

## 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	<b>LLB (Hons) Distance Learning</b>
	Modes of Study:	Distance Learning
4.	Normal Duration:	3 -5 Years
5.	UCAS Code:	

### 6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

The LL.B (Honours) Law Distance Learning degree 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/or acclaimed legal researchers. The School has extensive links with the legal and other professions both nationally and overseas.

The LL.B Distance Learning Course 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 Course 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 e-mail support.

Key professional skills such as problem-solving, case analysis, legal reasoning, research skills and 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 Course 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 Courses 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 Legal Practice Course for intending solicitors following successful completion of the LLB (Hons) Law Course 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 Course 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 Courses. 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 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**

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 Course 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 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 practice assessments and is assessed in the independent research project, which is a compulsory for all students at Level 6.

#### 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, problem-solving assignments, mooted skills, seen and unseen examinations and an independent research project.

#### 10. **Course structure and curriculum**

The LL.B (Hons) Law Distance Learning Course can be studied on 3, 4 or 5 year pathways. Consistently with relevant Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standard Board requirements, the Course 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. 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 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 Course. The initial focus is upon the provision of essential legal skills in Legal and Professional Environment, demonstrated and applied through the linked private law areas of Contract Law and Problem Solving and the Law of Torts and Legal Reasoning and Public Law and Research Skills.

The study of public law is then taken further in International, European and Comparative Law and Group Presentation Skills. The year one private law subjects are built upon in the subsequent study of Land Law and Professional Advice and the Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal Reasoning.

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.

Option modules are positioned in the final stages of the Course 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.

Skills are also introduced in a planned and structured way. Initial modules focus upon key legal skills such as legal reasoning, research skills and problem solving. Writing skills become more specialised as the Course 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 legal reasoning 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 including reflecting upon the skills you have acquired on the course.

**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.

## **LL.B (Hons) Law Distance Learning**

### **3 Year Pathway**

#### **Year 1**

1. Law of Contract and Problem Solving (L4) **C F**
2. Law of Torts and Legal Reasoning (L4) **C F**
3. Legal and Professional Environment (L4) **C F**
4. Public Law and Research Skills (L4) **C F**

#### **Year 2**

1. Land Law and Professional Advice (L5) **C F**
2. Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal Reasoning (L5) **C F**
3. International, European and Comparative Law and Group Presentation Skills (L5) **C F**
4. Criminal Law with Mooting Skills (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: Company Law, Employment Law, Law of Evidence, Family Law, Medical Law, Intellectual Property Law or International Study Project\*.)

\*Which, if selected, replaced the Independent Research Project.



### **4 Year Pathway**

#### **Year 1**

1. Law of Contract and Problem Solving (L4) **C F**
2. Law of Torts and Legal Reasoning (L4) **C F**
3. Legal and Professional Environment (L4) **C F**

#### **Year 2**

1. Public Law and Research Skills (L4) **C F**
2. International, European and Comparative Law and Group Presentation Skills (L5) **C F**
3. Criminal Law with Mooting Skills (L5) **C F**

#### **Year 3**

1. Land Law and Professional Advice (L5) **C F**
2. Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal reasoning (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 and Problem Solving (L4) **C F**
2. Legal and Professional Environment (L4) **C F**

#### **Year 2**

1. Public Law and Research Skills (L4) **C F**
2. Law of Torts and Legal Reasoning (L4) **C F**

#### **Year 3**

1. International, European and Comparative Law and Group Presentation Skills (L5) **C F**

2. Criminal Law with Mooting Skills (L5) **C F**

#### **Year 4**

1. Land Law and Professional Advice (L5) **C F**

2. Law of Trusts and Advanced Legal Reasoning (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 Course within an overall maximum period of six years.

### **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 attending the Law School for the initial residential weekend participate in an induction Course 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 who do not attend the initial residential weekend receive a comprehensive Course Handbook together with an online induction presentation introducing students to the Course, 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 Course Leader and Deputy Course 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.

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.

<p>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.</p>
<p>15. <b>Assessment regulations</b> 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:</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>16. <b>Additional Information</b> Collaborative partner(s): Course referenced to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Benchmark Statements: Course recognised by: Date this course specification approved:</p>
<p>Any additional information:</p>