



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Studying Law with the University of London - understanding the learning experience

This document outlines the Undergraduate Laws Programme's commitment to you. It also provides you with information about the sorts of things you should consider in deciding whether to study law with us, your responsibilities as a student, and to provide you with a check list for success. We hope that the questions and answers below help you to make an informed decision.

There are three sections:

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 - The learning experience and quality assurance.
 - Achieving your career goals.
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1. Thinking about studying

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Where can I find information about the Laws programmes?

Your main sources for information about the Undergraduate Laws Programmes are the prospectus and the website. The prospectus contains information about the degree structure, the syllabus, key dates, entrance requirements, application and registration process, fees, credit transfer and more. You can download a copy from our website (see 'Useful links' opposite) or contact our Information Centre: +44 (0)20 7862 8360 or email: enquiries@london.ac.uk

Useful links:

[Website](#)
[Prospectus](#)
[Subject list](#)

[Useful Contacts](#)

Where can I find more detailed information about the programmes?

You can also download the Regulations and Programme Specification from our website (see 'Useful links' opposite). This document provides a detailed breakdown of the rules and regulations that govern your studies with the University of London International Programmes. It also contains full descriptions of the programmes, the admission requirements, and details of the intended outcomes for the programmes, i.e. what knowledge and skills you can be expected to acquire through completing these programmes; the learning, teaching and assessment methods used on the programmes; and our quality assurance mechanisms.

[Regulations and Programme Specification](#)

Can I attend an open day?

Towards the end of September each year (and for an additional fee), non-registered students can attend an induction day to find out more about the programme and talk to University of London staff about administrative and academic matters.

University of London staff also regularly attend open days held by the institutions that support our students around the world. Information about forthcoming events can be found on our website.

[Induction day](#)

[Events](#)

How do I know this course is right for me?

Distance learning is not for everyone. Studying with the University of London International Programmes demands high motivation and self-study skills. You should take time to consider the information provided in this document and on our website. Staff at the University are available to talk with you about the programmes, the challenges they pose and the skills you will need. Other useful insights on the sort of experience you may expect can be found in our student handbook, which provides an overview of the academic year and a range of practical and academic advice for students, or our sample study guides.

The Laws programme has also developed an online e-Induction which is an easy, interactive, step-by-step guide to the resources provided by the University and introduces prospective students to studying Law with the University of London. It shows you how to use the materials and illustrates, in an interactive way, how they are integrated in the process of learning.

Pre-course exercises have also been devised as a 'taster' to encourage you to consider the type of skills you will be expected to develop as you go through the laws programme but, more importantly, they are meant to be a fun introduction into the study of law.

[Useful contacts](#)

[Sample study guides](#)

[Student handbooks](#)

[e-Induction](#)

[Pre-course exercises](#)

What is expected of me?

Distance learning courses have traditionally involved working on your own from a set of guided study packs, at your own pace and in your own time. This can be a tough and lonely approach to study, but may be the only way you can combine academic study with your work and/or family commitments.

Unless you have undertaken a distance learning programme before, most of your experience will have been in a directly taught environment, and you will have been used to immediate feedback from your teacher and peers on your contribution. As a distance learner, unless you are studying with support from an institution, you will study alone.

If peer feedback is important to you, you might want to consider either forming a study group, or obtaining support from a local institution. It is very important to be aware that we do not give individual feedback on student assessment performance. You will therefore need to pay careful attention to the materials and information we provide to guide you in understanding what is required in order to pass each subject.

To succeed you will need to have strong organisational, literacy, intellectual and research skills. For more information on the skills required please see the programme specification.

Things to consider before making your decision

Before embarking on a programme of study with us, it is important that:

- The course you choose suits your needs and lifestyle.
- You find out as much as you can about the course and its requirements before committing yourself.
- You have adequate financial resources to support your study.
- You know the standards and skills that are required of you.
- You understand the time commitment demanded by the programme.

The information provided in the next section is designed to help you in considering these five issues.

What kind of study support can I expect once I enrol on the course?

As this is a distance learning programme, it is very important to understand that you will not have access to a University of London tutor. Instead, we support your learning through a range of specially developed learning materials, as well as an online library and our Virtual Learning Environment.

It is also very important to understand what we mean by '**distance learning**'. We mean a learning environment where we give you direction on what and how to study, and we provide you with the resources, **or** with the information on how to access the resources, to enable you to acquire the knowledge and to develop the skills identified in the programme outcomes.

In addition, you can attend weekend revision courses arranged both in London and regionally around the world, undertake computer marked assessments, or attend a course of study at a local institution recognised by the University of London. Diploma in Law students must be registered at an independent teaching institution specifically granted Diploma-teaching status by the University.

