



## **Course Specification Part A**

### **LLM in International Human Rights Law (FBLT086)**

#### **Faculty of Business and Law Law School Academic Year: 2021-2022**

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Coventry University's accreditation with CMI is currently ongoing for the relevant modules and is regularly reviewed and monitored by the CMI through their quality systems. Whilst Coventry University anticipates that these reviews will continue to be successful, if they were to be unsuccessful, the relevant module in this course would no longer be accredited and we would notify applicants and students of this change as soon as possible.

## PART A Course Specification (Published Document)

### LLM INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

#### 1. Introduction

Concern for human rights in the contemporary era has become a major focus for States and other international actors. This course aims to provide students with an opportunity to develop recognized expertise in emergent issues within the area of international human rights law. The LLM in International Human Rights Law takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of international human rights law that will introduce students to both the international and regional protection of human rights. This will provide students with an understanding of the social realities that inform the human rights discourse and affect the practical applicability of human rights law. Through the LLM in International Human Rights Law, students will gain the necessary skills to critically apprehend the rules, systems, techniques, and practices of human rights.

Studying for an LLM is an intellectually stimulating experience. The LLM in International Human Rights Law at Coventry University provides an opportunity for students to build on their undergraduate knowledge and skills and to develop their subject knowledge and their legal, analytical and transferable skills. The skills learnt and practiced on the LLM in International Human Rights Law can be utilised by those students intending to enter the legal profession (in the UK and overseas), as well as those who would like to work in Non-governmental Organisations and international institutions. However, the utility of the course is not restricted to those who wish to pursue a career in human legal practice, as the skills and attributes developed and acquired throughout the LLM in International Human Rights Law are translatable to many other positive career destinations and the course is designed to prepare students for the global jobs market, further graduate level study (PhD) or a career in academia.

This course places a strong emphasis on research methodologies, writing skills, academic discussion and debate, as well as presentation skills. This provides an opportunity for students to build on their undergraduate knowledge and skills through the development of their subject knowledge, as well as their legal and analytical skills.

The LLM in International Human Rights Law will allow students to study specific aspects of international human rights law through the delivery of specialized modules which are aimed at providing a more in-depth look at particular issues. In the first semester, students will engage with the international legal frameworks that govern the application of international human rights. The second semester will focus more specifically on the inter-relationship between the local and the global where the legal application of human rights is concerned. In doing so, this course recognizes that there are different and sometimes incompatible human rights regimes.

This course will be taught by those with the relevant knowledge and expertise in the Law School. The course replaces the existing International Law LLM with a more focused and specialised course. Additionally, the course compliments the LLM in Law, with teaching capabilities and resources shared between the two courses.

The course is suitable for students with or without a background in law (for example, those who have studied international relations, politics, or history) who are seeking to gain and/or build upon their knowledge of international human rights law. It is also suitable for those students who are looking to specialize in the application of human rights in areas of law that are socially and legally contentious. The LLM in International Human Rights Law will also provide students with the basis to pursue postgraduate research degrees (ex. MPhil, MRes, MJur, PhD).

The flexibility offered by the range of modules, full and part time provision makes this programme attractive to students wishing to have an international dimension to their legal studies. In addition, as part of this course students will undertake a professional development module which is currently accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). Upon successful completion of the module,

students will gain the CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice at no additional cost.

Students will be supported in their future employability prospects through engagement with the Postgraduate Employment Personal Tutor, Placements Tutor and the wider Law Futures/Careers Team at the University. To further enhance student's learning, a unique opportunity will be given to attend an Expert Seminar Series where Special Rapporteurs and Committee members of United Nations, human rights activists, and practitioners in the field will be invited as guest speakers for an Expert Seminar Series. This seminar series will run in addition to the modules offered under this course. The course will also include the opportunity to participate in an annual study trip to the United Nations Institutions in Geneva/New York. Where possible, students will be encouraged to pursue internships in human rights organizations in the semester three. This will give them practical experience in the field of International human rights law and may be used to form the basis of their dissertation.

The LLM in International Human Rights Law course provides students with the opportunity for ownership of their own learning journey and self-realisation of their own capacity for intellectual independence. The Teaching, Learning and Assessment strategies employed on the course are informed by the University's Corporate Plan and Education Strategy (2015-2021) and seek to promote a transformative process of learning from the day a student enrolls on the course to the point at which they graduate and beyond. Students will be placed at the centre of their own learning as active participants both within the classroom and within their own legal community, preparing them to make significant contributions within society and/or their chosen professions in a competitive global market.

## 2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	<a href="#">FHEQ Level</a>
LLM in International Human Rights Law	F/T 1 year  P/T 2 years		7
<b>Fallback Awards</b>			
Postgraduate Diploma in International Human Rights Law			
Postgraduate Certificate in International Human Rights Law			

<b>3 Awarding Institution/Body</b>	Coventry University
<b>4 Collaboration</b>	Not Applicable
<b>5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery</b>	FHEQ Level 7 Coventry University
<b>6 Internal Approval/Review Dates</b>	Date of approval/latest review: 2019 Date for next review: Academic year 2027/2028
<b>7 Course Accredited by</b>	Not Applicable
<b>8 Accreditation Date and Duration</b>	Not Applicable

<b>9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors</b>	QAA Master's Degree Characteristics 2015
<b>10 Date of Course Specification</b>	January 2020
<b>11 Course Director</b>	Dr Monica Ingber

## 12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

The LLM in International Human Rights Law provides a coherent course of study, developing both academic and transferrable study skills focusing on the following:

- The acquisition of knowledge and understanding of legal doctrines, concepts, principles, rules and values inherent in international human rights regimes as a totality and with respect to specified areas within.
- Further and enhanced development of the ability to apply legal knowledge and the skills acquired to theory and practice of international human rights law.
- The identification, retrieval, collation, and prioritisation of up-to-date legal information, using paper and electronic sources, primary and secondary legal sources and academic journals relevant to the specific area of international human rights law.
- Development of enhanced postgraduate academic and employability skills in research, analysis, critical evaluation, problem-solving, communication and reflection, thus enhancing autonomous and collaborative learning for subsequent use within the legal profession, as well as other professions and employment.

The course involves a range of modules focussing on both domestic and international law that are taught in an inter-culturally diverse environment. The LLM seeks to produce autonomous learners, able to work with self-direction and originality; with the ability to blend theory and practice in complex situations, and have an appreciation of how properly conducted research can enhance their practice.

The course aims to develop students' strategic thinking, effective communication and research skills, all directly relevant to employers and such skills are designed to be of great value when seeking future employment. The course incorporates a Chartered Management Institute (CMI) accredited module, 7051CRB 'Leading Strategic Change through Creativity and Innovation'. Students who successfully complete the module and meet the CMI learning outcomes will gain a Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice based on the following CMI units: Developing Organisational Strategy (Unit 704); Leading Strategic Change (unit 705). Students who successfully complete this module will be awarded Foundation Chartered Manager status and be able to use the designation 'fCMgr' after their name.

The educational aims align with the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (2015), whereby students are required to have a systematic understanding of knowledge and a critical awareness of contemporary problems. In addition, students will develop originality in the application of knowledge and develop conceptual understanding enabling them to critically evaluate current research, as well as develop a range of transferable skills necessary for employment.

### **13 Course Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of international human rights law as a legal system that is distinct from national legal systems.
2. Critically evaluate substantive issues and developments within international human rights law.
3. Apply advanced legal knowledge to practical issues within international human rights law.
4. Effectively communicate ideas by explaining and conveying information in varying forms, such as orally and written.
5. Undertake complex research-based projects independently, including an ability to manage their work in an effective manner.
6. Work independently and collaboratively, making effective use of feedback.
7. Understand the importance of social responsibility and ethical behaviour in an academic and vocational capacity.
8. Evidence intellectual independence by addressing and resolving legal and related questions, identifying gaps in their own knowledge, and by acquiring new knowledge by engaging in critical analysis and evaluation.
9. A student should be able to; critically evaluate the principles of developing and proposing strategy for leading strategic change.

### **14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards**

Modules within the course, their status, their credit value and pre/co requisites are identified in the table below.

The modules within the course, their status, credit value and pre/co-requisites are identified in the table below.

The programme has an embedded module, Professional Development, which has been developed with the Chartered Institute of Management (CMI). Students who successfully complete the module and meet the CMI learning outcomes will gain a Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice based on the following CMI units: Developing Organisational Strategy (Unit 704); Leading Strategic Change (unit 705). Students who successfully complete this module will be awarded Foundation Chartered Manager status and be able to use the designation 'fCMgr' after their name.

#### **14.1 LLM International Human Rights Law**

Students on the above course will normally take 180 credits over a period of:

- One year full-time; or
- Two years of part-time study.

Taught modules are worth 10 or 15 credits; the Project is 50 credits. All modules are taught within a semesterised system. Full-time students will take up to 60 credits worth of modules each semester; part-time students will normally take 30 credits each semester. All modules are classed as level 7. All modules are mandatory.

#### **14.2 Distinctive Features of the Course**

Distinctive features of the course include the following:

- This course allows students to gain specialised knowledge and understanding of international human rights law. The combination of modules, particularly the inclusion of issue-based modules such as Terrorism,

Counter-Terrorism, and Human Rights, Gender, Race, Sexuality, and International Human Rights, as well as Minority Rights and Activism is unique to Coventry Law School.

- All students are given extensive tuition in research and writing skills via the research modules. Research Skills introduces students to the necessary enhanced writing and analytical skills necessary to tackle postgraduate assessments and to comply with the School's legal referencing requirement. Research Design introduces the students to various research methodologies, and prepares them for the challenges of researching and writing their project or dissertation.
- Throughout the LLM in International Human Rights Law course, students will be encouraged to participate in the Coventry University Global Leaders Programme to enable students to compete successfully in a global graduate market and prepare for their chosen career paths or other positive career destination.
- In addition, all students take the CMI module, which introduces them to professional business skills and analysis and further augments their career prospects
- Formal classes provide an academic workshop environment in order to encourage individual and group class participation and critical thinking. This is strengthened by the opportunity for regular guest lecture slots, introducing the students to national and international experts from academia and practice.

### **14.3 Awards and Classification**

#### **14.4.1 LLM in International Human Rights Law**

An LLM in International Human Rights Law will be awarded in accordance with the University's Regulations for the Course Based Postgraduate Curriculum Framework (Mode R).

#### **14.4.2 Intermediate Awards**

A student who does not wish or is unable to complete the LLM in International Human Rights Law course may apply for an intermediate award. Available awards are a Postgraduate Diploma in International Human Rights Law or a Postgraduate Certificate in International Human Rights Law. These will be awarded in accordance with the University's Regulations for the Course Based Postgraduate Curriculum Framework (Mode R).

To be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in International Human Rights Law, a student must pass all 120 credits of CLS modules (not including 7040CLS Project or 7051CRB Leading Strategic Change through Creativity and Innovation). To be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in International Human Rights Law, a student must take and pass 60 credits (not including 7040CLS Project).

#### **Cascade of Awards:**

Where a student does not meet the requirements of the award for which they are registered the following cascades will apply:

LLM in International Human Rights Law
Postgraduate Diploma in International Human Rights Law
Postgraduate Certificate in International Human Rights Law

Module credit level	Module Code	Title	Learning Credit Value	Assessment Credit Value	Mandatory/ Optional	Course Learning Outcomes								
						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>LEVEL 7</b>														
7	7055CLS	Research Skills	15	15	Mandatory				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7057CLS	Research Design	15	15	Mandatory			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7040CLS	Project	50	50	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7051CRB	Leading Strategic Change through Creativity and Innovation	10	10	Mandatory				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	7049CLS	Contemporary Issues in International Human Rights Law	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7050CLS	The Regional Protection of Human Rights	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7051CLS	Islamic Law and Human Rights	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7052CLS	Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism, and Human Rights	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7053CLS	Minority Rights and Activism	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7054CLS	Gender, Race, Sexuality, and International Human Rights	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	



## **15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure**

The programme is subject to the general University admission procedures and access policies. A student should normally possess either a single (or joint) honours degree in law or an honours degree where law has been studied to an appropriate level (e.g. meeting graduate level law exemption requirements for one of the professional accountancy bodies); but each application will be considered on its merits and in appropriate cases consideration will be given to other academic qualifications and relevant work experience. In particular, applicants with first and second degrees in history, politics, and international relations will be considered for the course. Careful monitoring of applications takes place to ensure that applicants are suited to the programme. The School will normally require the applicant to possess at least a lower second class honours degree, but lesser award may be acceptable where the student displays equivalent skills via academic qualifications and work experience.

Successful applicants will be given preliminary reading to undertake before the start of the programme to familiarise themselves with the substantive law and its legal and business context, and in the case of those who do not possess a law background, to allow them to become familiar with legal materials and legal writing.

- Applications from those not possessing a first degree will also be considered after careful consideration of the applicant's educational and work history and their capacity to complete the programme.
- In the case of overseas applicants, an adequate proficiency in English must be demonstrated. This would normally be a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 or its equivalent.

Accreditation for prior learning (APL) is in accordance with University regulations.

## **16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment**

This Course conforms to the standard Postgraduate [University Regulations](#)

## 17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

- The course has been designed in accordance with the University's regulations pertaining to Postgraduate courses
- Coventry Law School has a strong portfolio of research, not only in terms of peer reviewed publications but also research for consultancy, knowledge exchange, externally funded projects and legal practice in order to provide engaging and cutting-edge legal education provision which is research led and/or informed. Many staff belong to formal research centres within the University. Research and research outputs from Coventry Law School staff inform the delivery, content and assessment of LLM in International Human Rights Law modules. Coventry Law School publishes its own law journal (Coventry Law Journal) providing staff, students, alumni and visiting lecturers to contribute articles and recent legal developments. Postgraduate students are encouraged to submit their project report or dissertation for publication in this and other journals and students are encouraged to participate in postgraduate conferences. A growing number of academic staff within Coventry Law School also conduct globally recognised research from within the University's numerous research centres.
- Guest lectures are regularly provided to the LLM students by both practitioners and legal experts, providing input in the delivery of modules and extra-curricular employability related events. Such lectures expose the students to both legal expertise and the challenges of legal practice and have been employed extensively in areas of human rights and humanitarian law and commercial, environmental and corporate law. The School has various visiting professors who provide guest lectures and articles for publication in the Coventry Law Journal.
- Students are encouraged to become members of the University's Global Leader's Programme and various conferences and field trips organised by the School and Faculty, thus augmenting their employability and networking skills
- The postgraduate students can take advantage of the Law school's links with local firms, practitioners and others in the legal profession. For example:
  - The Annual Lanchester Rose Mooting Competition is sponsored by 43 Temple Row Chambers, Birmingham
  - The Senate House 24 Hour Mooting Competition is sponsored by Senate House Chambers, Northampton and supported by the Warwickshire Law Society, Junior Lawyers Division
  - The Law Employment Clinic and Advocacy Clinic is run by Central England Law Centres and the Law Employment Clinic in particular is partnered with Allen Overy LLP
  - Placements and graduate opportunities have been offered at various organisations including the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Age UK, Coventry Refugee Migrant Centre, British Red Cross, Volvo, Rotherhams LLP, Wigley Group, Thomas Horton LLP and Shoosmiths LLP - places are not guaranteed and subject to competition.
- Destination of Leavers in Higher Education Survey 2016/2017 issued by HESA demonstrates that 88% of surveyed graduates are in positive graduate destinations.
- The overall satisfaction score for the LLM international Law in the PTES National Student Survey 2018 was not available.
- The Guardian University Guide 2019 ranked the University 13<sup>th</sup> overall in the United Kingdom and has been ranked Top Modern University of the Year for 7 consecutive years since 2012.
- Coventry University has been awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework, June 2017
- The report of the QAA's Institutional Audit of Coventry University undertaken in February 2015 confirmed that:
  - The setting and maintenance of the academic standards of awards meet UK expectations.
  - The quality of student learning opportunities meets UK expectations.
  - The quality of the information about learning opportunities meets UK expectations.
  - The enhancement of student learning opportunities meets UK expectations.

