

Programme Title: LLM in Immigration Law



## Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	LLM in Immigration Law
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	1 calendar year
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	18 May 2016
Responsible School / Institute	School of Law

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

N/A

### Programme Outline

The proposed Programme permits students to study a range of law modules relating to migration, examining the phenomenon in its wider theoretical, practical, social, and political context. It introduces students to national, international, and comparative aspects and draws on research strengths within the School of Law.

As with other LLM Programmes, students will study the Programme over 12 months (24 months for part-time students). In all cases, enrollment will take place in September. Students will take taught modules to the value of 135 credits, of which, at least, 90 must be within the LLM in Immigration Law. Up to 45 credits can, if a student wishes, be drawn from the full range of taught modules available on the other LLM programmes. All students must write a 45 credit dissertation in the area of immigration law.

These modules within the proposed LLM in Immigration Law are:

- QLLM172 Comparative Immigration and Nationality Law (22.5 credits)
- QLLM170 Cultural Diversity and the Law (22.5 credits)
- QLLM176 International Refugee Law (22.5 credits)
- QLLM177 International Migration Law (22.5 credits)
- QLLM174 Migration, Security and Human Rights (22.5 credits)

## Programme Title: LLM in Immigration Law

- QLLM100 EU Immigration Law (22.5 credits)
- QLLM193 Free Movement of Persons in the European Union (22.5 credits)
- QLLM321 Ethics of Migration and Asylum (22.5 credits)
- QLLM231 Dissertation on immigration law (45 credits)

There is no established programme in the United Kingdom that offers a comprehensive range of modules in this area of law. Students will have the opportunity to study legal responses to the global phenomenon of immigration at international, supranational and domestic levels and understand the rationale and operation of the law in context.

The School is able to offer this programme thanks to the wide range of expertise in immigration law within the Law Department, including Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas, Professor Elspeth Guild, Dr Prakash Shah, Mr Nick Bernard, and Dr Violeta Moreno-Lax. There may well also be potential for developing relationships with other colleagues within the College's Centre for Migration. The programme will draw on this expertise and, in turn, help enhance the visibility and research profile of the School as a global hub of knowledge creation and dissemination at national and international level in this area.

### Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to:

- offer a unique opportunity for PGT students to acquire mastery in immigration law - at international, supranational, and domestic levels;
- provide students with expert supervision for the pursuit of individual study in the area;
- foster an understanding of the legal responses to immigration in context and in a comparative setting;
- provide a potential route to post-graduate research in the area of immigration law.

### What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Students who successfully complete the Programme will be able to:

- understand and explain in detail a wide range of aspects of the legal framework relating to immigration law;
- advance sophisticated arguments relating to immigration law in a manner that is supported by evidence and demonstrates knowledge of a wide range of relevant sources and of the social and cultural context of legal rules.
- construct a 15,000 word dissertation that (i) demonstrates mastery of an issue within immigration law, (ii) is well-structured and expressed effectively in English, and (iii) is presented in appropriate scholarly form.

#### Academic Content:

A1	Appreciate the impact of immigration law on real-world situations.
A2	Show a critical understanding of the legal framework relating to immigration in the global context.
A3	Effective employment of legal terminology, both orally and in writing, to convey technical legal information on the phenomenon of human mobility and human displacement at an advanced level.
A4	Apply legal knowledge on immigration to a practical situation and draw reasoned conclusions supported by legal argumentation and authority.

#### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B1	Identify, locate and retrieve relevant legal and non-legal source material on the phenomenon of human mobility and human displacement, through different means and in different formats.
B2	Demonstrate advanced legal skills, including critical analysis and awareness of relevant policy and doctrinal debates around immigration and its regulation under international, regional, and domestic law.
B3	Analyse, evaluate and interpret source material, including national statutes, regional and international law reports, treaties, and case law on the phenomenon of immigration.
B4	Synthesise information from primary and secondary sources to achieve detailed knowledge and understanding of the law, case law, and relevant literature on immigration.

Attributes:	
C1	Develop critical reasoning skills and analytical capabilities to deal with complex sets of source material.
C2	Utilise problem-solving skills in complex theoretical and practical contexts.
C3	Develop time management and prioritisation skills by working to deadlines.
C4	Develop individual and group communication skills through seminar presentations and problem-solving team work exercises.
C5	Take ownership and responsibility for own performance, organising time in an efficient and productive way.
C6	Develop reading and legal reasoning skills, analysing and synthesising different viewpoints and presenting their findings and conclusions in a clear, comprehensive and structured format, either orally or in writing.
C7	Work independently and in groups to explore issues, seek solutions for problems, and reach common objectives.

### How Will You Learn?

The learning process will take place in a variety of ways to cater for the range of transferable skills useful for pursuing a professional career in the field. Teaching will be in small groups, taking the form of interactive seminars, allowing students to test their understanding and to learn from both the seminar leader and their peers. In that framework, there will be opportunities for students to present arguments in oral and written form and to conduct independent research. The seminars will be supported by an online learning environment, provided via QMPlus. Students will conduct an independent research project under the guidance of a research supervisor, producing a 15,000 word dissertation. Research and writing skills sessions will be delivered to support the learning process and the preparation of the final dissertation.

### How Will You Be Assessed?

Mastery of the law and understanding of the context within which it has developed will be assessed by means of unseen examinations, coursework, and a 15,000 word dissertation. Legal research and writing skills will be assessed by means of the dissertation. The precise methods of assessment for each module are recorded in the respective module specifications.

## How is the Programme Structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if appropriate).

The School of Law has a number of LLM Programmes. Each focuses on a particular area of law. The LLM in Immigration Law is an addition to this very successful cluster of Programmes. Its structure will conform with the overall structure applied to all LLM Programmes. Accordingly, full-time students will study the Programme over 12 months (24 months for part-time students). In all cases, enrolment for the Programme will take place in September.

