

## Programme Specification for LLM in Legal Practice and the LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up)

**This document applies to Academic Year 2025/26 onwards**

*Table 1 programme specification for LLM in Legal Practice and the LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up)*

|     |                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | <b>Awarding institution/body</b>                                      | University of Worcester                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2.  | <b>Teaching institution</b>                                           | University of Worcester                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.  | <b>Programme accredited by</b>                                        | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 4.  | <b>Final award or awards</b>                                          | LLM, PG Cert, PG Dip                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 5.  | <b>Programme title</b>                                                | LLM in Legal Practice<br>LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up)                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 6.  | <b>Pathways available</b>                                             | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7.  | <b>Mode and/or site of delivery</b>                                   | 3 semesters at University of Worcester                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 8.  | <b>Mode of attendance and duration</b>                                | <p><u>For the LLM in Legal Practice:</u><br/>Full Time over 12 months September to September, Part Time over 24 months – Attendance for all teaching is in the weekday.</p> <p><u>For the LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up):</u><br/>Part Time over 12 months</p> |
| 9.  | <b>UCAS Code</b>                                                      | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 10. | <b>Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement</b> | Curriculum design is informed by the curriculum requirements of the <a href="#">Solicitors Regulation Authority's Solicitor Qualifying Examination</a> and also the <a href="#">QAA Master's Degree Characteristics</a>                                               |
| 11. | <b>Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision</b>          | Approved at ASQEC July 2022<br>August 2022 – AQU Amendments<br>July 2023 – annual updates<br>July 2024- annual updates                                                                                                                                                |

### 12. Educational aims of the programme

Each programme has specific aims:

#### 12.1. The LLM in Legal Practice

The LLM in Legal Practice at University of Worcester aims to provide an intellectually stimulating and cohesive programme of study that covers core areas of legal practice from an academic perspective. With the academic and professional stages of legal education changing for those who wish to train as a solicitor in England and Wales, and the introduction of the Solicitors Qualifying Examinations, the LLM in Legal Practice is Designed to introduce you to the Solicitors Qualifying Examination curriculum and the skills for legal practice.

The LLM in Legal Practice is intended to provide an academically rigorous, challenging and innovative approach to the study of a varied range of law from both an academic and practical perspective. Students will be supported throughout their studies and will gain a range of intellectual, transferable and practical skills that will be developed as part of the programme. Graduates of the LLM in Legal Practice will be well placed to work (after any relevant professional training) in the legal profession, business, human resources and public bodies.

The LLM is aimed at law and non-law graduates who wish to develop their academic qualifications and legal practitioners who wish to gain a qualification at level 7. All students will be supported by a summer school that will take place prior to the course commencing. This summer school is designed to specifically support non-law graduates by introducing

then to legal principles and will focus on the law relating to obligations and the legal system. This summer school is inclusive with the course fees and is open to all students.

Specific aims of the programme include:

- To support students in gaining a detailed understanding of a wide variety of discrete and complementary areas of law.
- To enable students to demonstrate intellectual skills and a critical awareness of the law and how it applies to practical scenarios as well as in theory.
- To provide students with a focused tuition that is mindful of the changing nature of legal education and the range of assessments that those wishing to qualify as solicitors will need to undertake.
- To offer an academically rigorous and challenging approach to the law, with support built in at all stages to assist students in meeting the intended learning outcomes.
- To ensure that students develop critical analysis and problem-solving skills relevant to the practice of law.
- To enable students to develop independent research and academic writing skills through research training and supervisory support throughout the completion of a law dissertation.

## 12.2. LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up)

The LLM Professional Practice (Top-Up) at the University of Worcester aims to provide an intellectually stimulating and cohesive programme of legal study. The programme is designed to enable students to convert their existing Diploma in Legal Practice to a full master's qualification. Through the range of intellectual, practical and transferable skills developed on the programme, graduates will also be well placed to prosper in a variety of fields of employment including, amongst others, law, the criminal justice system, education, business management and financial compliance.

Specific aims of the programme include:

- To allow students to explore and gain a detailed understanding of legal research methods and methodologies.
- To enable students to engage in detailed and in-depth research into a chosen area of law.
- To enable students to become independent learners and researchers and to develop critical, analytical and problem-solving skills.
- To assist students in developing personal and other key skills appropriate to employment or advancement in the legal profession and elsewhere.

