

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	Graduate Diploma Law (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Graduate Diploma Law - Core
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home School/other teaching departments	Birkbeck Law school
Location of delivery	Central London/online
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September (start of September)
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Solicitor's Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board – The programme contains the seven foundations of law as required by the Academic Stage Handbook, jointly overseen by the SRA and BSB
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	
Birkbeck Course Code	GDGLAWCN_C
HECoS Code	100485 law
Start date of programme	Autumn 2022
Date of programme approval	Spring 2022
Date of last programme amendment approval	September 2022
Valid for academic entry year	2023-24
Programme Director	Maria Aristodemou
Date of last revision to document	30/09/2022

Admissions requirements

Applicants need to have attained a 2:2 in their undergraduate degree (BA or equivalent). Applicants who have earned a mark below 2:2 will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

This programme is designed for students who have completed an undergraduate degree and wish to quickly pivot and retrain as lawyers. This programme features a mixture of degree-level teaching of law-in-context, characteristic of Birkbeck Law's research-informed teaching, alongside skills-based teaching of legal doctrine and the application of legal rules. The programme will give students a firm grounding in the principles and application of law, while enabling them to engage in contemporary legal, social and political debates.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year					
6	LALW111H6	Legal Methods and Skills (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T1
6	LALW112H6	Contract Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T1
6	LALW113H6	Public Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T1
6	LALW114H6	Criminal Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T1
6	LALW115H6	Tort Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T2
6	LALW116H6	Land Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T2
6	LALW117H6	Equity and Trusts (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T2
6	LALW118H6	European Union Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T3
6		Option 1	15	Optional	T2 or 3
6		Option 2	15	Optional	T2 or 3
Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
6	LALW111H6	Legal Methods and Skills (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T1
6	LALW112H6	Contract Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T1
6	LALW113H6	Public Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T1
6	LALW118H6	European Union Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T3
6	LALW115H6	Tort Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T2
6		Option 1 (either in year 1 or in 2nd year)	15	Optional	T2 or 3
Year 2					
6	LALW116H6	Land Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T2
6	LALW117H6	Equity and Trusts (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T2
6	LALW114H6	Criminal Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory	T1
6		Option 1 (if not taken in 1st year)	15	Optional	T1, 2 or 3
6		Option 2	15	Optional	T1, 2 or 3

Indicative options list					
6	LALW076H6	Evidence	15	Option	T2
6	LALW055H6	Mooting and Trial Skills	15	Option	T2
6	LADD065H6	Private International Law	15	Option	T2
6	LALW026H6	Legal Argument and Language in Law (Level 6)	15	Option	T3

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student

Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

Option: Student can choose to take this module

Exit Award: Graduate Diploma in Law - Core

If students do not successfully complete (pass) the two optional modules required by the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) but pass all required compulsory modules they may be eligible, at the discretion of the Sub-Board of Examiners, for the award of a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) - Core. The GDL – Core consists of 120 credits and retains all 7 foundational areas of legal knowledge as well as the introduction to law's basic principles (Legal Methods and Skills). Therefore, the GDL – Core will still fulfil the practical vocational use of educating students to be able to gain a place on SQE and Bar Training Courses.

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Teaching and learning on this programme entails a blended approach, including:

- Pre-recorded lecture material, to be viewed asynchronously but prior to live sessions
- The provision of online materials, including readings, exercises and prompts
- Regular interactive seminar sessions
- Co-curricular career-related sessions and law research and legal practice events

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

The assessments on this programme consists of a mixture of the following methods:

- Formative quizzes administered in seminars
- Summative exams in the form of single best answer questions
- Summative exams in the form of problem-questions and/or essay questions

The mix of assessment types allows for the tailoring of assessment method to each specific legal topic, as some areas of law are most suitably assessed in open-ended essays that allow for expansive articulation of law-in-context, while other areas may be best assessed in the form of single-base-answer questions (e.g., assessments wherein the aim is to test the application of specific legal rules).

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate good knowledge of the seven foundations of legal knowledge, in addition to two specialist areas of law
- Critically engage with sources of law, including cases, and scholarship from law and related fields
- Apply principles of law
- Engage in basic legal research using specific legal resources
- Demonstrate knowledge of the routes to vocational qualification
- Demonstrate knowledge of career possibilities that follow on from legal qualification

Careers and further study

As a graduate of the GDL, you are one step closer on your career path to becoming a legal practitioner. Possible professions include:

- solicitor
- barrister
- policy adviser
- civil servant
- campaigner
- academic.

Alternatively, you may use your legal practice and critical reasoning skills within the industry in which you work, including in business, technology, the arts and NGOs.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

[Further information](#) about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is available online.

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