

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Laws - International Law <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
Name and level of intermediate awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - Postgraduate Diploma International Law • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Postgraduate Certificate International Law
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Law
Professional statutory or regulatory body	
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLM International Law FT, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length • LLM International Law PT, Part-time day, September or January start - 2 years standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2025/6

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here:

<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply>.

Aims of the programme

From climate change to cyber warfare, from pandemics to armed conflicts, the world is currently facing global crises, the impact of which cannot be restricted to specific regions. International Law, therefore, has become increasingly relevant as an instrument to address these crises and the Course prepares you for a future career in the international arena.

The LLM in International Law has been designed to provide you with opportunities to:

- Become specialists in International Law, as active and engaged consumers and producers of quality International Law research, tailoring the course to your interests and goals;
- Develop your critical awareness of the potential and limits of International Law, being open to new ideas and ways of thinking, seeking creative solutions and framing new lines of inquiry;
- Recognise, and be mindful of, the impact of International Law as a discipline and practice, in diverse contexts and locations;
- Consider solutions for overcoming discrimination and inequalities embedded in the informal and formal processes that imbue the current international legal order;
- Be part of a collaborative, scholarly International Law community, building professional networks and positive relationships with others that help everyone to achieve their goals and thereby enable you to make a meaningful contribution to society, whether in your professional or personal life.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

The LLM in International Law provides you with the opportunity to acquire specialist International Law knowledge, developing the skills and attributes for you to stand out to any prospective employer and providing a firm foundation for doctoral study. We do this in the following ways:

- Our *learning methods* promote independent and autonomous learners who show initiative, resilience and adaptability and can work effectively as an individual and collaboratively with others from different backgrounds.
- Our *teaching methods* are active, inclusive and collaborative fostering team-work and cultivating leadership in the devising and articulation of solutions and new lines of inquiry. Our seminar activities and exercises facilitate the development of effective communication skills, including the capacity to speak and be heard, and to present knowledge and arguments in a coherent manner to be understood and acted upon by others. Through our seminars you also gain critical awareness of how key international organisations and institutions work in practice.
- Our *assessment methods* draw on real world scenarios and controversies in the discipline and practice of International Law, providing you with the opportunity to gain experience in the main forms of professional International Law writing, such as legal briefs, research essays, and policy papers; demonstrating analytical and problem-solving skills along with the capacity to effectively self-manage tasks and deadlines.
- Our *curriculum content* is current, inclusive and relevant, cultivating critical awareness of global challenges, including sustainability, and how such challenges relate to the discipline and practice of international law.
- Our *co-curricular activities and opportunities*, support you in developing these key employability skills in communication, team-work, leadership, analysis and problem-solving, enhancing your organisational skills as you balance your participation with your LLM study. Participation in these activities and opportunities demonstrate your commitment and passion for International Law and your career pathway, showing personal responsibility and initiative to achieve your goals. Such activities and opportunities include:
 - International Law Basics - a series of workshops on the disciplinary framing of International Law (what or who is International Law for), finding and using sources of International Law (what is International Law), applying sources to real-world challenges and issues (critical reading and writing skills) – which are linked to modules tasks and activities. Thus, students are invited to bring current challenges in their study to 'workshop' solutions with peers, facilitated by academic staff and colleagues from Academic Development and the Library.
 - International Law at Work - a series of round-table events where students meet different professionals working in the international law area (diplomacy, NGOs, international organisations, law firms, governmental departments) including one where specific international law opportunities are explained, with alumni on hand to discuss their career pathway.
 - International Law at Westminster - our research cluster, showcasing the research of staff and hosting regular international law events, along with opportunities to contribute to the Climate Change, Energy Policy and Sustainability Research Group, the Centre for Law, Gender, Race and Sexuality and the Law, Development and Conflict Research Group.
 - Course Representative – an opportunity to represent your peers in discussions on all aspects of your student experience with academic staff and other relevant University staff.