## 13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

Each programme has specific outcomes:

### 13.1. LLM in Legal Practice

*Table 2 knowledge and understanding outcomes*

| Knowledge and Understanding |                                                                                                                             |                      |                          |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| LO no.                      | On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:                                                      | Module Code/s        | Award                    |
| 1.                          | Apply specialist knowledge in a variety of legal areas and demonstrate key legal principles in a clear and accurate manner. | LLML4011<br>LLML4012 | LLM<br>PG Dip            |
| 2.                          | Demonstrate a theoretical understanding of the United Kingdom's constitution, the importance of                             | LLML4008<br>LLML4009 | LLM<br>PG Cert<br>PG Dip |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |               |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
|    | Human Rights, and the operation of the English and Welsh Legal System.                                                                                                      |                      |               |
| 3. | Evidence detailed comprehension of professional legal ethics and of when and how ethical issues can arise.                                                                  | LLML4010<br>LLML4013 | LLM<br>PG Dip |
| 4. | Demonstrate a coherent and critical understanding of a range of research methodologies.                                                                                     | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM           |
| 5. | Demonstrate detailed and systematic knowledge and understanding of the principles of a chosen area of law or legal practice, including its ethical, socio-economic context. | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM           |
| 6. | Critically appraise and understand a range of research methodologies and select and apply appropriate methodologies in their own work.                                      | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM           |

Table 3 cognitive and intellectual skills outcomes

| <b>Cognitive and Intellectual skills</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                      |               |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>LO no.</b>                            | On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:                                                                                                                                             | <b>Module Code/s</b> | <b>Award</b>  |
| 7.                                       | Critically analyse complex scenarios and evaluate any issues relating to professional legal ethics.                                                                                                                | LLML4010<br>LLML4013 | LLM<br>PG Dip |
| 8.                                       | Critically evaluate complex legal argument, academic and practitioner opinion and demonstrate the ability to offer a critical response to a range of views.                                                        | LLML4002             | LLM           |
| 9.                                       | Systematically analyse complex scenarios and demonstrate the ability to problem solve under timed conditions across a range of distinct and pervasive legal areas.                                                 | LLML4015             | LLM<br>PG Dip |
| 10.                                      | Develop coherent and sustained legal argument and articulate this through an extended piece of legal writing, which is underpinned by comprehensive understanding and application of the OSCOLA referencing guide. | LLML4002             | LLM           |
| 11.                                      | Demonstrate autonomy in planning and implementing an independent programme of research.                                                                                                                            | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM           |

Table 4 skills and capabilities related to employment outcomes

| <b>Skills and capabilities related to employability</b> |                                                                                                                                                          |                      |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>LO no.</b>                                           | On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:                                                                                   | <b>Module Code/s</b> | <b>Award</b>  |
| 12.                                                     | Demonstrate awareness of the ethical issues that apply to the legal profession and detailed comprehension of how these arise in often complex scenarios. | LLML4010<br>LLML4013 | LLM<br>PG Dip |
| 13.                                                     | Evidence the initiative and ability to work independently.                                                                                               | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM           |

Table 5 transferable/key skills outcomes

| <b>Transferable/key skills</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                  |                          |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>LO no.</b>                  | On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:                                                                                                                                  | <b>Module Code/s</b>             | <b>Award</b>             |
| 14.                            | Exhibit effective time-management and problem-solving skills that are required for a successful career in legal practice.                                                                               | LLML4015                         | LLM<br>PG Dip            |
| 15.                            | Evidence digital literacy skills through the submission of accurate and up-to-date assessed work using the Virtual Learning Environment and the effective use and management of online legal databases. | LLML4008<br>LLML4009<br>LLML4010 | LLM<br>PG Cert<br>PG Dip |
| 16.                            | Write for a non-legally qualified audience whilst offering accurate and coherent legal advice.                                                                                                          | LLML4012<br>LLML4013<br>LLML4014 | LLM<br>PG Dip            |
| 17.                            | Demonstrate the ability to evidence both relevant academic and professional attributes.                                                                                                                 | LLML4012<br>LLML4013<br>LLML4014 | LLM<br>PG Dip            |
| 18.                            | Communicate effectively in a clear, coherent and appropriate way in the context of an area of study.                                                                                                    | LLML4001<br><br>LLML4002         | LLM                      |
| 19.                            | Work independently and autonomously.                                                                                                                                                                    | LLML4001<br><br>LLML4002         | LLM                      |

### 13.2. LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up)

Table 6 knowledge and understanding outcomes

| <b>Knowledge and Understanding</b> |                                                                                                                                                                             |                      |              |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>LO no.</b>                      | On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:                                                                                                      | <b>Module Code/s</b> | <b>Award</b> |
| 1.                                 | Demonstrate detailed and systematic knowledge and understanding of the principles of a chosen area of law or legal practice, including its ethical, socio-economic context. | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM          |
| 2.                                 | Critically appraise and understand a range of research methodologies and select and apply appropriate methodologies in their own work.                                      | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM          |
| 3.                                 | Apply knowledge of the law gained through current or prior study or employment to address issues of concern in the subject area.                                            | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM          |

Table 7 cognitive and intellectual skills outcomes

| <b>Cognitive and Intellectual skills</b> |                                                                                                                          |                      |              |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>LO no.</b>                            | On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:                                                   | <b>Module Code/s</b> | <b>Award</b> |
| 4.                                       | Critically evaluate law, legal developments, research and advanced scholarship in chosen areas of law or legal practice. | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM          |
| 5.                                       | Write in a clear, coherent and appropriate way in the context of an area of study.                                       | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM          |

|    |                                                                                         |                      |     |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----|
| 6. | Deal with complex issues systematically and creatively to reach sound judgements.       | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM |
| 7  | Demonstrate autonomy in planning and implementing an independent programme of research. | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM |

Table 8 skills and capabilities related to employment outcomes

| <b>Skills and capabilities related to employability</b> |                                                                                                                                         |                      |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>LO no.</b>                                           | On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:                                                                  | <b>Module Code/s</b> | <b>Award</b> |
| 8.                                                      | Work independently and autonomously.                                                                                                    | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM          |
| 9.                                                      | Critically evaluate research relating to contemporary issues in legal practice.                                                         | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM          |
| 10.                                                     | Contextualise their academic studies in legal and professional practice, recognising the wider business, commercial and social context. | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM          |

Table 9 transferable/key skills outcomes

| <b>Transferable/key skills</b> |                                                                               |                      |              |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>LO no.</b>                  | On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:        | <b>Module Code/s</b> | <b>Award</b> |
| 11.                            | Demonstrate problem solving skills in a variety of contexts and situations.   | LLML4001             | LLM          |
| 12.                            | Communicate effectively and appropriately in a professional context.          | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM          |
| 13.                            | Organise and assimilate complex information and evaluate competing arguments. | LLML4001<br>LLML4002 | LLM          |

### Learning, teaching and assessment

The Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategy is designed to provide for a flexible delivery with a combination of Full-Time or Part-Time teaching supported by technologically enhanced learning. For the LLM in Legal Practice teaching will be through face-to-face lectures and workshops. The LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up) will be delivered through face-to-face workshops and supervision sessions.

### LLM in Legal Practice

The teaching for the LLM in Legal Practice and the individual modules will be delivered through a range of face-to-face methods. Teaching will encourage group work and peer support where appropriate and utilise a range of pedagogic features.

Students are taught through a combination of interactive workshops, lectures, seminars, and supervisory tutorials. Interactive workshops take a variety of formats and are intended to enable the application of learning through discussion and small group activities. Workshops enable the discussion and comprehension of topics covered in lectures and are focused on developing subject specific skills and applied individual and group project work.

The teaching on the LLM in Legal Practice is designed to reflect the changes to legal education for those wishing to qualify as a solicitor. The Applied Legal Assessment module

(LLML4015) will enable students to learn about the mode of assessment for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination. In addition, professional legal ethics will be pervasive and taught across the modules. This will enable students to gain a practical insight into the need for practitioners to act ethically as part of their professional practice.

The assessments will be varied and will include coursework, individual oral presentation, multiple choice tests and practice facing assessments, including letters of advice and court applications. Depending on the type of assessment, these will either take place face-to-face or remotely using the appropriate digital technology.

The course makes use of the Virtual Learning Environment, and each module has a dedicated Blackboard page. All lecture slides, workshop questions, course handbooks and module guides will be available electronically.

### **LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up)**

Teaching is delivered through a combination of interactive face-to-face workshops designed to develop skills of legal research and supervisory tutorials which offer continuing support to students throughout their research journey.

Students are appointed a supervisor at the beginning of their studies who will provide ongoing support throughout both modules. The students are also appointed a Personal Academic Tutor at the beginning of their studies.

### **Both programmes**

The University of Worcester subscribes to several legal databases which students will be able to access remotely through their library account. In addition, the Hive, a joint venture between the University of Worcester and the Worcester City Council, has an extensive collection of books that can be borrowed by students.

All students will be assigned a Personal Academic Tutor who will support the student throughout their academic studies through regular meetings each term, offering support and guidance which will be overseen by the course leader. The Personal Academic Tutoring system enables students to reflect on progress and compile a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will help them to flourish and be successful in their careers beyond the university environment.

The University places emphasis on enabling students to develop the independent learning capabilities that will equip them for lifelong learning and future employment, as well as academic achievement. A mixture of independent study, teaching and academic support from Student Services and Library Services.

In addition to the formal scheduled delivery of the Course, students will have the opportunity to engage fully in the life of the School of Law including attending and participating in research seminars and conferences (although not all such events are held in the weekday evenings).

### **Contact time**

Each programme has specific contact time requirements:

### **LLM in Legal Practice**

The total amount of study time on this course is calculated with reference to the module credit, meaning that 180 credits equate to 1800 hours of study time in total. By the very nature of this course, much of this time is taken up with independent self-study.

Typically for each taught module, the contact time will be:

- 15 credit modules - 12 weekly three-hour workshops.

The research modules contain the following contact time:

- The Legal Research Methods module includes 4 three-hour interactive workshops at the start of the module and 6 hours of scheduled supervisory sessions.
- The Dissertation module includes 4 three-hour workshops at the start of the module and 6 hours of scheduled supervisory sessions. These will be delivered face to face.

### **Independent self-study**

In addition to the contact time (324 hours), students will undertake 1,470 hours of personal self-study over the year.

Full time students will typically have 12 contact hours per week and will be expected to undertake 25 independent study hours per week. This makes a total of 37 hours per week.

Part-time students will typically have 6 contact hours per week and will be expected to undertake 12.5 independent study hours per week. This makes a total of 18.5 hours per week.

The figures for contact hours cited above are for typical weeks in semesters 1 and 2. However, some weeks will involve a larger or smaller number of contact hours, e.g., due to Research Methods workshops in semester 1 or during the summer, in which there is more focus on independent study by students.

Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent learning facilities, including The Hive and library resources, the virtual learning environment, and extensive access to electronic learning resources, including legal databases such as Westlaw and Lexis.

### **LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up)**

#### **Contact time**

The total amount of study time on this course is calculated with reference to the module credit, meaning that 60 Credits equates to 600 hours of study time in total. By the very nature of this course, most of this time is taken up with independent self-study.

The Legal Research Methods Course includes 4 three-hour interactive workshops and 4 one-hour supervisory sessions. The workshops are taught over 4 weeks in the evening.

The Dissertation module includes 4 three-hour workshops and 4 hours of scheduled supervisory sessions.

Supervision can be delivered face to face at the School of Law.

#### **Independent self-study**

In addition to the contact time, students will undertake 564 hours of personal self-study over the year.

Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent learning facilities, including The Hive and library resources, the virtual learning environment, and extensive access electronic learning resources, including legal databases such as Westlaw and Lexis.

### Teaching staff

Students will be taught by a teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on the course. The team includes solicitors, barristers and legal academics.

Teaching is informed by research and consultancy, and 85% of lecturers on the course have a higher education teaching qualification or are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.

## 14. Assessment strategy

The assessment strategy is designed with reference to the [University's Assessment Policy](#), the learning, teaching and assessment statement and the [QAA Masters Degree Characteristics](#), and ongoing research into legal education including the Legal Education and Training Review.

For the LLM in Legal Practice many of the assessments chosen reflect the needs of the Solicitor Qualifying Examination 1 and Solicitor Qualifying Examination 2.

Assessment on the LLM in Legal Practice is informed by the demands of the curriculum and assessment diet of the Solicitors Qualifying Exams (SQE) 1 & 2. Further information on assessments for SQE 1 & 2 can be found [here](#).

SQE 1 is designed to test functioning legal knowledge and the application of legal principles. It does this through the medium of two 180 multiple choice question tests covering specified legal topics.

SQE2 is designed to test legal skills in many of the legal topics that are also assessed in SQE1. Assessment tasks include oral skills such as advocacy and client interviewing and written tasks such as legal research exercises, writing and drafting and case and matter analysis.

The assessment diet on the LLM reflects the need to prepare students for the SQE assessments but is also broader with its dissertation and research methods modules which enables the LLM in Legal Practice to have both a professional and an academic orientation.

At Master's level, graduates are required to demonstrate lucidity and coherence in structured argument to defend their ideas and their process of realisation. Students will also be required to read and research widely, reflect upon the material gathered and structure synthesised ideas into a critical, coherent argument, culminating in a practical conclusion.

For the LLM in Legal Practice the assessment strategy is varied and typically includes client interviewing, legal advice and multiple-choice tests. The assessment strategy also includes the use of formative assessments and exercises to enable students to prepare for summative assessments and incorporates activities such as practice questions, reviews of brief plans, group work, mini presentations, mini drafting exercises and quizzes. The exact formative assessment used varies by module.

For the LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up), the assessment methods include formative assessment to enable students to build on feedback in summative tasks. The assessments in the two modules are also constructively aligned with the Research Proposal in the Legal Research module being the Research Proposal for the final Dissertation. A typical formal

summative assessment pattern for each year of the course includes written assignments, letters of advice, presentations, case studies, oral legal applications and multiple-choice tests.

In addition to the above the assessments in the two research modules are also constructively aligned with the Research Proposal in the Legal Research module being the Research Proposal for the final Dissertation.

Specific assessment and marking criteria, benchmarked to the University generic descriptors, are provided for each item of assessment.

## 15. Programme structures and requirements

Each programme has a different structure and requirements:

### 15.1. LLM in Legal Practice

*Table 10 award map of LLM in Legal Practice*

|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                    | <b>Status</b><br>Mandatory (M) or Optional (O) |                |               |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>Module Code</b>                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Module Title</b>                | <b>Credits (Number)</b>                        | <b>PG Cert</b> | <b>PG Dip</b> | <b>LLM</b> |
| LLML4008                                                                                                                                                                                      | English and Welsh Legal System     | 15                                             | M              | M             | M          |
| LLML4009                                                                                                                                                                                      | Public Law and Human Rights        | 15                                             | M              | M             | M          |
| LLML4010                                                                                                                                                                                      | Criminal Law and Practice          | 15                                             | M              | M             | M          |
| LLML4011                                                                                                                                                                                      | Obligations and Dispute Resolution | 15                                             | M              | M             | M          |
| LLML4012                                                                                                                                                                                      | Property Law and Practice          | 15                                             |                | M             | M          |
| LLML4013                                                                                                                                                                                      | Business Law and Practice          | 15                                             |                | M             | M          |
| LLML4014                                                                                                                                                                                      | Wills and Estates                  | 15                                             |                | M             | M          |
| LLML4015                                                                                                                                                                                      | Applied Legal Assessment           | 15                                             |                | M             | M          |
| LLML4002                                                                                                                                                                                      | Legal Research Methods             | 15                                             |                |               | M          |
| LLML4001                                                                                                                                                                                      | Dissertation                       | 45                                             |                |               | M          |
| <b>Total Credits</b>                                                                                                                                                                          |                                    | 180                                            |                |               |            |
| <b>PG Certificate</b><br>To be awarded the PG Cert in Legal Practice students must successfully complete LLML4008 - LLML4011 to a total minimum of 60 credits at Level 7.                     |                                    |                                                |                |               |            |
| <b>PG Diploma</b><br>To be awarded the PG Dip in Legal Practice students must successfully complete the PG Certificate plus LLML4012 – LLML4015 to a total minimum of 120 credits at Level 7. |                                    |                                                |                |               |            |
| <b>Masters</b><br>To be awarded the LLM in in Legal Practice students must successfully complete the PG Diploma plus LLML4001 and LLML4002 to a total of 180 credits at Level 7.              |                                    |                                                |                |               |            |

### 15.2. LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up)

*Table 11 award map of LLM in Professional Practice (Top-up)*

| <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Module Title</b>    | <b>Credits (Number)</b> | <b>Status</b><br>Mandatory (M) or Optional (O) |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| LLML4002           | Legal Research Methods | 15                      | M                                              |

|                      |              |    |   |
|----------------------|--------------|----|---|
| LLML4001             | Dissertation | 45 | M |
| <b>Total Credits</b> |              | 60 |   |

## 16. QAA and professional academic standards and quality

This award is located at Level 7 of the [OfS sector recognised standards](#). Programme design has been informed by the [QAA Master's Degree Characteristics](#) which have been employed to craft learning outcomes and content as well as learning, teaching and assessment strategies of all modules.

