

## Programme Specification for LLM in Professional Practice

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

Table 1 Programme Specification for LLM in Professional Practice

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
5.	<b>Programme title</b>	LLM in Professional Practice
6.	<b>Pathways available</b>	N/A
7.	<b>Mode and/or site of delivery</b>	1 semester at University of Worcester.
8.	<b>Mode of attendance and duration</b>	Part time over 4 months. Students can complete the course via distance learning; workshops will be conducted asynchronously online, and supervision can be online.
9.	<b>UCAS Code</b>	N/A
10.	<b>Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement</b>	QAA <u>Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree</u> February 2020
11.	<b>Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision</b>	14/01/26 (ASQEC)

### 12. Educational aims of the programme

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 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.

The LLM is aimed at those with a Legal Practice Course, Bar Practice Course, or equivalent postgraduate qualification in law. The LLM in Professional Practice tops-up such a qualification to a full Master's degree.

Specific aims of the programme include:

- To develop specialised knowledge of law and legal principles;
- To undertake in-depth research using critical techniques to evaluate law and legal practice;
- To gain and apply a detailed understanding of legal research methods and methodologies;
- To gain resilience during conducting a long-form piece of research;
- To create inclusive, flexible learning experiences that support diverse needs, promote equality, and celebrate learner diversity.

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

Table 2 knowledge and understanding outcomes and which module/code they relate to

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>			
<b>LO no.</b>	<b>On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:</b>	<b>Module Code/s</b>	<b>Award</b>
1	Demonstrate a deep and cohesive understanding of the wider sphere in which legal principles operate in practice, evaluating socio-economic, ethical, and political considerations.	LLML4101	LLM
2	Demonstrate originality and criticality in creating a sustained argument, having considered and analysed a range of evidence.	LLML4101	LLM

Table 3 cognitive and intellectual skills outcomes for module code/s

<b>Cognitive and Intellectual skills</b>			
<b>LO no.</b>	<b>On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:</b>	<b>Module Code/s</b>	<b>Award</b>
1	Critically analyse and apply legal principles to complex scenarios.	LLML4101	LLM

Table 4 learning skills and capabilities related to employability outcomes for module code/s

<b>Skills and capabilities related to employability</b>			
<b>LO no.</b>	<b>On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:</b>	<b>Module Code/s</b>	<b>Award</b>
1	Work effectively independently, taking responsibility for learning and completing complex tasks to a high standard.	LLML4101	LLM

Table 5 transferable/key skills outcomes for module code/s

<b>Transferable/key skills</b>			
<b>LO no.</b>	<b>On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to:</b>	<b>Module Code/s</b>	<b>Award</b>
1	Demonstrate rigorous project planning, workload management, and independent research through conducting a research project.	LLML4101	LLM

<b>Transferable/key skills</b>				
2	Develop advanced digital literacy skills in using Virtual Learning Environments and in accessing legal databases and research databases and evaluating sources.	LLML4101	LLM	

### **Learning, teaching and assessment**

The Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategy is designed to provide for a flexible delivery with teaching supported by technology enhanced learning. The LLM in Professional Practice will be delivered through workshops and supervision sessions. Workshops will be delivered asynchronously online, whilst supervision will consist of a choice of online or face to face meetings.

### **Teaching**

Teaching is delivered through a combination of 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.

In addition, postgraduate students will have a minimum of two meetings with their Personal Academic Tutors, timed to coincide with key points such as induction or assessment.

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, and the Personal Academic Tutoring system enables students to reflect on progress and build up a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will help them to flourish and be successful.

### **Contact time**

The LLM in Professional Practice runs in semester three, over four months (June to September).

The Applied Legal Research Project will consist of:

- 36 hours of online directed study (asynchronous);
- A maximum of six, one to one tutorials with an appointed supervisor.
- 558 hours of self-directed, independent study.

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

### **Independent self-study**

In addition to the contact time, students will undertake 558 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 has expertise in legal subjects such as international human rights, commercial and trade law, family law, and medical negligence.

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

### **Assessment**

Students will benefit from practice or 'formative' assignments. Summative assessment methods consist of an oral presentation and submission of a long-form written research project.

#### **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 Master's Degree Characteristics, and ongoing research into legal education.

For the Applied Legal Research Project, students will choose and defend their chosen topic by way of oral presentation and prepare a written research project.

