

Programme Specification

Award and title: LLM Law

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Law
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2027-28
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September and February
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	N/A
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate in Law Postgraduate Diploma in Law
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Law
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Postgraduate periods of study ¹ for full time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The LLM Law programme at York St John University is designed to offer postgraduate students an intellectually rigorous and professionally relevant legal education one that is ambitious in its academic standards, flexible in its structure, and deeply attentive to the individual student. At its heart, the programme is built on a simple but powerful conviction: that law is most meaningfully studied when it is connected to the world it governs.

The LLM Law is underpinned by the core values of York St John University, particularly its commitment to social justice, inclusion, sustainability, and positive social change. These values are embedded throughout the curriculum, encouraging you to critically examine the role of law in promoting fairness, accountability, equality, and access to justice. The programme offers a range of specialist modules that enable you to tailor your studies to your interests and career aspirations. Depending on the modules selected, you may explore issues relating to corporate responsibility, consumer rights, environmental sustainability, ethical decision-making, governance and accountability, intellectual property, or the balance between security and individual freedoms. Across these areas, you will be encouraged to consider the wider social, ethical, and environmental implications of legal rules and policies, recognising that legal decisions often have profound

consequences for individuals, communities, and society. By engaging with diverse legal perspectives and contemporary challenges, you will develop advanced legal knowledge alongside the analytical, ethical, and reflective skills needed to contribute responsibly to legal practice, policymaking, research, and wider social debates.

The most distinctive feature of the programme is its work-related learning model, which runs through the programme and gives the curriculum its defining character. You will be exposed to organisations or businesses with legal problems or challenges, and you will be expected to work with these stakeholders to resolve a legal problem or challenge. You will then immerse yourselves in the relevant law and legal principles, studying not in the abstract but in direct response to a legal issue or challenge. At the end, you will present your research and proposed solutions back to that organisation, using a range of professional mediums.

This model does several important things simultaneously. It develops the analytical habits that serious legal study demands, close reading, careful reasoning, the ability to navigate complexity and uncertainty. But it also builds the professional skills that employers value most: structured communication, confident presentation, collaborative problem-solving, and the ability to translate complex legal ideas into clear, actionable recommendations for a non-specialist audience. Across the programme, you will engage with this cycle repeatedly and in different contexts, gradually building fluency and confidence in both the legal and professional dimensions of the work. The cumulative effect is a graduate who is not only legally knowledgeable but professionally capable and ready.

The programme is structured to give you genuine ownership of your learning. Across the two semesters, you will select optional modules that reflect your own interests and professional ambitions, allowing the programme to be genuinely tailored rather than merely described as such. Running alongside these modules throughout the full academic year is the Capstone Project which pairs you with an industry partner who sets a real-world legal problem for investigation and resolution. You will synthesise your prior learning through an in-depth, supervised research project that integrates doctrinal legal analysis, applied problem-solving, and elements of professional practice.

Together, the optional modules and the Capstone Project ensure that you develop both breadth and depth: the breadth to engage confidently with a range of legal issues and contexts, and the depth to demonstrate genuine expertise in an area that matters to them.

The programme is designed with the individual student firmly in mind. Teaching is delivered by a dedicated team of academics and legal professionals who are committed not only to intellectual rigour but to genuine pastoral care. Class sizes and a culture of attentiveness mean that students are known, not as numbers, but as people with backgrounds, interests, and goals and supported accordingly.

This ethos extends into the wider student experience. You will join a close-knit law school community, benefit from careers advice and professional development opportunities woven throughout your studies and have access to subsidised field trips to legal institutions that bring the landscape of the profession to life. The programme takes seriously its responsibility not just to educate but to prepare to send you into the world with the knowledge, skills, networks, and confidence to thrive.

Key benefits of studying with us include:

- Advanced academic study with real-world legal engagement.
- A distinctive work-related learning model
- Development of high value legal and professional skills
- Flexible, student-centred curriculum design with optional modules which allow students to tailor their learning to their interests and career goals.
- A supportive learning environment with strong peer and staff relationships.

- Careers advice and professional development opportunities are embedded throughout the programme.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aims

This programme aims to: -

- Provide an opportunity to tailor your study to explore your interests through a range of engaging modules.
- Expose you to a work-related experience in each module, providing context to help structure your learning.
- Create opportunities to engage with organisations or businesses to facilitate your evaluation of law in a real-world context and explore its impact in our community, whilst enabling you to expand your network, receive feedback from industry leaders and explore current ethical or commercial issues.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 Research widely and apply knowledge of law, ethical and/or commercial principles to complex legal issues systematically and creatively.
- 7.2 Exercise sound judgment, make appropriate decisions and draw reasoned conclusions in complex real-world legal contexts and in the absence of complete data.
- 7.3 Communicate clearly and succinctly to legal and non-legal audiences, conforming to appropriate conventions and standards where required, and requirements as to citation and referencing.
- 7.4 Demonstrate autonomy and originality in tackling and solving advanced legal and ethical or commercial problems, formulating coherent and persuasive interpretations and arguments and responding with insight and sensitivity to complex, unfamiliar and controversial arguments and debates.
- 7.5 Identify and retrieve up-to-date legal information, using appropriate paper and electronic sources.
- 7.6 Reflect on, plan and implement actions to advance your own learning and personal development.
- 7.7 Demonstrate advanced research methodology skills necessary to transfer learning acquired through taught modules to produce an extensive piece of independent research which evaluates a specific issue in private or public law and results in coherent arguments and reasoned conclusions.

