

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

LL.B (Honours) Law Flexible 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 Flexible (Part-time)
4	Normal Duration:	4-6 Years
5	UCAS code:	N/A

6 Overview and general educational aims of the programme

The LL.B (Honours) Law Flexible 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 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 solicitor or 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 Flexible Learning Programme is designed for students who wish to combine their degree studies with on-going employment or personal/domestic commitments. Students attend the same seminars as LL.B Full-time students but the timetabling of classes and the overall duration of the programme is flexible to meet the needs of students. Seminars may, for example, be timetabled on a single day or on two mornings or two afternoons per week. Students are advised of available study patterns. In addition to direct tutor contact in seminars, you are provided with bespoke web-based guidance materials and integrated e-learning activities to support you in your studies. As with full-time students, you will have the opportunity to learn and practice a wide range of highly valued transferable legal skills that will support your career development.

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 to real-life situations and reflect current legal issues. The Programme includes a range of optional law modules enabling you to tailor your degree to your particular interests and career aspirations.

The degree can also be combined with an additional award, the Certificate in Professional Practice. This involves undertaking mini work placements during vacations to gain experience of a professional work environment.

The special features of the LL.B (Hons) Law Flexible Learning Programme are:

- Enabling you to study at your own pace by providing four, five and six year pathways and facilitating study patterns which are flexible to meet your needs
- Guaranteeing you a place on our Legal Practice Course for intending solicitors following successful completion of the LL.B (Hons) Law Programme with honours (2.2 or higher)
- Teaching is provided by professionally qualified staff with considerable experience in delivering law programmes to part-time and distance learners
- Preparing you for the professional work environment through the incorporation of key professional skills within core modules
- Learning is supported through a range of e-learning activities directly incorporated within the substantive law modules
- 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
- Providing opportunities for you to participate in national and international mooting competitions
- 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 LLM Legal Practice Course for intending

solicitors or the LL.M 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 Flexible Learning 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

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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)**

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 Flexible 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.

You will also participate in regular seminars which are linked to the guidance materials. 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 programme of study, including formative computer based assessments with online feedback. Such e-learning support focusses upon both the confirmation of relevant understanding as well as on-going 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 seminar materials and practice assessments and the greater focus upon project work in the option modules, 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.

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 Programme. 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. Online assessments activities provide further opportunities for you to receive feedback on your performance and development.

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 Flexible Learning programme can be studied on 4, 5 or 6 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 16 modules comprising both compulsory and optional modules. All students, irrespective of the particular pathway taken, will study a standard total of 120 credits at each level of the programme. One credit is equivalent to 10 hours of learning effort.

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.

The curriculum is delivered in a progressive manner through the successive years of the programme. All students complete the compulsory Foundation modules in the earlier stages of the programme. The initial focus is upon the provision of essential legal skills in Legal Method as well as in the Law of Contract and Problem Solving, with such skills being further demonstrated and applied through the linked private law area of the Law of Torts. The public law areas of Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights are delivered together with the linked public law area of European Union Law.

The study of Property Law consists of the linked subjects of Land Law and the Law of Trusts. The study of public law is subsequently taken further in the study of Criminal Law.

Students are taught a range of key legal skills, including applied legal analysis, negotiation, mooting and professional advice, directly incorporated within substantive law modules so that such skills are developed within a relevant context. In addition to completing the Foundation modules, students will study Commercial Law, to introduce the business context of law and to develop commercial awareness.

An attractive range of optional law modules are available 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 select appropriate option combinations. As your final year approaches you will be encouraged to focus upon your future career intentions with all final year students being required to undertake the Independent Research Project module enabling you to directly relate your studies to your particular career aspirations.

Skills are integral to the programme 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. Other level one modules focus upon case analysis 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 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. Level three modules include greater emphasis upon extended essays and project work, providing opportunities to utilise a combination of acquired skills and to demonstrate full learner autonomy.

Both core and optional substantive law modules have a standard 20 credit point module value. The first year Law of Contract and Problem Solving module and the second year Criminal Law with Mooting module both incorporate significant key skills development and so each has a 40 credit point module value. This structure facilitates effective interchange of modules across LL.B programmes.

