

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information

1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	Nottingham Law School (City Campus)
3.	Final Award	LLB (Hons)
	Course Title	LLB (Hons) Full Time
	Modes of Study:	Full-Time
4.	Normal Duration:	3 Years
5.	UCAS Code:	LL.B: M100

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

The 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 and professional 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 (QLD) which enables you to progress to further study if you wish to become a barrister or a solicitor under the current training regulations.

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/or are highly acclaimed legal researchers. The school also 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), research skills, 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 to real-life situations and reflect current issues.

In the second year there are opportunities for you to undertake an alternative split year pathway. In the first half-year you will complete the Foundation modules as required by the Bar Standards Board (BSB) and Solicitors Regulation Authority

(SRA) under the current regulations. In the second half-year there are opportunities for you to:

- study overseas at one of a number of specially selected partner universities in a range of different countries
- undertake a work placement in either legal or non-legal professional practice to enhance your work-based skills

In the final year there are opportunities to undertake two alternative pathways consisting of either Financial Services or Applied Legal Knowledge.

The Course also includes a wide range of optional law modules enabling you to further tailor your degree to your particular interests and career aspirations.

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

- Providing you with the opportunity to apply for half year placements in a legal work environment
- Providing an opportunity to be introduced to Solicitor's Qualifying Examination (Part 1) and Legal Advice Centre Activities
- Providing opportunities to study abroad
- Providing a Financial Services pathway which provides a year-long work placement in the final year
- Providing an Applied Legal Knowledge pathway with modules dedicated to the preparation for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (Part 1) in the final year.
- Preparing you for the professional work environment through the incorporation of key professional skills within core 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
- Our award winning Legal Advice Centre (LAC) provides pro bono opportunities and practical experience
- Facilitating your transition into professional employment or further research.
- 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

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

To provide a qualifying law degree which enables you to become professional and employable, meeting the needs of a wide range of potential future employers both within and outside of the legal profession

To provide an environment which enables you:

- to acquire high level knowledge and understanding of the 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. **Course outcomes**

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

Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the 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.
2. Recognise and apply the principles and values of law and justice, and of ethics.
3. Apply knowledge and understanding of the law to produce reasoned solutions to complex actual and hypothetical problems.
4. Direct and self-manage your own learning, reflecting critically upon your own knowledge and understanding, identifying issues to research independently and raising and answering cogent questions about law and legal systems.

Skills, qualities and attributes

By the end of the course you should be able to:

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

8. Teaching and learning methods

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

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

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

You 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 independent study in the final year 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, coursework and a mock assessment centre

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

The LL.B Full-time degree is a standard three year course of study with pathway options.

You will study a combination of compulsory and optional modules depending upon the particular route or pathways chosen through the degree.

All students, regardless of the focus or particular pathway taken, will study a standard total of 120 credits in each of the three years of the Course. 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. You will complete the compulsory Foundation modules in the first two years of the Course. The focus of the compulsory foundation modules is a mixture of substantive law and essential legal and professional skills.

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

In the first year you will study Legal and Professional Environment module as well as in the Law of Contract and Problem Solving, Law of Torts and Legal Reasoning,

Public Law and Research Skills and European, International and Comparative Law and Group Presentation Skills.

In the second year you can choose between a full year of study or a half year of study coupled with a work placement or half year study abroad. For all students, the second year comprises the study of Land Law and Professional Advice, the Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal Reasoning and Criminal Law with Mooting.

On the second year of the full year pathway, you 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 which operates as a fully functioning law firm). 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 or tort taking into consideration ethical issues and professional conduct. This module will also provide you with transferable professional skills, such as legal writing, drafting, client advice and practical 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 choosing the ALK 40 credit module will take one optional module and students taking the 20 credit module will have a choice of 2 x 20 optional credit modules.

Such second year optional law modules comprise: Employment Law, Human Rights, Commercial Law and Family 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. In either case you will also undertake respectively a 60 credit Professional Work Placement module or a 60 credit International Study module. These modules are credit-rated and contribute towards your final degree classification.

If for whatever reason you are unable to secure either a work placement or study abroad you may choose Public International Law, Comparative Law, Current Issues in International Law, or; NLS Legal Advice Centre (60 credits).

In the event of over-subscription for the various Year 2 pathway opportunities you will be selected on the basis of first year academic performance, attendance record, commitment and/or suitability.

*The Employer Challenge referred to above sits within the Applied Legal Knowledge - Civil Practice and Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Centre) – Civil Practice modules 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/Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Centre) – Civil Practice module assessments or under the zero credit rated Employer Challenge module.

You may also choose to undertake an optional year-long overseas study or work placement before progressing to the final year of your course.

In your final year you choose between the Path to Professional Practice module, Law in Practice module or Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Clinic) –

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 you 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 knowledge of Foundation Law year modules in a practical setting.

