



## 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 Human Rights 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):	PSHRL
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 LLM in Human Rights Law offers graduate students and professionals the opportunity to develop an advanced, critical and engaged understanding of human rights law across international, regional and national contexts. The programme offers a broad range of taught modules, which will ground students in substantive, methodological and procedural aspects of human rights, as well as situating human rights law within broader political, social, and economic debates. It includes a research component, with students producing a piece of in-depth, self-directed human rights research (a dissertation) on a topic of their particular interest as well as a wide selection of taught modules. The programme builds on and complements the strengths of the school in related areas, such as public international law, migration law, European law, and criminal justice.

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 aim of the LLM in Human Rights Law is:

- a) to enable graduate lawyers and other students with foundational expertise in human rights develop their skills and knowledge base by acquiring in-depth expertise in Human Rights Law informed by leading scholarship and practice in the field and in this way to help them further their existing careers.
- b) to develop analytical skills enabling them to understand, use and apply human rights law effectively in a professional context;
- c) acquire an insight in the driving forces, dynamics and constraints that shape human rights as legal, political and moral projects, and critically evaluate these dynamics and constraints ;
- d) better prepare contemporary lawyers for practising the legal profession in an increasingly globalised world.
- e) enable students to pursue independent legal research.
- f) enhance the professional legal analytic, writing and oral communication, team working and other skills needed to practise law in this specialist area.
- g) Enhance the students' learning experience through regular interaction with lecturers, practitioners, visiting academics and fellow students
- d) strengthen their skills of critique, analysis, independent thinking and writing;
- e) enhance their ability to carry out thorough, focused and comprehensive research in the field of human rights.

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:

1. Acquire a broad understanding of the development, evolution and practical application of human rights law in multiple contexts alongside a deep insight into the challenges raised for human rights by broader economic and political issues;
2. Gain analytical and critical skills that will enable them to perform a robust evaluation of the subject studied, within appropriate disciplinary, practical and theoretical frameworks;
3. Be able to carry out thorough, well-informed, and appropriate research and analysis of contemporary human rights law issues.
4. Explain key legal principles, emerging issues and public policy debates in relevant subjects to Human Rights law.
5. Engage critically and ethically with current research in the specialism and use research techniques to design and develop your own research, including identifying the issue(s) which require researching and developing information from a broad range of appropriate and relevant primary and secondary legal research sources.
6. Demonstrate self-direction and autonomy through the production of independent research (writing a dissertation / research assignment)

7. Communicate clearly, effectively, and comfortably using the legal human rights terminology and its legal frameworks.

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	acquire a broad understanding of human rights law and legal regimes at international, regional and/or national level
A 2	gain familiarity with and ability to employ appropriate methodological and theoretical tools to understand and evaluate human rights law issues
A 3	situate human rights law debates and developments within broader political, economic and cultural contexts
A 4	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:

B 1	develop the ability to understand and evaluate a wide range of primary and secondary materials, including international conventions, regional legal instruments, national legislation, policy documentation and academic literature.
B 2	develop the ability to critically assess and evaluate human rights law from doctrinal, theoretical and inter-disciplinary perspectives, drawing on broader policy contexts
B 3	develop, manage and complete a substantial and in-depth piece of independent research on a chosen human rights topic
B 4	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:

C 1	take charge of one's own learning, including reflecting on one's own learning, making use of feedback and seeking appropriate assistance when required.
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C 2	communicate ideas clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
C 3	use information competently, including using appropriate technologies to access information,; evaluate the reliability of sources and rely on appropriate information as evidence to support arguments and decision-making.
C 4	explain key legal principles, emerging issues and public policy debates in relevant subjects to Human Rights law.
C 5	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.

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, 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
Human Rights of Women: Feminist Legal Theory	SOLM063	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Human Rights of Women: Legal Framework and Issues	SOLM064	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
International and Comparative Social Rights	SOLM065	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
International Human Rights Law: History, Theory and Politics	SOLM069	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
International Human Rights Law: Law, Practice and Institutions	SOLM070	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Law's Relations: Autonomy, Consent and Confidentiality	SOLM103	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Mental Health Law: Capacity to Consent and Best Interests	SOLM104	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Law's Bodies: Donation, Reproduction and Dying	SOLM107	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Use of Force in International Law	SOLM112	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Conduct of Hostilities in International Law	SOLM113	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Principles of International Criminal Law	SOLM114	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Enforcement of International Criminal Law	SOLM115	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Refugee Law	SOLM171	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Ethics of Migration and Asylum	SOLM173	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Comparative Immigration Law	SOLM174	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Terrorism, Migration and Human Rights	SOLM175	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Migration and Asylum Law through Practice	SOLM177	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Migration and Asylum Law through Practice	SOLM216	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Corporate Violence	SOLM260	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
State Crime	SOLM261	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Climate Justice	SOLM262	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Migration Law	SOLM264	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Media Regulation	SOLM265	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Child Law	SOLM270	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cultural Diversity and Law	SOLM272	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Human Rights and Public Health	SOLM282	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Philosophy of Human Rights	SOLM312	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Fashion, Law and Social Justice	SOLM313	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Sustainability and Human Rights	SOLM328	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Social Media Law	SOLM331	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Contemporary Genocide	SOLM342	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Palestine, Israel, and International Law	SOLM343	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Law and Social Justice	SOLM344	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Land, Law and Dispossession	SOLM345	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Art, Sustainability and Human Rights	SOLM347	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Children's Rights	SOLM358	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Dissertation in Human Rights Law	SOLM909	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 Human Rights 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 Human Rights 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.



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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Leonie Dos Santos

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Hedi Vertibo & Nigel Spencer

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

26 Feb 2025

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught  
Programmes Board:**