PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – LL.M. in International and Comparative Public Law

1	Awarding Institution:	University of Exeter
2	School(s)/Teaching Institution:	School of Law, University of Exeter
3	Programme accredited/validated by:	American Bar Association
4	Final Award(s):	LL.M.
5	Programme Title:	LL.M. in International and Comparative Public Law
6	UCAS Code (if relevant):	N/A
7	FHEQ Level of Final Award(s):	M
8	QAA Subject Benchmarking Group:	N/A
9	Date of Production/Revision:	August 2006

10	Programme Structures and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

The programme is studied over one year, in 3 x 10 week terms, and is University-based throughout that time; in addition to the 3 terms, students have a 4 month period in which to complete a dissertation. The programme is divided into units of study called modules. Modules have a credit rating of 15, 30 or 60 credits (15 for half-modules over 1 semester, 30 for full modules over 2 semesters, 60 for the final dissertation) and 180 are required for this programme.

HE Level M	Module	credit value)
LAWM640	Dissertation (compulsory)	60

AND 120 credits from the following:

LAWM601	Judicial Control in the European Union	30
LAWM602	European Systems of Law/Comp Constitutional Law	30
LAWM604	EC Competition Law	15
LAWM606	Free Movement of Goods in the EU	15
LAWM621	Aspects of European Legal History	30
LAWM622	International and European Refugee Law	30
LAWM625	European Integration (Historical and Economic Aspects) *(cannot be taken in conjunction with LAWM627)*	15
LAWM626	European Integration (Political and Legal Aspects) *(cannot be taken in conjunction with LAWM627)*	15
LAWM627	European Integration (i.e. LAWM625 + LAWM626)	30
LAWM634	Environmental Law (i.e. LAWM632 + LAWM690)	30
LAWM635	Immigrants and Refugees in the European Union	15
LAWM641	Policing Europe (offered by Politics Dept)	15
LAWM670	European Convention on Human Rights	30
LAWM671	International Human Rights Law	30
LAWM672	International Refugee Law	15
LAWM676	Free Movement of Workers	15
LAWM677	Aspects of European Private Law	15
LAWM683	International Criminal Law	30
LAWM684	International Humanitarian Law	15
LAWM688	Law and Social Theory	15
LAWM693	Law and the Philosophy of Liberty	30

As an alternative, up to 60 credits from the above may be replaced by an equivalent quantity of credits taken from one or more of the following:

LAWM610	Transnational Commercial Law	30
LAWM612	Regulation of International Trade	15
LAWM613	International Aspects of Taxation	30
LAWM614	Carriage of Goods by Sea (semester 1)	15
LAWM615	Other International Carriage of Goods (semester 2)	15
LAWM616	European Company Law	30
LAWM618	Comparative Commercial Conflict of Laws	30
LAWM630	Transnational Environmental Liability Law	15
LAWM631	Human Rights and International Business Policy	15
LAWM632	International Environmental Law	15
LAWM637	Public Law Aspects of Information Technology Law	15
LAWM638	Private Law Aspects of Information Technology law	15
LAWM639	Information Technology Law (LAWM637 + LAWM638)	30
LAWM642	Transnational Crime (offered by Politics Dept)	15
LAWM673	Copyright Law and Policy	15
LAWM674	The Law of Trademarks and Patents	15
LAWM675	Intellectual Property Law and Policy (LAWM673 + LAWM674)	30

11	Educational Aims of the Programme

1. To provide students with the opportunity to address the problems and issues of comparative public law at European and international levels, taking account of substantive as well as institutional factors.
2. To afford students exposure to several systems of public law thereby enabling them to look at and criticise their own and other systems of public law from an informed perspective.
3. To enable students to identify, locate and critically appraise legal materials from more than one jurisdiction and also from international sources.
4. To enable students to assimilate extensive documentary legal and non-legal materials; to extract from them the material points, and to make judgments autonomously as to their relevance.
5. To enable students to apply the principles of domestic and international law and legal rules to solve and analyse practical problems in an international context.
6. To encourage students reason logically, supporting the process with authority.
7. To provide students with the necessary intellectual and practical legal skills, such as analysis, problem-solving and legal reasoning, to enable them independently to achieve an understanding of any branch of international public law even if they had not previously studied it.
8. To provide students with the opportunity to enhance and develop their writing skills by completing a dissertation and their oral communication skills by presenting seminar papers.
9. To prepare students for employment in private practice, corporate or public employment relating to international trade by developing their transferable and problem-based learning skills.

