

## LL.B (Hons) International Law

### Basic Course Information

1	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2	School/Campus:	Nottingham Law School / City
3	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	LL.B (Honours) International Law Full-time
4	Normal Duration:	3 / 4 Years
5	UCAS code:	

### 6 Overview and general educational aims of the course

The LL.B (Honours) International Law degree provides you with an opportunity to study law modules and specially designed international law modules. The study of international law will provide you with a global perspective and an appreciation of the role of law in relation to global issues. These modules are all of vital interest in the modern world. You will acquire highly valued transferable legal and skills which will significantly develop and enhance your analytical, evaluative, reasoning, communication and problem-solving abilities. There is significant emphasis upon career planning and ensuring that our graduates are attractive to a wide range of potential future employers. The degree is a Qualifying Law Degree which enables you to progress to further study if you wish to become a barrister, or the next stage of study to become a solicitor.

Nottingham Law School is one of the largest full service University law schools in the UK, enjoying a national and international reputation for the excellence of its modern legal education and training across a broad range of both academic and professional courses. A great many of the Law School staff are professionally qualified as either solicitors or barristers and the School has extensive links with the legal and other professions both nationally and overseas.

The LL.B International Law Degree Course can be combined with the award of a Certificate in Professional Practice. To gain this additional qualification you need to take ten weeks of relevant work experience.

Key professional skills such as problem-solving, case analysis, legal advocacy (mooting), research skills, professional advice and legal reasoning are directly incorporated within core law modules ensuring that such skills are developed within a relevant context. Modules are focussed upon the application of law to real-life situations and reflect current legal and, where indicated, global political issues.

The Course includes a wide range of optional law and international law modules enabling you to further tailor your degree to your particular interests and career aspirations. Such optional modules include a final year 'Path to Professional Practice' module designed to assist your transition into professional employment and/or postgraduate vocational training.

The special features of the LL.B (Hons) International Law Course are:

- Preparing you for the professional work environment through the incorporation of key professional skills within core modules
- The opportunity to study a range of international law options
- Enabling you to experience mooting, involving legal research, legal reasoning and advocacy skills
- Outstanding facilities including mock courtrooms enabling you to learn in a realistic environment
- Facilitating your transition into professional employment and/or postgraduate vocational training through the provision of a 'Path to Professional Practice' module directly informed by the needs of employers
- Providing opportunities for you to participate in national and international mooting competitions
- Optional study of a year abroad
- Offering you the opportunity to participate in summer schools in Strasbourg, Berlin, Amsterdam and Geneva

We have an enviable graduate recruitment record. Our students are highly successful in gaining employment or in continuing with further studies. The transferable legal skills which you will acquire on the course are very highly regarded and our graduates are sought by both legal employers and employers in finance, industry, commerce and the public sector. When you graduate, there is the opportunity for you to apply for entry to one of our very highly regarded professional training courses or to study on one of our range of academic masters programmes. Nottingham Law School provides a wide range of education and training for all those either in or wishing to join the legal profession.

The aims of the LL.B (Honours) International Law Course are:

- To provide a qualifying law degree which enables you to become professional and employable, meeting the needs of a wide range of potential future employers both within and outside of the legal profession
- To provide an environment which enables you:
  - to acquire high level knowledge and understanding of the function and application of both domestic and international law in the modern world
  - to acquire highly valued transferable skills which will significantly develop and enhance your analytical, evaluative, reasoning, communication and problem-solving abilities

**7 Course outcomes**

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

**Knowledge and understanding.** By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the in depth study of domestic and international legal rules and principles, evidencing knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts, values, principles and rules of law within relevant institutional, social, financial, national and international contexts.
2. Recognise and apply the principles and values of law and justice, and of ethics.
3. Apply knowledge and understanding of the law to produce reasoned solutions to complex actual and hypothetical problems.
4. Direct and self-manage your own learning, reflecting critically upon your own knowledge and understanding, identifying issues to research independently and raising and answering cogent questions about law and legal systems.

**Skills, qualities and attributes.** By the end of the course you should be able to:

5. Analyse relevant information and data of either a textual, numerical or statistical nature .
6. Synthesise relevant doctrinal and policy issues.
7. Formulate and advance a reasoned and logical argument and exercise critical judgment as to the merits of competing arguments.
8. Evaluate and analyse critically, recognising and addressing ambiguity and uncertainty in the law and presenting a reasoned choice between alternative solutions.
9. Conduct self-directed research, employing a range of appropriate methods to identify, retrieve and evaluate accurate, current and relevant information from both primary and secondary sources.
10. Reflect upon your own learning processes, making effective use of relevant feedback, including a willingness to acknowledge and correct errors and to work collaboratively.
11. Plan, prioritise and initiate your own work and projects, ensuring they are managed and completed efficiently, in accordance with relevant deadlines.
12. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing, presenting information which is relevant and understandable to others and listening and responding to oral and written stimuli.
13. Act with adaptability and flexibility, and with an understanding of, and responsiveness to, changing environments and individual circumstances.

14. Assume responsibility for your own personal and professional development, acting with academic integrity and respect for diversity in accordance with professional standards.

(Outcomes marked **(B)** have been informed by the QAA Law

## 8 **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Each module is delivered through a series of lectures in order to enable you to develop relevant knowledge and understanding. The lectures act as a stimulus to encourage you to undertake further independent reading and research.

You will also participate in regular seminars which are linked to the lectures. Seminars provide you with a vital opportunity to test your knowledge and understanding and to develop your skills through student focussed debate and discussion, problem-solving, reasoned application of the relevant law, and analysis, synthesis and evaluation of your own reading. Seminars require independent planning, research and reflection and facilitate the development of your communication skills. Tutor feedback provided in seminars provides a platform for your continued progress and improvement.

Your development is further supported through a range of practice assessments designed to produce both accuracy of knowledge and understanding and demonstration of relevant skills. Detailed tutor feedback on all such practice assessments enables you to target specific areas of substantive knowledge, understanding and relevant skills requiring improvement.

All students are provided with a range of e-learning activities integrated within your relevant course of study. These will focus upon both the confirmation of relevant understanding as well as on-going skills development.

As the course progresses, you are expected to demonstrate greater independence in your planning, preparation, research and reflection and to exhibit increased learner autonomy. This is reflected in the design of the relevant seminar materials and practice assessments, and the greater focus upon project work in the final year option modules.

## 9 **Assessment Methods**

Assessments are designed to measure your achievement of the learning outcomes. Each assessment task is provided with clear assessment criteria which are consistent with the aims and outcomes of the module which are themselves consistent with the aims and outcomes of the Course. The assessment criteria will tell you what is expected from you and these are benchmarked against the generic University grading scheme and the associated descriptors to help you to track your development on each module.

Assessments are diverse and reflect the integration of skills within substantive law modules. Examples include oral presentations, case analysis exercises, research projects, group projects, reports, problem-solving assignments, mooting and both seen and unseen examinations.

End of module assessments are combined with formative and summative in course assessments which are managed to ensure an effective distribution of the relevant workload and avoid undue interference with key teaching and learning periods.

Assessments reflect a developmental approach to the acquisition of skills through the Course. Mooting skills are built upon oral presentation skills, multi-issue problem assignments follow single issue assessment tasks and independent research work is based upon experience gained in report writing and mini-project work.

Opportunities to practice assessments in order to receive and reflect upon relevant tutor feedback are provided through seminars and staged formative and diagnostic assessments.

## 10 **Course structure and curriculum**

On the LL.B (Hons) International Law Course all students study a total of 120 credits in each of the three years spent in full-time study. One credit is equivalent to 10 hours of learning effort.

You will study a combination of compulsory and optional modules depending upon the particular route or pathways chosen through the degree. The compulsory modules studied in the first two years of the Course include the Foundation modules in order to achieve Qualifying Law Degree (QLD) status and allow progression to relevant current professional training for the Bar Standards Board (BSB) and for the SRA until the current regulations.

The curriculum is delivered in a progressive manner through the successive years of the Course. You will complete the compulsory Foundation modules in the first two years of the Course. The focus of the compulsory foundation modules is a mixture of substantive law and essential legal and professional skills.

Skills are integral to the Course and are introduced in a planned and structured way. The initial Law of Contract and Problem Solving module incorporates significant emphasis upon developing the key legal skill of problem solving as well as providing an introduction to oral presentation skills in the form of mooting. Other first year modules focus upon case research skills, group presentation and team skills. Oral skills are subsequently developed into more advanced mooting skills and problem solving skills extended to address more complex multi-issue assignments and to require advanced legal reasoning. Skills of case reading and analysis require increasing levels of independent research to be conducted encompassing critical evaluation of relevant materials. Writing skills become more specialised focussing upon more specific client advice and requiring more reasoned and logical argument to be advanced.

In your first year you will study Legal and Professional Environment module as well as in the Law of Contract and Problem Solving, Law of Torts and Legal Reasoning and Public Law and Research Skills. In addition you will also undertake the study of International, European and Comparative Law with Group Presentation Skills which will provide you with essential context for the International Placement or international modules studied in the second year.

