

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

LL.B (Honours) Law Distance Learning

Basic Programme Information		
1	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2	School/Campus:	Nottingham Law School / City
3	Final Award, Programme Title and Modes of Study:	LL.B (Honours) Law Distance Learning
4	Normal Duration:	3-5 Years
5	UCAS code:	N/A

6 **Overview and general educational aims of the programme**

The LL.B (Honours) Law Distance Learning course provides you with an opportunity to study law modules which are of vital interest in the modern world. You will acquire highly valued transferable legal skills which will significantly develop and enhance your analytical, evaluative, reasoning, communication and problem-solving abilities. There is a significant professional focus, 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 solicitor or a barrister. 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 Distance Learning Programme is designed for students who are unable to attend the Law School on a regular basis but who wish to study for an LL.B (Honours) Law degree in their own time and at their own pace. The LL.B Distance Learning Programme can be completed on either a three, four or five year pathway and whilst attendance at four intensive residential weekends per year is recommended, it is not compulsory. Your learning is supported with bespoke web-based guidance materials and integrated e-learning activities delivered through the University's dedicated virtual learning environment. For each module you will be allocated designated academic tutors with whom you will have on-going telephone and email support.

Key professional skills such as problem-solving, case analysis, professional advice 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 issues.

The special features of the LL.B (Honours) Law Distance Learning Programme are:

- Preparing you for the professional work environment
- Enabling you to study at your own pace by providing three, four and five year pathways thereby meeting the needs of students from a wide variety of different backgrounds
- Teaching is provided by professionally qualified staff with considerable experience in delivering law programmes to distance learners
- Providing four intensive teaching weekends each year, enhancing your learning and enabling you to meet the academic staff and other students
- Learning is supported through a range of e-learning activities directly incorporated within the substantive law modules
- Guaranteeing you a place on our LLM Legal Practice Course for intending solicitors following successful completion of the LL.B (Hons) Law Programme with honours (2.2 or higher)
- The Degree is recognised by Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board as a Qualifying Law Degree, enabling you to progress to further training to become a solicitor or a barrister
- Offering you the opportunity to participate in summer schools in Strasbourg, Berlin 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 programme 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, namely the Legal Practice Course for intending solicitors or the Bar Professional Training Course for intending barristers, 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) Law Programme 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 law and its function and application in the modern world
- to acquire highly valued transferable legal skills which will significantly develop and enhance your analytical, evaluative, reasoning, communication and problem-solving abilities

7 Programme outcomes

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

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

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

Legal abilities

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of legal institutions, legal rules and legal principles**(B)**

Recognise and assess the context in which the law operates **(B)**

Apply knowledge of the law and solve legal problems**(B)**

Reflect critically upon your own knowledge and understanding and identify issues to research independently**(B)**

Qualifying Law Degree

Demonstrate the study in depth of the foundation modules required for a Qualifying Law Degree as prescribed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board

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

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

Transferable Intellectual Skills

Analyse and synthesise complex information**(B)**

Evaluate critically and make a reasoned choice between alternative solutions**(B)**

Make and present a reasoned and logical argument and exercise critical judgment as to the merits of competing arguments**(B)**

Plan, research and learn independently**(B)**

Reflect upon your own learning and seek and respond to relevant feedback**(B)**

Professional Skills

Communicate effectively in writing and orally, presenting information which is relevant and understandable to others**(B)**

Employ effective IT skills**(B)**

Use, present and evaluate numerical information**(B)**

Work in groups as an effective participant to achieve an agreed task***(B)**

Demonstrate a professional and business awareness together with an appreciation of social and cultural diversity and an understanding of, and responsiveness to, changing environments

Evidence an ability to accept responsibility in determining and achieving appropriate outcomes**(B)**

(*students may demonstrate this outcome through extra-curricular activities provided these are appropriately evidenced)

8 Teaching and Learning Methods

For full-time attendance students modules are normally delivered through a series of lectures designed to enable the development of relevant knowledge and understanding. The lectures act as a stimulus to encourage students to undertake further independent reading and research. For LL.B Distance Learning students the lecture format is replaced by bespoke web-based guidance materials enabling you to access key texts in order to gain relevant knowledge and understanding. Such web-based materials also prompt you to investigate relevant primary sources and to identify areas requiring further independent reading and research.

Students are encouraged to attend intensive residential weekends where the main focus is upon seminar work to clarify and confirm relevant knowledge and understanding and to enable key intellectual and professional skills to be practised and developed. All students are supported in their development through a series of practice assessments designed to produce both accuracy of knowledge and understanding and demonstration of relevant skills including problem-solving, reasoned application and analysis, synthesis and critical evaluation. Bespoke materials provide you with both guidance and examples as to what is required. Detailed tutor feedback on all such practice assessments enables you to target specific areas of substantive knowledge, understanding and relevant skills requiring improvement.

For all taught modules you are provided with a range of e-learning activities integrated within your relevant programme of study. These include formative computer based assessments with online feedback, presentation slides with audio narration from relevant academic tutors and on-going academic feedback using multimedia in respect of formative assessments. Such e-learning support focusses

upon both the confirmation of relevant understanding as well as ongoing skills development.

As the programme 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 practice assessments and culminates in the independent research project which is a compulsory module for all final year students.

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 programme. The assessment criteria will tell you what is expected from you.

End of module assessments are combined with in course assessments which are managed so as to avoid uneven distribution of the relevant workload.

In course assessments focus upon written assignments addressing research, case analysis, problem-solving and critical evaluation. Staged practice assessments ensure the provision of progressive diagnostic and formative feedback as you progress through each year of the programme. Online assessments activities provide further opportunities for you to receive feedback on your performance and development.

Students are provided with opportunities to practice past examination questions and to submit these to their designated academic tutors for feedback.

The pass mark for all assessments is 40%. The final degree classification is based upon module marks achieved at both FHEQ level 5 and level 6 weighted 30%:70% respectively. Students are permitted to progress to a subsequent year of study trailing a maximum of 30 credit points.

10 **Programme structure and curriculum**

The LL.B (Hons) Law Distance Learning programme can be studied on 3, 4 or 5 year pathways. Consistently with relevant Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standard Board requirements, the programme must be completed in a maximum of 6 years.

All students, irrespective of the selected pathway, study a total of 12 modules comprising both compulsory and optional modules.

The compulsory modules include the foundation modules required by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board in order to achieve Qualifying Law Degree status and allow progression to relevant professional training.

All students study Legal Method in their first year in order to provide essential legal skills training.

Option modules are positioned in the final stages of the programme where, following the study of the foundation modules, you are best placed to determine your potential career path and to select appropriate option combinations. In the final year of study all students are required to undertake an independent research project. This represents a further opportunity to tailor relevant study to individual career goals as well as being the culmination of the skills focus through the development and demonstration of full learner autonomy.

All modules have the same credit point value and the relevant level of delivery of each module is aligned across the different pathways. The consistency of the module structure facilitates delivery of the different pathways.

The curriculum is delivered in a progressive manner through the successive years of the programme. The initial focus is upon the provision of essential legal skills in Legal Method, demonstrated and applied through the linked private law areas of Contract Law and the Law of Torts and the linked public law areas of Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights.

The study of public law is then taken further in European Union Law and Criminal Law. Level one private law subjects are built upon in the subsequent study of Property Law, comprising Land Law and the Law of Trusts.

The initial compulsory modules deliver a broad but developmental curriculum placing you in the best position to make an informed choice as to how to then tailor your studies to your own needs and interests through the selection of relevant option modules and the undertaking of an independent research project.

Skills are also introduced in a planned and structured way. Initial modules focus upon key legal skills such as case reading and analysis and problem solving. Writing skills become more specialised as the programme progresses requiring increased reasoned and logical argument to be advanced and problem solving skills are extended to address more complex 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. The final year independent research project provides an opportunity to utilise a combination of acquired skills and demonstrate full learner autonomy.

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

LL.B (Hons) Law Distance Learning

3 Year Pathway

Year 1

1. Law of Contract (L4) **C F**
2. Law of Torts (L4) **C F**
3. Legal Method (L4) **C**
4. Public Law and Human Rights (L4) **C F**

Year 2

1. Land Law (L5) **C F**
2. Law of Trusts (L5) **C F**
3. Criminal Law (L5) **C F**
4. European Union Law (L5) **C F**

Year 3

1. Independent Research Project (L6) **C**
2. Option Module (see details below) (L6)
3. Option Module (see details below) (L6)
4. Option Module (see details below) (L6)

(Option Modules can currently be selected from a choice of: Commercial Law, Company Law, Employment Law, Evidence, Family Law, Medical Law, Intellectual Property Law)

4 Year Pathway

Year 1

1. Law of Contract (L4) **C F**
2. Law of Torts (L4) **C F**
3. Legal Method (L4) **C**

Year 2

1. Public Law and Human Rights (L4) **C F**
2. Criminal Law (L5) **C F**
3. European Union Law (L5) **C F**

Year 3

1. Land Law (L5) **C F**
2. Law of Trusts (L5) **C F**

3. Option Module (see details above) (L6)

Year 4

1. Independent Research Project (L6) **C**
2. Option Module (see details above) (L6)
3. Option Module (see details above) (L6)

5 Year Pathway

Year 1

1. Law of Contract (L4) **C F**
2. Legal Method (L4) **C**

Year 2

1. Public Law and Human Rights (L4) **C F**
2. Law of Torts (L4) **C F**

Year 3

1. European Union Law (L5) **C F**
2. Criminal Law (L5) **C F**

Year 4

1. Land Law (L5) **C F**
2. Law of Trusts (L5) **C F**
3. Option Module (see details above) (L6)

Year 5

1. Independent Research Project (L6) **C**
4. Option Module (see details above) (L6)
5. Option Module (see details above) (L6)

Students are able to vary the pace of their studies where their circumstances necessitate this subject to completion of the programme within an overall maximum period of six years.

11 Admission to the programme

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

All students attending the Law School for the initial residential weekend participate in an induction programme designed to facilitate initial orientation, an introduction to the programme 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 who do not attend the initial residential weekend receive a comprehensive Programme Handbook together with an online induction presentation introducing students to the programme, its structure, key aims and methodology, and relevant sources of academic and pastoral support.

NOW, the University's virtual learning environment, is used to provide students with syllabus and assessment details, teaching and learning schedules, recommended reading and learning resources and seminar instructions.

Bespoke web-based guidance texts are provided in respect of each module which, in addition to providing substantive knowledge and self-assessment activities, guide and facilitate independent study.

Students are allocated dedicated academic tutors in respect of each module studied and have access to ongoing support via telephone and e-mail. In addition to the Programme Leader and Deputy Programme Leader, pastoral support is provided by the Law School's Pastoral Support Advisor, providing support exclusively to law students. Students are also encouraged to establish communication links with other law students, facilitated via NOW, the University's virtual learning environment, and to establish student support networks. Individual academic modules provide access to online forums for students to discuss designated topics with input from relevant academic tutors.

All first year students are provided with 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. Similar training and online self-assessment is provided in respect of European legal information resources.

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.

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 ongoing skills development.

Students are provided with opportunities to undertake practice assessments in respect of each module studied and to receive feedback in order to improve future performance. Comprehensive feedback is given on all formative and summative 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 law students have access to a dedicated Law School 'Events and Careers' 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 (2.2 or higher) you will be guaranteed a place on our very successful Legal Practice Course for intending solicitors. Alternatively, when you graduate, there is the opportunity for you to apply for entry to our very highly regarded Bar Professional Training Course for intending barristers or to pursue further postgraduate academic legal study on one of our range of LL.M Masters programmes.

The transferable legal skills which you will acquire on the programme 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 Service Advisor for Programme.

14 Programme standards and quality

A Programme Standards and Quality Report is submitted annually to the Programme Committee comprising both academic staff and student representatives. The Report provides a summary of the on-going monitoring and review of both module and programme 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 programme developments through relevant programme committees and/or staff/student liaison meetings. Student feedback is obtained through both online and paper based questionnaires. External examiners are regularly consulted regarding intended programme developments and full feedback is provided to them in respect of the responses made to any recommendations contained in their annual reports.

The Programme Standards and Quality Report 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 Programme 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 Programme 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 LL.B (Hons) Law Distance Learning Programme was the subject of a successful Periodic School Review in April 2009.

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

The programme 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 6 (FHEQ) of the Course when modules from Level 4 (FHEQ) are still outstanding.

16 **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s): None

Programme referenced to national Law

QAA Benchmark Statements:

Programme recognised by: Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board

Date implemented: 1st September 2012

Any additional information: Updated April 2017