

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Legal Studies	
Final award (<i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations</i>)	UG – FHEQ level 6	PGT – FHEQ level 7
	BA <input type="checkbox"/>	MA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	BSc <input type="checkbox"/>	MSc <input type="checkbox"/>
	LLB <input type="checkbox"/>	MRes <input type="checkbox"/>
		LLM <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other ... <input type="checkbox"/>	
	If other, please specify FHEQ level: ...	
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning <input type="checkbox"/>	On-campus <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Professional body accreditation (<i>if applicable</i>)		
Academic year this specification was created	2017/18 for 2018/19 intake	
Dates of any subsequent amendments		

II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop broad-ranging knowledge of international and comparative law generally, and of specific specialized sub-fields of international and comparative law. 2. To be able to engage in theoretical and empirical analysis of international and comparative law. 3. To be able to explain and debate events and trends in international and comparative law.
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III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will acquire specialist knowledge of the chosen subject areas of law. 2. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, knowledge and understanding of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the theoretical and practical underpinnings of law; • the context in which law is made, interpreted, adjudicated, and amended; • the role played by law in different social and economic environments; • the role and function of legal institutions; • the weight and significance of different sources and methodologies. 3. Students will develop knowledge of how to locate relevant materials and assess their relevance and/or importance. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through attendance in all classes, independent and group study, and class preparation. • In some subjects through non-assessed as well as assessed coursework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations. Long essays, written module work, seminar presentations and dissertations may also be used/required.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through in module lectures/ seminars and through coursework. • Through a compulsory but non-assessed preessional module on law and legal method. 	
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Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students should develop rigor in analysis and assessment of legal arguments. 2. Students should develop the ability to understand, summarise and critically assess differing perspectives on theoretical debates. 3. Students should develop independence of thought and the confidence to challenge the accepted wisdom. 4. Students should learn to identify issues and formulate questions for further research through independent work. 5. Students will be encouraged to bring to bear their own previous experience and knowledge in addressing legal issues in an interdisciplinary manner. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through modules which introduce information and ideas that need to be assessed critically and analysed in context. Students are encouraged not simply to summarise evidence and arguments but also develop their own assessments as to the relative value of different strategies/ arguments/ evidence. • Through independent dissertation and module work which entail selecting, designing and refining topics [with advice and assistance from tutors] and elaborating precise research questions/hypotheses. • Through the structure and content of modules of an interdisciplinary nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations. Long essays, module work and dissertations may also be used/ required.

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills	
<p>The programme will help students develop the ability to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write clear research essays and dissertations. 2. Research in a variety of specialized research libraries and institutes and online, and retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources. 3. Present seminar papers and defend the arguments therein. 4. Discuss ideas introduced during seminars. 5. Develop essay and dissertation research questions. 6. Read legal source materials rapidly and critically. 7. Present legal arguments in moots and debates. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the writing of long essays and dissertations. • Through regular seminar presentations. • Through seminar discussion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations. Long essays, module work and dissertations may also be used/ required.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through independent work for essays/ dissertations. • Through independent work, departmental dissertation guidance notes and meetings, and meetings with supervisor. • Through required regular readings for weekly seminar discussions. • Through the holding of moots and debates in the law and legal method seminars and in some of the taught modules. 	
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Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills	
<p>The programme will enable students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate effectively in writing. 2. Structure and communicate ideas and arguments effectively both orally and in writing. 3. Read and comprehend significant quantities of reading rapidly and effectively and develop critical faculties. 4. Find and use a variety of written and digital materials, especially legal materials, in libraries and research institutes. 5. Present (non – assessed) material orally. 6. Develop teamwork skills. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through preparation for seminars, writing of long essays and other module work, dissertation and examinations. • Through individual and /or joint seminar presentations and class participation. • Through preparation for seminars, through discussion in seminars, through correction of module work by tutors and through preparation of answers to exam questions. • Through the formation of study groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations. Long essays, module work and dissertations may also be used/ required.

General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes
<p>Masters programmes (with the exception of two-year full-time MAs) consist of 180 credits, made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks, and a dissertation of 60 credits. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional.</p> <p>As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.</p> <p>At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.</p> <p>More information can be found on individual module pages.</p>

MA Legal Studies

	Dissertation		
credits	60		
module code	15PLAC999		
module title	Dissertation in Law		
status	core module		
+			
	Taught Component	Taught Component	Taught Component
credits	0	60	60
module code	15PLAC162	from list below	either guided option from general Law PGT list or open option
module title	Preliminary law, legal reasoning & legal methods	guided option*	guided option*
status	pre-sessional	guided option*	guided option*

***List of modules (subject to availability)**

general Law options

15PLAC104	Alternative Dispute Resolution	30
15PLAC154	Climate Change and Energy Law and Policy	30
15PLAH025	Colonialism, Empire and International Law	15
15PLAH021	Foundations of International Law	15
15PGNH005	Gender, Armed Conflict and International Law	15
15PLAH061	Gender, Sexuality and Law: Selected Topics	15
15PLAH062	Gender, Sexuality and Law: Theories and Methodologies	15
15PLAC150	Human Rights and Islamic Law	30
15PLAH065	Human Rights of Women	15
15PLAC153	International Commercial Arbitration	30
15PLAH055	International Criminal Law	30
15PLAC145	International Human Rights Clinic	30
15PLAC119	International Protection of Human Rights	30
15PLAH057	International Refugee and Migration Law	15
15PLAC121	Islamic Law (MA/LLM)	30
15PLAC123	Justice, Reconciliation and Reconstruction in Post Conflict Societies	30
15PLAC160	Law and Development in Africa	30
15PLAC126	Law and Natural Resources	30
15PLAH026	Law and Policy of International Courts and Tribunals	15
15PLAH050	Law and Postcolonial Theory	15
15PLAH049	Law and Society in Southeast Asia	15
15PLAC130	Law and Society in The Middle East and North Africa	30
15PLAC118	Law, Environmental and Sustainable Development in a Global Context	30
15PLAC133	Law, Human Rights and Peace Building: The Israeli-Palestinian Case	30
15PLAH064	Law, Rights & Social Change	15
15PLAC140	Multinational Enterprises and The Law	30
15PLAC162	Preliminary Law, Legal Reasoning and Legal Methods	0
15PLAH022	The Law of Armed Conflict	15
15PLAH044	Water Law: Justice and Governance	15
15PLAH063	International Investment Law	15

Open options will need approval of deputy PG programme convenor (LLM or MA)