

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Awarding body/institution:	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching institution (if different from above):	
Name of the final award and Programme title:	MA in Law by Research
Duration of Study/Period of Registration	One Year
UCAS code:	
QAA Benchmark Group	
Academic Department/s involved in programme delivery	<p>The law department provides an academic (or at least one of two academics where supervisor is joint) to supervise the students research.</p> <p>In addition the department provides a core module is research theory and methodology.</p>
If accredited by a professional/statutory body, please give the name, date of last accreditation visit, approximate date of next visit and details of exemptions that will be given to QMUL graduates.	N/A

Criteria for admission to the programme

Applicants must have a first degree. This will almost always be a law degree. Exceptions arise when applicants wish to take theoretical approaches to law which will draw on their first degree eg. the application of a political theory to a legal issue where the candidates first degree is in politics. Students can also undertake this degree where they have non-law first degree but have passed a professional course in law such as the common professional examination.

Aims of the programme

The aims of the programme are to enable students to undertake supervised but otherwise independent research into law or law related issues.

The programme is intended to provide a more supported and structured introduction to legal research than an M.Phil/PhD programme.

It aims to allow students to earn a valuable recognised research degree in one year.

The programme is intended to allow and facilitate progression into a MPhil/PhD programme for students who demonstrate the requisite ability.

The programme is intended to broaden the students awareness of the range of theoretical and methodological approaches that inform legal research.

Learning outcomes for the programme

The ability to complete a major piece of independent research within the framework of supervision.

Students would be expected to learn how to structure the results of a much greater amount of information relating to a particular topic than they would have experienced either at an undergraduate level or when undertaking a post-graduate entirely taught masters programme.

In discussions with their supervisors, students would be expected to identify the focus and approach which provided the most coherent and significant presentation of the research material.

Through the core module, students would be exposed to a wider number of theories and methodologies than they would necessarily use in their particular thesis. The module would therefore equip them to choose which theories and methodologies could best inform their thesis research.

Teaching, learning and assessment strategies

The teaching of research theories and methodologies module, LAWM002, is assessed by two essays of 2500 words each. This module carries 25% of the programme marks. The module is taught through weekly 2 hours seminars.

The students research leads to a 20,000 word thesis. This thesis carries 75% of the programme's marks. The research involves the same protocols and frequency of meeting between supervisors and students as applies to the first year of the M.Phil/PhD programme.

Programme structure(s) and requirements, levels and modules

Students who take the MA RES programme must attend the core module LAW002 on research theories and methodologies.

The programme is at level 7.

Quality assurance mechanism (please include details of: SSLC meetings, student feedback mechanisms, personal tutor arrangements, programme induction, programme review and monitoring.)

The programme director acts as the students personal tutor.

A student from the programme sits as the representative of the MA Res students on the PGSSLC.

The essays for the core module and the dissertations are seen by the appointed external examiner for the programme, who provides an examiners report which provides feedback on the quality of the assessed work.

Staff on the core module periodically discuss their experience in teaching these students.

Programme induction takes place at the start of the year as part of the general induction for all PG Law students, with break out sessions to deal with the specific situation of the MA Res students.

Employers Links

Please provide details of any links with employers e.g.

- **Details of advisory panels that include current or potential employers;**
- **Organisations that regularly employ graduates from this programme and the roles that graduates undertake.**
- **Student prizes donated by organisations that may offer employment to graduates from this programme.**

If there are no links with employers consider the learning outcomes and transferable skills and explain how these might be used to inform employers about the qualities and skills a graduate from this programme might be expected to have.

There are no links between this programme and employers.

The skills involved in conducting a substantial amount of independent research and structuring the results of that research into coherent thesis of 20,000 words are skills which would be relevant to any job which involved elements of research or report writing. It provides an added value in terms of individual responsibility, originality and critical analysis missing from many entirely taught programmes, even at post-graduate level.

Person Completing Programme Specification	Richard Nobles
Person responsible for management of programme	Richard Nobles
Date programme specification agreed by Department or teaching and learning committee	8 July 2009