[Weekend and Regional Revision courses](#)

[Directory of Institutions](#)

Useful links:

What sort of materials will I receive from the University?

Your studies are based mainly upon our study guides, which have been specially written by subject experts for students studying at a distance. The guides (samples of which are provided on our website) are supported by a range of other materials, including a variety of textbooks, past examination papers and Chief Examiners' reports, Statute books, and subject-specific newsletters containing updates on recent developments in law. You will receive many of these materials in hardcopy, but all materials are available on the Virtual Learning Environment. The links opposite and the e-Induction provide more information on the materials you will receive.

[Sample guides](#)
[How you study](#)

[e-Induction](#)

Are there any opportunities to be taught by University of London academics?

At extra cost, you have the opportunity to attend weekend revision courses held in London, or regional revision courses hosted around the world. Further information is available on our website. Annual revision courses for our students are held at the University of Cambridge. Lectures are given by experienced members of the University of Cambridge Faculty of Law as well as distinguished visiting tutors.

[Weekend and Regional Revision courses](#)

[Cambridge Revision Course](#)

How much time should I devote per week to my studies?

As a guideline, you need to dedicate at least 30 hours per week for approximately 38 weeks of the year if you intend to complete the maximum of four subjects in any one year. However, we strongly recommend that, unless you are receiving supplementary support on a full-time basis at an institution, you take the slower route of three subjects per year.

What additional expenses should I expect?

Books: Although we strive to provide you with most essential readings, we recommend that you read as widely and in depth as possible and as such suggest that you budget £300 for additional reading. You can find guidance on recommended reading in the Introductory booklist, downloadable via our website.

[Booklist](#)

Examinations: Examination centres in many countries levy additional charges for you to sit examinations. You should contact your local examination authority for details – for contact details of examination centres worldwide please see 'Exam centres' in 'Useful links' opposite.

[Exam centres](#)

Supporting Institutions: You may choose to attend an institution to receive supplementary tuition. Over 70 institutions around the world are formally recognised by the University as offering support for students of the University of London International Programmes. Diploma in Law students must attend a diploma teaching institution, but for all other students attendance at an institution is not required to complete your studies. You should contact the institutions directly for details of their charges.

[Directory of institutions](#)

Revision courses: If you choose to attend a London weekend or regional revision course, information on prices will be made available on our website.

How will I be assessed?

For all subjects (with the exception of the LLB final-year Dissertation option and one component of Common Law Reasoning and Institutions), assessment is by an unseen, three-hour written examination at the end of each stage of study.

[Past examination papers](#)

Examinations are held in May/June at local centres in over 180 different countries as well as in London. Examinations are marked by University of

[Examinations](#)

London approved academics and is assessed in line with our published guidance. You can find more information about examinations on our website and in the Programme Specification document.

Useful links:

Beyond a grade, we do not provide any individual feedback to students on their examination performance.

How do I choose supplementary support from a local institution?

Unless you are a Diploma in Law student, attendance on a course of study at a recognised institution is entirely optional. Our programmes have been designed in order that you may successfully study independently. As we are aware that many students benefit from receiving a course of tuition or support from an institution, we have introduced a formal scheme of recognition (known as the Institutions Quality Framework) for teaching institutions. The framework is designed not only to develop and enhance our relationships with recognised institutions, but also to provide clear guidance to students in their choice of an institution.

[About Institutions](#)

Do read the advice and guidance provided to assist you in deciding if support from an institution is right for you (see 'Advice and check list' opposite).

[Advice and check list](#)

Please note that in some countries and jurisdictions, recognition of your qualification is dependent upon attendance at an institution.

How important is internet access?

Access to the internet is a requirement for entrance because it is an increasingly vital feature of studying with the University of London International Programmes. As a laws student, a range of materials and exercises can only be accessed via the Laws Virtual Learning Environment. If, for some reason, you only have limited access to the internet, please contact the Laws Office directly and we will make reasonable efforts to accommodate your requirements. Please see also provision for students with [Special Needs](#).

[Email the ULP](#)

What contact might I expect with my fellow students?

To introduce a beneficial element of interaction for those students not attending an institution, the University hosts discussion forums via its student VLE, which students are strongly encouraged to participate in. Students can also join our student to student network.

[Student to student network](#)

Once you have graduated you will be encouraged to join our thriving alumni community.

[Alumni relations](#)

What provision do you make for students with Special Needs?

The University has a panel that considers applications from students for special examination arrangements. The aim of the panel is to ensure that a student with a disability is neither advantaged nor disadvantaged when compared with other students.

You can request a copy of the University of London's full disability statement. Please refer to the Admissions contact details on page 38 of the prospectus, or download it from our website, by following the link opposite.

[Disability statement](#)

Useful links:

How does the University quality assure its law programmes?

The programme of study is developed and approved by the Consortium of Colleges of the University of London. Learning materials are written and examinations are set and marked by academic staff employed or chosen by the Consortium Colleges who are required to apply the University's academic standards.

Where can I find more information about the quality of the programmes?

The University of London has implemented a range of internal measures to make sure that the LLB programme is of the highest possible quality. These include a formal annual programme review process, periodic programme reviews, extensive student feedback mechanisms, external scrutiny of examinations and materials production processes, and a student representative system providing a formal framework for obtaining and producing collective student feedback. You can read more about all of these mechanisms and processes by following the links opposite.

[Quality Assurance Schedules](#)

[Guidelines for Examinations](#)

[Programme Specifications and Regulations](#)

How can I be confident of the quality of these programmes?

The University of London International Programmes was subject to an Institutional Audit by the UK Quality Assurance Authority (QAA) in November 2005, for which we received the judgment of 'broad confidence', the highest level of judgment that can be awarded.

[QAA report 2005](#)

What level of knowledge can I expect to obtain in completing the programme?

In addition to substantive law, you will acquire the ability to deal with complex legal issues creatively and systematically, be able to make sound judgements and appropriate decisions on complex legal situations, and to formulate coherent and persuasive interpretations and arguments. You will also learn how to communicate conclusions to legal and non-legal audiences. Full details of the programme outcomes may be found in the programme specification document.

[Programme Specifications and Regulations](#)

What transferable skills can I expect to obtain after I complete the programme?

You will be able to use problem-solving skills in a range of situations and communicate effectively and fluently. You will also obtain skills necessary to discuss complex issues in a written context, and have a capacity to handle ideas and scrutinise information in critical, evaluative and analytical ways.

You will be able to manage your own learning (including working effectively to deadlines); organise information; assimilate and evaluate competing arguments; be open minded; and exercise initiative and personal responsibility.

Will I qualify to practice law?

The University of London LLB programme provides you with the opportunity to acquire a Qualifying Law Degree (QLD). By obtaining a Qualifying Law Degree, you will fulfil the requirements of academic stage of legal training required by the Solicitors Regulatory Authority and Bar Council of England and Wales. The QLD requires you to have passed the eight Foundations of Legal Knowledge subjects in no more than three attempts and within six years. In addition, you must successfully complete the Law Skills Portfolio in your final year.

[About QLD](#)

[Joint statement on the academic stage of legal training](#)

However, if you're planning to be a lawyer in another country (including Scotland), you will have to find out specific requirements of the legal professional bodies in the jurisdiction where you hope to practice. We strongly advise you to contact the appropriate legal professional body to find out if the University of London LLB by distance learning satisfies their entry requirements for entry into the legal profession.

Useful links:

Using law in other professions

While many students may wish to obtain the LLB in order to enter the legal profession, we strongly recommend that you keep your options open. In obtaining the LLB, you will have acquired a range of knowledge and skills that are relevant and highly valued in a range of occupations and professions apart from the legal profession. For example, many law graduates enter the commercial or financial professions, local or central government service, international or intergovernmental organisations. Graduates have also entered the 'third sector', working for aid, development or environmental organisations. For some examples of the sorts of career paths that University of London LLB graduates have followed, please see the testimonials linked opposite.

[UK testimonial](#)

[ROI testimonial](#)

[Malaysia testimonial](#)

[Trinidad testimonial](#)

[Mauritius testimonial](#)

And finally...

Although undoubtedly demanding, we believe if you do decide to study with us then you will find the programmes extremely interesting and rewarding. In achieving the LLB by distance learning you will have achieved not only a 'gold standard' degree, but you will join an illustrious group of University of London alumni, some of whom have gone on to achieve great success and standing in their chosen professions.

About the University of London International Programmes

The University of London International Programmes has been offering degree programmes by distance learning for over 150 years. Unlike most modern universities, which offer degrees based on teaching as well as examining students, our traditional model was purely exam based – this meant that our students could sit exams anywhere in the world and were not required to attend classes. Accordingly, many students who were unable to attend a course of study at the University could achieve a highly valued University of London degree by studying in their own countries, at their own pace, and structuring their studies around their busy working or family lives.

About the Laws Consortium

The LLB is supported and developed by the following constituent Colleges of the University of London: University College London, the London School of Economics and Political Science, King's College London, Queen Mary, Birkbeck and the School of Oriental and African Studies. All of these Colleges are involved in the maintenance, development, quality assurance and assessment of the Laws programme. The University of London LLB degree has a global reputation, is recognised as a qualifying law degree for professional purposes in England and Wales, and is also recognised in a number of other jurisdictions around the world. We currently have some 16,000 law students in over 100 countries on the programme.