Programme Specification: Law and Technology LLM

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Course record information

Name and level of final award	• Master of Laws - Law and Technology The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards	• Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - Law and Technology • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Law and Technology
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	• Law and Technology LLM, Full-time, September start - 1 year standard length • Law and Technology LLM, 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 in Law & Technology has been designed to encourage students to develop their knowledge of key legal issues relating to technological and scientific developments. Advancements in technologies and scientific understanding of an array of issues impact upon us in a variety of ways every day. Law, too, is impacted by and confronts technological and scientific change, whether in relation to changes in professional practice or in relation to the sort of knowledges and matters that come to be regulated and legislated for. The programme will foster critical questioning of technological and scientific change, specifically how it relates to law, and will also promote an engagement with political, social, and ethical questions relating to how law captures and makes use of changes in technology and scientific knowledge.

The relationship between law and technology, and the associated ethical questions that emerge within this field, is always changing; the programme aims to provide students with a space to evaluate current challenges <u>and</u> offer the space to consider conceivable challenges that may arise in this area. As such, the programme will equip students with the necessary analytical and research skills that can be harnessed within the profession and beyond.

Programme principles

The programme will adopt a balance between experience-based, creative, and collaborative learning, and will combine independent research opportunities with set materials and tutor-facilitated discussions, both in class and online. Each module's curriculum covers a range of subject matter and the programme as a whole is built on the principle of the importance of challenging structures that produce inequalities and of offering a space for students to be able to do so. Each module specifically designed for this programme includes a research diary assessment, emphasising our commitment to privileging students' own knowledge production and emphasising the importance of the development of independent research and critical reflection skills.

This programme reflects the University's commitment to creating a learning environment which is equitable, diverse, and inclusive. In addition to the curriculum of this qualification being designed to reflect and adopt a range of perspectives rather than an exclusionary focus, we are committed to a liberated pedagogy, too. The design of modules, learning outcomes, assessment, reading lists, and the classroom environment will reflect the importance of challenging structures that produce inequalities and offer space for students to be able to do this.

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.

Within the LLM in Law & Technology, students will engage with a skills skeleton that will be developed at a programme level. They will include skills training on: enhancing collaboration; research confidence; presentation skills; self-reflection; project planning; 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 legal practice and wider employment opportunities.

Students will also have the opportunity to apply their own understanding and developed knowledge in practical settings as part of the dissertation module. This module also gives students the opportunity to develop their understanding of working with a mentor (project supervisor) and the dissertation module has in-built networking opportunities either through students' own project focuses or through a showcase of work at the end of the module. The programme also acts as preparation for students who would wish to undertake further study at doctoral level on an issue that they have identified as important to research.

The programme as a whole engages with themes and prominent issues within a number of different sectors which are evolving in light of, responding to, or emerging out of, challenges presented by developments in technology and scientific knowledge. By providing students the opportunity to develop relevant skills and subject knowledge, the LLM in Law & Technology will enhance students' employability in legal tech related areas, such as those concerning legal practice and innovation, legal ethics surrounding automation, legal and public policy research, and compliance and regulation. It will also provide good grounding for roles in sectors such as the civil service, charitable work, and social advocacy.

Students' development and engagement with the wider community will be supported by the Careers and Employability Services of the University (such as the LAS Placements Team and the WeNetwork service, among others) to help students to improve their employability.

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 Demonstrate a deep understanding of law's relationship to technological and scientific developments, and the regulatory frameworks and policy that responds to them (KU)

- 002 Interrogate the gendered, racialised, and classed implications of the way technologies are utilised in the legal system, and to examine the impact of the regulation of technology and science of society, more generally (KU)

- 003 Critically assess the implications of the development of technological and scientific knowledge on the legal

profession (KU PPP)

- 004 Employ advanced independent research abilities in order develop your own critical perspectives on materials and ideas within the field of law and technology (PPP SS)
- 005 Work with others and create respectful and constructive environments in which to do so (SS)
- 006 Demonstrate an ability to navigate the dynamic professional environment and identify solutions to complex problems arising out of the relationship between law and technology (PPP SS)
- 007 Demonstrate an ability to engage a variety of audiences and communicate complex ideas (KTS)
- 008 Demonstrate an ability to identify applicable solutions to issues in the subject area (KTS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

Students will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of the subject matter through independent inquiry and research as well as through discussion with others within scheduled classes. Students will be encouraged to develop their own thoughts and perspective on the issues presented and identified throughout the course, and the forms of discussions, skills training, and assessment points on the module work on the basis of privileging and supporting students' own inventive approach to the subject matter.

Teaching methods

The main teaching methods used throughout the programme are seminars; provided module materials; lecture snippets; and skills workshops which run throughout the programme, and create the space for students to engage with more practically-oriented applications of their subject knowledge. Many modules will also have online learning events each week (eg tutor moderation of online discussions, engagement with student reflections on online activities, and Q&A sessions), too, which will offer opportunities to consolidate student understanding of materials, reflect on experience-based learning activities, and skills development. Each module will be facilitated by a number of different tutors, and each will have their own specific learning and teaching styles. However, students will always be encouraged to engage with in class discussions, develop their own perspectives on the given subject matter, and test their ideas out in a supportive environment.

Assessment methods

A range of assessment methods will be used on the course; each module designed as part of this programme works on the basis of a research diary assessment followed by one other assessment point. This second assessment point will revolve around coursework (inclusive of, for example, essays, research reports, and opportunities for creative writing) or presentations (oral and/or visual). There will also be a formative assessment point in each module. The assessment points within each module and across the programme will support you with the development of various teamwork, problem solving, and communication skills across a range of media. For the summative assessment, each of the modules' assessment will add up to 5,000 words or equivalent. The opportunity to undertake collaborative work will be made available within the programme, with some modules adopting a collaborative summative assessment. The Dissertation module asks you to undertake a research proposal and written work between 12-15,000 words overall on a topic which aligns with subject matter that you have studied in other modules on the programme (or a project design and report of equivalent length – see the Dissertation in Law & Technology module proforma for more information).

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

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

Please note:

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.

Elective Modules - a list of available elective modules is published in the Course Handbook.

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.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7LLAW097W	Law and Digital Disruption	Core	1	20	10
7LLAW099W	Law and Governance of Technological Risk	Core	1	20	10
7LLAW100W	PG Dissertation in Law and Technology	Core	2	60	30
7LLAW102W	Emerging Normativities: Law and Blockchain	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW107W	Global Data Flows: Law and Innovation	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW059W	Intellectual Property	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW106W	International Space Law and Technology	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW098W	Law and Data	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW056W	Law and Media: Content and Control	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW101W	Law and Technoscientific Expertise	Option	Various	20	10
7LLAW055W	Law of Digital Entertainment and Social Media	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

Course management

You will be supported through your programme of study by: module tutors; module leaders; your personal tutor; and the course leader. Oversight of this course is provided by the Associate Head of LAS (Education and Students) and the Head of Law.

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. Students1 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