



Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	LLM in Environmental Law with SQE Preparation
Name of interim award(s):	Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate
Duration of study / period of registration:	1 year full time, 2 years part time.
Queen Mary programme code(s):	PSENL
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	Department of Law

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

BARBRI

Programme outline

The Programme offers a unique opportunity for students to acquire extensive knowledge and in environmental law - at international, supranational, and domestic levels;

It will provide students with expert supervision for the pursuit of individual study in the area;

Also to enable students to further develop their understanding of environmental law;

SQE1 and SQE2 represent 60 credits (SQE1= 45 credits, SQE2 = 15 credits) of the total 180 credits within this LLM. For those students who are only required to take SQE1 (*experienced, qualified lawyers with work experience in another jurisdiction, may be exempt from taking SQE2 to qualify as a Solicitor in England and Wales), these students can take an additional 15-credit QMUL module on their chosen legal pathway specialism. SQE1 and SQE2 will prepare and enable students to take their next step to qualifying as a solicitor in England & Wales.

The SQE modules are delivered by our collaborative partner BARBRI, who have experience of preparing more than 1.3m students for practitioner qualification examinations, and have highly developed technology platforms to prepare students effectively for the mandated regulatory examinations which include multiple-choice examination formats. BARBRI bring their experienced, expert faculty, learning coaches and teaching team as part of their delivery of these modules.

Aims of the programme

The Master of Laws programme is designed for students who wish to take full advantage of the School of Law's extraordinarily wide range of course offerings and the diverse research interests of our faculty in the area of environmental law. Candidates pursuing the Master of Laws have the freedom to choose courses that match their intellectual interests.

The aims of the LLM in Environmental Law are to:

- Assist students in developing a detailed, critical and in-depth understanding of diverse areas of law of issues associated with environmental law
- Provide students with the international and comparative law tools with which to understand current environmental issues
- Enable students to pursue independent legal research.
- Enhance the professional legal analytic and other skills of students who wish to practise law.
- Enhance the students' learning experience through regular interaction with lecturers, practitioners, visiting academics and fellow students

The modules delivered by BARBRI will:

- Offer graduating students a practice-focused graduate programme
- Develop career/employment skills and provide students with knowledge required to take the SQE and qualify as a solicitor in England & Wales.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to:

- Understand key legal principles, issues and debates in environmental law.
- Be capable of researching and analysing current environmental issues
- Recognise the standard of research and analysis expected of a postgraduate law student and be capable of producing research to that standard.
- Understand the academic and practical aspects of law in diverse areas.
- Modules will be consistently updated in order to give a contemporary overview of any developments in the area of environmental protection.

Upon completion of SQE1 and SQE2 students will develop skills, knowledge and behaviours to prepare them for employment and a career as a solicitor, including:

- commercial awareness;
- oral and written communication skills;
- developing career goals;
- engaging critically and reflectively with knowledge;
- building practical workplace skills (assessments will be practical skills ones as well as written 'knowledge' assessments);
- problem solving;
- understanding societal issues and challenges;
- collaboration skills;
- developing digital fluency (the course will include use of digital platforms); and
- developing flexibility and resilience.

Academic Content:

A 1	Students will acquire a thorough understanding of legal principles as applied across different areas of law.
A 2	Students will understand the features of legal systems across major jurisdictions and of international legal systems as applicable to their chosen modules, as well as gain an overall knowledge of general and relevant issues of public international law in relation to climate protection.

A3	Students will understand whether and how their chosen areas of law intersect with other legal frameworks.
A4	Develop a thorough understanding of The Legal System of England and Wales, and be able to evaluate, synthesise, and apply its complex, constituent elements in practical scenarios of legal practice, across the mandated curriculum of knowledge, skills and behaviours required to become a solicitor in England and Wales.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B1	Students will develop the ability to assimilate and evaluate a range of primary and secondary legal materials, including legislation, regulations and administrative guidance and the academic and professional literature.
B2	Students will further develop their ability to analyse critically a variety of primary and secondary materials.
B3	Students will have the opportunity to learn from eminent scholars and practitioners in the area of Environmental Law in order to enhance their skills.
B4	To clearly show a full understanding of, and have the ability to synthesise and evaluate, the key principles of law and practice relating to the mandated SQE areas of Functioning Legal Knowledge, and to develop and critically reflect on, the legal practice skills required to satisfy the mandated skills assessment specification of the SQE.

Attributes:

C1	Students will acquire in-depth specialist knowledge and be able to apply this knowledge in a critical and rigorous way.
C2	Students will further develop their ability to state and argue a position orally and in writing.
C3	Students will be able to analyse critically primary and secondary materials, from various disciplines, that relate to environmental law and policy.
C4	Demonstrate the critical reasoning (and practical thinking) skills for evaluating and making judgements on the different options for legal service provision, clearly showing their ability to analyse complex client situations, synthesising large amounts of legal knowledge to find the best approach for clients.

How will you learn?

Students will learn through direct interaction with lecturers using a variety of teaching, learning and assessment strategies, including traditional and interactive lectures, seminar sessions, tutorials and e-learning. Students will also be expected to invest a significant amount of time in independent learning, including reading materials in advance of lectures/seminars, preparing class presentations, completing assignments and preparing for examinations.

Students will also develop their knowledge by engaging in class debates with class conveners and invited guest speakers.

