

Programme Specification

MLaw Legal Practice

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Law
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2023/24
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	Lord Mayor's Walk
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education in Law Diploma of Higher Education in Law BA (Ord) Law LLB (Hons) Law
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	M101
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Law
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study ¹ for full time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	Yes
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

Law is an intellectually challenging and stimulating subject that enables you to develop a broad range of transferable professional skills and which equips you for a professional career in a variety of fields and disciplines. You will explore the role of law in our community, our society and internationally and will be supported to evaluate the object and effectiveness of laws with regard to current events. This is a vocational integrated master's programme in Law that will prepare you for a career in legal practice or to develop a wide range of transferable skills to meet your career aspirations.

This programme is aimed at students who intend to pursue a career in legal practice. Students on this programme will have the opportunity to study each of the Functioning Legal Knowledge (FLK) subject areas which comprise Solicitors Qualifying Examination 1 (SQE 1) and the vocational skills which comprise Solicitors Qualifying Examination 2 (SQE 2), which is a two-part national examination required by the Solicitors Regulation Authority to be taken after graduation for those who seek to qualify as a solicitor in England & Wales. It is anticipated that students will undertake further preparatory study for this examination, after graduation, whilst completing the two years Qualifying Work Experience (QWE) in employment that they

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

will need to acquire before admission to the roll of solicitors. Students on this programme will gain experience in York St John Law Clinic across all four years of study, which may be applied towards QWE.

Students may not enrol directly onto this programme.

You may enrol onto our MLaw (Hons) programme or our LLB (Hons) Law for your first two years of study. Towards the end of your second year of study, you may choose to transfer to this programme following a pastoral conversation with the course lead or personal tutor to ensure this programme meets your academic and early career aspirations.

Subject to certain academic criteria being met, students on this programme can meet the requirements of the Bar Standards Board relating to the academic component of training for admission to the Bar. You will be provided with guidance in relation to this.

As a student of Law at York St John University you will be known and supported as an individual. You will be taught by a dedicated team of academics and legal professionals each committed to providing a high-level of pastoral support and an engaging, inclusive teaching experience.

During the first two years of the programme (Levels 4 and 5), you will study modules which lay the foundations in terms of the knowledge and skills needed for success. In the first year, you study Contract Law and The Civil Justice System, The Law and The State and Criminal Law and The Criminal Justice System across the year to enable tutors to blend foundational knowledge and skills organically, through simulated case studies which introduce you to clinical legal practice and enable you to visualise issues in context. You will undertake field visits to see the law in action and will be taught how to turn experience into learning through effective reflective practice.

In the second year of study, you begin to study more technical areas and explore the role of law in our society, community and internationally. you will undertake live client work through York St John Law Clinic and have the opportunity to Study Abroad in Semester 2.

At the end of the second year of study, you can transfer to our 3-year **LLB (Hons) Law**, or the **MLaw** if you wish to work towards an academically focussed integrated master's programme with a wide variety of optional modules and a capstone extended piece of individual research. Progression on to Level 7 of the MLaw programmes is dependent on students meeting progression requirements.

In the third year (Level 6) of study on this programme you will undertake one compulsory module in Semester 1 – Equity and Trusts, and two optional modules, including at least one of our legal practice optional modules; Commercial Law and Practice, Family Law and Practice or Mental Health Law and Practice. In these modules, you learn the substantive law whilst putting what you have learned into practice through taking on a case in York St John Law Clinic, enabling you to reflect on the law in action. In Semester 2, you will study Wills & Administration of Estates which also exposes you to the substantive law alongside a live client case, affording a clinical experience across the year. You may then choose a further two optional modules. Students electing to study a dissertation must do so in this year of study.

In the final year (Level 7), you will study four compulsory legal practice modules and also undertake a year-long experience as a Student Advisor in York St John Law Clinic providing legal advice and assistance to members of the public under the supervision of qualified staff. Progression on to Level 7 of MLaw Legal Practice is dependent on students meeting the higher progression threshold, a credit-weighted average of 50 for Level 6, to continue onto Level 7 on the Integrated Master's Degree.

You will join a vibrant student community and benefit from useful careers advice and development opportunities throughout their studies and optional field trips to legal institutions which will enhance their experience.

The special features of this programme include: -

- Experience in York St John Law Clinic across all four years of study
- Studying modules comprising the Functioning Legal Knowledge for the purposes of Solicitors Qualifying Examination 1 (SQE 1) and the vocational skills which comprise Solicitors Qualifying Examination 2 (SQE 2), and the Foundations of Legal Knowledge for the opportunity to meet basic requirements for admission onto a Bar Practice Training Course (BPTC)
- Vocational teaching and assessment which focusses on supporting you as an individual and helping you to develop valuable transferable skills in the context of a broad and balanced curriculum which invites you to think critically about the impact of laws locally, nationally, and internationally.