Our graduates pursue careers in various international fora including for example within international organisations such as the United Nations and the European Union, non-governmental organisations such as Amnesty International and Privacy International, along with law and consultancy firms such as Deloitte, professional associations like the European Banking Federation, and within governments. Several of our graduates have also successfully pursued doctoral study, including at Westminster Law School.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning.

These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)

Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)

Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)

Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 7 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 7 you will be able to:

- CLO.1 demonstrate a systematic, advanced knowledge of foundational principles and concepts of Public International Law and of five specialist areas of international law, as well as a critical awareness of the role and impact of international law in a contested and interdependent world. (KU SS)
- CLO.2 explain, interpret and employ primary sources of international law, as based on an identification of how these sources are used to construct knowledge of international law. (KU SS CS)
- CLO.3 critically engage with advanced scholarship and ideas to evaluate and critique knowledge of international law, identifying emerging trends and controversies and including perspectives from different continents and cultures (KU CS)
- CLO.4 investigate real-world challenges, issues and debates in relation to international law to appraise the role and impact of international law and, where appropriate, propose solutions. (PPP KTS)
- CLO.5 identify, evaluate and synthesise competing perspectives on international law doctrines and concepts; (KU KTS CS)
- CLO.6 demonstrate creativity, self-direction and independence when designing and undertaking advanced international law research, selecting and employing appropriate research methodologies, and exercising critical and inclusive reflection on learning. (PPP KTS SS)
- CLO.7 develop and apply effective communication skills to convey ideas, arguments and knowledge in relation to international law, its role, impact and potential reform, in a coherent and logical manner, whether orally or in writing, while adhering to academic conventions. (KTS SS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

You will be an active, independent and collaborative learner, acquiring and developing knowledge on international law and the requisite skills for the successful completion of the LLM in International Law. You will do this in the following ways:

- *Prepare*, whether as an individual or in groups, set guided independent tasks and activities that are directed towards knowledge and/or skills in a graduated manner; ensuring that you have gained and consolidated key knowledge and skills, before proceeding to enhancing knowledge and skills;
- *Participate*, as an individual and within groups, in seminar activities and exercises which are designed to test, consolidate and advance knowledge and skills, along with awareness of how international law and its institutions work in practice;
- *Reflect* on your learning via peer-to-peer and staff feedback within the seminars (and relative to the assessment criteria), through post-seminar tasks and activities, and through formative assessments to inform your preparation.

You are expected to bring this working pattern to your dissertation seminars and individual meetings with supervisors, i.e. prepare, participate and reflect.

Your learning is supported by our co-curricular programme, 'International Law Basics' where you are invited to 'workshop' challenges arising in the acquisition and development of your knowledge and skills at key points in the semester.

Teaching methods

We will impart knowledge and facilitate the acquisition and development of skills by designing and delivering an inclusive and challenging curriculum centred on weekly three hour interactive seminars. We will:

- Select reading and source material that is current, relevant and reflects diversity of perspectives and representation of knowledge; enables a balanced work-load and is readily accessible; and includes cases focusing on equality, diversity and discrimination in the current structures and rules of international law;
- Design and deliver appropriate seminar activities and exercises that provide the opportunity to test and consolidate knowledge and to apply knowledge in a variety of contexts requiring analysis, evaluation and synthesis and/or problem solving. Such activities and exercises will be framed by teaching staff via a mini presentation of knowledge and may include:
 - Moot Courts
 - Model United Nations
 - Debates
 - Presentations
- Provide timely and useful feedback on knowledge and skills during seminars and via formative assessments, referencing assessment criteria thereby facilitating awareness of what is required to successfully complete our modules and encouraging self-reflection on learning;
- Invite guest speakers from other academic institutions or from the professional world to give lectures within and across individual modules;
- Use digital technology to enhance acquisition of knowledge and development of skills where appropriate to the module learning outcomes. For example, the discussion board and Journal functions of Blackboard may be employed, along with Padlet and Kahoot!