Students will benefit from a range of skills being tested, both via studying to improve these practice-based skills, and having the opportunity to be assessed via a range of methods to suit diverse learning styles. Reasonable adjustment plans will be considered for each student, ensuring that their requirements are complied with whilst maintaining the integrity of the assessments. Students will also benefit from both appointments with the module tutor, and one-to-one supervision during the Applied Legal Research Project.

The assessment strategy also includes the use of formative assessments and exercises to enable students to prepare for summative assessments. Formative assessments do not carry a grade contributing to the final overall grade for the module. Formative assessments may include research proposals, short presentations, legal drafting, and advice writing. Students will benefit from feedback to use for summative assessments, developing their learning consistently throughout the module.

Graduates will be able 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.

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

#### **15. Programme structures and requirements**

*Table 6 award map for each level of the course*

	<b>Status</b>
	Mandatory (M) or Optional (O)

Module Code	Module Title	Credits (Number)	LLM
LLML4101	Applied Legal Research Project	60	M
<b>Total Credits</b>		60	60
<b>LLM in Legal Practice</b>			
To be awarded the LLM in Legal Practice, students must complete a total of 60 credits at Level 7 from LLML4101 (Applied Legal Research Project).			

## 16. QAA and professional academic standards and quality

This award is located at Level 7 of the FHEQ (February 2024) The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies Students are enabled to have a critical awareness of legal principles and their use in practice, solving problems within complex legal issues in a client-facing manner. Students will undertake research using established methodologies and critical techniques to evaluate law and legal practice.

Programme design has been informed by the QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree (February 2020) which have been employed to craft learning outcomes and content as well as learning, teaching and assessment strategies of all modules.

This award is located at Level 7 of the OfS sector recognised standards.

## 17. Support for students

The LLM in Professional Practice will operate a Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) system. 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 School of Law. The Course Leader will also be available for support outside of PAT availability. There will be no formal attendance requirement at tutorials, but students will be expected and encouraged to engage with their tutors. Part-time students will have approximately two sessions with their PATs over the course, however students are welcome to talk to their PATs as and when support is needed.

For the Applied Legal Research Project, students will be appointed a supervisor at the beginning of their studies who will provide ongoing support.

General University wide support is available at the links below:

<https://www2.worc.ac.uk/firstpoint/>

<https://www.worcester.ac.uk/life/help-and-support/services-for-students/home.aspx>

<https://www2.worc.ac.uk/disabilityanddyslexia/>

## 18. Admissions

### 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. International students must have a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 and a minimum of 6.0 in each element.

#### International Students

Applications from international students are welcomed. International students must hold:

A minimum IELTS score of 6.5 and a minimum of 6.0 in each element

If English is not the first language students are required to achieve IELTS 6.0 or equivalency according to the University's admission criteria.

Please note this is a distance learning course, and this programme is not eligible for UKVI Student visa sponsorship.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

Students with relevant previous study at postgraduate level or with extensive 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>

### **Admissions procedures**

All students will apply directly to the University of Worcester through the LLM in Professional Practice course webpage.

### **Admissions/selection criteria**

Applications will be considered in their entirety. Aside from the academic requirements, students' personal statements and references will be considered in determining whether a place on the course is to be offered.

## **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) will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations please see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

### **Retrieval of failure**

- A student is entitled to resit 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 7 requirements for awards*

<b>Award</b>	<b>Requirement</b>
LLM	Passed a minimum of 60 credits at Level 7, as specified on the award map

The award of LLM may be made with Pass, Merit or Distinction.

### **Classification of Masters**

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 Masters.

For further information on honours degree classification, see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

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

### **Graduate destinations**

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. It also provides a platform to other research/higher degrees and promotion in other professional organisations. The completion of the LLM 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 School of Law has been ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 106 law schools for graduate employment (Complete University Guide), and top for student satisfaction (National Student Survey).

### **Student employability**

Students will have the opportunity to engage fully with the employability programme in the School of Law including volunteering in the School's Legal Advice Centre, attending the School of Law's research events and may be encouraged towards the end of the academic year to present a research seminar based on their Applied Legal Research Project.

Our Employability team is always available to guide you through finding and applying for jobs and Qualifying Work Experience. Employability is built into the course via assessments such as client interviewing and advocacy.

### **Links with employers**

Students will benefit from the School of Law's extensive links with law firms in Worcestershire and the Midlands. Local lawyers are active within the School of Law, providing work experience, guest lectures and skills workshops, and are consulted about the LLM itself.

**Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme 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.