

Programme Specification

A Programme Specification provides a concise summary of the main features of a programme and its intended learning outcomes. It is intended to be used by prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers.

Programme Title:	
BA (Hons) Law BA (Hons) Law with Foundation Year	
Programme (AOS) Code(s):	BL2LAW1 BL2LAW4
UCAS Code:	M100
Name of Final Award:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours, BA (Hons)
Level of Qualification:	Level 6
Regime of Delivery:	Attendance
Mode(s) of Delivery:	F/T
Typical Length of Study (Years):	3 yrs or 4 yrs with Foundation
Professional Body Recognition / Accreditation (including specific requirements where applicable):	N/A

Brief Description of the Programme

This programme is a non-qualifying law degree and will be of interest to students who may not wish to qualify as solicitors or barristers, but who still wish to pursue an academic degree in law and/or a career in relevant legal advice sectors. The programme will enhance post-graduate and employability opportunities in a variety of commercial, political and socio-legal working environments.

The programme will allow those students with a keen interest in law, and who wish to pursue a career in a legal related area, to view the law in an economic/socio-legal context. The programme aims to provide an understanding of the law and legal techniques that can then be applied to the graduate's chosen field of work.

Understanding and advising an organisation, or those wishing to set up their own business, on how to comply with legal obligations is a skill that is increasingly in demand. The programme will encourage an academic interest in law, whilst building up student's legal knowledge and commercial awareness, giving the opportunity to widen interests before settling into a career.

This programme will develop employability through the skills particular to the study of law, such as research and communication skills, including legal debating, interviewing and mediation. Students will continue to build their professional identity through the accumulation of transferrable skills, including team-working and problem-solving, reflexive learning, and CV building. The aim is to enable students to work in both the private and public sectors, where knowledge of the law is required and/or valuable.

Though this degree does not offer exemptions from the academic stage of training to become a solicitor or barrister, the first year content is common with our LLB (Hons) qualifying law degree programme and those who are successful in all the first year modules may transfer onto year two of the LLB programme.

Programme Aims

1	To provide graduates with a broad, legal qualification, which develops the student's understanding of the ethical, social, political, economic, cultural and historical context within which law applies
2	To produce graduates with knowledge and understanding of the English and EU legal systems and the associated transferrable intellectual and key skills that will enable the successful study of further legal topics
3	To develop skills of legal analysis and the ability to evaluate the law as well as legal systems and processes
4	To produce employment ready graduates with skills, knowledge and values that will enable them to build their professional identity in their chosen career in a law-related environment
5	To prepare graduates with the skills and knowledge required for post-graduate study

Programme Learning Outcomes

The Bucks Graduate Attributes focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens. The attributes are developed through the programme.

ID	Learning Outcome
Graduate Attribute: Knowledge and its application (K)	
K1	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of commercial, political and social contexts within which the law operates
K2	Critically apply the concepts, values, rules, procedures and institutions of the British and European legal systems in the solution of practical legal problems within chosen legal environments
K3	Demonstrate the ability to recognise ambiguity and deal with uncertainty in law
K4	Demonstrate a critical understanding of contemporary economic and socio-legal systems at the National and European level
K5	Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of social diversity and inequality as they apply to law and society
Graduate Attribute: Creativity (C)	
C1	Devise innovative solutions to legal problems, using a range of legal skills
C2	Effectively communicate ideas, problems and solutions to a range of audiences in writing and orally
C3	Interpret the law in a range of contexts in order to devise and sustain legal arguments
Graduate Attribute: Social and ethical awareness and responsibility (S)	

S1	Demonstrate a systematic awareness of the intersections between law and ethics in research and practice
S2	Apply legal knowledge to current legal, economic and social issues, demonstrating an awareness of relevant ethical issues
S3	Critically examine the values, practices, and processes of the legal system and related agencies through a range of ethical approaches
S4	Employ an ethical awareness of legal issues relating to diversity and inequalities in contemporary society
Graduate Attribute: Leadership and self-development (L)	
L1	Demonstrate an ability to make decisions in relation to complex ideas and situations
L2	Demonstrate a self-reflective approach to managing own learning
L3	Undertake projects independently, demonstrating initiative and personal responsibility
L4	Demonstrate a pro-active approach, taking responsibility and assuming leadership for mutual learning and well-being by working with teams of fellow students and other relevant individuals and agencies

Programme Structure

Programmes are structured in stages. The number of stages will vary depending on the mode (e.g. full-time, part-time), duration and location of study which will be detailed in the Programme Handbook.