Programme design takes into account and responds to the changing approach to legal education and the reforms introduced to the legal education requirements by the Solicitors Regulation Authority for those seeking to qualify as solicitors. Those wishing to practice as solicitors will need to undertake the Solicitors Qualifying Examination: <https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/policy/sqe/>. The LLM in Legal Practice does not count towards or assess the Solicitors Qualifying Examination. It is however designed to prepare students to take the Solicitors Qualifying Examination.

## 17. Support for students

The following activities and documents have been put in place to provide support for students:

- Induction to include a brief course overview, introduction to the delivery pattern and assessment for the programme and specific modules, introduction to the VLE and learning resources. This will also be an induction summer school for students studying on the LLM in Legal Practice.
- The electronic learning and teaching interface Blackboard is our primary medium for offering support material. Both the course and individual modules will have a Blackboard page / VLE. Here students will be able to access a range of material which may include module guides; Talis Aspire resource lists; digital copies of academic material; lecture slides; seminar handouts; module information and announcements; assessment criteria and grade descriptors; skills advice relevant to specific modules; audio-visual material; links to relevant resources available on the internet
- Course Leader as a point of contact for overarching programme questions and concerns
- Course handbook (available via the VLE) incorporating module outlines, key contacts and guidance for assessments
- Personal Academic Tutor (PAT): see below
- Student Representation through a staff/student forum will provide feedback to the course team and enhance the ongoing development of the programme
- Talis Aspire reading and resource lists for each module and support from ILS staff during Induction and throughout the course (e.g., via the Information Desk)
- The Disability and Dyslexia service offer a range of support and advice for students with particular needs. See <https://www2.worc.ac.uk/disabilityanddyslexia/>

### Personal Academic Tutors (PATs)

The LLM in Legal Practice and the LLM in Professional Practice programmes will operate a similar Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) system to that for undergraduate courses at UW. Regular discussions with PATs will support students' academic progress, their reflection on the acquisition of transferable skills and professional experience, and their career planning. Students will be assigned to a PAT in the subject of their named award. If a PAT becomes unavailable during the year for any reason, the Course Leader will step in. There will be no formal attendance requirement at tutorials, but students will be expected and encouraged to engage with their tutors. FT students will have approximately four sessions with their PATs

over the year, and PT students around two: all interactions with PATs will be logged on the student record system (SOLE). Further explanation can be found in the Course Handbook.

## **18. Admissions**

### **18.1. LLM in Legal Practice**

#### **Admissions policy**

The LLM in Legal Practice is aimed at students who have completed their undergraduate studies in law or another discipline. Applications are encouraged from students who have just completed their undergraduate studies and from those who graduated some time ago.

#### **Entry requirements**

Typical students entering onto the LLM in Legal Practice will have a 2.2 honours undergraduate degree in any discipline. Applications will also be considered from students on the basis of their professional work backgrounds.

Applicants for whom English is not their first language require IELTS 6.5 or above and a minimum of 6 in each element.

See [Admissions Policy](#) for other acceptable qualifications.

Prospective students should contact the Head of Law if unsure about whether they meet the entry requirements.

#### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

Students with relevant previous study at postgraduate level or with extensive work experience may be considered eligible for recognition of prior learning. Please contact the Registry Admissions Office for further information or guidance on 01905 855111.

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm>

### **18.2. LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up)**

#### **Admissions policy**

The LLM Professional Practice (Top-Up) is designed for graduates who have already completed both an undergraduate degree and a postgraduate diploma in legal studies, and who wish to convert their qualification into a full Master's degree. It is suitable for practitioners currently employed in the legal sector and is specifically designed so that they can study part time alongside their full-time commitments.

#### **Entry requirements**

Successful applicants to the LLM Professional Practice (Top-Up) must have passed the Legal Practice Course, the Bar Professional Training Course or an equivalent postgraduate diploma in legal practice qualification. International students must have a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 and a minimum of 6.0 in each element.

### **18.3. Both programmes**

#### **Admissions procedures**

All UK students who are offered a place will be invited to a university applicant day event. International students will be offered a Skype meeting with a member of the Law team. All applicants apply directly to University of Worcester (UW).

### Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements

It is highly unlikely that enhanced disclosure will be a requirement of this course, but should this arise (e.g., as part of approved Dissertation research), this will be discussed with and communicated to the student prior to starting the module.