The quality of the course is evaluated through a variety of different means, which includes but is not limited to:

- The course is managed by the Law Board of Study of the Faculty of Business and Law. The assurance and quality of the course, modules and their assessment is the responsibility of the Board of Study.
- The Course team carry out ongoing review of course performance as part of the Postgraduate Course Quality and Enhancement Monitoring (CQEM) process.
- The Faculty Programme Assessment Board is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations.
- External Examiners report annually on the programme including modular level teaching provision and assessment. These are then considered in the CQEM report.
- Students are represented within Student Forums (now Student Voice), as part of the CQEM reporting process, at the Board of Study and at Faculty Board. Forums are often held during a formal class to allow all students to participate in the process.
- Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires in addition to the National Student Survey.
- Staff teaching may be observed by the Head of School, Deputy Head of School and/or Associate Heads of School in accordance with the University's teaching observation policy.
- All courses are subject to continuing and periodic review.

## 18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional key sources of information about the course and student support other than those provided centrally by the University. These include,

- Academic Course Director(s) and their deputies are responsible for particular activities across the course and are able to provide advice and support to students in course-related matters; and to direct students to relevant support within the School and university
- Students will be provided with a student handbook detailing the structure of the programme and the relevant regulations and additional information can be found on Moodle through the course web.
- Further guidance is provided by the Faculty Registry course support team, located on the ground floor of the George Eliot Building, where a postgraduate team complements the work of the Course Team by providing advice concerning course related matters.
- Students will have access to a student advice Chatbot which provides answers to general queries and signposts students to various support provisions throughout the Faculty and wider University.
- Students are supported by Academic Progress Coaches throughout the duration of their postgraduate studies. Each progress coach receives formal training and will provide both pastoral and academic support to students in order to enhance student performance.
- In addition to the Progress Coach system, module leaders and project supervisors operate a system of 'surgery hours'. Students who wish to discuss a matter with a member of staff may do so during the advertised surgery hours or make an alternative appointment time.

Support for academic writing and good academic practice is provided by members of the school and through an online LibGuide dedicated to OSCOLA referencing. In-depth tuition on writing and referencing skills is provided by the Research Skills and Design modules, and students are encouraged to seek to have their work published in the Coventry Law Journal and other publications

- Students will receive individual written feedback, generic feedback via the module web page/ in teaching sessions on their work and may also make an appointment to see the relevant lecturer regarding any work submitted.
- The law librarian holds appointments to advise students on matters relating to the library and postgraduate legal research.
- An Employment Personal Tutor (EPT) for law dedicated to careers advice is available for individual consultation by appointment and through surgery hours on matters relating to careers and CVs.
- Law Futures provides support for those students seeking placements/employment through career events/ individual support and group sessions.
- The Law School has a dedicated moot room, with audio and visual recording equipment.
- Reasonable adjustments can be made to the learning, teaching, assessment and support of the course to maximise accessibility to students with disabilities. For example individual examination arrangements, enlarged print hand-outs and the University Welfare Office can arrange scribes, note-takers where appropriate.