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.yorksj.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

The aims of this programme are to: -

1. Provide you with a thorough grounding in the fundamental concepts in, and principles of, the law of England & Wales, enabling them to think critically about the law and its role in our society;
2. Give you a grounding in the foundational areas of law and critical skills needed to succeed in a career in legal practice; and
3. Enable you to develop as a lifelong learner with the transferable knowledge and skills to succeed in the modern world of work.

Programme learning outcomes

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

Level 4

- 4.1 Identify, explain, discuss and apply fundamental concepts, principles and values of the law of England & Wales to develop lines of arguments and make sound judgments.
- 4.2 Identify and explain the structure, main institutions and procedures of the English & Welsh legal system and reflect upon their efficacy.
- 4.3 Present information clearly and succinctly using correct legal terminology and conforming to appropriate conventions and standards where required.
- 4.4 Undertake basic legal research including the retrieval of accurate, relevant information from a range of appropriate primary and secondary legal sources and professional electronic databases.
- 4.5 Use accurate methods of citation and referencing.
- 4.6 Reflect upon their own learning and development.

Level 5

- 5.1 Analyse and apply fundamental concepts, principles and values of the law of England & Wales to develop lines of arguments and make sound judgments.
- 5.2 Analyse public and private legal theories, processes, institutions and ethics within an ever-evolving institutional, social, environmental, local, national and global context.
- 5.3 Present information clearly and succinctly synthesising complex legal materials using correct legal terminology, and conforming to appropriate conventions and standards, where required, and requirements as to citation and referencing.
- 5.4 Research independently, using a variety of appropriate sources to develop coherent, logical arguments grounded in law and legal theory.
- 5.5 Analyse competing arguments, lacunas, ambiguities and contradictions in specific areas of law.
- 5.6 Analyse and reflect on their own personal development, including their emerging professional identity and values.

Level 6

- 6.1 Critically evaluate and apply fundamental concepts, principles and values of the law of England & Wales to develop lines of arguments, make sound judgments and solve problems, taking account of the circumstances of a particular case where relevant.
- 6.2 Critically evaluate public and private legal theories, processes, institutions and ethics taking account of their wider political, social, environmental and economic contexts and the extent to which they can be considered fair and just.
- 6.3 Present information clearly and succinctly synthesising complex legal materials using correct legal terminology, and conforming to appropriate conventions and standards, where required, and requirements as to citation and referencing.
- 6.4 Undertake independent research using the most appropriate sources and methods, drawing on a wide range of appropriate primary and secondary materials.
- 6.5 Critically evaluate competing arguments, lacunas, ambiguities and contradictions in specific areas of law accounting for uncertainty or suggesting ideas for reform.
- 6.6 Critically reflect on their personal development, demonstrating an awareness of how their professional identity and values are being shaped by the ethical, social, political, environmental and economic impact of the law and legal processes.

Level 7

- 7.1 Research widely and apply knowledge of the law and legal practice to complex legal issues both systematically and creatively, using an appropriate range of primary and secondary sources of law and professional databases.
- 7.2 Exercise sound judgment, make appropriate decisions and draw reasoned conclusions in complex legal situations 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 identifying, investigating and solving advanced legal problems, formulating coherent and persuasive interpretations and arguments and responding with insight and sensitivity to complex, unfamiliar and controversial arguments and debates.
- 7.5 Comply with the requirements of the SRA Principles of Regulation and Code of Conduct, demonstrating insight and responsibility in making reasoned professional judgements.
- 7.6 Reflect on, plan and implement actions to advance their own learning and personal development.
- 7.7 Identify and advise on a client's objectives taking account of any practical, commercial, evidential and financial considerations and perform the tasks required to advance transactions or matters in accordance with their client's instructions