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

LL.B (Hons) Law Flexible Learning

4 Year Pathway

Year 1 (80 credits)

1. Law of Contract and Problem Solving (L4) **C F**
2. Law of Torts and Case Analysis (L4) **C F**
3. Legal Method (L4) **CF**

Year 2 (80 credits)

1. Public Law and Human Rights (L4) **C F**
2. European Union Law with Group Presentation (L4) **C F**

3. Land Law and Professional Advice (L4) **C F**
4. Law of Trusts and Applied Legal Analysis (L4) **C F**

Year 3 (100 credits)

1. Criminal Law with Mooting (L5) **C F**
2. Commercial Law and Negotiation (L5) **C**
3. Option Module (see details below) (L5/6)
4. Option Module (see details below) (L5/6)

Year 4 (100 credits)

1. Independent Research Module (standard or extended version) (L6) **C**
2. Option Module (see details below) (L6)
3. Option Module (see details below) (L6)
4. Option Module (see details below) (L6)
5. [Option Module (see details below) (L6)]

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

5 Year Pathway

Year 1 (60 credits)

1. Law of Contract and Problem Solving (L4) **C F**
2. Legal Method (L4) **CF**

Year 2 (60 credits)

1. Public Law and Human Rights (L4) **C F**
2. European Union Law with Group Presentation Skills (L4) **C F**
3. Law of Torts and Case Analysis (L4) **C F**

Year 3 (80 credits)

1. Criminal Law with Mooting (L5) **C F**
2. Land Law and Professional Advice (L5) **C F**
3. Law of Trusts and Applied Legal Analysis (L5) **C F**

Year 4 (80 credits)

1. Commercial Law and Negotiation (L5) **C**
2. Option Module (see details above) (L5/6)
3. Option Module (see details above) (L6)
4. Option Module (see details above) (L6)

Year 5 (80 credits)

1. Independent Research Module (standard or extended version) (L6) C
2. Option Module (see details above) (L6)
3. Option Module (see details above) (L6)
4. [Option Module (see details above) (L6)]

6 Year Pathway

Year 1 (60 credits)

1. Law of Contract and Problem Solving (L4) **C F**
2. Legal Method (L4) **CF**

Year 2 (60 credits)

1. Public Law and Human Rights (L4) **C F**
2. European Union Law with Group Presentation Skills (L4) **C F**
3. Law of Torts and Case Analysis (L4) **C F**

Year 3 (60 credits)

1. Land Law and Professional Advice (L5) **C F**
2. Law of Trusts and Applied Legal Analysis (L5) **C F**
3. Commercial Law and Negotiation (L5) **C**

Year 4 (60 credits)

1. Criminal Law with Mooting (L5) **C**
2. Option Module (see details above) (L5/6)

Year 5 (60 credits)

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

Year 6 (60 credits)

1. Independent Research Module (standard or extended version) (L6) C
2. Option Module (see details above) (L6)
3. [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.

12 Support for Learning

All students 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 receive comprehensive module packs in electronic format detailing relevant staff contacts, syllabus and assessment details, teaching and learning methods, recommended reading 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.

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 Programme and Deputy Programme Leaders. 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' 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. The degree can be combined with an additional award, the Certificate in Professional Practice, which requires you to undertake mini placements during vacations to gain experience of a professional work environment and to further enhance your work-based skills.

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 LLM 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 LLM Bar Professional Training Course for intending barristers or to pursue further postgraduate academic legal study on one of our range of 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 Advisor for each of the respective years of the 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 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.

Both the LL.B (Hons) Law Full-time Programme and the LL.B (Hons) Law Distance Learning Programme were 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 QAA Benchmark Statements:	Law
Programme recognised by:	Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board
Date implemented:	1 st September 2012

Any additional information: Updated February 2017

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

- LL.B (Honours) Law Full-time
- LL.B (Honours) Law Sandwich
- LL.B (Honours) Law and Professional Practice
- LL.B (Honours) International Law
- LL.B (Honours) Law with Business
- LL.B (Honours) Law with Criminology
- LL.B (Honours) Law with Psychology