

## Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

<b>Basic Course Information</b>		
1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Nottingham Law School (City Campus)
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	<b>LLB (Honours) Business Law</b> Full-Time
4.	Normal Duration:	3 Years
5.	UCAS Code:	

6.	<b>Overview and general educational aims of the course</b>
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The course provides you with an opportunity to study law and business modules which are of vital interest in the modern world. You will acquire highly valued transferable legal and business 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.

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.

Key professional skills such as problem-solving, case analysis, legal advocacy (mooting), report writing, professional advice and negotiation skills 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 and business to real-life situations and reflect current issues.

The degree is a Qualifying Law Degree which enables you to progress to further study if you wish to become a solicitor or barrister

7.	<b>Course outcomes</b>
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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.

	<b>Knowledge and understanding</b>
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By the end of the course you should be able to:

Demonstrate the study in depth of the fundamental substantive areas of the law of England and Wales, evidencing knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts, values, principles and rules of law within relevant institutional, social, financial, national and international contexts.

Recognise and apply the principles and values of law and justice, and of ethics.

Apply knowledge and understanding of the law (or business for business modules) to produce reasoned solutions to complex actual and hypothetical problems.

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:

Analyse relevant information and data of either a textual, numerical or statistical nature .

Synthesise relevant doctrinal and policy issues.

Formulate and advance a reasoned and logical argument and exercise critical judgment as to the merits of competing arguments.

Evaluate and analyse critically, recognising and addressing ambiguity and uncertainty in the law and presenting a reasoned choice between alternative solutions.

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.

Reflect upon your own learning processes, making effective use of relevant feedback, including a willingness to acknowledge and correct errors and to work collaboratively.

Plan, prioritise and initiate your own work and projects, ensuring they are managed and completed efficiently, in accordance with relevant deadlines.

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.

Act with adaptability and flexibility, and with an understanding of, and responsiveness to, changing environments and individual circumstances.

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

#### **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 or workshops 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.

Workshops operate similarly and may be delivered as an alternative to seminars in order to allow students to draw together knowledge from

lectures and independent research to address broad or specific questions, and often uses comparative analysis to investigate issues.

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

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

On this course all students study a total of 120 credits in each of the years spent in full-time study. One credit is equivalent to 10 hours of learning effort.

The curriculum is delivered in a progressive manner through the successive years of the Course. All students complete compulsory Foundation modules and also have the chance to select modules from a number of options.

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 the Solicitors Regulatory Authority (SRA). Early focus is upon the provision of essential skills in relation to the Legal Business and Professional Environment module as well as in the Law of Contract and Problem Solving, with such skills being further demonstrated and applied through the study of Public Law and Research Skills. Law of Torts and Legal Reasoning and European, International and Comparative Law and Group Presentations.

A number of substantive law modules directly incorporate a range of key legal skills, including applied legal analysis, negotiation, mooting and professional advice, ensuring that such skills are developed within a relevant context.

In Year 2, students can choose between a full year of study or a split year of study, the latter coupled with a placement or half year study abroad.

For all students Year 2 study comprises the study of Property Law, consisting of the linked subjects of Land Law and Professional Advanced Legal and the Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal Reasoning and also Criminal Law with Mooting.

Second year students (on the full year pathway, see below), will also study Applied Legal Knowledge – Civil Practice (either as a 20 credit point module or 40 credit point module), the latter includes work within our legal advice centre). Students wishing to undertake the 40 credit point module will need to apply by CV and personal statement in Year 1 of their degree. This module revisits foundation law subjects from Year 1, examining the practical considerations of bringing or defending a claim in contract, tort or public law. This module will also provide students with transferable

professional skills, such as client advice, negotiation, legal research. In addition you will have an opportunity to engage actively with employers in real life or hypothetical situations, via the Employer Challenge\*.

Students, if undertaking the 20 credit point Applied Legal Knowledge – Civil Practice module, also choose one law option module from a range of law option modules, Business Employment Law and the Client, Family Law, and Human Rights Law.

Alternatively you can split the second year into two halves. In the first half you will study Criminal Law with Mooting, Land Law and Professional Advice and Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal Reasoning making a total of 60 credits. In the second part of the year you can choose to either undertake a work placement or study abroad or study three Nottingham Business School (NBS) modules. In each case you will undertake respectively a 60 credit Professional Work Placement module or a 60 credit International Study module or 60 credits of NBS modules (3 x 20cpts). These modules are credit-rated and contribute towards your final degree classification.

In the event of over-subscription for the various Year 2 pathway opportunities, students will be selected on the basis of first year academic performance, attendance record and commitment to the relevant opportunity selected

\*The Employer Challenge referred to above sits within the Applied Legal Knowledge – Civil Practice module in Year 2 for students on full-year pathways. For students who opt for the split year pathway, the Employer Challenge is contained within a zero credit rated module (Employer Challenge module) and students will undertake the Employer Challenge either during the second half of their split year 2 or during the early stage of their final year.

The Employer Challenge works as follows:

- Employers will set a task, an Employer Challenge, and allocate a briefing to students,
- Students will work, either in groups or individually, to produce a report on the issue in hand and their findings, and present the report to the allocating employer.
- The employer will provide the student(s) with feedback.

- Students will then produce a Reflective Report on how they researched the issue in hand, their conclusions, taking account of the employer's feedback.
- The Reflective Report will then be assessed either as part of the Applied Legal Knowledge – Civil Practice module assessment or under the zero credit rated Employer Challenge module.

