

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 Legal Practice (distance learning)
4.	Normal Duration:	24 months
5.	UCAS Code:	Not applicable

6.	Overview and general educational aims of the course
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Nottingham Law School has an established reputation for the teaching and delivery of its suite of LL.Ms, and this course has been developed to broaden access to study at Masters level by offering the possibility of obtaining a Masters degree by gaining recognition for postgraduate vocational qualifications as accredited prior learning.

The LLM Legal Practice DL involves the recognition of accredited prior learning (APL) achieved by those who have successfully completed the Legal Practice Course, the Bar Professional Training Course or their equivalents, or the relevant accredited prior experiential learning (APEL). The completion of either APL or APEL is accredited as prior learning for 120 credit points. You will then complete a dissertation in order to obtain the remaining 60 credit points required for the award of an LL.M.

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.

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 will:

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| A) have systematic knowledge and understanding and a critical awareness of current issues and developments in the field of |
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- professional legal practice chosen;
- B) be able to systematically and comprehensively analyse and critique current issues and developments in the field of professional legal practice chosen;
 - C) be able to pursue advanced scholarship, critically analyse and evaluate the area of law and current research related to in the field of professional legal practice chosen;
 - D) be able to apply the law innovatively and in contexts that contribute knowledge construction within the professional field;
 - E) demonstrate originality in the production of a dissertation or article that synthesises the advanced scholarship, analysis, and application of the law in the chosen field of professional legal practice;
 - F) be able to evaluate wider factors that may have influenced the identified area of law, such as philosophical, theoretical, ethical, political, economic, sociological factors; and
 - G) where appropriate locate and assess international influences including comparative law that impact on the relevant area of law and practice.

Skills, qualities and attributes

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

- A) research to advanced level including the deployment of research methodologies within the context of the area of the area of law for the relevant specialism;
- B) communicate complex legal concepts that apply within the area of specialism to a high level of competence;
- C) deploy a highly developed skills base, including those of:
 - a. Information gathering
 - b. Critical analysis and examination
 - c. High level argument formulation
 - d. Handling of wide variety of information and legal materials
 - e. Formulation from evidence of your own arguments and opinions
 - f. Responsibility for own learning

8. Teaching and Learning Methods

The course will be delivered along with independent supervised research and study for the dissertation.

Outcomes will be met through:

- Interaction with on-line learning materials, independent study and discussion of the relevant law and theory in the areas of study with the supervisor;
- the completion of original research in the dissertation.

On-line materials and resources will provide the basis for learning. Information-giving is less important on a Master's course than at undergraduate level as you will be expected to take greater responsibility for

your own learning, including independent reading and research, but you will be provided with supervision to guide you in your research.

The dissertation will be supervised by an academic member of the School with the appropriate expertise. To facilitate this, you will be required to select the topic for your dissertation prior to commencing the course. You will be able to avail yourself of guidance from the Course Leader and other members of the School on the subject area(s) in which you are interested. Whilst it is seen as an important part of study on a Master's level course that you demonstrate the ability to plan and manage your time effectively, you will be provided with indicators at various stages to help you determine whether you are reaching the right stage-posts in the planning and writing of their dissertation. This is considered to be particularly important to support distance learning students.

9. **Assessment Methods**

The course is assessed by way of an article or a dissertation. This is a substantial piece of work and will require you to undertake extensive research in your chosen field. To that end, you will submit a research proposal which will allow your supervisor to identify the best way to channel your research, whether by way of an article or a dissertation. The work is independent in nature and it is for you to identify, plan, research and write the assessed piece. Support will be provided with an appropriately expert member of academic staff acting as supervisor to monitor and guide your work. You will have the opportunity to submit drafts, synopses and other aspects of your work to your supervisor over the course of the module. The supervisor will provide you feedback, both written and oral, on the work submitted.

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

The course is constituted of an optional module, based on the achievements evidenced through the completion of Legal Practice Course, the Bar Professional Training Course or their equivalents, or the relevant accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

Module	Level	Credits
Dissertation	7	60
Article	7	60

11. **Admission to the course**

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**

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

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

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

The Course Leader will act as personal tutor to all students on the course of study, and will be the first point of contact for student issues, whether or not related to their academic studies. Additionally, academic support will be provided through the allocation of a supervisor.

The School has a designated Disability Support Tutor who provides appropriate academic and course information and support for both applicants and enrolled students and can ensure effective liaison with University Support Services and the University Admissions Team where appropriate.

The University provides a range of student support 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.

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 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 course therefore offers a wide range of career possibilities for graduates, largely within the legal profession but also extending to a wide variety of associated professional activities.

14. Course standards and quality

An Interim Course Report 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 course feedback from students together with external examiner reports and admissions and progression statistics in order to identify and promote good practice and to inform relevant action points.

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

Student feedback is considered an important part of the review and development of the course, and there will be on-going consultation with

<p>students regarding module and course development via email and through evaluation questionnaires.</p> <p>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.</p>												
<p>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:</p>												
<p>None</p>												
<p>16. Additional Information</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="331 808 805 842">Collaborative partner(s):</td> <td data-bbox="869 808 949 842">None</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="331 846 805 880">Course referenced to national QAA</td> <td data-bbox="869 846 1332 880">QAA Benchmark Statement for</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="331 884 662 918">Benchmark Statements:</td> <td data-bbox="869 884 1125 918">Master's degrees</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="331 922 630 956">Course recognised by:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="331 960 598 994">Date implemented:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="331 999 702 1032">Any additional information:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Collaborative partner(s):	None	Course referenced to national QAA	QAA Benchmark Statement for	Benchmark Statements:	Master's degrees	Course recognised by:		Date implemented:		Any additional information:	
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