

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



1. Programme Details		
Department	Law	
Programme title	MRes in Law	
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 type="checkbox"/>
	BSc <input type="checkbox"/>	MSc <input type="checkbox"/>
	LLB <input type="checkbox"/>	MRes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	LLM <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Other ... <input type="checkbox"/>	
Mode of delivery	On-campus <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/>	
Professional body accreditation		

2. Programme Description

The MRes in Law aims to provide students with advanced skills in legal research, the ability to undertake high level analysis of law and legal issues with a focus on areas of research specific to the School of Law at SOAS, a grasp of the research methods that underpin the discipline and its place in the humanities and the social sciences, a grounding in legal research methods, and the ethics of legal research. The MRres in Law is especially suited to candidates who wish to undertake a PhD or professional research in law. It prepares students to undertake high-quality research.

3. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow students to achieve?

1. To develop broad-ranging knowledge of applications of and issues in 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.

4. Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs): What will students have learnt by the end of the programme?

Intended Learning Outcomes: Knowledge

1. Acquire specialist knowledge of law at the international and national level, in particular in a global North-South context.

- **Main core/compulsory modules in which ILOS are taught, learnt and assessed**

<p>2. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, knowledge and understanding of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the theoretical and practical underpinnings of international and comparative law • the context in which law is made, interpreted, adjudicated and amended; • the role played by law in different situations at the national, regional and international level; • the role and functions of legal institutions in dealing with law • the weight and significance of different sources and methodologies to different actors. <p>3. Develop knowledge of how to locate relevant materials and assess their relevance and/or importance.</p>	<p>MRes in Law Dissertation Research Methods in Law</p>
<p>Typical Teaching Methods</p>	<p>Typical Assessment Methods</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through attendance in all classes, independent and group study, class preparation, and presentations. • Through in course lectures/seminars. • In some subjects through non-assessed as well as assessed coursework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through examinations, long essays, written course work, seminar presentations, and dissertations.
<p>Intended Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop rigor in analysis and assessment of legal arguments. 2. Develop the ability to understand, summarise and critically assess differing perspectives on theoretical debates. 3. Develop independence of thought and the confidence to challenge accepted wisdom. 4. Learn to identify issues and formulate questions for further research through independent work. 5. By bringing to bear their own previous experiences and knowledge in addressing legal issues in an interdisciplinary manner. 	<p>Main core/compulsory modules in which ILOS are taught, learnt and assessed</p> <p>MRes in Law Dissertation Research Methods in Law</p>
<p>Typical Teaching Methods</p>	<p>Typical Assessment Methods</p>

<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 to develop their own assessments as to the relative value of different strategies/arguments/evidence. • Through independent dissertation and course work which entails selecting, designing and refining topics [with advice and assistance from supervisors and convenors] and elaborating precise research questions/hypotheses. • Through the structure and content of modules of an interdisciplinary nature. • Through student led learning, particularly in seminar discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through long essays, written course work, seminar presentations and dissertations.
Intended Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write clear research essays and dissertations. • Research in a variety of specialised research libraries and institutes and online, and retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources. • Present seminar papers and defend the arguments therein. • Discuss ideas introduced during seminars. • Develop essay and dissertation research questions. • Read legal source materials efficiently and critically. • Present legal arguments in moots and debates. 	<p>Main core/compulsory modules in which ILOS are taught, learnt and assessed</p> <p>MRes in Law Dissertation</p> <p>Research Methods in Law</p>
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through seminar discussion and interactive teaching methods. • Through regular seminar presentations. • Through independent work for essays/dissertations, including departmental guidance notes and meetings with supervisor. • Through required regular readings or use of other media for weekly seminar discussions. • Through the writing of long essays and dissertations. • Through the holding of debates in some of the taught courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through long essays, written course work, seminar presentations and dissertations.
Intended Learning Outcomes: Transferable 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. 	<p>Main core/compulsory modules in which ILOS are taught, learnt and assessed</p> <p>MRes in Law Dissertation</p> <p>Research Methods in Law</p>
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through preparation for seminars, writing for long essays and other course 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 course work by tutors and through preparation of answers to exam questions. • Through the formation of study groups. 	<p>Through long essays, written course work, seminar presentations and dissertations.</p>

6. Diversity and inclusion

The programme offers a range of modules with both theoretical and practical elements and diverse teaching methods, including student-led teaching, that speak to diverse backgrounds and experiences as well as modes of learning. Assessment combines a range of methods that accommodate different modes of showing both knowledge and various intellectual and subject-based skills.