Modules are set at a specific academic level and listed as either core (compulsory) or optional. The level indicates the relative academic difficulty which will increase through the programme. Passing modules will reward you with academic credit. The amount of credits will depend on the complexity of the module and the level of effort required, which is measured in 'notional learning hours'.

Our [Academic Advice webpages](#) provide more information on the structure of taught awards offered by the University.

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to sector developments.

Foundation Level (Optional for students on degree programmes)

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
FY025	Introduction to Law	N/A	Core	Yes
FY026	Preparing for Success, Knowledge and Creativity	N/A	Core	Yes
FY027	Preparing for Success, Self-Development and Responsibility	N/A	Core	Yes
FY028	Inquiry based-learning	N/A	Core	Yes

Level Four

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LW401	Law of Contract	30	Core	Yes
LW402	Criminal Law	30	Core	Yes
LW403	English Legal System	15	Core	Yes
LW404	Professional Skills 1	15	Core	Yes
LW405	EU Constitutional and Procedural Law	15	Core	Yes
LW406	Professional Skills 2	15	Core	Yes

Level Five

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LW501	Law of Tort	30	Core	Yes
LW503	European Internal Market Law	15	Core	Yes
LW504	Professional Skills 3	15	Core	Yes
LW505	Business Organisations	15	Core	Yes
LW507	Media Law 1	15	Core	Yes
	Students will choose TWO of the following options:			
LW506	Criminal Justice	15	Option	Yes
LW509	Family Law	15	Option	Yes
LW508	Employment Law	15	Option	Yes
LW510	Intellectual Property Law 1	15	Option	Yes
LC560	Gender and Sexuality in Society	15	Option	Yes
BM539	Financial Management	15	Option	Yes

Level Six

Code	Module Title	Credit	Core / Option	Compensable (Normally Yes)
LW699	Dissertation	30	Core	No
LW605	Media Law 2	15	Core	Yes
LW610	Work Based Learning	15	Core	Yes
	Students will choose FOUR of the following options:			
LW603	Commercial Law	15	Option	Yes
LW604	The Law of Evidence	15	Option	Yes
LW606	Children and Law	15	Option	Yes
LW607	Intellectual Property Law 2	15	Option	Yes

LW612	Environmental Law	15	Option	Yes
LW613	Sports Law	15	Option	Yes
LW608	European Human Rights	15	Option	Yes
LC652	Cybercrime	15	Option	Yes
LC654	Disability, Mental Health and The Criminal Justice System	15	Option	Yes
MG629	Developing Leadership and Management Skills	15	Option	Yes
BM637	Corporate Governance and Ethics	15	Option	Yes

Learning and Teaching Activities

Please see the [Academic Advice pages](#) for a description of learning and teaching activities that are recognised by the University. Detailed information on this specific programme is outlined below:

This will be an attendance based course and will include teaching activities such as:

- Lectures – classroom based teaching
- Interactive use of the VLE
- Seminars and workshops – activities are student centred and include group discussions, role play, presentations, videos to provide a context for use of knowledge gained in plenary sessions and in private study, case study problem solving, questions and research activities that are set out in study materials
- Independent Study
- Field Trips
- Employment forums
- Formative assessment and feeding forward strategies

Students will be expected to undertake and be guided in independent study for each module weekly throughout the course. Students will regularly be given instructions for independent study in preparation for seminars. This will include references for reading (reading material may be provided where necessary) and specific tasks or questions will be asked in relation to the reading. Students will be expected to attend the seminar with written answers for discussion. Independent learning is developed progressively through the programme by means of seminar research and coursework preparation, with students at lower levels being given greater guidance on sources and indicative reading.

Students will have the option to undertake work-related learning in LW610 Work Based Learning module, by finding voluntary positions in relevant organisations which will allow them to apply their knowledge and skills within real-life occupational sectors.

Skills in oral and written communication, research and critical analysis are developed progressively throughout the levels. The dissertation module provides particular focus on the development of those skills, which are assessed in these modules, and through the varied diet of assessments in other modules.

Foundation Year assessment is designed to challenge students to investigate problems, research and analyse relevant information, propose explanations and solutions, and to then communicate their properly evidenced findings and outcomes to different audiences in various formats and using

different tools. The assessment is largely based upon coursework, culminating in a law-related final independent, guided study, project.