We will encourage students to critically engage with theory and practice in exploring the international and domestic contexts which both produce and reinforce inequalities among diverse groups. The teaching methods will provide insights in the role of states and other international actors in creating or removing equality, diversity and inclusion.

Assessment methods

To reflect the strong focus that the LLM International Law puts on research and on the acquisition of transferable research skills, assessment takes place through a research project, which may take the form of a policy paper, research brief, or extended research essay. In the case of the core module Public International Law, students are also assessed through a problem scenario (40% of the final mark).

Research projects are appropriate to assess students' cognitive skills, providing the opportunity to explore in depth specific topics central to the concerns of the module, as well as assessing students' written communication, analytical and problem-solving skills. Essay questions can be on general theory and/or on specific case-studies. In all cases, students will be expected to apply the law to the facts so to make the assessment authentic.

In addition, assessment weightings across all modules conform to a broadly common workload in the form of word guidelines. For modules assessed solely by one element, students will be required to deliver between 4,000 words. For Public International Law where there are two coursework elements, the problem scenario will be approximately 2,000 words and the essay 3,000 words. Students are expected to keep to the word limit given (which includes footnotes but not the final bibliography) and marks will be deducted for work that is more than 10% over or under the limit.

Module Leaders will provide students with specific guidelines about what is required for their module. In all modules, formative work is given out during the semester and timely evaluative feedback provided to students.

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Outcomes
Critical and creative thinker	CLO.1, CLO.2, CLO.3, CLO.4, CLO.5
Literate and effective communicator	CLO.2, CLO.5, CLO.6, CLO.7
Entrepreneurial	CLO.6
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	CLO.3
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	CLO.1, CLO.4, CLO.5

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules

Level 7

Full-time students may take a maximum of one elective per semester of study from another LLM programme.

Part-time students may take a maximum of two electives from another LLM programme during their programme of study.

The elective modules are listed in the Course Handbook.

When selecting options, students should note that they can choose either Intellectual Property in the Entertainment Business OR Intellectual Property; students are unable to study both modules in their course of study. The course leader will give consideration to students who wish to select from options not listed - students will be supported with such requests if the chosen modules cohere with the overall themes and subject matter within this programme.

Part-time students: Core modules must be undertaken in year 1. The balance of options in year 2 can be distributed differently across semesters and will depend on the options chosen.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7LLAW046W	Public International Law	Core	1	20	10
7LLAW041W	Postgraduate Dissertation in International Law	Core	2	60	30
7LLAW104W	Business and Human Rights	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW008W	Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW074W	International Criminal Law	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW019W	International Energy and Climate Change Law	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW075W	International Environmental Law	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW020W	International Human Rights Law	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW021W	International Humanitarian Law	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW022W	International Law and Development	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW105W	International Law of the Sea	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW013W	International Refugee Law	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW106W	International Space Law and Technology	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW036W	Multinational Corporate Entities and Foreign Investment	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW038W	Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW058W	United Nations Law	Option	Various	20	10
		Elective	Various	40	20

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

n/a

Course management

There is a designated Course Leader who students meet during Induction and who are available for consultation either by email, during their weekly office hours or by appointment. In addition, each module has a module leader who is available during term-time in their weekly office hours or by appointment to discuss any queries regarding the module.

Each student has a designated Personal Academic Tutor to whom they may turn to for academic advice and pastoral support.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations).

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard>

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development).

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice>

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union>

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university, a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2022©

Additional Details

The LLM International Law at Westminster Law School is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion, and promotes a supportive environment where all staff and students from any background feel empowered and respected. The LLM International Law is committed to challenging and opposing any individual or institutional ableism, homophobia, transphobia, racism, sexism, xenophobia, and discrimination based on religion, class or age.

draft

Published date: 20 January 2025