

Programme Title: BA Law and Politics (QLD)



Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	BA/LawPol BA Law and Politics
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	3 years (36 months)
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	ML12
QAA Benchmark Group	Law, Politics
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 6
Programme Accredited by	Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board
Date Programme Specification Approved	18 Feb 2014
Responsible School / Institute	School of Law

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

School of Politics and International Relations

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

Programme Outline

All students on the programme take the same mix of law and politics of modules in the first year. In the second and third years, students who want to obtain a Qualifying Law Degree (in order to become a barrister or solicitor in England and Wales) take the necessary law modules. Students who do not want to obtain a Qualifying Law Degree are free to choose from a wider range of law options and take a greater proportion of politics options, though we require all students to take some law and some politics modules in each year.

Outside the programme, students may choose to take part in the work of the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre, in a student-led Pro-Bono legal advice scheme, and in mooting.

Aims of the Programme

The BA Law and Politics programme offers intellectually able students the opportunity to study the closely related disciplines of Law and Politics in a supportive environment. Teaching is strongly underpinned by the Departments' research. The programme provides a sound academic basis for those who wish to pursue careers in which it is important to have knowledge of the legal and governmental systems and of the political contexts in which they operate.

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What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will have demonstrated the following learning outcomes.

Academic Content:

A 1	acquire and use knowledge of concepts, values, principles and rules of legal systems, focusing on England and Wales and the European Union
A 2	explain the main legal institutions and procedures of these legal systems
A 3	demonstrate the study in depth and in context of substantive areas of these legal systems
A 4	the nature of politics, including a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of political ideas, institutions and behaviour;
A 5	historical and contemporary political phenomena, including political texts, issues and problems within the field of study
A 6	appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches in the field of politics

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	apply legal knowledge to a situation of limited complexity in order to provide arguable conclusions for concrete problems (actual or hypothetical)
B 2	apply analytical skills to investigate unfamiliar problems
B 3	identify and retrieve up-to-date legal information, using print and electronic primary and secondary sources
B 4	recognise and rank items and issues in terms of relevance and importance
B 5	bring together information and materials from a variety of different sources
B 6	produce a synthesis of relevant doctrinal and policy issues in relation to a topic
B 7	make a critical judgement of the merits of particular arguments
B 8	present and make a reasoned choice between alternative solutions
B 9	demonstrate systematic and critical knowledge and understanding of a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of politics
B 10	apply knowledge and understanding, selecting and using established techniques and a range of sources to evaluate political texts, issues and problems

B 11	select appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches to a range of issues within the field of political study
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Attributes:	
C 1	act independently in planning and undertaking tasks in areas of law already studied
C 2	undertake independent research in areas of law not previously studied starting from standard legal information sources
C 3	reflect on their own learning and to seek and make use of feedback
C 4	use spoken and written English effectively in relation to legal matters
C 5	present knowledge or an argument in a way which is comprehensible to others and which is directed at their concerns
C 6	read and discuss legal materials which are written in technical and complex language
C 7	where relevant and as the basis for an argument, to use, present and evaluate information provided in numerical or statistical form
C 8	work in groups as a participant who contributes effectively to the group's task
C 9	have a strong sense of intellectual integrity

How Will You Learn?

Teaching for the core law modules is typically through lectures (to the whole year group) and tutorials (groups of about 12 students). By attending lectures you hear from experts in a legal field who will also be setting and marking your examinations. Lectures may have several different goals: to provide an introduction to a particular topic; to cast light on the context of a module; to provide alternatives to orthodox approaches; to provide an overview of the topic; to explain particularly difficult aspects of a topic; to introduce comparative aspects of a topic; to cover reform proposals and recent reforms in the law which are not covered in the textbooks. Some elective modules are taught through seminars without lectures. Tutorials and seminars both require reading to be completed beforehand. Discussion is usually structured around questions distributed in advance. Talking about law fluently is a vital part of developing legal reasoning skills. By expressing ideas you are able to refine and reflect on them. Tutorials and seminars are supportive environments in which ideas can be exchanged and difficulties can be ironed out.

Teaching for the politics modules takes a number of forms: lectures; seminars; workshops; guest speakers; individual supervision of projects and dissertations; and individual feedback on written work (where requested).

A considerable amount of independent study is expected throughout the programme. This involves reading cases, legislation and academic texts. Independent study may also involve working with other students in pairs or small groups: students are encouraged to set up informal study groups to help each other get to grips with topics before or after tutorials and seminars.

All modules make use of an online learning environment.

How Will You Be Assessed?