Programme structure for September Start

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	Non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
LAW7054M	7	1	Company Law	30	O	X
LAW7055M	7	1	Consumer Protection Law	30	O	X
LAW7056M	7	1	Law and Ethics	30	O	X
LAW7057M	7	1	Sports Law and Governance	30	O	X
LAW7060M	7	2	Corporate Governance	30	O	X
LAW7061M	7	2	Intellectual Property Law	30	O	X
LAW7059M	7	2	Environmental Law	30	O	X
LAW7058M	7	2	Terrorism and the Law	30	O	X
LAW7063M	7	1, 2 & 3	Capstone Project	60	C	NC

Please note that not all options may be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level with a mark of 50 in order to progress.

Programme structure for February Start

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
LAW7060M	7	2	Corporate Governance	30	O	X
LAW7061M	7	2	Intellectual Property	30	O	X
LAW7059M	7	2	Environmental Law	30	O	X
LAW7058M	7	2	Terrorism and the Law	30	O	X
LAW7054M	7	1	Company Law	30	O	X
LAW7055M	7	1	Consumer Protection Law	30	O	X
LAW7056M	7	1	Law and Ethics	30	O	X
LAW7057M	7	1	Sports Law and Governance	30	O	X
LAW7063M	7	2, 3 & 1	Capstone Project	60	C	NC

Please note that not all options may be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level with a mark of 50 in order to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

You will be taught through a range of interactive, student-centred teaching methods designed to develop both core knowledge and applied understanding through active participation. These may include workshops, short lectures, seminars, case-based learning sessions, problem-solving activities, and group discussions, depending on the nature of the topic being studied. Each module is typically delivered through a weekly three-hour session. You will be expected to undertake advance preparation, such as completing guided readings or set tasks, which will inform and support in-class activities. Sessions are designed to be participatory and may include discussion, case study analysis, applied problem-solving exercises, group work, and presentations. Teaching is facilitated by your tutor, who will guide discussion, clarify key concepts, and support you in applying legal and theoretical knowledge to practical and real-world contexts. These sessions provide opportunities to develop critical thinking, communication, and analytical skills, while also enabling you to learn collaboratively with your peers and test your understanding in a supportive environment. Interactive tools such as Mentimeter, Padlets, Moodle discussion sites, may also be used to encourage anonymous contributions and allow tutors to monitor and respond to your developing understanding in real time. You will also take part in fortnightly one-hour small-group Problem-based Learning (PBL) tutorials that simulate a professional working environment. An industry partner provides a genuine organisational context within which you will investigate a real-world scenario, developing your problem-solving, research, and negotiation abilities. The outcomes of this work feed directly into an assessed element that requires you to report your findings back to the partner, strengthening your written and verbal communication and presentation skills throughout the programme.

Substantive law will be studied within an academic framework while you simultaneously gain exposure to live client work through the York St John Law/Business Clinic. This blended approach allows you to develop legal skills in a real-world setting and to reflect critically on law as it operates in practice. Practical, clinical, and research competencies are woven into every module, ensuring you graduate with both strong theoretical foundations and meaningful applied professional experience.

A Capstone Project runs throughout your time on the programme, matching each student with an industry partner who presents a genuine legal problem for investigation and resolution. Drawing on everything you have learned, you will undertake a closely supervised research project that combines doctrinal legal analysis, applied problem-solving, and elements of professional practice. Working from the partner's brief, you will develop a suitable research design, apply relevant methodologies, and produce a solution demonstrating both advanced legal knowledge and transferable professional skills.

In your first semester, weekly two-hour workshops will introduce the theory and practice of research methodology and design, helping you identify the most appropriate approach and plan your project effectively. In your second semester, fortnightly three-hour workshops provide more focused and hands-on support as you carry out your research and begin analysing your findings, complemented by eight hours of individual supervision from an academic with expertise in your chosen area.

As part of your learning experience, the programme incorporates field trips designed to complement your academic study and provide practical, work-related insights. These visits may include courts, law firms, regulatory bodies, commercial organisations, and, for students specialising in international business and commercial law, organisations involved in cross-border trade, arbitration, and commercial dispute resolution. Field trips offer an opportunity to observe legal and business processes in real-world settings, engage with practitioners, and see how theory is applied in practice. They provide a unique form of experiential learning, enabling you to develop professional skills, critically reflect on legal and commercial practices, and contextualise your learning within practical, global, and interdisciplinary environments. By participating in these visits, you will enhance your understanding of the professional landscape, strengthen analytical and reflective skills, and gain practical insight that supports your academic development and future career readiness.

You will encounter a varied range of assessments designed to be educationally meaningful and skills focused. Essays support independent inquiry and the development of reasoned critical argument, portfolios allow you to apply knowledge practically as each topic unfolds, and presentations require you to demonstrate your abilities in a professionally relevant setting.

Formative feedback opportunities are built into every assessment in every module, reflecting our commitment to developmental support leading into summative work. For the Capstone Project specifically, you will be matched with an appropriately qualified member of academic staff who will guide and support you throughout. Two dedicated assessment workshops are also scheduled within each module to explain requirements, offer guidance, and provide formative feedback on your progress.

Beyond academic support, you will be assigned a personal tutor who will get to know you and your ambitions, monitor your overall development, and offer pastoral advice and guidance throughout your studies.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [regulations](#) for taught postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Code of Practice](#)
- [The University's Approach to Dignity and Respect](#)

Date written / revised: January 2026

Programme originally approved: March 2026