In the second year your studies are split into two halves. In the first half you study Land Law and Professional Advice, Trusts Law and Advanced Legal Reasoning and Criminal Law with Mooting. In the second half of the year you have the opportunity to undertake a half year International Placement or study Public International Law, Comparative Law and Current Issues in International Law as half-year modules.

All students will undertake an Employer's Challenge, either in Year 2 or the early part of Year 3. Students will work, either individually or in groups, on a task set by an employer. Students will undertake research and produce a report to the employer in question. The employer will provide feedback on the student report. Students then produce a Reflective Report.

In the final year, as well as choosing five modules from a wide range of substantive option subjects, students choose between one of three compulsory modules, Path to Professional Practice, Law in Practice or Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Clinic) – Criminal and Business Practice. The Path to Professional Practice module brings together a range of advanced legal skills building upon skills development in the previous years and requires students to both apply and reflect upon these during the module. Alternatively, the Law in Practice module allows students to undertake a law-related activity, placement or internship as part of their year of study. The Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Clinic) – Criminal and Business Practice module provides an introduction to a career as a solicitor.

### **Optional Year Abroad**

Students on this course may apply to spend Year 3 of the course studying abroad as part of an Erasmus exchange programme before returning to Nottingham to take the final year of the course in Year 4. Whilst this optional year is not a credit bearing part of the course it does provide valuable experience both with respect to further study and employment.

**C** =compulsory module;; **F** =Foundation module required for a Qualifying Law Degree

The provision of any particular option is dependent upon student demand, minimum student numbers and the availability of appropriate resources.

### **LL.B (Hons) International Law**

#### **Year 1**

1. Law of Contract and Problem Solving **C F**
2. Public Law and Research Skills **C F**
3. Legal and Professional Environment **CF**
4. Law of Torts and Legal Reasoning **CF**
5. International, European and Comparative Law with Group Presentation Skills  
**CF**

#### **Year 2**

1. Criminal Law with Mooting **C F**
2. Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal Reasoning **C F**
3. Land Law and Professional Advice **C F**
4. One Option is Selected from:

International Study Placement (half-year)

**Or**

Public International Law

Comparative Law, and

Current Issues in International Law

Employer Challenge (undertaken either in Year 2 or 3).

#### **Year 3**

(For Year 3, students can apply to take an optional overseas study trip or UK work placement and thereby extend their course by one year.)

**Year 3/4**

1. Path to Professional Practice, Law in Practice or Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Clinic – Criminal and Business Practice
2. Choice of 5 optional law modules\*, of which 3 must be from the international, group including:

International group = Public International Law (must be taken if not already taken in Year 2); United States Law (runs half-year 1); International Competition Law (runs half-year 1); Comparative Law (if not already taken in year 2, runs Half-Year 2); International Trade Law (runs half-year 2); Current Issues in International Law (if not already taken in Year 2, runs half-year 2); Public International Law, International Criminal Justice, International Research Project (can be taken half-year 1, half-year 2 or year-long) or the International Summer School Project; Law of Armed Conflict; Human Rights; Immigration and Asylum Law;;

Other options = Commercial Law; Company Law; Crime and Technology; Criminology & Criminal Justice; Employment Law; Evidence; Family Law; Insurance Law , Intellectual Property Law; Medical Law; Mooting; Sexuality & The Law; Sports Law; Law in Practice; Critical Legal Thinking.

**11 Admission to the course**

**Entry requirements.**

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the NTU course information web page.

**12 Support for Learning**

All students participate in an induction programme designed to facilitate initial orientation, an introduction to the course and first year module aims and intended outcomes, familiarisation with relevant sources of both academic and pastoral support and awareness of University support services.

Students receive comprehensive module packs in electronic format detailing relevant staff contacts, syllabus and assessment details, teaching and learning methods, recommended reading, lecture outlines and seminar instructions.

All students receive on-going face to face feedback from academic tutors during the course of their studies. Academic and pastoral support is provided by designated personal tutors and by the Course Leader. Both pastoral welfare and academic performance is monitored and reviewed by the personal tutor through the maintenance of an individual student progress file. Students are encouraged to review and reflect upon their progress and to determine academic and vocational objectives. Wherever possible the allocated personal tutor is an academic tutor who also teaches the student.

In addition to individual contact with and support from their personal tutor, students also attend regular group tutorials with their personal tutor. These group tutorials support student transition into higher education, promote awareness of the professional context of legal study and assist with career planning and development.

Personal tutors also monitor student attendance and are pro-active in ascertaining reasons for absence. Students in the Law School also have access to a full-time Pastoral Support Advisor providing support exclusively to law students.

