

Programme specification

LLB (Hons) Law

Est.
1841

YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

<i>School:</i>	School of Psychological and Social Sciences
<i>Entry from:</i>	2019/20 <i>in:</i> September
<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>	Accredited by the SRA and BSB
<i>Exit awards:</i>	BA (Hons) Legal Studies BA (Ord) Legal Studies Diploma of Higher Education Law Certificate of Higher Education Law
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	M100
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	None
<i>QAA benchmark group(s):</i>	Law
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full-time for 3 years Part-time for 6 years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The LLB (Hons) Law programme has been designed to give you the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of Anglo–Welsh law and the legal system, whilst also providing a range of opportunities to pursue specialist areas of particular interest, such as Employment Law and/ or the Law of Terrorism. Whilst studying on the programme, you will be fully immersed in the discipline of ‘law’ and its specific methodologies, such as statutory interpretation and legal reasoning. This will enable you to acquire the habits of mind associated with legal thinking, including critical thinking, analytical awareness and problem solving. The programme has been structured to ensure that you are provided with a thorough grounding in the foundational areas of law, developing your confidence and ability to apply your knowledge to more specialist areas.

This programme has been designed not only to enable you to acquire a sound knowledge of the law and the legal system, but also to encourage you to critique and question substantive law in light of principles of justice, equality and fairness. One of the unique aspects of the York St John LLB is that it is rooted in the principles of social justice which underpin all teaching activity and research in the Law School, and the wider mission of the University. The aims, and outcomes, of the programme have been designed to inspire you to develop as an independent, critical scholar and ethical professional, who is fully aware of the cultural and social contexts in which law operates, is responsive to changing environments and is engaged with their own development and integrity.

The structure of the programme, and its attendant learning and assessment regimes, have been developed to fully support you in attaining these goals in a supported manner. Each of the programme levels gives you the opportunity to acquire relevant skills and

knowledge, and, importantly, engage in critical self-reflection. You will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of how you situate your personal praxis (as a scholar and professional) in the context of wider ethical, moral and philosophical dilemmas. The choice of modules available to you as options will allow you to move towards future career goals, but they will also enable you to study and reflect upon areas of the law that are critical to local communities and fundamental in progressing equality and wider social justice, such as Race, Religion and Law.

Thus the York St John LLB programme will give you not only the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills valued in the legal sector and a variety of other highly skilled roles, but also the opportunity to develop as an independent, critically reflexive professional cognisant of the wider influences upon their praxis.

The LLB Law programme meets the requirements of a Qualifying Law Degree in England and Wales and has been accredited by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board as a qualifying law degree for the purposes of entry to the professions, enabling students to proceed directly to the professional stages of training (currently the L.P.C. for aspiring solicitors and B.P.T.C. for those who want to become Barristers). Accordingly, the programme incorporates the study of the foundations of legal knowledge as compulsory elements of the programme, namely: Constitutional and Administrative law; Criminal law; Land law; Contract law; Equity and Trusts; Tort; and European Union law.

As you may be aware, qualification routes into the legal professions are changing. Those students commencing their degree prior to 2020 will still be able to follow the classic route into the professions described above (obtaining a qualifying law degree and then proceeding to a L.P.C. or B.P.T.C.). This programme has also been designed to take into account the most recently available information from the SRA regarding their planned introduction of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (S.Q.E.). In the design of the degree, we have ensured that you have the opportunity (via compulsory and optional modules) to study the areas of 'functioning legal knowledge' (FULK) identified by the SRA to comprise part 1 of the S.Q.E, namely: Principles of Professional Conduct; Public and Administrative law, and the Legal Systems of England and Wales; Dispute Resolution in Contract or Tort; Property Law and Practice; Commercial and Corporate Law and Practice; Wills and the Administration of Estates and Trusts; and, Criminal Law and Practice. In this way, the programme ensures that you will be able to be fully prepared for future changes in the legal professions.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study and those criteria stipulated for LLB Hons Law.

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 [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aims

The aims of the LLB (Hons) Law programme are as follows. To:

- provide you with a thorough grounding in the fundamental concepts and principles of Anglo–Welsh law
- provide you with a range of opportunities to pursue areas of interest and specialism
- fully immerse you in the discipline of 'law' and enable you to acquire the habits of mind associated with legal thinking
- give you the opportunity to study the foundational areas of law required for the purposes of a 'qualifying law degree' in England and Wales
- develop you as independent scholars, with critical, analytical and problem-solving skills, and an awareness of the importance of principles of justice and equality
- give you the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that are not only valued in the legal sector, but also in a variety of other highly skilled and analytical roles

Programme learning outcomes

The programme learning outcomes have been developed with reference to the nationally agreed subject benchmark statement for law published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA, 2015), and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ). They have also been developed in light of relevant professional standards, namely: the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)/ General Council of the Bar (1999) Joint Statement on the academic stage of training; and the developments and recommendations that have emerged subsequent to the SRA/ Bar Standards Board (BSB) joint Legal Education and Training Review (2013). The learning outcomes are reflective of the University's current mission statement and strategic plan.

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

Level 4

- 4.1 Identify, explain, discuss and apply fundamental concepts and principles of Anglo-Welsh law, both orally and in writing
- 4.2 Explain the structure, main institutions and procedures of the Anglo-Welsh legal system and reflect upon their efficacy
- 4.3 Identify principles and values of justice
- 4.4 Undertake basic, desk-based legal research, including the retrieval of accurate, current and relevant information from a range of appropriate sources such as electronic databases and primary legal sources
- 4.5 Use correct legal terminology and employ accurate methods of citation and referencing
- 4.6 Identify and discuss relevant doctrinal and policy issues in relation to a topic
- 4.7 Work both independently and as part of a group or team to achieve specific outcomes
- 4.8 Reflect upon their own learning and development, consider feedback, and identify areas for improvement

Level 5

- 5.1. Communicate clearly, succinctly and accurately in relation to legal matters, both orally and in writing
- 5.2. Evaluate fundamental concepts and principles of Anglo-Welsh law, and the operation of major institutions and procedures
- 5.3. Synthesise legal materials which are written in technical and complex language
- 5.4. Articulate orally and in writing, coherent, logical arguments grounded in extant law, using a variety of different sources (including textual, numerical and statistical data)

- 5.5. Exercise critical judgement regarding the merits of competing arguments in a variety of legal areas.
- 5.6. Analyse problems, identifying relevant facts and legal issues arising, and apply relevant principles.
- 5.7. Critically appraise lacunas, ambiguities and contradictions in specific areas of law
- 5.8. Articulate principles and values of justice and self-critically reflect upon changing environments and circumstances, and personal development and integrity

Level 6

- 6.1. Critically apply concepts, theories, values, principles and rules operating in a range of substantive areas within Anglo-Welsh Legal System to different scenarios and problems
- 6.2. Critically evaluate Anglo-Welsh law, its institutions and processes with reference to wider principles, ideas and values such as justice, fairness and equality.
- 6.3. Critically analyse law and legal institutions in their wider political social and economic contexts
- 6.4. Critically appreciate the inherent ambiguities of law, and apply knowledge and understanding to suggest ways of addressing and negotiating uncertainty, or ideas for law reform
- 6.5. Design and undertake independent research in areas of law with which they may be unfamiliar, using the most appropriate sources and methods and drawing on a range of primary and secondary materials
- 6.6. Critically appreciate and reflect upon their personal legal ethics, in a manner cognisant of the cultural and social contexts in which law operates
- 6.7. Demonstrate a critical understanding of how law is shaped by and impacts on, among other things, ethical, social, political, environmental, and economic norms

Programme Structure

The LLB (Hons) Law programme has been designed to ensure that all students are fully supported in developing a genuine and substantial knowledge of the foundational areas of law, and the key concepts and methods required to succeed in this field. The structure of the programme ensures that a number of foundational areas and key concepts are covered in a highly supported way at level 4. This approach is designed to ensure that you acquire the fundamental knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed in later years.

Level 4 establishes the solid base from which to build your future expertise and, because of this, all the modules are compulsory. We do not assume that students have any prior understanding or knowledge of the law, so one of the core modules you will study in the first semester of level 4 is 'Fundamentals of Law'. This is a module designed to provide you with the information, skills and methods needed to succeed on your LLB degree. You will also be introduced to four substantive areas of Anglo-Welsh Law. Contract and Constitutional Law are studied in semester 1, allowing you to learn fundamental principles of both private and public law. In semester 2, you will study Criminal Law and Land Law.

These five modules are part of the 'foundations of legal knowledge' required to achieve your qualifying law degree. 'Law in Action' is the third module you will study in semester 2. This module enables you to situate the learning from semester one's 'Fundamentals of Law' and the substantive subjects in context as you investigate how the law works in 'action' or practice in a particular area.

At levels 5 and 6 you will study a range of modules – some compulsory and some of your own choosing – that give you the opportunity apply the skills, and refine and extend the knowledge, you acquired during level 4.

At level 5, the first semester is comprised of three compulsory modules that allow you to study further 'foundations of legal knowledge' required for your qualifying law degree: Tort Law, European Union Law and Human Rights. Tort Law is another fundamental area of private law, which will be informed by your earlier study of Contract Law. Your earlier work in Constitutional Law and Fundamentals of Law will allow you to move on to look at the more specific areas of European Union Law and Human Rights. Once you have completed your study of these substantive foundation areas, the second semester of level 5 allows you to choose from a wide range of options. At level 6, there is one final, compulsory 'foundations of legal knowledge' module: Equity and Trusts. The remainder of your (five, or four with a dissertation) modules can be chosen from a wide range of options.

The options at levels 5 and 6 give you a degree of flexibility to progress through the programme in the way that is of most interest to you, and that will most assist you in your future career goals. Whatever your interest – there will be a diet of options that suit you. If you are clear that you wish to pursue a career in the professions, some modules are obviously designed to enable you to work on skills for a future career, for example, 'Professional Conduct and Ethics' (FULK). Other modules enable you to pursue your interest in the law in its wider sociological settings, such as 'Race, Religion and the Law'. For those of you that plan to undertake further academic study, the 'Dissertation' and 'Legal Research Methods' module will enable you to develop skills crucial for success in postgraduate study, whether at Masters or PhD level.

Further information about options and different ways in which these options can help you achieve your future ambitions will be available at module options events. You will also be required to discuss your option choices with your personal academic tutor.

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Status of Module*
Level 4					
1LW001	4	1	Fundamentals of Law +	20	CA
1LW002	4	1	Contract Law +	20	CA
1LW003	4	1	Constitutional Law +	20	CA
1LW004	4	2	Criminal Law +	20	CA
1LW005	4	2	Land Law +	20	CA
1LW006	4	2	Law in Action (1)	20	CA
Level 5					
2LW001	5	1	Tort Law +	20	CA
2LW002	5	1	European Union Law +	20	CA
2LW003	5	1	Human Rights +	20	CA
<i>Select 3 optional 20 credit modules from the below for Semester 2</i>					
2LW004	5	2	Property Law and Practice ∞	20	OA
2LW005	5	2	Commercial Law and Practice ∞	20	OA
2LW006	5	2	Advanced Criminal Law and Practice ∞	20	OA
2LW007	5	2	Crime and Society	20	OA
2LW008	5	2	Law in Action (2)	20	OA
2LW009	5	2	Employment Law ∞	20	OA
Level 6					
3LW001	6	1	Equity and Trusts +	20	CA
<p><i>Either select 2 optional 20 credit modules from below for Semester 1.</i> <i>OR you can choose to do 3LW009 Dissertation (40 credits over semesters one and two) and one other 20 credit module in Semester 1</i> <i>OR you can choose to do 3LW022 Law Clinic (40 credits over semesters one and two) and one other 20 credit module in Semester 1</i> <i>OR you can choose to do Module 3LW009 Dissertation and 3LW022 Law Clinic (40 each credits over semesters one and two) with no further modules in Semester 1</i></p>					
3LW002	6	1	Law of Succession	20	OA
3LW003	6	1	Professional Conduct and Ethics	20	OA
3LW004	6	1	Advanced Legal Research	20	OA
3LW005	6	1	Gender, Sexuality and Law	20	OA
3LW006	6	1	Evidence	20	OA
3LW007	6	1	Terrorism and Law	20	OA
3LW008	6	1	Housing and Welfare Law	20	OA
3LW009	6	1 & 2	Dissertation	40	OA
3LW022	6	1 & 2	Law Clinic	40	OA
3LW023	6	1	Law Clinic (short course)*	20	OA
<p><i>Either select 3 optional 20 credit modules from below for Semester 2</i> <i>OR if you chose either 3LW009 Dissertation (40 Credits) or 3LW022 Law Clinic (40 credits), select TWO 20 credit modules for semester 2</i> <i>OR if you chose 3LW009 Dissertation (40 Credits) and 3LW022 Law Clinic (40 credits), select ONE 20 credit module for semester 2</i></p>					
3LW009	6	1 & 2	Dissertation	40	OA
3LW022	6	1 & 2	Law Clinic	40	OA
3LW010	6	2	Family Law	20	OA
3LW011	6	2	Jurisprudence	20	OA
3LW012	6	2	Race, Religion and Law	20	OA
3LW013	6	2	International Criminal Law	20	OA
3LW014	6	2	Intellectual Property	20	OA
3LW015	6	2	Cyber Crime	20	OA
3LW016	6	2	Company Law	20	OA

3LW017	6	2	Asylum and Immigration Law	20	OA
3LW018	6	2	Property Law and Practice (level 6) ∞	20	OA
3LW019	6	2	Commercial Law and Practice (level 6) ∞	20	OA
3LW020	6	2	Advanced Criminal Law and Practice (level 6) ∞	20	OA
3LW021	6	2	Employment Law (level 6) ∞	20	OA

***C**: Compulsory, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **OA**: option, compulsory for award if taken

+: Foundations of Legal Knowledge (FLK) module

∞: Module cannot be taken at Level 5 and 6

* Students wishing to study Law Clinic must choose the 40-credit option 3LW022. Students who need to leave the 40-credit option for whatever reason will be transferred to this module.

You must successfully pass 360 credits to be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor of Laws (LLB (Hons) Law)

Please note that not all options will be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability. Students will be given the opportunity to state their preferences and the School of Law will do it's very best to accommodate these.

∞ Students should also note that 4 modules: *Property Law & Practice*; *Commercial Law & Practice*; *Advanced Criminal Law & Practice*, and *Employment Law* are offered at levels 5 & 6 as *alternates*. To allow flexibility in choice, you will be permitted to study these options *either* at level 5 or 6, but you are barred from studying them twice (i.e. you may study Employment Law at level 5 or 6 but NOT both 5 and 6).

Learning, teaching and assessment

Learning and teaching

Teaching is student-centred and, in keeping with our over-arching philosophy, you will receive the support you need from dedicated subject experts to reach your potential in this challenging but rewarding area of study. The staff working with you will have a range of academic, research and professional expertise in the legal sector.