As noted above, students will take taught modules to the value of 135 credits (at least 90 credits of which must be in subjects within the LLM in Immigration Law Programme). Students will also research and write a 15,000 word dissertation on a relevant topic.

The Programme will be assessed in accordance with the regulations currently applying to existing LLM specialisations.

## Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
EU Immigration Law	QLLM100	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Cultural Diversity and Law	QLLM170	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Refugee Law	QLLM176	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Ethics of Migration and Asylum	QLLM321	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Comparative Immigration and Nationality Law	QLLM172	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Migration, Security and Human Rights	QLLM174	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Migration Law	QLLM177	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Free Movement of Persons in the European Union	QLLM193	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

## What Are the Entry Requirements?

For Law graduates, the usual qualification for entry to the LLM programme is a degree in law or a degree with a substantial law content, normally of at least upper-second class honours (or equivalent). For non-law graduates, they may be considered on the basis of exceptional professional experience that directly relates to the subject area. Non-law graduates with good honours, that have also obtained the equivalent of good honours in CPE and Bar Finals/Legal Practice examinations, or passed the solicitors' qualifying examination, may qualify. Law graduates with high 2.2 honours and at least five years professional legal experience

may also qualify.

## How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

Student feedback is sourced through module evaluations, responses to the NSS, and on a day-to-day basis through direct communication with module leaders and the LLM specialism coordinator, or via their Student Representative(s). Office hours and discussion on formative assessment exercises are also channels of communication and exchange on possible issues and new ideas that may improve programme and module delivery as well as student experience as a whole.

In addition, the Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal forum of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Also, each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

## Academic Support

Teaching for each module is research-led and delivered by a subject specialist, also offering students expert academic supervision for the dissertation. Students will also be able to take advantage of the general academic support available to all LLM students within the School. The School runs an induction period which includes guidance on module choice, information on research resources, and introductory teaching sessions. Throughout the year, classes on dissertation proposal formulation, study skills, and research and writing skills are available. Students are supported throughout by LLM tutors and the programme is supervised by a Programme co-ordinator and Programme Directors, who are members of academic staff within the School. Extensive library resources are available at QM Library and at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library. Both are served by expert professional support.

## Programme-specific Rules and Facts

These are the same as those which apply to our other LLM programmes.

## Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific

learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international, at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance, and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia;
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA);
- Arranging DSA assessments of need;
- Special arrangements in examinations;
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders);
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition;
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille);
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants);
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

## Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

As mentioned above, the learning process will take place in a variety of ways to cater for the range of transferable skills useful for pursuing a professional career in the field, including critical reasoning and analytical capabilities, problem-solving skills, time management and prioritisation skills, writing and oral communication skills, and independent and team-work capabilities.

Several activities and initiatives flanking the formal learning curriculum take place throughout the duration of the course, including:

1. Annual Lectures on Migration Law delivered by top rank speakers from academia and the policy world, such as, Prof Goodwin-Gill (Oxford), Academic Year 2014/15: <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/events/items/142116.html>; and Prof Francois Crepeau, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Academic Year 2015/16: <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/events/items/168600.html>;
2. Postgraduate Essay Competition on Immigration and Asylum Law: <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/news/2015/164397>, with winner invited to the prestigious Society of Legal Scholars' Annual Conference, within the Migration Law Section: <http://www.slsconference.uk/>;
3. Internship placements in immigration and asylum law and policy with several organizations providing QM-exclusive opportunities for students in the programme, including the leading Solicitors firm Kingsley Napley: <https://www.kingsleynapley.co.uk/> (2 posts); the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE): <http://www.ecre.org/> (5 posts); the International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI): <http://www.refugeelawinformation.org/> (open number of posts); and the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee of the House of Lords: <http://www.parliament.uk/hleu> (1 post). Full details on these placements are available on the programme website: <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/news/2016/169229.html>;
4. Careers and employability events, including a 'Meet and Greet' Session with several organisations active in the areas of immigration and asylum law: <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/news/2015/169205.html> (during Term 1); a UNHCR Information and Careers Session: <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/events/items/163877.html> (during Term 2); and a Study Trip to Geneva, to meet with representatives of key institutions active in the field: <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/news/2016/170037.html> (during Term 3);
5. Other ad hoc academic and policy-relevant events, such as the Expert Round Table: The Deadliest Frontier: Taking Stock of Mediterranean Crossings in 2015, taking place in March 2016, gathering experts from several disciplines and organisations beyond academia: <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/events/items/170912.html>; and the Refugee Week, organised in February 2016, featuring a week-long list of public engagement and refugee servicing initiatives, as part of the College-wide Refugees Welcome action: <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/research/centres/cjc/Refugee%20Week/169579.html>.

In addition, as a mid-term strategic objective for the programme, clinical legal education plans in matters regarding immigration and asylum are being negotiated with both the QM award-winning Legal Advice Centre (<http://www.lac.qmul.ac.uk>) and the AIRE (Advice in Individual Rights in Europe) Centre (<http://www.airecentre.org/index.php>) to launch the Rule 39 Project (<https://twitter.com/rule39project>) for LLM in Immigration Law students to gain / refine clinical skills in expulsion cases drafting and processing 'deportation halt' letters in the proximate future (possibly during academic year 2016/17).

## Programme Specification Approval

---

**Person completing Programme Specification**

Dr Violeta Moreno-Lax (Specialism Coordinator)

**Person responsible for management of programme**

Prof Valsamis Mitsilegas (Head of Department)

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended  
by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

18 May 2016

**Date Programme Specification approved by  
Taught Programmes Board**

18 May 2016