MRes in Law

Year 1	credits	Dissertation	+	Taught Component	+	Taught Component	+	Taught Component
	module code	90		30		30		30
	module title	15PLAD179		15PLAC181		Law guided options/List A		Law List A & B OR SOAS open options
	FHEQ	MRes in Law Dissertation		Research Methods in Law		Level 7		Level 7
	status	Level 7		Level 7		Guided		Open
		Compulsory module		Compulsory module				

Dissertation

Dissertation (20,000 words), on a topic related to the degree programme.

Module	Code	Credits	Term
MRes in Law Dissertation	15PLAD179	90	Full Year

Taught Component

Compulsory Modules

Module	Code	Credits	Term
Research Methods in Law	15PLAC181	30	Full Year

AND

Choose modules from **List B** up to the value of 30 credits

AND

Choose further modules from **List B OR from Postgraduate Open Options** to the value of 30 credits

Module	Code	Credits	Term
Gender, Law and Society in The Middle East and North Africa	15PLAH056	15	Term 2
Gender, Sexuality and Law: Selected Topics	15PLAH061	15	Term 2
Gender, Sexuality and Law: Theories and Methodologies	15PLAH062	15	Term 1
Human Rights and Islamic Law	15PLAC150	30	Full Year
International Commercial Arbitration	15PLAC153	30	Full Year
International Investment Law	15PLAH063	15	Term 1
Law and Development in Africa	15PLAC160	30	Full Year
Law and Society in Southeast Asia	15PLAH049	15	Term 2
Law, Rights & Social Change	15PLAH064	15	Term 1
Preliminary Law, Legal Reasoning and Legal Methods	15PLAC162	0	Term 1
International Migration Law	15PLAH068	15	Term 2
International Refugee Law	15PLAH069	15	Term 1
Law, Religion, and the State in South Asia	15PLAC129	30	Full Year
Law, Environment and Social Justice	15PLAH067	15	Term 1

Colonialism, Empire and International Law	15PLAH025	15	Term 2
Foundations of International Law	15PLAH021	15	Term 1
Human Rights of Women	15PLAC112	30	Full Year
International Criminal Law	15PLAH055	15	Term 1
Law and Natural Resources	15PLAC126	30	Full Year
Law and Postcolonial Theory	15PLAH050	15	Term 2
The Law of Armed Conflict	15PLAH022	15	Term 2
Water Justice: Rights, Access and Movements (Law)	15PLAH044	15	Term 1
Law and Global Commons	15PLAH070	15	Term 2
International Environmental Law: Principles, Institutions & Enforcement	15PLAH073	15	Term 1
Biodiversity, Nature and Wildlife Law and Policy	15PLAH074	15	Term 2
Water and Development: Commodification, Ecology and Globalisation (Law)	15PLAH076	15	Term 2
Multinational Enterprises and the Law I	15PLAH077	15	Term 1
Multinational Enterprises and the Law II	15PLAH078	15	Term 2
Business and Human Rights in the Global Economy	15PLAH079	15	Term 1
Comparative Company Law	15PLAH080	15	Term 2
Israel, Palestine, and International Law (15Cr)	15PLAH081	15	Term 2
Palestine, Resistance, and the Law	15PLAH082	15	Term 2
Alternative Dispute Resolution I	15PLAH083	15	Term 1
Alternative Dispute Resolution II	15PLAH084	15	Term 2
International laws on the use of force	15PLAH020	15	Term 2
Gender and the Law of War	15PGNH005	15	Term 1
The Prohibition of Torture in International Law	15PLAH075	15	Term 2
Climate Change Law and Policy	15PLAH085	15	Term 2
International Protection of Human Rights (15Cr)	15PLAH086	15	Term 1

International Law: Contemporary Problems of World Order	15PFFH009	15	Term 2
Gender and the Law of Peace	15PGNH013	15	Term 2
Islamic Family Law	15PLAH087	15	Term 2
Islamic Legal Theory	15PLAH088	15	Term 1
Transnational Law, Finance and Technology	15PLAH089	15	Term 2
Colonial Geographies of International Law	15PLAH090	15	Term 2
Law and Society in The Middle East and North Africa	15PLAH091	15	Term 1
Research Methods in Law	15PLAC181	30	Full Year
Justice, Reconciliation and Reconstruction in Post-Conflict Societies	15PLAH040	15	Term 1
Artificial Intelligence: Power, law and resistance	15PMSH042	15	Term 2

Open Options Note

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