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
LAW4007M	4	1	Contract Law and The Civil Justice System 1	20	C	X
LAW4009M	4	1	The Law and The State 1	20	C	X
LAW4011M	4	1	Criminal Law and The Criminal Justice System 1	20	C	X
LAW4008M	4	2	Contract Law and The Civil Justice System 2	20	C	X
LAW4010M	4	2	The Law and The State 2	20	C	X
LAW4012M	4	2	Criminal Law and The Criminal Justice System 2	20	C	X
LAW5013M	5	1	Tort Law	20	C	X
LAW5014M	5	1	Property Law	20	C	X
LAW5015M	5	1	Law in a Global Context 1	20	C	X
LAW5016M	5	2	Law in Society	20	C	X
LAW5017M	5	2	Law in our Community	20	C	X
LAW5018M	5	2	Law in a Global Context 2	20	C	X
<p><i>Select TWO optional modules in Semester 1, at least one of the optional modules must be from: LAW6031M Commercial Law and Practice, LAW6032M Family Law and Practice or LAW6033M Mental Health Law and Practice. Select TWO optional modules in Semester 2.</i></p> <p><i>Or:</i></p> <p><i>Select the Dissertation and ONE optional module in Semester 1 from: LAW6031M Commercial Law and Practice, LAW6032M Family Law and Practice or LAW6033M Mental Health Law and Practice. Select ONE optional module in Semester 2.</i></p>						
LAW6025M	6	1	Equity and Trusts	20	C	X
LAW6026M	6	1&2	Dissertation	40	O	NC
LAW6028P	6	1 or 2	Legal Placement	20	O	X
LAW6029M	6	1	Medical Law	20	O	X
LAW6030M	6	1	Law of Evidence	20	O	X
LAW6031M	6	1	Commercial Law and Practice	20	O*	X
LAW6032M	6	1	Family Law and Practice	20	O*	X
LAW6033M	6	1	Mental Health Law and Practice	20	O*	X
LAW6036M	6	2	Wills and Administration of Estates	20	C	X
LAW6037M	6	2	Crime and Society	20	O	X
LAW6038M	6	2	Employment Law	20	O	X
LAW6039M	6	2	Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence	20	O	X
LAW6040M	6	2	Intellectual Property	20	O	X
LAW6041M	6	2	Asylum and Immigration Law	20	O	X
LAW7019P	7	1 & 2	Clinical Legal Practice	40	C	NC
LAW7023M	7	1	Business Law and Practice	20	C	X
LAW7024M	7	1	Conveyancing	20	C	X
LAW7030M	7	2	Civil Dispute Resolution	20	C	X

LAW7031M	7	2	Criminal Litigation	20	C	X
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*Students must choose one of these modules in Semester 1 of Level 6

Study Abroad is available as an option in Level 5, Semester 2.

Please note that not all options may be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability. In March each year, students at Level 5 will choose their modules for the next academic year. We will make clear which optional modules are to be offered and whether minimum numbers of students are required to enable them to run. You will be provided with videos introducing each module to you and invited to an Options Talk with staff to help you make your selections. Once you have made your selections, we will advise you promptly if any of your chosen modules have not met requirements for minimum numbers and which other modules you may choose from.

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 40 for modules at Levels 4-6 and 50 for modules at Level 7) in order to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

You will typically be taught by way of a socratic lecture introducing a topic followed by a workshop, for which you will be required to prepare, which will allow you to put what you have learned into practice.

Lectures make use of interactive technologies such as Mentimeter to enable you to contribute anonymously to whole group discussion and for tutors to quickly assess understanding of core concepts. Workshops involve a maximum of 25 students and facilitate collaborative groupwork to share ideas and engage in activities. Workshops typically reflect on your preparation before introducing activities to apply learning in new contexts and finishing with a plenary to reflect on what has been learned and deepen understanding.

In modules such as Commercial Law & Practice, Family Law & Practice and Mental Health Law & Practice you study the substantive law in an academic context alongside a relevant live client experience in York St John Law Clinic to enable you to acquire skills in a relevant context and reflect on the law in action.

In clinical modules such as Law in our Community and Clinical Legal Practice you will undertake the role of student advisors in one of our community legal projects or within York St John Law Clinic with responsibility for managing the relationship with your clients and progressing your clients' cases from initial interview through to completion under the supervision of qualified staff and practitioners.

Legal practice modules will introduce you to principles of professional conduct and regulation in context, alongside the skills considered essential for a successful career in legal practice; client interviewing and advising, advocacy, case analysis, legal research, legal writing and legal drafting. You will develop these skills repeatedly over the programme, in different contexts, through simulated case studies and rich live client experiences which require you to respond to a range of situations that can only be encountered in a real-world environment.

You will encounter a range of assessments which are designed to be educationally impactful and develop skills. These include Multiple Choice Examinations (MCQs) in subjects covered by the Solicitors Qualifying Examination to prepare you for the type of assessment you will encounter in that context, essays which allow for independent research and the development of reason and critical argument, portfolios will allow for the practical application of knowledge as a topic progresses, and IT examinations which enable authentic assessment which require you to undertake tasks which demonstrate your knowledge and skills in a real-world context.

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

as non-compensable.

Upon successful completion of the programme, you will exit with the award of Master of Laws in Legal Practice.

Progression from Level 6 to Level 7 on an Integrated Master's Degree

In line with the general regulations for undergraduate awards, a student must meet the progression requirements for the Integrated Master's degree (the [Code of Practice for Assessment and Academic-related Matters](#) specifies that a student must meet the higher progression threshold, a credit-weighted average of 50 for Level 6, to continue onto Level 7 on the Integrated Master's Degree). A student who fails to meet the progression threshold will be transferred from the Integrated Master's degree to the relevant Bachelor's degree programme.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree](#)

Date written / revised: February 2023

Programme originally approved: April 2023