In Level 5 students are required to undertake two option modules and in Level 6 our option modules from a range of complimentary options available. Students will be supported in their option selection through the provision of an Options Event where academic staff will be on hand to explain the content and assessment of the optional modules being offered, and answer any questions. Students will also have the opportunity to undertake informal discussions about their optional modules with their lecturers or personal tutor.

Professionalism and ethics form a theme throughout the programme, introduced primarily in the skills modules, but inculcated in other modules, with clear expectations that students behave appropriately and contribute to the achievement of teaching aims in class. Particular focus for the demonstration of these skills arises in a variety of assessed elements, including team or group-based assessments, oral presentations, legal advice role play/exhibitions and the court day.

Additional Course Costs

There are costs associated with all studies, additional to the tuition fee, which require consideration, when planning and budgeting for expenditure. Costs are indicative and for the total length of the course shown unless otherwise stated and will increase with inflation; depending on the programme they may include equipment, printing, project materials, study trips, placement activities, DBS and/or other security checks.

Course textbooks and materials - £150-200 per year
 Printing from university facilities - £40 per year
 Student visits to law courts, Parliament, in London – normal train/bus

Contact Hours

1 unit of credit is the equivalent of 10 notional learning hours. Full time undergraduate students study 120 credits (1200 hours) and full-time postgraduate students study 180 credits (1800 hours) per year or 'stage' of the course.

Course Stage	Scheduled Activities (Hours)	Guided Independent Study (Hours)	Placement / Study Abroad (Hours)
Foundation Year	336	864	n/a
Year One	336	864	n/a
Year Two	342	858	n/a
Year Three	234.5	865.5	100

Assessment Methods

The [Assessment and Examination webpages](#) provide further information on how assignments are marked and moderated, including a description of assessment activities. These also include further information about how feedback on assessed work is provided to students, including our

commitment to ensure this is provided to students within 15 working days (the 'three-week turnaround').

Specific assessment methods are determined at modular level, but are designed to reflect the programme aims and learning outcomes, to equip students with relevant knowledge and experience; academic and cognitive, and critical and transferrable skills. To this end there is a varied diet of assessment at all levels designed to mirror 'real world' legal and sociological issues, problems and situations, as well as providing students with the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have acquired.

Students are assessed using a range of innovative assessment methods which facilitates students with differing learning styles. All assessments are designed to equip students with important transferrable skills and so preparing them for the world of work. These include modes of assessment such as poster presentations, blogs and portfolios as well as more traditional forms of assessment as outlined below.

Seminars provide one of the contexts in which students can demonstrate learning in a variety of modes, including presentations, group discussions based on independent learning tasks, preparatory reading and workshop activities.

Examinations permit students to demonstrate achievement of a range of Learning Outcomes in some of the modules. Other modules will be assessed in part by time limited "take-home" assessment: a case-study will be released to students via the virtual learning environment with limited time to undertake the required task and submit a written report. Modules may also be assessed in part by problem based case-study or essay based coursework questions, and oral presentations or portfolios.

All students will be required to demonstrate the skills of critical analysis and independent study required to achieve success in a dissertation.

Classification

Calculation of final award:	Level 5 - 33%
	Level 6 – 67%

For full details of assessment regulations for all taught programmes please refer to our [Results webpages](#). These include the criteria for degree classification.

Admissions Requirements

Please see the [Application webpages](#) for more information on how to apply, including a statement on how we support students from a variety of backgrounds. Please also see our [general entry requirements](#) for taught programmes. Applicants who do not meet our published entry requirements are encouraged to contact our admissions team for further advice and guidance.

Typical applicant profile and any programme-specific entry requirements

There are no programme specific entry requirements for this course beyond the university's general requirements, above.

It is anticipated that students will be drawn from the following profile types:

- School leavers who wish to prepare for a career in law-related occupations identified in this programme
- Mature applicants who have been out of the education system for some time and who wish to focus on developing a career in this subject area
- Graduates from other relevant programmes offered by the University or other institutions who wish to continue their professional and academic development in the subject area
- Employees who are currently working in, or have the potential to work in, a variety of roles within the legal/regulatory sector, and a variety of other economic and socio-legal working environments, including commercial employers, banks and insurance agencies, human resources, in-house company and industry advisers, charities, government and non- government agencies, the courts and civil service, welfare, social care and health care, criminal law and justice, who may wish to gain a high level academic award to develop their legal knowledge and skills. This will included applicants who have changed career and wish to focus on a career in this subject area.