You can then choose five modules from an extensive range of optional law modules where, following the study of the Foundation modules, you are best placed to determine your potential career path and select appropriate option combinations.

You may also choose to undertake an optional year-long overseas study or work placement before progressing to the final year of your course.

Alternatively you may choose to move onto one of two pathways for your final year, either the LLB (Hons) Law for Financial Services (In Company) pathway or the LLB (Hons) Law and Applied Legal Knowledge pathway.

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. 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 the 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.

If you select the LLB (Hons) Law and Applied Legal Knowledge pathway, your final year will be dedicated to studying modules which prepare you for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (Part 1) assessment. You will be required to achieve a 2.1 average in your Year 1 examinations in order to be considered for this pathway.

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 incorporate significant key skills development and has a 40 credit point module value. Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Clinic) - Civil Practice also has 40 credits. If students take the half year placement pathway they will complete a 60 credit placement module or 60 credit International Study module. This structure facilitates effective interchange of modules across LL.B programmes.

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

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

LLB (Hons) Full-time

Year 1

1. Law of Contract and Problem Solving (40 credits) **C F**
2. Legal and Professional Environment (20 credits) **C F**
3. Public Law and Research Skills (20 credits) **CF**
4. Law of Torts and Legal Reasoning (20 credits) **C F**
5. International, European and Comparative Law and Group Presentation Skills (20 credits) **C F**

Year 2 (full-year pathway)

1. Criminal Law with Mooting (20 credits) **C F**
2. Land Law and Professional Advice (20 credits) **C F**
3. Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal Reasoning (20 credits) **C F**
4. Applied Legal Knowledge - Civil Practice (20 credits) plus two option modules
5. Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Clinic) - Civil Practice (40 credits) plus one option module from list below;

Law Option Modules (each 20 credits) from:

Commercial Law, Employment Law, Family Law, Human Rights

Year 2 (half-year pathway)

Half-Year 1

1. Criminal Law with Mooting (20 credits) **C F**
2. Land Law and Professional Advice (20 credits) **C F**
3. Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal Reasoning (20 credits) **C F**

Half-Year 2

Students select 60 credits from:

- International Study Module (60 credits) or;
- Professional Work Placement Module (60 credits)

- as a default for those unable to secure placement or international study, 3 Law Options from choice of: Public International Law, Comparative Law, Current Issues in International Law, or; NLS Legal Advice Centre (60 credits)

Year 3

Optional overseas placement or work placement

Year 3 /4

1. Path to Professional Practice, Law in Practice, or Applied Legal Knowledge (Legal Advice Centre) – Criminal and Business Practice (20 credits)
2. Choice of 5 option modules from:
Commercial Law; Company Law; Comparative Law; Crime and Technology; Criminology & Criminal Justice; Critical Legal Thinking; Employment Law; Evidence; Family Law; Human Rights; Immigration and Asylum Law; Independent Research Project or International Summer School Research Project; Insurance Law; International Criminal Justice; Intellectual Property Law; International Competition Law; International Trade Law; Laws of Armed Conflict; Medical Law; Mooting; Public International Law; Sexuality & The Law; Sports Law; United States Law; Current Issues in International Law

Year 3/4 (LL.B (Hons) Law for Financial Services (In Company) pathway)

1. Applied Law for Financial Services (40 Credits) **C**
2. Law for Financial Services Workplace Functions (40 Credits) **C**
3. Applied Financial Services Law Independent Legal Research Project (20 Credits) **C**
4. Professional In Company Skills Reflective Portfolio (20 Credits) **C**

Year 3/4 (L.LB (Hons) Law and Applied Legal Knowledge pathway

(containing modules which prepare you for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination)

1. Criminal Law and Practice (20 credits) **C**
2. Wills and the Administration of Estates and Trusts (20 credits) **C**
3. Commercial and Corporate Law and Practice (20 credits) **C**
4. Property Law and Practice (20 credits) **C**
5. Dispute Resolution in Contract or Tort (20 credits) **C**

6. Principles of Professional Conduct, Public and Administrative Law, and the Legal Systems of England and Wales (20 credits) **C**

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 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.

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

All law students have access to a dedicated Law School 'Survive and Thrive Toolkit' and 'How to' delivered via NOW learning rooms. These learning rooms 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. The Student Mentor Scheme further supports the development of such key academic skills through drop-in sessions and relevant student-led workshops.

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

An Interim 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.

The Interim Course 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.

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.

15. **Assessment regulations**

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:

The programme has adopted conventions regarding the exercise of the Examination Board's discretion in respect of module compensation. 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 for the time being and the Bar Standards Board regarding qualifying law degree status.

A student will not be allowed to enter Level 3(FHEQ Level 6) of the course with modules from Level 1 (FHEQ Level 4) outstanding.

16. **Additional Information**

Collaborative partner(s):

Course referenced to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Benchmark Statements:

Course recognised by:

Date this course specification approved:

Any additional information: