

Programme Title: BA Law and Politics



Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	BA Law and Politics
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	3 years (36 months), Maximum registration period: 6 years
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	ML12
QAA Benchmark Group	Law/Politics/International relations
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 6
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	1 Feb 2017
Responsible School / Institute	School of Law

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

School of Politics and International Relations

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

Programme Outline

The BA Law and Politics joint honours programme offers students the opportunity to study the closely related disciplines of Law and Politics side by side in a three-year programme.

The degree is aimed at those who wish to pursue a career in which knowledge of both the legal and governmental systems is of major importance, and should appeal especially to those wishing to study public policy in its legal context.

The first year of the programme is a common trunk with the LLB Law in Politics. At the end of their first year, students have the option of either continuing on the LLB if they wish to obtain a Qualifying Law Degree recognised as satisfying the academic stage of qualification as a solicitor or barrister in England and Wales or switching to the BA Law in Politics which offer students more opportunities to focus more on the politics side of the degree if they so wish.

Aims of the Programme

The BA Law and Politics programme offers intellectually able students the opportunity to study the closely related disciplines of Law and Politics in a supportive environment. Teaching is strongly underpinned by the research taking place in both Schools. The programme encourages students to explore legal rules, principles, reasoning and ideas in their comparative, social, political,

economic, historical, philosophical, and practical contexts.

As with other QMUL degree programmes, the BA Law and Politics embodies the QMUL model of education designed to allow students to develop the attributes specified in the 2010 QMUL's Statement of Graduate Attributes, notably through designated QMUL-Model compliant modules.

Outside the programme, students may choose to take part in the work of the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre, in a student-led Pro-Bono legal advice scheme, and in mooting.

What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will demonstrate achievement in all the following areas.

Academic Content:

A 1	demonstrate knowledge of a substantial range of major concepts, values, principles and rules of those systems
A 2	explain the main legal and political institutions and procedures of those systems
A 3	demonstrate the study in depth and in context of some substantive areas of the legal and political systems

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	demonstrate the study in depth and in context of some substantive areas of the legal and political systems
B 2	identify and retrieve up-to-date legal and political information, using paper and electronic sources
B 3	use primary and secondary legal and political sources relevant to the topic under study
B 4	recognise and rank items and issues in terms of relevance and importance
B 5	bring together information and materials from a variety of different sources
B 6	produce a synthesis of relevant legal doctrinal and policy issues in relation to a topic
B 7	make a critical judgement of the merits of particular arguments
B 8	present and make a reasoned choice between alternative solutions

Attributes:

C 1	act independently in planning and undertaking tasks in areas of law and politics which they have already studied
C 2	be able to undertake independent research in areas of law and politics which they have not previously studied starting from standard legal and political information sources

C3	reflect on their own learning and to seek and make use of feedback
C4	to understand and use the English language proficiently in relation to legal and political matters
C5	to present knowledge or an argument in a way which is comprehensible to others and which is directed at their concerns
C6	to read and discuss legal and political materials which are written in technical and complex language
C7	where relevant and as the basis for an argument, to use, present and evaluate information provided in numerical or statistical form
C8	to produce a word-processed essay or other text and to present such work in an appropriate form
C9	to use the internet and email
C10	to use some electronic information retrieval systems
C11	to work in groups as a participant who contributes effectively to the group's task

QMUL Model Learning Outcomes - Level 4:	
D1	Identify and discuss their own career aspirations or enterprise skills and knowledge and how they impact on others
D2	
D3	

QMUL Model Learning Outcomes - Level 5:	
E1	Analyse the impact of diverse cultural and global contexts upon aspects of their discipline
E2	Reflect on socio-cultural values and skills within diverse cultural and global contexts
E3	

QMUL Model Learning Outcomes - Level 6:	
F1	
F2	
F3	

QMUL Model Learning Outcomes - Level 7:

G 1

G 2

G 3

How Will You Learn?

Teaching for the core law modules is typically through lectures (to the whole year group) and tutorials (groups of about 12 students). By attending lectures you hear from experts in a legal field who will also be setting and marking your examinations. Lectures may have several different goals: to provide an introduction to a particular topic; to cast light on the context of a module; to provide alternatives to orthodox approaches; to provide an overview of the topic; to explain particularly difficult aspects of a topic; to introduce comparative aspects of a topic; to cover reform proposals and recent reforms in the law which are not covered in the textbooks.

Elective modules make use of a variety of teaching methods. Small group work often include discussion structured around questions and readings distributed in advance. Talking about law fluently is a vital part of developing legal reasoning skills. By expressing ideas you are able to refine and reflect on them. Tutorials and seminars are supportive environments in which ideas can be exchanged and difficulties can be ironed out.

A considerable amount of independent study is expected throughout the programme. This involves reading cases, legislation and academic texts. Independent study may also involve working with other students in pairs or small groups: students are encouraged to set up informal study groups to help each other get to grips with topics before or after tutorials and seminars.

All modules at Queen Mary make use of an online learning environment.

How Will You Be Assessed?

Both core and elective modules are assessed in a variety of ways, including examinations, course work including, for some options, a 15,000-word dissertation.

How is the Programme Structured?

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

Students are required to take 120 credits each year at Queen Mary and the programme is 360 credits in total. Modules are either 30 credits or 15 credits.

Year one consists of the following core modules: Public Law (30 credits); Elements of Contract Law (30 credits); Introduction to Politics (30 credits) and Law in Context (15 credits). Students also take a second semester 15 credit elective module in Politics: Background to British Politics or Global Histories.