The majority of core modules are assessed by examination. Elective modules are assessed in a variety of ways, including examinations, course work and for LAW6035 Dissertation a 15,000-word dissertation.

For politics modules, assessment is varied and takes a number of forms. The nature of the assessment is closely connected to the desired learning outcomes and the mode of teaching within each module. Forms of assessment include: examinations; critical essays (from 1,500 to 3,000 words); research projects (10,000-12,000 words); project synopses; student presentations; portfolios;

and literature reviews.

How is the Programme Structured?

Students are required to take 120 credits each year. Modules are either 30 credits or 15 credits. The programme is structured in two "paths" according to whether a student wants to graduate with a Qualifying Law Degree (QLD), with a view to going on to qualify as a barrister or solicitor in England and Wales.

Students following the QLD path must take the following law modules, even if they are marked 'elective' in the lists below:

* In year 1: LAW4001 Public Law (30 credits) and LAW4005 Elements of Contract Law (30 credits)

* In year 2: LAW4006 Land Law I (30 credits), LAW5002 Criminal Law for BA Law and Politics Students (30 credits), LAW5105 Law of the European Union (15 credits), LAW5106 Administrative Law (15 credits).

* In year 3: LAW5001 Tort Law (30 credits), LAW6056 Equity and Trusts (Level 6) (30 credits).

Students on the non-QLD path have greater flexibility, but they must (a) take modules marked 'core' in the lists below and (b) take at least 30 credits of politics options in year 2 and year 3.

Academic Year of Study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Public Law	LAW4001	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Elements of Contract Law	LAW4005	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to Politics	POL100	30	4	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Background to British Politics	POL107	30	4	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to International Relations	POL106	30	4	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2

Academic Year of Study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Land Law	LAW4006	30	4	Core	2	Semesters 1 & 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Criminal Law for BA Law and Politics Students	LAW5002	30	5	Core	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Law of the European Union	LAW5105	15	5	Core	2	Semester 1
Administrative Law	LAW5106	15	5	Core	2	Semester 2
International Relations: Theories and Contemporary Issues	POL240	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
War and Security in World Politics	POL241	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Global Governance	POL242	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
British Politics	POL243	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
The International Politics of the Developing World	POL244	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Theories of State, Economy and Society	POL245	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Representative Democracy in Practice	POL246	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Modern Political Thought I and II	POL206	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2

Academic Year of Study 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Tort Law	LAW5001	30	5	Core	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Equity and Trusts (Level 6)	LAW6056	30	6	Core	3	Semesters 1 & 2
International Commercial Transactions	LAW6005	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Media Law	LAW6006	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
United Kingdom Human Rights Law	LAW6010	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Medical Negligence	LAW6013	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Law and Literature: Justice in Crisis	LAW6015	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Law and Literature: Foundations of Law	LAW6016	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Law Modernity and the Holocaust	LAW6018	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Revenue Law	LAW6026	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Commercial and Consumer Law	LAW6028	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Law and Medical Ethics	LAW6029	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Family Law	LAW6031	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Public International Law	LAW6032	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Intellectual Property Law	LAW6033	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Dissertation	LAW6035	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Company Law	LAW6036	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Criminology	LAW6045	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Criminology A	LAW6045A	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Criminology B	LAW6045B	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Competition Law	LAW6048	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Comparative law: African and Asian Legal Systems	LAW6050	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
International Environmental Law	LAW6052	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Cultural Diversity and the Law	LAW6057	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Democracy and Justice	LAW6154	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Law, Justice and Ethics	LAW6155	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Electoral Behaviour	POL326	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Theories of the Self	POL326	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
European Integration and the European Union as a Political System	POL330	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Socialist Political Thought	POL368	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
European Policies: National Identity and Ethnicity	POL351	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Globalisation: Issues and Debates	POL355	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
US Foreign Policy	POL358	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Gender and Politics	POL361	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Politics of the Post-Colonial middle East	POL365	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Research Project	POL310	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Case Studies in Ethnic Conflict: NI	POL322	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Analysing Public Policy	POL350	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Tolerance: Theories and Ases	POL356	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Theories of Radical Democracy and Politics	POL357	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Marxism in World Politics	POL367	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Latin American Politics	POL369	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
20th Century Political Thought	POL370	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Nationalism and Ethnicity in International Relations	POL371	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Ideology and Political Critique	POL308	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
French Politics	POL333	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Select Topics in British Politics I	POL352	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Select Topics in British Politics II	POL353	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 1
Resistance, Revolutionary Change and World Politics	POL359	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Contemporary Political Theory: Issue and Approaches	POL366	15	6	Elective	3	Semester 2
Law of the European Union	LAW5105	15	5	Elective	3	Semester 2
Law of Property III	LAW6008	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2

What Are the Entry Requirements?