The LLB (Hons) Law programme at York St John is delivered using a variety of flexible methods, as appropriate to the particular area of study. On the programme, you will engage in classroom-based activities including lectures, seminars and workshops. Seminars and workshops are your opportunity to engage in discussions and debates about key ideas and concepts, and include exploratory activities that will fully engage you as co-creators in your learning. The programme also offers technology enhanced learning, using the Moodle system to engage you with a range of methods including group work, quizzes and directed independent study.

All of the modules have activities within them that will be helpful for you in envisioning your future after the degree. In 'Professional Conduct and Ethics', for example, there will be speakers from legal practice. In 'Legal Research Methods', on the other hand, case studies are taken from real world research projects and studies to enable you to understand how theory operates in professional practice. Throughout the programme, there will be a range of events and activities that enable you to link your learning with your future goals, whatever they may be.

Assessment

On the programme, your assessment will be undertaken using a wide range of methods; the diverse range of assessment methods used is illustrative of the programme team's commitment to inclusive legal education. Examinations are used on the programme, but there will also be a wide range of other types of assessment, including: essays, reports, portfolios, letters, oral presentations and research projects. To ensure that you are ready for the final assessments on each of your modules, modules will include opportunities to undertake relevant practice (formative assessment). The feedback that you receive on these formative assessments will help you gradually develop your capabilities during the programme, particularly in relation to academic writing, research skills and confidence. In some modules, you will have a mid-point summative assessment, the feedback on which will help you approach the end of level assessment. Assessment strategies have been designed to provide you with a vehicle for reflecting upon your own practice, to enable you engage with your own development and learning.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's general regulations for undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

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

LLB (Hons) Law

In addition, to meet relevant professional body requirements, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation for the purposes of the LLB (Hons) award:

- You will be eligible for the award of Honours Degree of Bachelor of Laws if you have successfully passed 360 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes. In addition, students will have achieved a QLD for the purposes of the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board. To progress at each stage of the programme, students must achieve a minimum mark of 40 in each module.
- Third attempts are offered on all modules within 10% of a pass, for a maximum of 40 credits per level of programme.
- If you have failed an Foundations of Legal Knowledge (FLK) module following all reassessment opportunities with a minimum module mark of 35% then the Board of Examiners may use its discretion to condone this fail allowing the credits to contribute to the LLB award.
- Only one FLK module may be condoned during the course of the programme for the LLB award. FLK modules are detailed in the table following these bullet points and they are identified in the programme structure chart with a cross (+).

Foundations of Legal Knowledge (FLK) modules		
Level	Title	Credits
4	Contract Law	20
4	Fundamentals of Law	20
4	Constitutional Law	20
4	Criminal Law	20
4	Land Law	20
5	Tort Law	20

5	European Union Law	20
5	Human Rights	20
6	Equity and Trusts	20

BA (Hons) Legal Studies – exit award

Levels 4 and 5

If all reassessment attempts have been unsuccessful for an FLK module at levels 4 and 5, but you still meet the university's general regulations in respect of progression you may be able to transfer to the exit award of BA (Hons) Legal Studies.

Level 6

Students who achieve the standard requirements for an honours degree but who fail one or more FLK modules will be awarded the degree of BA (Hons) Legal Studies.

There are no Compulsory for Award modules for BA (Hons) Legal Studies, if you were to be transferred to this exit award then all modules that were previously CA would now be regarded as Compulsory instead, the standard University regulations for awards apply.

Academic Misconduct

Please also note the importance of following the University guidelines regarding academic misconduct, available at: <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/ssr/policies-and-regulations-/academic-misconduct/>

Findings of academic misconduct may have particularly serious consequences for students wishing to enter the legal profession. The University has a duty to inform the professional bodies of findings of misconduct, and findings of deliberate academic misconduct may result in you being refused admission as a solicitor or a barrister.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four]
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Solicitors Regulation Authority/ General Council of the Bar \(1999\) Joint Statement on the Academic Stage of Training](#)
- [Solicitors Regulation Authority/ Bar Standards Board \(2015\) Legal Education and Training Review](#)