All law students have access to a dedicated Law School 'Survive and Thrive Toolkit' and 'How To' delivered via a NOW learning room. This contains a range of resources and activities to support student transition into higher education as well as help and advice in developing key academic skills and in getting the most out of the University experience.

All first year students are provided with both UK and European legal information resources training through online self-study materials delivered via NOW. This is accompanied by a compulsory online self-assessment exercise in respect of which students receive online feedback on their assessment performance.

In addition to the on campus library and learning resources centre and accompanying IT resource rooms, all students have on and off campus access to comprehensive electronic legal information resources including law reports, full text journal articles, databases and online textbooks.

All students are provided with a range of e-learning materials and activities delivered via dedicated virtual learning rooms in NOW. These are integrated within relevant substantive law modules and focus upon both the confirmation of relevant understanding as well as on-going skills development.

Students are provided with opportunities to undertake practice assessments and to receive feedback in order to improve future performance. Comprehensive feedback is given on all assessed work.

The University provides a range of student services including Financial Support Services, Counselling, Disability Support, International Student Support, Mature Student Support, Progression Support, Chaplains and Religious/Cultural Advisers and access to affiliated health centres. Further details can be found via the University website.

### **13 Graduate destinations/ employability**

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) figures consistently show that students in the Law School are highly successful in obtaining employment or continuing with further study. All International Law students have access to a dedicated Law School NLS Employability Resource learning room in NOW which contains advice on career planning, cvs and covering letters, online career resources, key application date information, slides from employer presentations and NLS career guides to legal and non-legal careers. Students are invited to both employer presentations and to workshops delivered by graduate recruitment specialists on interview skills and assessment days.

Following successful completion of the LL.B with honours you will be able to progress to the next stage of professional training to become a solicitor or barrister, or to pursue further postgraduate academic study on one of our range of Masters programmes.

The transferable skills which you will acquire on the course are very highly regarded and our graduates are sought by both legal employers and employers in finance, industry, commerce and the public sector.

The University's Careers Development Centre is available to all students and offers a comprehensive range of careers advice and relevant resources. There is a dedicated Careers Advisor for the Course.

### **14 Course standards and quality**

A Course Report and Development Plan is submitted annually to the Course Committee comprising both academic staff and student representatives. The

Report provides a summary of the on-going monitoring and review of both module and course feedback from students together with external examiner reports, module leader reports and admission and progression statistics in order to identify and promote good practice and to inform relevant action points.

There is on-going consultation with students regarding module and course developments through relevant course committees and staff/student liaison meetings. Student feedback is obtained through module and course level Evasys surveys and the responses to these feed into module and course development. External examiners are regularly consulted regarding intended course developments and full feedback is provided to them in respect of the responses made to any recommendations contained in their annual reports.

The Course Report and Developments Plan is submitted for consideration and approval by the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee and is used to inform Law School strategy and policy.

The Law School operates a comprehensive audit trail procedure in order to ensure appropriate approval of both new and amended modules. In particular, a Curriculum Review Group ensures that all module developments remain consistent with the aims and learning outcomes of the Course and with related strategies and policies.

All summative assessments are reviewed by an internal Quality Monitoring Committee prior to approval by relevant external examiners.

The Course is accredited by both the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board as a Qualifying Law Degree allowing progression to further professional training.

The Course learning outcomes have been produced with reference to the Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Law. Individual module learning outcomes are in turn mapped against the Course learning outcomes. The Course learning outcomes are also mapped against the requirements of the Joint Academic Stage Board of the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board.

**15 Assessment regulations**

This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in its [Academic Standards and Quality Handbook](#)). Any course-specific assessment features are described below:

The course has adopted conventions regarding the exercise of the Examination Board's discretion in respect of both module compensation and final degree

classification. These are disseminated to all enrolled students at the start of each academic year.

Application of the University's Common Assessment Regulations is also informed by guidance provided by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board regarding qualifying law degree status.

A student will not be allowed to enter Level 3 of the course when modules from Level 1 are still outstanding.

**16 Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s): None

Course referenced to national QAA Law

Benchmark Statements:

Course recognised by: Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board

Date implemented:

Any additional information:

The LL.B (Honours) International Law course structures have been designed in conjunction with the following related LL.B (Hons) awards:

- LL.B (Honours) Law Full-time
- LL.B (Honours) Law with Business
- LL.B (Honours) Law Flexible Learning
- LL.B (Honours) Law Sandwich
- LL.B (Honours) Law with Criminology
- LL.B (Honours) Law with Psychology
- LL.B (Honours) Business Law