In year two, there is one 15-credit core module (Law of the European Union). In addition, students 105 credits of elective modules in Law or Politics, at least 15 credits of which must be in Law and at least 30 credits of which must be in Politics.

In the final year, students take 120 credits of elective modules in Law or Politics, including at least 30 credits in each of the two disciplines.

Each year of study must include at least 15 credit of designated QMUL-model compliant modules. In year 1, Law in Context is the QMUL-model compliant module.

QMUL Model

Students are required to undertake the equivalent of one module (15 credits in 2017/18) per year of study which has been identified as meeting the requirements of the QMUL Model. Each of these modules has been designed to combine the best of QMUL's academic excellence with your ability to identify and develop your skills, networks and experience. This will help to ensure you become a graduate who can undertake further study or secure graduate employment in areas that interest you, and will support your ability to position yourself to find the right job or opportunity for you. The relevant module for your first year of study in 2017/18 is indicated below.

Where more than one module is specified, this is because pertinent elements from these modules have been identified as being appropriate to the QMUL Model and when studied together, deliver the equivalent content of one 15-credit QMUL Model module.

The QMUL Model modules for future years and associated Learning Outcomes will be identified as your studies continue.

Should Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body requirements apply to your programme of study, these will be taken into account in the specification of QMUL Model requirements.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester	QMUL Model
Public Law	LAW4001	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Elements of contract Law	LAW4005	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Introduction to Politics	POL100	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Law in Context	LAW4008	15	4	Core	1	Semester 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Background to British Politics	POL108	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Global Histories	POL109	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No

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Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester	QMUL Model
Law of the European Union	LAW5105	15	5	Core	2	Semester 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Elective Level 5 or 6 Law module		15	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Elective level 5 Politics module(s)		30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Elective level 5 Politics module or level 5 or 6 Law module(s)		60	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester	QMUL Model
Elective level 6 Law module(s)		30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elective level 6 Politics module(s)		30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elective level 6 Law or Politics module (s)		60	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/>

What Are the Entry Requirements?

Entry is via the first year of the LLB in Law and Politics, where the requirements are:

AS/A-level:

Typical tariff or grades required: AAA (GCE A-level).

Excluded subjects: General studies, critical thinking.

International Baccalaureate:

Subjects and grades: Minimum of 37 points overall with combined total of 18 points from three higher level subjects.

Vocational and other qualifications:

The College accepts a wide range of qualifications such as Access and Foundation programmes, vocational awards, Irish Leaving Certificate, Scottish Highers and other Baccalaureates.

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means 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.

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

Feedback on progress in each module is provided throughout the year in various ways (for example, comments on written assignments, and guidance given in lectures and tutorials). In addition, every student has a designated academic adviser, who is a member of academic staff responsible for having an overview of progress and helping with any problems that impact on academic progress. Academic advisers and module tutors have 'office hours' during which students can consult them. In addition, Graduate Student Advisers (GSAs) are experienced and friendly postgraduate law students who are available to offer confidential one-to-one guidance and support to undergraduates in the Department as well as workshops on study skills. Students will be visited once per term during the placement year by the Programme Director.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

In order to progress to the next year of study, you must pass all your examinations. This applies even when you are absent due to events outside your control: under no circumstances can a student be allowed to progress to the next stage of the degree unless all examinations have been passed.

You are normally expected to pass all your examinations in a year in one sitting. This means that, when you fail some examinations (or you are unable to attend them for any reason), you must normally sit all of them again, including those that you already passed. There are some limited exceptions to this rule. Unlike most other programmes at Queen Mary, resit marks on undergraduate law programmes are not capped. There is a maximum of three attempts at the examinations: one sit and two resits.

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

When you arrive, you will meet the School of Law's dedicated Careers Consultant, part of the Queen Mary Careers and Enterprise Team, who is regularly available in the department for one-to-one support. The Careers Consultant also manages Careers Brief, the School's careers website, and arranges employer workshops in areas such as commercial awareness, applications, interview skills and choosing the right LPC and BPTC provider.

The Legal Advice Centre provides undergraduate law students with the opportunity to place law into a practical legal context under the supervision of volunteer lawyers. Lawyers from Allen & Overy, Field Fisher Waterhouse Mishcon de Reya, Nabas Legal and Reed Smith work closely with students, providing guidance and supervision, as well as training and careers advice.

The Queen Mary Student Pro Bono Group (QMSPBG) is a student group created by students for students. More than 250 students are involved in the QMSPBG from their first year through to their final year at Queen Mary. As students develop their skills and legal knowledge, they are able to become involved in increasingly challenging and hands-on projects. The Queen Mary Student Pro Bono Group has well-developed links with the London legal community. Students have the opportunity to volunteer at organisations that provide pro bono legal advice and to 'shadow' solicitors. Placement programmes operate through partnerships with leading law firms such as Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP, SNR Denton, Clifford Chance and Reed Smith LLP. Queen Mary runs a Streetlaw Programme, which is based on a US model to provide an outreach volunteer programme to local schools and communities. Students visit primary and secondary schools to teach pupils relevant parts of the law. The Group also offers exciting opportunities in international law, in the past students have worked with organisations such as A4ID and Lawyers Without Borders.

The Pro Bono Group publishes a monthly student newspaper called 'The Advocate', which includes articles from Queen Mary academics and students as well as external lawyers.

The Queen Mary Mooting Society plays an active part of undergraduate life at Queen Mary. Under the auspices of the Student Moot Master and Student Mooting Committee, students have the opportunity to become involved in both internal and external mooting competitions.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Nick Bernard

Person responsible for management of programme

Eva Nanopoulos

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

1/2/17

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board

1 Feb 2017