The normal offer for admission to the LLB programme is AAA at A-level. The following A-levels are not accepted: General Studies; Critical Thinking. Applicants offering other qualifications will, if successful, receive offers at an equivalent level (e.g. the International Baccalaureate Diploma with 36 points overall and at least 6, 6, 6 at higher level).

Applications are welcomed from suitably qualified and motivated mature applicants (those over 21 years old). In addition to academic profile, the Department will consider skills and qualifications acquired since mature candidates were last in full-time education as well as evidence of a commitment to study law at degree level. Entry requirements from Access courses may vary to reflect (a) differences in grading between institutions providing Access courses and (b) the skills and qualifications that each individual applicant offers. Typically, Access students are required to obtain 60 credits as a minimum, and obtain at least 45 level 3 credits at Distinction (the Department may also specify level 3 subjects in which we require a Distinction). The general entry requirements from Foundation students are an overall average of 75-80% but this depends on the grading system of the programme. All Access and Foundation applications are put on hold until January before we draw up a shortlist based on the information in the UCAS form about the applicant's pre-Access experience, academic record, personal statement and academic reference. In February/March we shortlist candidates and may request an updated academic reference. A shortlisted candidate may be invited for interview and/or further assessment.

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before

submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

Academic Support

Feedback on progress in each module is provided throughout the year in various ways (for example, comments on written assignments, and guidance given in lectures and tutorials). In addition, every student has a designated academic adviser, who is a member of academic staff responsible for having an overview of progress and helping with any problems that impact on academic progress. Academic advisers and module tutors have 'office hours' during which students can consult them. In addition, Graduate Student Advisers (GSAs) are experienced and friendly postgraduate law students who are available to offer confidential one-to-one guidance and support to undergraduates in the Department as well as workshops on study skills.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

In order to progress to the next year of study, you must pass all your examinations. This applies even when you are absent due to events outside your control: under no circumstances can a student be allowed to progress to the next stage of the degree unless all examinations have been passed.

You are normally expected to pass all your examinations in a year in one sitting. This means that, when you fail some examinations (or you are unable to attend them for any reason), you must normally sit all of them again, including those that you already passed. There are some limited exceptions to this rule. Unlike most other programmes at Queen Mary, resit marks on undergraduate law programmes are not capped. There is a maximum of three attempts at the examinations: one sit and two resits.

Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

When you arrive, you will meet the School of Law's dedicated Careers Adviser, part of the Queen Mary Careers Team, who is regularly available in the department for one-to-one support. The Law Adviser also manages Careers Brief, the School's careers website, and arranges employer workshops in areas such as commercial awareness, applications, interview skills and choosing the right LPC and BPTC provider.

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The Legal Advice Centre provides undergraduate law students with the opportunity to place law into a practical legal context under the supervision of volunteer lawyers. Lawyers from Allen & Overy, Field Fisher Waterhouse Mishcon de Reya, Nabas Legal and Reed Smith work closely with students, providing guidance and supervision, as well as training and careers advice.

The Queen Mary Student Pro Bono Group (QMSPBG) is a student group created by students for students. More than 250 students are involved in the QMSPBG from their first year through to their final year at Queen Mary. As students develop their skills and legal knowledge, they are able to become involved in increasingly challenging and hands-on projects. The Queen Mary Student Pro Bono Group has well-developed links with the London legal community. Students have the opportunity to volunteer at organisations that provide pro bono legal advice and to 'shadow' solicitors. Placement programmes operate through partnerships with leading law firms such as Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP, SNR Denton, Clifford Chance and Reed Smith LLP. Queen Mary runs a Streetlaw Programme, which is based on a US model to provide an outreach volunteer programme to local schools and communities. Students visit primary and secondary schools to teach pupils relevant parts of the law. The Group also offers exciting opportunities in international law, in the past students have worked with organisations such as A4ID and Lawyers Without Borders.

The Pro Bono Group publishes a monthly student newspaper called 'The Advocate', which includes articles from Queen Mary academics and students as well as external lawyers.

The Queen Mary Mooting Society plays an active part of undergraduate life at Queen Mary. Under the auspices of the Student Moot Master and Student Mooting Committee, students have the opportunity to become involved in both internal and external mooting competitions.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Merris Amos

Person responsible for management of programme

Violeta Moreno-Lax

Date Programme Specification produced/amended by School Learning and Teaching Committee

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board

18 Feb 2014