In addition, students who opt for a dissertation will need to carry out extensive research. Students will be provided with a variety of legal resources and receive training on how to use them.

Students will use the market-leading BARBRI digital learning platform, combined with a series of live workshops, case studies, and interactive exercises to prepare for some of the practical mandated assessments in SQE1 and SQE2 preparation modules.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment is by examination, essays, FAEs, reflective learning portfolio and/or coursework for taught modules and optional dissertation.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

Master of Laws (LLM)

• Students on the LLM have to complete 180 credits comprising of:

- 90 credits from compulsory elective modules
- 30 credits from guided elective modules
- 60 credits core modules: SQEP001 & SQE002

• Part-time students are normally expected to take 90 credits each year of their programme but this may be varied by special permission.

• Part-time students are normally expected to take 45 credits in each semester of their programme but this may be varied by special permission.

COMPULSORY = COMPULSORY ELECTIVE

ELECTIVE = GUIDED ELECTIVE

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
International Law of the Sea	SOLM131	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Environmental Law	SOLM134	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Climate Change Law	SOLM136	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Water Law	SOLM137	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Energy Law and Ethics	SOLM157	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Nuclear Energy Law	SOLM168	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
International Natural Resources Law	SOLM254	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Climate Justice	SOLM262	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Select Public International Law Issues in Energy	SOLM309	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Fashion, Sustainability and Law	SOLM318	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Sustainability and Human Rights	SOLM328	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Exploitation of Energy Resources in Disputed Areas	SOLM330	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Land, Law and Dispossession	SOLM345	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Dissertation in Environmental Law	SOLM915	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 2 & 3
SQE1 Preparation Module	SQEP001	45	7	Core	1	Semester 1
SQE2 Preparation Module	SQEP002	15	7	Core	1	Semesters 2 & 3

What are the entry requirements?

The usual qualification for entry to the LLM programme is a degree in law, or a degree with a substantial law content, of at least 2.1 honours (or equivalent). Law graduates with 2.2 honours who also have other legal qualifications and/or substantial professional legal experience may also qualify.

Non-law graduates with a minimum second class honours degree, that have also obtained a Merit (or 60 per cent) in the Common Professional Examination (CPE) or Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) recognised by the UK professional bodies, may also qualify. Non-law graduates may also be considered on the basis of exceptional professional experience (of at least five years) in a legal area or an area directly related to their programme of study.

Applicants whose first language is not English must provide evidence of your English language proficiency. The usual English Language Requirements for Postgraduate Law Taught Programmes will apply. These may be accessed at <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/english-language-requirements/index.html#Postgraduatelawtaughtprogrammes>

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Student Voice Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the Centre and its students. The Committee consists of student representatives from each programme in the Centre together with appropriate representation of academic and administrative staff. The Committee is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The Committee meets regularly throughout the year.

The Centre operates a Postgraduate Taught Law Education Committee that advises its Director of Education on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at the Centre, including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies. It also reviews proposals for new programmes and modules and proposed amendments to existing programmes and modules, before they are submitted to the Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the Committee's work in various ways, such as through consideration of module experience surveys.

The Centre regularly reviews its taught postgraduate taught provision. This is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey and module experience surveys. This information is provided to the Faculty as part of regular censuses of the Centre's activities.

In addition, an extensive, experienced team of senior tutors (and practitioners) are available to students at our partner organisation BARBRI throughout their study of the 1-2 BARBRI Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) preparation modules which the students take. Students will also be giving ongoing feedback to this tutor team at BARBRI which will be fed back into CCLS/the DoL.

What academic support is available?

Students will receive a comprehensive induction. Students will be assisted with the preliminary stages of selecting a research topic, drafting a research proposal, considering their methodology and developing the skills needed to identify and use relevant materials. Lecturers on taught modules shall be available to discuss any concerns students might have with regard to the particular module or its content.

Students will be supervised by BARBRI Faculty as they work their way through online course materials, managing their progress through the student dashboard, supported by the BARBRI faculty and team of learning coaches, specialising in different areas of legal practice.

Programme-specific rules and facts

Students who are already practising lawyers with the required amount of work experience in their home jurisdiction, may be exempt from SQEP002 SQE2 Preparation Module. For students who are exempt, they will be permitted to take an additional 15-credits from the modules available within the specialism.

SQEP001 and SQEP002 will be Pass/Fail and the marks will not count towards the calculation of the overall classification. The classification will be calculated using 120 credits (135 credits for exemption students) delivered by PG Law.

If students elect to do a dissertation, the dissertation must also fall within the Environmental Law LLM modules. If students elect not to do a dissertation, they can take up to 30-credits in Semester 3, from a range of PG Law modules available by special permission of the LLM Director.

Students who do not meet the requirements for the LLM will be considered for an exit award. A student will be awarded the highest applicable award for which they meet all requirements as per the Academic Regulations:

- i. Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Environmental Law with SQE Preparation
- ii. Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Law

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Examination Access Arrangements
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

There is a mentoring programme that matches students with available mentors from the profession. An embedded Careers and professional development team provide guidance in identifying and obtaining relevant internships, valuable employment-related skills and other work-related opportunities. There is a programme of co-curricular activities designed to foster professional development and related skills.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Leonie Dos Santos

Person responsible for management of programme:

Rebecca Bates & Nigel Spencer

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:

26 Feb 2025

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: