

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information

1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Law
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	LLM in Oil, Gas and Mining Law (full-time, part-time, distance learning)
4.	Normal Duration:	1 year (full-time) 2 years (part-time, distance learning)
5.	UCAS Code:	Not applicable

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

The Law School has an established reputation for the teaching and delivery of its suite of LLMs, and this course has been developed to broaden access to study at Masters level by offering the study of this specialist area of law by way of a number of different modes. Study by full-time mode requires six hours of attendance each week for twenty weeks over one year; by part-time mode two to four hours per week for twenty weeks over two-years. There are no attendance requirements for the distance learning mode.

Students who enrol on the course will usually have a degree in law (or a relevant related subject), and the course will offer students the opportunity to undertake the structured study of six law subjects relevant to the specialism fully supported by tutor guidance, feedback, and a sophisticated virtual learning environment. Students will also be expected to conduct independent study and research at an advanced level that will culminate in the production of a dissertation on a relevant topic of their choice.

Students will also be expected to engage with a range of activities/experiences in order to build on core employability skills and professional attributes.

The course aims to:

- build on students' graduate skills by developing skills in research, legal writing and critical analysis;
- provide a supportive and structured learning environment that enables study by distance learning;
- produce independent learners who have the ability to access and manipulate legal resources to an advanced level, and who can plan and manage their workload effectively;
- develop a high level of knowledge and critical insight into the area of specialism;
- produce students who have knowledge and skills that are highly relevant to a career in professional legal practice or other related profession and/or to progression to further academic study or a career in academia;
- build on students' core employability skills and professional attributes through a range of activities and experiences.

<p>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.</p>
<p>Knowledge and understanding By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • systematically and comprehensively classify, appraise and criticise the relevant area of law, and be critically aware of current issues and developments in the field; • pursue advanced scholarship in the discipline and to evaluate the area of law and current research related to it; • apply the law innovatively, and in contexts that contribute knowledge construction within the professional field; • critically appreciate wider factors that may have influenced the particular area of law such as philosophical, theoretical, ethical, political, economic, and sociological factors; • where appropriate, identify and assess international influences including comparative law that impact on the relevant area of law.
<p>Skills, qualities and attributes By the end of the course you should be able to:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research to an advanced level, including the deployment of research methodologies, within the context of the area of law for the relevant specialism; • communicate complex legal concepts that apply within the area of specialism to a high level of competence; • deploy a highly developed skills base, including those of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information gathering; - critical analysis and examination; - high level argument formulation; - handling of a wide variety of information and legal materials; - formulation, from evidence, of your own arguments and opinions; - responsibility for own learning; - employability and professional skills.
<p>8. Teaching and Learning Methods</p>
<p><i>Full and Part-Time Modes</i></p> <p>An initial introductory programme in research, legal writing skills and legal method will be delivered by way of class-based seminar sessions and will provide a foundation for the study of the option modules and dissertation.</p> <p>For full-time and part-time modes of delivery each module will be delivered by way of ten two-hour seminars. There is no set pattern for the operation of these seminars. Students will be provided with preparatory work to be undertaken prior to attending seminars. Such preparatory work will provide the stimulus for class-based discussion and analysis. Students will be asked to contribute to and to lead discussions and may be asked to present a pre-prepared paper to the class. This is a good opportunity for students to receive</p>

both academic and peer feedback on their work and their progress. Seminars may from time to time include a lecture presentation from the tutor, but it is anticipated that these will be infrequent given the level of study.

Distance Learning Mode

The introductory programme in research, legal writing skills and legal method will be delivered by way of on-line lecture recordings and e-learning materials, and will provide a foundation for the study of the option modules and dissertation.

E-learning materials will provide students with a structured overview of each module to give a pathway through the topics to be studied and to provide a platform for independent study. This will be complemented by a number of teaching methods and resources specifically designed to assist the distance learning student. Typically these may include:

- recordings/podcasts providing an overall introduction to the option modules and to each individual topic within the relevant module;
- e-learning resources guiding students through directed reading and pointing them towards further reading/research and engagement at a level appropriate for a Masters course;
- opportunities for feedback through on-line self assessment exercises and formative assessment;
- on-line exercises allowing students to test their knowledge;
- academic support by tutors via telephone/email and on-line student discussion fora.

The module teaching and learning will allow students to incrementally develop their research and writing skills as well as building a sophisticated knowledge base in the area of specialism. This progressive approach will prepare students for the dissertation that must be submitted at the end of the period of study.

As part of the Dissertation module, students will be expected to build on key employability skills/professional attributes by way of engaging in a range of activities and to submit a reflective report. Students will be assigned a personal tutor who will work with them during the Course towards achieving this objective. Students will reflect on progress by way of an e-portfolio and will meet with the tutor at least two times during the Course before submitting the reflective report. The assigned personal tutor will provide students with guidance and support in order to understand the requirements of the e-portfolio. The e-portfolio itself is not assessed.

9. Assessment Methods

Each of the six option modules undertaken by way of independent structured study are studied at the same level and carry an equal number of credits towards the final award. In each case the module is assessed by a single piece of written coursework of a maximum of 5,000 words. This assessment may

take various forms such as a discursive essay, a problem solving scenario or equivalent.

Students will also have the opportunity to submit at least one piece of work for each of the option modules by way of formative assessment, in order to receive formal feedback during the course of studying the module.

The dissertation will be assessed by way of

- i) a research based written assignment of 12,000 words. Students may choose the topic for the dissertation which should be relevant to the Oil Gas & Mining Law specialism and the chosen title will be subject to approval by the Course Leader.
- ii) a reflective report consisting of pre-set questions, each with a maximum word count attributed to it (approx.250 words, i.e. 1000 words in total). The reflective report will be assessed by way of competence or non-competence.

10. Course structure and curriculum

Full-Time/Part-Time Mode

Full-time students undertake the course over one year, divided into three terms of equal duration. Students follow an introductory programme in research, writing and legal method and study three modules in each of the first and second terms. In the third term, students will prepare and submit a dissertation.

Part-time students undertake the course over two years, with each year divided into three terms each of equal duration. Part-time Students follow an introductory programme in research, writing and legal method and study a total of three modules over the first and second terms. In the third term, students begin preparatory work on the dissertation module. Work on the dissertation will continue over the summer and during year two. Part-time Students will study a total of three modules during the first and second terms, and will complete their dissertation by the end of the third term.

For both full and part time students, assessment is undertaken at the end of each module. Students can choose from the modules set out in the table below:

Module	Level	Credits
Oil, Gas and Mining Investment Law I	M	20
Oil, Gas and Mining Investment Law II	M	20
Oil, Gas and Mining Environmental Law I	M	20
Oil, Gas and Mining and Environmental Law II	M	20
Dissertation	M	60

To be awarded LLM Oil, Gas and Mining Law students must successfully

complete six taught modules as well as a Dissertation in a relevant subject area. Students must study the four taught modules set out above. Students are able to choose up to two modules from other LLM courses.

Distance Learning Mode

Study is undertaken over two years, with each year divided into three terms each of equal duration.

Year one

Students follow an introductory programme in research, writing and legal method and study a total of three modules over the first and second terms. In the third term, students begin preparatory work on the dissertation module. Work on the dissertation will continue over the summer and during year two.

Year two

Students will study a total of three Oil, Gas and Mining Law modules during the first and second terms, and will complete their dissertation by the end of the third term.

Assessment will take place at the end of each module.

Module	Level	Credits
Oil, Gas and Mining and Investment Law I	M	20
Oil, Gas and Mining and Investment Law II	M	20
Oil, Gas and Mining and Environmental Law I	M	20
Oil, Gas and Mining and Environmental Law II	M	20
International Commercial Transactions	M	20
International Competition Law	M	20
Dissertation	M	60

The curriculum has been designed to facilitate a progressive approach to study with the opportunity for skills development early in the course providing a base for study at Masters level. The modules have been carefully selected to complement one another and to allow students to build knowledge and understanding in the area of Oil, Gas and Mining Law incrementally. All modules, with the exception of the dissertation carry equal credits to enable students to balance workload over the period of study.

The completed LLM requires the attainment of 180 M-level credit points but there will be the possibility of an interim award of a certificate or diploma upon completion of 60 and 120 credits respectively.

11. Admission to the course

Normally there will be a requirement for a degree in law (or the conversion qualification e.g. Graduate Diploma in Law) or another relevant subject for entry onto the courses.

Normally it will be an admissions requirement that applicants have at least a lower second class honours (or equivalent) degree in law or, where appropriate, a degree in another discipline.

Relevant factors for admissions decisions:

- Relevancy of qualification, students must provide details of course syllabus
- Relevancy of experience including level of seniority in employment,
- Present employment, career planning, whether there is support of the employer
- Proposed choice of specialist stream
- Proposed choice of modules

In addition to the above, applicants will be expected to be able to demonstrate an enthusiasm for and commitment to:

- carry out the required independent reading and research;
- bring their own experience (where appropriate) to the area being studied; and
- manage their time effectively so as to be able to produce the necessary assessments within the required timeframe.

The above policy accords with University equal opportunities policy and its admissions systems are capable of producing statistical information about each in-take.

Non-UK qualifications are assessed by comparison with their UK equivalent.

12. **Support for Learning**

Students will be provided with a comprehensive Student Handbook containing full information regarding the course including study guidance and schedules, assessment advice and details of how to seek academic and pastoral support.

The compulsory introductory programme undertaken at the beginning of the course is designed to ensure that students acquire the necessary research and writing skills at an early stage in the course.

Learning will be supported by on-line module information which will include structured guidance to module learning, learning materials.

All course information and materials, including library resources, will be available electronically through the Nottingham Trent University On-line Workspace (NOW).

Academic support will be provided through the allocation of a dedicated tutor for each module undertaken.

Pastoral support will be provided by a personal tutor who may be contacted in person, by email or telephone or such other methods as may be available/appropriate for the individual student.

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

13. Graduate destinations / employability

Nottingham Law School has a strong reputation for its LLM courses and the study and successful completion of this course will provide an opportunity to enhance both the academic and professional profiles of students.

The course can assist those seeking a place on a professional legal training course (LPC/BPTC) and enhance the CV of those pursuing employment in the legal sector. For students wishing to pursue an academic career, the course offers an excellent grounding in research and in the development of highly developed writing skills.

The LLM in Oil, Gas and Mining Law has been designed to respond to the rapid growth in the development of the law in this area and to meet an increasing demand for specialists within the legal profession and the relevant industries. The course therefore offers a wide range of career possibilities for graduates both within the legal profession and academia.

14. Course standards and quality

An Interim Course Report (ICR) and Course Development Plan (CDP) will be submitted annually to the Course Committee. The latter comprises both staff and student representatives. This report provides information and data relating to the on-going monitoring and review of both module and course feedback from students together with external examiner reports, module leader reports and admissions and progression statistics in order to identify and promote good practice and to inform relevant action points.

The ICRs and CDP are submitted for consideration and approval to the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee and are used to inform Law School strategy and policy.

The University requires all courses to carry out a Periodic Course Review every three years, as the mechanism by which course teams reflect on the validity, currency, and the academic quality of the provision. It is a face-to-face discussion with staff, external stakeholders (such as placement providers, employers and external examiners) and current students. The outcome of the review is a three-year Course Development Plan.

Student feedback is considered an important part of the review and development of the course, and there will be on-going consultation with students regarding module and course development via email and through evaluation questionnaires.

External examiners are regularly consulted regarding intended course developments and full feedback is provided to them in respect of any recommendations contained in their annual reports.

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:	
None	
16. Additional Information	
Collaborative partner(s):	None
Course referenced to national QAA Benchmark Statements:	QAA Benchmark Statement for Master's degrees
Course recognised by:	
Date implemented:	
Any additional information:	