

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Laws - Advanced Legal Research <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) - Advanced Legal Research • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Advanced Legal Research
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	N/A
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Legal Research, Full-time, September start - 1 year standard length • Advanced Legal Research, Part-time day, September 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

The LLM Advanced Legal Research is a unique postgraduate course which seeks to produce outstanding professional legal researchers who can generate professional, academic, policy-focused and creative research which responds to the needs, problems and challenges of today and tomorrow. The Course has been constructed to respond to extensive input from stakeholders from industry, the legal profession and the academy which underlines the need to produce outstanding researchers who are able to develop innovative and original legal responses to pressing problems. In this way, the programme provides a pathway to further advanced legal research, to specialist research positions within legal and non-legal professional spaces, to positions within policy and the creative industries, and to collaborations between legal research and emerging areas of the economy. In particular the course is structured to provide the skills to design and deliver legal research projects which respond to different needs, draw upon a variety of innovative methodologies, presented in diverse ways, including use of visualisation, digital skills and other emerging technologies. The course is structured to embody and embed the community of knowledge and industrial practice within which legal research is produced, and places the student as an agent at the heart of that community and those practices. As a practical course focused on producing engaged professionals, it places ethical and political concerns at its heart. In particular, this means that students develop an ability to engage critically with the requirements of sustainable development and the needs of an inclusive, equitable and diverse society, and ensuring that legal research places these issues at the heart of practice. Through the central role of reflection and community engagement, the course also places the voice of the student at the heart of their own work and sees the student as the researcher, underlining the importance of the diversity and equality of all voices and ensuring their inclusion within the production of legal knowledge and legal solutions to practical problems. In the face of global challenges – from climate change to disruptive digital technology – the need for innovative and sustainable legal solutions has never been greater. The LLM addresses these challenges head-on, ensuring that students gain not only advanced legal knowledge but also the analytical, methodological, and entrepreneurial skills necessary to make a significant impact in today's complex and dynamic professional legal research landscape.

The six core modules structure students' learning around key dimensions of life as an advanced legal researcher, developing understanding of cutting-edge legal perspectives, and building key legal research skills. Meanwhile, the option module offering provides the opportunity to develop specialist doctrinal or theoretical knowledge in a particular area of interest, rounding out the student's development as an advanced legal researcher.

In sum, the course aims to contribute to the positive transformation of society by enabling students to become changemaking producers of powerful, useful legal knowledge apt to tackle interconnected global challenges to people, planet and prosperity. This enabling and empowering will occur through transformative education that embeds the needs of the modern entrepreneurial legal researcher in its modes of teaching, learning and assessment, which are authentic to the increasingly diverse, complex and technological world of professional legal research, giving students the opportunity to:

- Become confident consumers and producers of advanced legal research;
- Develop critical understanding of cutting-edge legal knowledge;
- Develop theoretical and applied understanding of a range of research skills, methods and approaches, including innovations in research technology, while avoiding premature specialisation that limits agility in professional research life;
- Be part of a collaborative research community, building academic and professional networks and positive relationships with others that foster a collective sense of solution-oriented changemaking potential;
- Demonstrate these skills, knowledges and capabilities through a significant final research project that advertises to employers the ability to design, propose, conduct, produce and communicate advanced legal research.

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.

Professional researchers today, and even more so tomorrow, need to be agile, innovative, networked entrepreneurs. As such, employability is absolutely central to the design and implementation of the LLM, both at programme and core module level. Across the programme students will develop the core knowledge and research skills required by the employable advanced legal researcher. This will include skills training on: cutting-edge research technology; diverse and mixed research methods; multimedia communication skills; collaboration and networking; research confidence and professional agility; self-reflection and continuous professional development; project design and planning; pitching, advocacy and lobbying; entrepreneurial skills and commercial awareness; ethics and social responsibility; and principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion. The skills developed on the programme are all transferable into life as a professional researcher, whether within or outwith academia, as well as wider employment opportunities. Furthermore:

- 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 and workshop 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 the complex modern ecology of professional legal research works in practice.
- Our *assessment methods* draw on real world examples of advanced legal research, providing you with the opportunity to gain experience in traditional, heterodox and cutting-edge legal research skills and in different forms of research practice, output and communication. Assessments develop transferrable 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 advanced legal research.
- Our *co-curricular activities and opportunities* support you in developing 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 your career pathway in advanced legal research, showing personal responsibility and initiative to achieve your goals. Such activities and opportunities include everything from becoming a Course Representative, representing your peers in discussions with staff, to becoming an active participant in the University's research community by presenting your work alongside faculty and your postgraduate peers, or participating in University research centres.

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:

- 001 Produce substantial and original legal research that responds to the challenges of our time. (PPP KTS SS)
- 002 Design, propose, and conduct research projects, demonstrating academic and professional rigour, self-direction, creativity, and adherence to ethical standards. (PPP KTS SS CS)
- 003 Draw upon a range of advanced research skills and methodologies to appropriately investigate and analyse issues through legal research. (KU SS)
- 004 Demonstrate a critical and evaluative understanding of cutting-edge knowledge of legal and other normative systems, and engage critically with these through advanced legal research (KU CS)
- 005 Critically respond to social, economic, political, environmental and technological change through legal research. (KU PPP CS)
- 006 Engage fully as a member of the research community by sharing your work, entering into dialogue with fellow researchers, and integrating diverse perspectives. (PPP KTS CS)
- 007 Collaborate and demonstrate leadership in professional and academic research settings. (PPP KTS)
- 008 Engage critically with the mapping, navigation and evaluation of the professional legal research landscape. (KU PPP KTS)
- 009 Translate research expertise into practical applications and diverse formats, communicating complex ideas clearly and effectively to various audiences. (PPP KTS SS)
- 010 Critically evaluate and reflect upon research practices, identifying areas for improvement and demonstrating a commitment to continuous learning and professional development. (PPP KTS CS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

Your learning is centred on real-world problems and challenges that are relevant to your professional and personal development as an advanced legal researcher. You learn by immersing yourself in advanced legal research as a continuous and iterative practice. As such, your learning is structured around three central elements:

- *Explore* your prior knowledge and assumptions, encountering new knowledge and skills.
- *Exchange* your perspectives on knowledge, assumptions and skills, identifying, justifying and critically reflecting on possible modes of legal research to address real-world problems.
- *Expand* your knowledge and skills through practical application, collaborating and innovating to propose solutions to real-world challenges, critically reflecting on the relevance and suitability of the proposed solution.

