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC). Students are required to pass this module.
- *Law of Obligations (LAW136)*. Students will be taught alongside undergraduates in seminars, tutorials or workshops and lectures. This module is non-credit-bearing – it will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.
- One LLM module (15 credits) from the following (illustrative) list:
 - Introduction to Company Law and Corporate Governance.
 - Fundamentals of Intellectual Property Law.
 - International Business Transactions.
 - Principles of International Law.
 - International Humanitarian Law.

Students must pass this module in the normal way (that is, achieve a mark of 50 or above).

Year 1 Semester 2

- *Remedies in English Law (LAW138)*. Students will be taught alongside undergraduates in seminars, tutorials or workshops and lectures. This module is non-credit bearing – it will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.
- English Language and Culture module '*Understanding University Culture through Language*' (ELTC). Students must pass this module.
- One LLM module (15 credits) from the following (illustrative) list:
 - Comparative Corporate Governance.
 - Trademark Law in a Branded World.
 - Information Technology Law.
 - International Commercial Arbitration.
 - International Law and the Use of Force.

Students must pass this module in the normal way (that is, achieve a mark of 50 or above). A student who fails this module will be allowed one attempt at a resit.

- During the second semester and the summer, students who are in the final year of their undergraduate studies at their home university will be able to complete their dissertation remotely.

Year 2 Semester 1:

- LLM modules to the value of 45 credits.
- **One of the following: Criminal Law and Justice (LAW135) or Contemporary Issues in Law and Justice (LAW133).**

Year 2 Semester 2:

- LLM modules to the value of 45 credits.
- **Property Law (LAW137) or Public Law in the UK and the EU (LAW139).** During semester 2 and over the summer, students will complete a 10,000-12,000 word dissertation worth 60 credits (*Dissertation (The LLM in Law)*).

The specialised pathways

The LLM degree contains two specialised pathways, namely, the LLM in Law (Corporate and Commercial Law) and the LLM in Law (International Law and Global Justice). Students are free to choose between the different

pathways, or to take an LLM without specialisation.

In order to be eligible for the award of the LLM degree with a designated specialised pathway a student must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 90 credits from the list of approved units set out in the Programme Regulations. In addition, the student must write their dissertation on a topic that in the opinion of the Head of School (or her or his delegate) contributes to developing expertise within the relevant pathway. Upon arrival, students will be contacted to ask whether they wish to take one of the specialised pathways or whether they prefer to take the LLM without specialisation. All LLM (Extended Programme) students will receive an email asking them whether they wish to transfer, but all Personal & Academic Tutors will also be instructed to meet with their students to discuss transferring to one of the specialised pathways. Personal & Academic Tutors will also play a key role in ensuring that all students understand the eligibility rules and choose their modules accordingly. Eligibility for the specialised pathways will also form one of the points of focus during student induction. In exceptional cases students may be eligible for more than one pathway (this will be a rare occurrence because the choice of dissertation topic will normally be such as to limit the student to a single pathway). In such cases students will be required to elect the pathway, if any, that they prefer.

Student Choice

Student choice is central to the programme. The wide range of optional units coupled with the ability to write a dissertation in an area of individual interest are designed to encourage students to construct a degree programme that suits their interests, skills and career aspirations. Students studying towards one of the designated pathways can nevertheless choose units up to the value of 30 credits from other areas of interest within the School.

Coherence

Coherence is achieved both in the UG aspects and in the PG aspects of the Extended Programme. Coherence at UG level is achieved through the non-credit bearing CLASS (Core Legal and Study Skills) module, and through student progression through a range of UG modules which provide a solid foundation of common law skills and knowledge, supported by their Personal & Academic Tutor. Coherence is achieved at PG through the Legal Research and Writing Skills module and the common experience of the dissertation, including the dissertation workshops and 'meet your supervisor' sessions. After acquiring basic knowledge and skills from the optional subjects the dissertation element of the degree will allow the student to build upon their substantive knowledge and improve their research and writing skills. Within the designated pathways an even higher degree of coherence is achieved through the selection of modules that complement one another both as regards areas of substantive legal knowledge and fields of practical application.

Detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of 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

The two-year programme has been designed to help students develop the key skills and attributes over two years. The ELTC modules enhance language skills and cultural familiarity. CLASS familiarises students with the key skills required of law students in the West. The UG modules provide a solid foundation in common law method and analysis. The LLM components of the programme have been structured in such a way as to gradually place an increasing emphasis on autonomy and student directed learning. The non-credit bearing module on legal research and writing skills will help ensure that all students have the basic research and writing skills to complete the LLM aspects of the programme successfully. The LLM modules taken during the first year are foundational, and students can deepen their knowledge of those areas during the second year. Convenors of these modules are encouraged to approach their teaching and set formative assessment tasks in a manner that will further help ensure that all students master the basic skills necessary to succeed at taught postgraduate level. The modules taken in the second year go deeper into specific aspects of the law. Convenors of these modules are encouraged to approach their teaching and set formative assessment tasks that will help students prepare for the dissertation, which serves as the capstone of the degree. The dissertation will be taken in a subject of the student's choice. They will be expected to design a research question, identify an appropriate methodology and complete an extended piece of writing under the guidance of a supervisor. On successful completion of the programme a student will have demonstrated capacity in common law method and skills, self-directed learning and in-depth legal research. This programme has been designed with student development at its core.

22. Criteria for admission to the programme

Partner universities will select students to take part in the Extended Programme. Those students will be admitted provided: they have a valid IELTS test with 6.5 overall and at least 6.0 in each component (or an equivalent approved qualification), and they have studied sufficient law during their undergraduate studies (that is, a law major) and have a GPA of at least 75% in their studies to date. Detailed information regarding admission is available at <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/>

23. Additional information

For further information students are directed to the School of Law's web pages at www.shef.ac.uk/law. These contain full information on courses and provide access to student handbooks.

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 www.shef.ac.uk/ssid.