## 19. Regulation of assessment

The course operates under the University's [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#)

### Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

### Submission of assessment items

- Students who submit course work late but within 7 days (one week) of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 7 days (one week) of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim for mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations please see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

### Retrieval of failure

- Students are entitled to re-sit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade.
- Reassessment items that are passed are capped at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module); the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.
- A student who fails 60 credits or more after exhausting all reassessment opportunities may be required to withdraw from the University.
- A student will be notified of the reassessment opportunities in the results notification issued via the secure student portal (SOLE). It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and comply with any reassessments.

### Requirements for Awards

*Table 12 requirements for awards*

| Award         | Requirement                                                               |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PG Cert       | Passed a minimum of 60 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map  |
| PG Dip        | Passed a minimum of 120 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map |
| Masters (LLM) | Passed a minimum of 180 credits at level 7, as specified on the award map |

PG Cert and PG Dip awards are unclassified. The awards of Master's may be made with Pass, Merit or Distinction.

### **Classification of Master's Degrees**

The classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification.

#### **Method 1**

- a) Candidates will be awarded a Distinction where they have attained an average of A- (PD) or higher from the credit achieved with the University for the award.
- b) Candidates will be awarded a Merit where they have attained an average of C+ (PM) or higher from the credit achieved with the University for the award.

#### **Method 2**

- a) Candidates will be awarded a Distinction, irrespective of their other module results, where they have attained 90 credits at grade A- (PD) or higher
- b) Candidates will be awarded a Merit, irrespective of their other module results, where they have attained 90 credits at grade C+ (PM) or higher

Candidates will be awarded a Pass where they have not fulfilled the rules for Method 1 or Method 2 but are eligible for the award of a Master's.

## **20. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers**

### **Graduate destinations**

The LLM in Legal Practice is a qualification designed for graduates in Law or other disciplines. It is suitable for students who have just completed their undergraduate studies. Upon successful completion of the LLM in Legal Practice, students will have an understanding of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination 1 & 2, gain further employment or promotion within their existing organisation.

Upon successful completion of the LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up), there may be opportunities for students to gain further employment, promotion within their own organisation, gain international employment or move to a senior management position in other organisations.

Both programmes also provide a platform to other research/higher degrees and promotion in other professional organisations. The completion of the Master's may also provide students with the ability to enhance their current working practices. Completion of this degree also enables interested students to pursue higher level research qualification such as a doctorate.

The LLM in Legal Practice, whilst not designed to prepare students for the Bar Training Course, is nonetheless attractive for students wishing to pursue a career as a barrister due to the opportunity to gain a master's qualification in law and undertake a challenging and intellectually stimulating course.

(Note: the award of LLM in Legal Practice or the LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up) does not itself entitle a person to practise law or to give legal advice.)

### **Student employability**

The LLM in Legal Practice and LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up) gives students the opportunity to build on and hone their existing knowledge of law and related disciplines. Students on the LLM in Legal Practice are given the opportunity to improve their employability skills and attributes including in course practice and tuition regarding giving presentations, report writing, drafting advice and legal forms, advising, practical research and problem analysis and client care and professional ethics.

In addition, as students in the School of Law, students will be encouraged to take part in employability activities and events. These vary from year to year but typically include things such as public research seminars, conferences, external guest speakers, the Student Law Society, mooting, mock trials and client interviewing competitions, public debates and mentoring and work experience opportunities and networking opportunities. (Note that not all activities would normally be always available to all students.)

Further, all students will be able to draw upon the resources and help of the University of Worcester Careers and Employability Service based in the Peirson Study and Guidance Centre. The centre supports students and graduates with the planning and management of their careers and development of employability skills. As part of this they provide:

- CV, application and interview advice
- Volunteer opportunities
- Job news
- Psychometric tests
- Career workshops
- Preparing for the job market

### **Links with employers**

The development of the LLM in Legal Practice and LLM in Professional Practice (Top-Up) has been informed by consultation with a broad range of legal professionals. The School of Law has excellent links with the profession and all of the law programmes at Worcester have been developed with the needs of the profession in mind. The School of Law continues to build links with local legal professionals and judges. In addition, a number of local and regional employers sit on the School of Law Advisory Forum which meets regularly to monitor and encourage the development of employability opportunities for all School of Law students.

**Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programmes 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. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in associated course documentation e.g., course handbooks, module outlines and module specifications.