Your learning is supported in a transversal manner by the year-long final project module, where workshops integrate and synthesise the learning that takes place in the rest of the course, and you apply this when developing your own final research project.

You will be an active, independent and collaborative learner who acknowledges and respects diversity of perspectives and knowledge and who, through preparation, participation and reflection on learning, belongs to a community of legal researchers.

Teaching methods

We will provide an inclusive and challenging curriculum, with well-defined learning objectives that are relevant to your development as an advanced legal researcher. Through our weekly interactive seminars and workshops, we will structure your learning in an inclusive way that emphasizes collaboration, practical application and critical reflection. As such, our seminars and workshops incorporate knowledge transfer, debate and critique, via (amongst others) student presentations, peer assessment, simulation and role-play. We will support your learning with explicit guidance and materials, selecting reading, case studies and other source material that is current, relevant and reflects a diversity of perspectives. When doing so we will ensure that this enables a balanced workload and is accessible to all students. We will provide timely and useful feedback on knowledge and skills during seminars and workshops and via formative assessments, referring to assessment criteria, thereby facilitating awareness of what is required to successfully complete our modules and encouraging self-reflection on learning. We will use digital technology to enhance the 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.

As active legal researchers, with diverse backgrounds and motivations, we will bring our own experience and expertise, acknowledging the diversity of our own knowledge and how it is constructed and produced and, indeed, for what end(s). We do so in order to foster an inclusive community of legal researchers where differences are celebrated and our humanity is embraced. We draw on our networks and existing practice to expose students to the practice of advanced legal research, not only through our research centres (see above co-curricular activities and opportunities) but also through guest speakers and facilitators.

Assessment methods

You will demonstrate your knowledge and skills through a range of authentic and inclusive assessments that span the spectrum of professional and academic advanced legal research, such as portfolios (including essay-writing), presentations, mapping exercises, case studies, research proposal, and the final research project. In some instances this will include an assessed response to questions, feedback and critique, further emphasising the centrality of dialogue to the life of the advanced legal researcher. In preparation for your summative assessments, you will draw on weekly feedback on tasks and activities as well as feedback on formative assessments. Summative assessments will add up to 4000 words or equivalent for each 20 credit module. The final project will first be assessed on a presentation of preliminary findings, early progress made, and reflection on strengths and limitations of the project design, and on a written response to feedback on that presentation. The final project itself will be 12000 words long, or equivalent if taking a multimedia or other heterodox approach (which is encouraged where appropriate).

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Outcomes
Critical and creative thinker	001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 008, 010
Literate and effective communicator	001, 002, 004, 006, 007, 009
Entrepreneurial	005, 006, 007, 009, 010
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	005, 006, 007
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	002, 004, 005, 006, 007

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

Free choice of option module

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7LLAW109W	Advanced Research Methods in Law	Core	1	20	10
7LLAW108W	New Normativities and Legal Theory	Core	1	20	10
7LLAW110W	The Professional Legal Researcher	Core	1	20	10
7LLAW113W	Advanced Legal Research Project	Core	2	60	30
7LLAW111W	Innovation, Technology and Research Communication	Core	2	20	10
7LLAW112W	Project Design and Development	Core	2	20	10
7LLAW104W	Business and Human Rights	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW001W	Carriage of Goods	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW002W	Comparative Commercial Arbitration: Law and Practice	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW034W	Contemporary Issues in Entertainment Industries	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW039W	Dispute Resolution	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW102W	Emerging Normativities: Law and Blockchain	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW008W	Foreign Direct Investment Arbitration	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW107W	Global Data Flows: Law and Innovation	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW059W	Intellectual Property	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW011W	Intellectual Property in the Entertainment Business	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW014W	International Banking Law and Regulation	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW015W	International Commercial Arbitration	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW009W	International Commercial Law	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW103W	International Corporate Law	Option	1	20	10

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7LLAW074W	International Criminal Law	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW019W	International Energy and Climate Change Law	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW075W	International Environmental Law	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW020W	International Human Rights Law	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW021W	International Humanitarian Law	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW022W	International Law and Development	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW105W	International Law of the Sea	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW024W	International Project Finance Law	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW013W	International Refugee Law	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW106W	International Space Law and Technology	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW025W	International Tax Law	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW026W	Investment Banking Principles and Practice	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW098W	Law and Data	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW097W	Law and Digital Disruption	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW099W	Law and Governance of Technological Risk	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW056W	Law and Media: Content and Control	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW101W	Law and Technoscientific Expertise	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW055W	Law of Digital Entertainment and Social Media	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW028W	Law of International Sales	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW031W	Legal Aspects of Corporate Finance	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW035W	Money Laundering and Corporate Fraud	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW036W	Multinational Corporate Entities and Foreign Investment	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW038W	Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW046W	Public International Law	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW066W	Regulating the Night-Time Economy	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW057W	The Regulation of Relationships in the Entertainment Business	Option	1	20	10
7LLAW058W	United Nations Law	Option	1	20	10

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

None

Course management

There is an allocated Course Leader.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at 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.

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©