

<b>1</b>	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	<b>University of Newcastle upon Tyne</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	<b>As Above</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Final Award</b>	<b>LLM</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Programme title</b>	<b>LLM in Environmental Legal Studies</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Programme Accredited by:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>UCAS Code</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>QAA Subject Benchmarking Group(s)</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Date of production/revision</b>	<b>May 02</b>

<b>9</b>	<b>Programme Aims:</b>
	<b>To comply with prevailing University policies</b>
	<b>To enable students to</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. acquire specialised legal knowledge and legal skills in the subject-matter of LLM in Environmental Legal Studies</li> <li>2. have the opportunity to acquire specialised knowledge in other related areas</li> <li>3. develop a greater understanding of the nature of law and regulation, both generally and within the specific context of the subject-matter of LLM in Environmental Legal Studies</li> <li>4. develop their research, organisational and presentation skills, and their capacity and opportunity for independent learning</li> <li>5. develop other key skills that will equip students for future learning and employment</li> </ol>

**10(a) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:****A Knowledge and understanding of:**

1. key principles and doctrines in a range of legal subjects related to LLM in Environmental Legal Studies;
2. the key institutions relevant to those legal subjects;
3. theoretical perspectives (including those drawn from other disciplines) on the legal and policy issues raised by the subjects studied by the student; and
4. contemporary research and scholarship in these legal subjects.

**B Subject-specific/professional skills**

The ability to:

1. Engage in legal problem-solving (insofar as appropriate for the legal subject studied) by identifying relevant issues, applying relevant concepts, principles and rules, making judgements and reaching conclusions supported by sound and informed reasoning;
2. Engage in theoretical reflection on the legal subjects being studied, including identifying the criteria by which the law's regulation might be evaluated and making judgements thereon supported by sound and informed reasoning;
3. Write, speak and think with care and precision in the analysis and synthesis of the law; and
4. Identify issues for research and to retrieve accurate and relevant legal and other sources in primary and secondary form, both in paper and digital formats.

**C Cognitive skills**

The ability to

1. Analyse legal issues, including identifying and ordering issues by relevance and importance;
2. synthesise materials derived from diverse sources;
3. exercise critical judgement by discriminating between the merits or otherwise of particular arguments and
4. exercise skills of evaluation in making a reasoned choice between competing solutions or arguments.

**D Key (transferable) skills**

The ability to

- 1 (a) read, interpret and understand English language accurately in relation to complex technical texts and (b) present argument intelligibly and accurately;
- 2 word process essays and other academic work in an appropriate form, use the internet and email and demonstrate some competence in digital information retrieval;
- 3 (a) act independently in organising time, tasks and meeting deadlines (b) undertake independent research both in areas already studied and those investigated without prior study and (c) reflect on the learning process using feedback.

10(b)	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:	Teaching and Learning Methods and Strategies
A	Knowledge and understanding	<p>Students have the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding from a variety of teaching methods. First, in some subjects lecturers make presentations of selected areas of legal material. These presentations may take the form of traditional lectures, or of introductory presentations in seminar groups. Second, in all subjects, students are given handouts which both present basic information relevant to the legal subject and indicate further reading which students are required to undertake to advance their understanding and knowledge. Third, students participate in seminars in all of their chosen legal subjects. Students must prepare for such seminars through undertaking set reading, and by applying that reading to specific problems or issues set for discussion. Group discussions within seminars are then based around these set problems/issues. Finally, the compulsory written work set in all modules (including the compulsory dissertation) provide students with a further opportunity both to develop, and to test, their knowledge and understanding.</p>
B	Subject-specific/ professional skills	<p>These skills are developed generally through preparation for seminars and participation within seminars, and through students' written assignments (including the compulsory dissertation) and examinations. Skills B.3 and B.4. are also the focus of the compulsory module in 'Techniques and Sources for Legal Research', and the supervisory arrangements which accompany the students' research for, and preparation of, their dissertation.</p>
C	Cognitive skills	<p>C1 to C4 are primarily developed and demonstrated through seminar discussions, problem-solving and in researching and writing assessed coursework essays, research papers, the dissertation, examinations, and preparing for and delivering oral presentations.</p>
D	Key (transferable) skills	<p>Under D1, the ability to argue orally is developed primarily through seminars and further developed in the Techniques and Sources module, which has an assessed presentation. Again under D1, literacy is developed through course work assessments, seminar papers where required and the dissertation. D2 and D3 are introduced in induction and practised throughout the programme. Coursework provides the opportunity for students to develop and demonstrate IT &amp; C literacy (D2). D3 is developed by preparation for seminars and researching and writing coursework essays, research papers and dissertations.</p>

10(c)	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:	Assessment Strategy and Methods
A	Knowledge and understanding	This is assessed by three means: (a) by an assessed essay which is compulsory in each module (and typically counts for 50% of the student's overall grade for that module); (b) by an unseen examination paper in each module; and (c) by the dissertation.
B	Subject-specific/professional skills	This is assessed by three means: (a) by an assessed essay which is compulsory in each module (and typically counts for 50% of the student's overall grade for that module); (b) by an unseen examination paper in each module; and (c) by the dissertation.
C	Cognitive skills	This is assessed by three means: (a) by an assessed essay which is compulsory in each module (and typically counts for 50% of the student's overall grade for that module); (b) by an unseen examination paper in each module; and (c) by the dissertation.
D	Key (transferable) skills	D1, 2 (part) and 3 (part) are assessed by assessed essays, exams and the dissertation. There is no formal assessment of the use of email skills, nor of student reflection on the learning process using feedback.

**11 Programme Curriculum, Structure, and Features:**

The programme is studied over one year full-time or two years part-time.

Students must take modules to a total of 180 credits. There are two compulsory modules. These are:  
Techniques and Sources for Legal Research (A and B) (20 credits)  
Dissertation (60 credits).

The remaining Credits must be taken from a list of approved modules or, with the Degree Programme Director's consent, from other modules available within the University.

The number indicates the module weighting of each option. Some modules (marked with #) are foundation modules. The Postgraduate Degree Programme Director must approve any student's selection of such modules. Such approval will not be given where the student has previously studied that subject.

At least 60 credits must be taken from courses marked with \*. The courses are as follows:

**Semester One:**

50-70 credit modules out of the following:

**Compulsory:**

LAW812 Techniques and Sources for Legal Research A 10

**Options:**

LAW317 Foundations of Public International Law# 10  
LAW802 International Contracts 20  
LAW806 International Environmental Law\* 20  
LAW814 The Law of WTO and GATT 20  
LAW816 Sustainable Development: Law and Ethics\* 20  
LAW824 European Law 20  
LAW825 Comparative Constitutions 20  
LAW827 International Human Rights 20  
NSM845 Law of Human Resource Management 10

**Semester Two:**

50-70 credit Modules out of the following:

**Compulsory:**

LAW813 Techniques and Sources for Legal Research B 10

**Options:**

LAW317 Foundations of Public International law# 10  
LAW803 European Environmental Law\* 20  
LAW807 International Financial Regulation 20  
LAW815 Environmental Law and Policy\* 20  
LAW819 Comparative Corporate Governance 20  
LAW822 International Trade and the Environment\* 20  
LAW823 Private International Commercial Law 20  
LAW824 European Law 20  
LAW828 International Intellectual Property Law 20  
NSM845 Law of Human Resource Management 10

(To take International Trade and Environment, students must previously have taken Law of WTO & GATT)

**12 Criteria for Admission:**

Admission requirements reflect the fact that this is a postgraduate taught degree programme. We usually require a good first honours degree in either law, or in another academic discipline related to the programme. However, given the diverse backgrounds of applicants to the programme, each applicant is generally considered on an individual basis. Those whose first language is not English must demonstrate a good command of English.

**13 Support for Students and their Learning****Study Skills**

Preliminary induction session for all students, providing orientation and information on the programme of studies. This then continues into the compulsory module on 'Techniques and Sources for Legal Research', which runs over two semesters.

**Learning Resources**

Module teaching materials, including module outlines and reading lists, are on the Law School intranet.

The Robinson Library services, including a dedicated Law Library housed in the Law School and partly funded by the Law School.

Extensive University Computer network across campus and in halls of residence, including a cluster of PCs housed in the Law School.

Newcastle Law School Online resources include Degree Programme Handbook, guides on Legal Writing, Problem Solving and Legal Information Retrieval, access to electronic legal information services and past examination papers.

**Academic Support**

Academic support is provided for specific academic problems *via* the module leader and the seminar programme. For general academic problems, progress issues and options choices, the Personal Tutor/ Degree Programme Director provide advice and guidance.

**Pastoral Support**

Pastoral support is available from the Personal Tutor/the Degree Programme Director. Other University agencies may be accessed either directly by the student or on referral from the Personal Tutor etc where appropriate. These include the Saville Medical Practice, the University's Student Progress Office (the link on financial assistance issues), the University Counselling Service, the University Chaplaincy and the University Disability Unit (extending to issues of dyslexia and incapacity for assessment as well as the more obvious cases). Finally, the University Careers Service provides extensive and very well received support in close co-operation with the Law School in guiding and informing students on career issues.

**14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning:****Evaluation Questionnaires**

Every year all LAW coded modules, other than the research-based Dissertation, are the subject of evaluation by students in a standard Law School format. The evaluation extends to lectures (where applicable) and seminars. Additionally, Programme Questionnaires have been issued to students to evaluate the Programme as a whole. The results are considered in detail by the Law School Teaching and Learning Committee in conjunction with the Module Reviews.

**Module Reviews**

Module leaders are required to conduct an annual module review taking into account the experience during the year, evaluation questionnaires and assessment results. Issues arising are included in an action plan. The reviews are considered in detail by the Law School's Teaching and Learning Committee. The Board of Studies receives a report on any problems and general issues.

**Peer Review of Teaching**

Postgraduate teaching is reviewed as part of the School's annual structured review of teaching. Large group teaching is reviewed in one year and small group teaching in the next year. The review is in the form of teaching observation, coupled with a briefing in advance and a de-briefing after the observation. The review is conducted by a member of the Law School's Teaching and Learning Committee. Results are fed back to staff on an individual basis and a report on any general issues is made to the Board of Studies.

**Progress Reviews**

As well as the Degree Programme Director conducting progress checks on individual students in each semester, the Personal Tutorials provide a routine mechanism for checking progress. The Board of Studies annually reviews progression rates and distribution of degree classes.

**Programme Reviews**

In accordance with the University's quality assurance mechanisms, the Board of Studies conducts a biennial programme review against the benchmark of the University statements of Good Teaching Practice. The review is formally evaluated at Faculty and University level.

**External Examiner Reports**

External examiners are required to make annual reports to the University and are formally considered by the Board of Studies. Responses go to the External Examiners after scrutiny at Faculty level.

**Subject Review**

The University has in place a Subject Review Programme in which University academics independently assess the quality of provision for particular degree programmes every five years.

**Feedback to students**

The Law School formally feeds back quality evaluation and other related issues *via* Staff Student Committee and the Board of Studies. Both bodies have student representation from the degree programme.

**15 Regulation of Assessment****Assessment modes**

All LAW coded modules except Techniques and Sources, the Dissertation and European Law are assessed by an assessed essay and an unseen examination. Each component counts for 50%. Techniques and Sources is assessed by a written paper and a student presentation. The dissertation component is assessed, predictably, by the submitted dissertation. European Law is assessed by two essays and an examination (each counting 33%).

**The University Common Marking Scheme**

All assessed coursework and examinations are marked using the following scheme:

0-49% - fail  
50%-59% - pass  
60%-69% - merit  
70% or more - distinction.

**Overall degree**

The Board of Examiners may award the overall degree with distinction, or with merit. In general, an average mark of 70% for the taught components of the programme, and a comparable mark for the dissertation component, shall be required for the award of the degree with distinction. In general, an average mark of 60% for the taught component of the programme, and a comparable mark for the dissertation component, shall be required for the award of the degree with merit.

**External Examiners**

The Board of Studies nominates External Examiners for Faculty approval. The University has standards for both the appointment of Externals and the conduct of business by the appointee. The Law School presently has five External Examiners, all of whom are distinguished in their fields and experienced in assessment. In relation to individual modules, the Externals approve assessed coursework titles and examination papers, check marking for consistency and standards and assist in resolving marginal results. In addition, an external examiner has been nominated to act as external for the programme as a whole. That external is to attend the Examination Board for the LLM programmes and ensure the maintenance of standards for overall degree performance.

**16 Indicators of Quality and Standards:**

External Examiners Reports

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

In addition, information relating to the course is provided in:

The University Prospectus

The Departmental Prospectus

The University and Degree Programme Regulations

The Degree Programme Handbook

QAA Subject Review Report