Students have the opportunity to apply to take an optional year long work placement or overseas study trip. This optional activity would be undertaken in Year 3 of the course and the total course length would be extended by one year.

In Year 3 (or Year 4 for students who take the optional work placement or overseas study opportunity) students complete either the Path to Professional Practice module, Law in Practice module, or Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Centre) – Criminal and Business Practice module. The aim of these modules is to encourage you to focus upon future career intentions. 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. 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 Centre) – Criminal and Business Practice module further develops your knowledge and understanding of Foundation law modules in a practical setting. Each of these three modules contains a synoptic assessment, drawing together professional skills you have acquired throughout your degree.

The synoptic assessment in the final year allows students to combine learning in relation to their employability from a range of activities and experiences, and which requires a significant element of reflection in relation to their future employability aspirations. Throughout the course students build up an e-portfolio of their achievements.

If you select the LL.B (Hons) Law for Financial Services (In Company) pathway you will commence a special In Company Preparation Programme in your second year (please note that this is only available for students on the full year study pathway in Year 2). This programme prepares you both for the selection and interview procedures being adopted by the relevant

employer and for the period of work based learning itself. Your final year is spent in practice working in paid employment at a financial service firm and at the same time undertaking four online compulsory modules. All four modules are directly related to your employment in the financial services industry and involve a significant amount of work-based learning. Such modules also include opportunities to further tailor your focus towards the particular aspects of your employment experience. In the event of over-subscription for the Financial Services (In Company) pathway, students will be selected on the basis of first year academic performance, attendance record and commitment to the relevant opportunity selected

Skills are integral to the course and are introduced in a planned and structured way. The initial Law of Contract 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. The Public Law module introduces research skills. Later modules focus upon legal reasoning and the giving of professional advice. 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 applied legal analysis. 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.

There is an emphasis upon building and carrying employability skills forward through the course. Early in the course, students are engaged via the Legal, Professional and Business Environment Module in learning core employability skills (e.g. students are required to undertake an assessed skills audit and be able to produce an effective CV.

The course includes several opportunities for students to translate theory into practice in a range of relevant work-like contexts or simulations. In Land Law and Professional Advice, for example, students give advice on a practical issue in relation to the law of property. In Criminal Law with Mooting students are assessed on oral advocacy skills. Key professional skills such as problem-solving, case analysis and negotiation skills are directly incorporated within



modules ensuring that such skills are developed within a relevant context. Modules are focussed upon the application of law to real-life situations.

Students have an opportunity to apply to gain experience in the Law School's own legal advice centre. The Centre, which opened in 2006, provides a legal advice and a referral service to the local community, as well as to NTU staff and students. The Centre creates opportunities for students to develop their legal skills in a practical context whilst fostering the ethos of pro bono in students early in their careers. The Centre operates from a fully-equipped, purpose-built estate.

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

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

#### **Year 1**

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

#### **Year 2 (full-year pathway)**

1. Criminal Law with Mooting **C F** (20 credit points)
2. Land Law and Professional Advice **C F** (20 credit points)
3. Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal Reasoning **C F** (20 credit points)
4. Commercial Law and Negotiation **C** (20 credit points)

And either

5. **\*\*Applied Legal Knowledge – Civil Practice C plus one law option module\*** (20 credit points)

**Or**

6. **\*\*Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Centre) – Civil Practice** (40 credit points)

**\*Law options**

Business Employment Law and the Client

Human Rights

Family Law

\*\*Students cannot choose both the 20 credit point and 40 credit point Applied Legal Knowledge modules

**Year 2 (half-year pathway)**

**Half-Year 1**

1. Criminal Law with Mooting **C F**
2. Land Law and Professional Advice **C F**
3. Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal Reasoning **C F**

**Half-Year 2**

Students select 60 credits from:

- International Study (60 credits)
- Work Placement (60 credits)
- 3 x Business Modules (each of 20 credits)

**Year 3**

Optional overseas or work placement

**Years 3 / 4**

1. Path to Professional Practice or Law in Practice or Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Centre) – Criminal and Business Practice\*
2. Choice of 5 option modules from:  
Company Law; Commercial Law (if not taken in Year 2); Crime and Technology; Employment Law (if not taken in Year 2); Independent Business Legal Research Project (or International Summer School Research Project where a business law or business summer school has been undertaken); Intellectual Property Law; Insurance Law; International Competition Law; International Trade Law; Mooting; Sports Law; Business Modules\*\*

\*One option is selected from these.

\*\*Students may not study more than 40 credits of non-law business modules in Year 3

**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 e-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.

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' 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.

**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.

Our Employability Team can support you at all stages of your career planning with specialist careers consultants available to offer advice on planning your career, improving your CV, completing applications and performing at interviews. This course includes an opportunity to apply to take a work placement in the third year.

**14. Course standards and quality**

A Course Report 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 questionnaires.

External examiners (distinguished academics from other universities) 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.

<p>The Course Standards and Quality Report is submitted for consideration and approval by the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee of the Law School and is used to inform relevant School strategy and policy.</p> <p>The Nottingham Law School operates a comprehensive audit trail procedure in order to ensure appropriate approval of both new and amended modules. In particular, such procedure ensures that all module developments remain consistent with the aims and learning outcomes of the Course and with all related strategies and policies.</p>
<p>15. <b>Assessment regulations</b> This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16 of the Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>16. <b>Additional Information</b> Collaborative partner(s): None</p> <p>Course referenced to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Benchmark Statements: Law</p> <p>Course recognised by:</p> <p>Date this course specification approved:</p>
<p>Any additional information:</p>