Do applicants required a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check?

No

Opportunities for students on successful completion of the programme

Students from the above course, who do not wish to practice law and qualify as a solicitor or a barrister through the study of an accredited LLB qualifying law degree programme, but instead want to study a law programme that is relevant to types employment where a knowledge of the law/regulation relating to that particular industry is required.

The competencies developed during the programme of law study are relevant in many careers; these include analytical and research skills, good communication and problem solving skills. All of these are directly transferable to many careers and industries, where the job role will require legal knowledge to ensure organisations comply with industry specific law and regulations, human resources or tax advisory work. These include:

- Chartered/company secretary to ensure organisations comply with company law and regulations
- Management consultancy
- Civil service senior managerial positions across a wide range of political and social departments and agencies
- Construction and engineering
- Banking and finance
- Tax consultancy and financial management
- Insurance
- Management training in retail and marketing, human resources, IT, HMRC revenue and customs, town planning
- Legal publishing
- Media and entertainment
- Welfare and health care advisors

- Immigration officer
- Housing advisor
- Health and safety advisor
- Probation officer
- Charities officer

Students will also be equipped to continue with further postgraduate study. In addition those who wish to pursue a career in the legal profession may be eligible to study for the Common Professional Examination/Graduate Diploma in law or the new Solicitors Education Qualifying Route (SEQS) which is being introduced in 2020.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules. Please refer to our [Credit Accumulation webpages](#) for further guidance.

Student Support

During the course of their studies, students will be supported in the following ways:

- At the start of their studies all students will receive a full **induction** to the programme which will include introduction to the staff responsible for delivering the course, and access to library and IT facilities
- The **Programme Handbook** will outline the exact nature of the course and how it is structured, including the availability of option modules
- Each student will be allocated a **Personal Tutor** who will support their academic development, be able to advise and guide them with their studies and, where necessary, give advice on study options
- Students will be able to access our full range of **support services**, including the Learning Development Unit for skills and study support, the Library, the Careers and Employability Team, Student Finance Team, Accommodation and Counselling Services

Appendices

Quality Assurance

Awarding Body:	Buckinghamshire New University
Language of Study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s):	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Law 2015
Assessment Regulations:	<i>Academic Assessment Regulations</i> , accessible via the Academic Advice webpages (https://bucks.ac.uk/students/academicadvice)
Does the Fitness to Practise procedure apply to this programme?	No
Ethics Sub-committee	Business sub-committee
Date Published / Updated:	September 2019

Other awards available on programme (Exit Qualifications)

Please refer to the *Academic Qualifications Framework* for Exit Qualifications recognised by the University and credit and module requirements.

Name of Exit Qualification:	Ordinary Degree
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	BA Law
Credits requirements:	300 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 ALL 120 Credits at Level 5 PLUS 60 credits from any Level 6 Modules except the Dissertation
Learning Outcome	
Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the principles and rules of law and the way in which these have developed	
Apply those principles and rules to complex factual situations and critically analyse areas of uncertainty and propose solutions to problems	
Critically evaluate the principles and rules of law in their commercial, social, and political environments	
Take responsibility for personal development and mutual learning, using reflection and feedback to analyse own capabilities, appraise alternatives and implement appropriate action	

Name of Exit Qualification:	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	DipHE Law
Credits requirements:	240 credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4 ALL 120 Credits at Level 5
Learning Outcome	
Demonstrate an understanding of the key principles and rules of law, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the contexts of law	
Apply the principles and rules of law outside the context in which they were first studied, for example, in various employment contexts	
Demonstrate an ability to evaluate competing legal approaches to solving problems	
Effectively communicate information to a variety of audiences within a relevant industry	
Full name of Qualification and Award Title:	CertHE Law
Credits requirements:	120 Credits
Module requirements:	ALL 120 Credits at Level 4
Learning Outcome	
Explain the key principles and rules of law	
Collect information from a variety of authoritative sources in order to develop lines of argument in accordance with basic concepts, principles and rules of law	
Communicate the results of their study/work accurately using a variety of communication styles	
Display a range of personal and interpersonal skills including effective teamwork and performing to deadlines	