12 & 13	Programme Outcomes and Teaching, Learning & Assessment Methods

On successfully completing the programme, a graduate should be able to demonstrate:

A

Subject knowledge and skills: ability to

1. demonstrate a thorough knowledge and a critical understanding of key elements of national, EU and international public law.
2. follow and understand current developments in national, EU and international public law.
3. know and practise the principles and techniques of advanced and autonomous research.
4. apply the principles of law and legal rules to solve and analyse practical problems in an international public law context.
5. understand and explain the interaction between different subject areas in International Public Law as well as the interaction between national, European and international public law.
6. have an understanding of some of the relevant social, economic, political and cultural contexts within which international and domestic Public Law operates.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Seminars: library tuition: essays: dissertation.

Assessment

Assessed essays: dissertation.

B

Core academic skills: ability to

1. identify, locate and retrieve legal materials at both domestic and supra-national level in paper, electronic and on-line form.
2. apply national and supra-national legal knowledge to a practical situation of limited complexity and to draw reasoned and arguable conclusions from it, supported by legal authority and sound and logical argument.
3. synthesise information from a number of primary and secondary legal and other sources; appreciate their relative value; and separate the relevant from the peripheral: understand the interaction between 2 or 3 levels of regulation.
4. analyse, evaluate and interpret the principal source materials of national, EU and international law relevant to public law.
5. make a critical judgement of the merits of particular arguments and make a reasoned choice between alternative solutions or arguments.
6. work independently in planning and undertaking assignments.
7. research the law independently.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Seminar papers: presentations: essays: word processing and other information technology.

Assessment

Coursework (formative assessment): assessed essays; dissertation providing evidence in writing of the student's skills, knowledge and capacity to critically evaluate as independent learner.

C	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
Personal and key skills: ability to	• Transferable skills permeate every activity within the programme content and assessment – essays, dissertation, presentations, word processing and other IT skills. • A distinctive feature of the programme is its emphasis on research-based assessment methods (essays, dissertation) rather than formal written exams. The programme involves the students in both independent study and group work in the form of seminar discussions and presentations. As the students come from various jurisdications, their learning takes place in a comparative perspective.
• manage time effectively and prioritise tasks by working to strict deadlines. • take responsibility for one's own learning by planning and managing tasks with limited guidance; identifying their own resources and seeking and making use of feedback. • perform assigned academic tasks and co-ordinate them with other students'. • work effectively as part of a team in producing and presenting seminar papers. • Communicate effectively to others when participating in seminar discussions. • evaluate and assess his or her own abilities performance and understanding, to reflect on his or her own learning and to seek advice and feedback. • to use some electronic information management tools, such as word processing, email, the internet and some other electronic retrieval systems. • utilise problem-solving skills in theoretical or practical contexts. • be aware of key career opportunities and the need for forward planning.	**Assessment** See above.

D	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
The programme broadly conforms with the QAA Benchmark Statement for Law as applied in the context of a postgraduate degree.	
	Assessment

14	Support for Students and Students' Learning

General:

The University Library maintains its principal collections in the main library buildings on the Streatham and St Luke's campuses, together with a large library at Camborne School of Mines and a number of specialist collections in certain Schools. The total Library collection comprises over a million volumes and 3000 current periodical subscriptions. The Lasok Law Library is in the Amory building and contains the specific Law collection.

Information Technology (IT) Services provide a wide range of services throughout the University including open access computer rooms, some of which are available 24 hours, 7 days a week. Additionally, the School has its own dedicated facilities. A Helpdesk is maintained on the Streatham campus, while most study bedrooms in halls and flats are linked to the University's campus network.

Following University policy the School has in place a system of personal tutors for each student. A University-wide statement on such provision is included in the University's TQA Manual
(see http://www.ex.ac.uk/admin/academic/tls/tqa/.)

The University provides a wide range of student support services including:

- Student Counselling Service
- Study Skills Service
- Student Advice Centre (Guild of Students)
- International Office

- Student Health Centres
- Nursery (Streatham campus)
- Chaplaincy
- English and Foreign Language Centres

The School, as required, has a Student/Staff Liaison Committee to allow tits students to contribute directly to the enhancement of educational and other provision in Law.

The Law School has a Careers Adviser. The University Careers Advisory Service also provides expert advice to all students to enable them to plan their futures, through guidance interviews, psychometric testing, employer presentations, skills events, practice job interviews and CV preparation. It also organises a Law Fair which is held at the beginning of each year and attracts many large London and regional law firms. For more information see:
http://www.services.ex.ac.uk/cas/.

Specific to the programme:

- Induction: Introduction to the various modules.
- Library induction.
- Introductory programme for international students.
- Student handbook: module guides: seminar handouts.
- Student guide to legal writing.
- Tour of European institutions in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg.
- Ready access to teaching staff at no or short notice (in contrast to many European universities).

15	Admission Criteria

Candidates must satisfy the general admissions requirements of the university and of the School of Law for postgraduates. University entrance requirements for postgraduate degree programmes are found in the University of Exeter Graduate School Prospectus. The entrance requirements for the LL.M. programmes normally comprise a reasonably good law degree (high 2.2 or equivalent). Applicants with other degrees or qualifications are considered if their previous education included a substantial legal element. In addition we have a special procedure for potential students who may be able to take advantage of our WP policy. Non-standard (e.g. mature) students may in addition be interviewed in order to assess their true suitability and capabilities.

Overseas students:
Overseas students must show proficiency in the English language and have an appropriate qualification (eg Certificate of Proficiency in English of the Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, IELTS, TOEFL and other equivalent examinations.

16	Regulation of Assessment and Academic Standards

Assessment Rules and Honours classification:

- Minimum passmark for all modules is 50%.
- Overview of assessment details are found in the University Website (Postgraduate Taught Programmes Assessment Procedures) and in postgraduate student documentation. The Law School is subject to an agreed School assessment marking strategy, underpinned by institution-wide assessment procedures. The security of assessment and academic standards is further supported through the external examiners appointed for each programme. Their responsibilities are described in the University's code for external examiners and include access to draft papers, course work and examination scripts. Attendance at the Board of Examiners and the provision of an annual report are both required. Clear procedures are also in place for the monitoring of these annual reports at both School and University level.
- To qualify for a degree, students must complete all course requirements and pass 4 modules (or their equivalent).
- All marks contribute to the final classification of the degree.

Summary of marks and their interpretation for degree classification:

Mark	Classification
70% +	Distinction
60% - 69%	Merit
50% – 59%	Pass
40% – 49%	Compensatable fail
39% -	Fail

For the conventions applied, see the TQA manual (http://www.ex.ac.uk/admin/academic/tls/tqa/).

17	Indicators of Quality and Standards

The University and its constituent Schools draw on a range of data in their regular review of the quality of provision. The annually produced Performance Indicator Dataset details admission, progression, completion and first career destination data, including comparisons over a five-year timespan. Progression statistics are included in routine internal monitoring and review processes (see 18 below).

This programme was subject to external and independent internal review on its inception in 2000.

The School was subject to HEFCE Teaching Quality Assessment in 1994, when the provision was graded as satisfactory under the original HEFCE grading scheme.

Role of External Examiners
External examiners are selected by the School and appointed by the Faculty of Post-Graduate Studies. They are appointed from among distinguished academic lawyers with experience appropriate to a subject or a group of cognate subjects. Most external examiners are of professorial status. The role of the external examiner is:
- To approve examination and assessment questions.
- To see/review examination scripts, coursework and dissertations.
- To attend the meetings of the Boards of Examiners, to participate in decision making at those meetings and to
- advise the Board.
- To report to the Vice Chancellor at the end of each examination session.

18	Methods for Evaluating and Improving Quality and Standards

- Module reviews
- Student questionnaires
- Annual Review by module co-ordinator
- TQSA – the University's bi-annual teaching quality review scheme
- School Review by University
- Course Accreditation
- Probation for new staff
- SDU course for new staff
- Staff appraisal
- Peer teaching observation
- External examiners' reports (which go to the Vice Chancellor and also the Head of School)
- HEFCE Teaching Quality Assessment, now QAA Subject Review
- Termly meetings of Teaching Development Committee, reporting to School Meeting
- Annual Programme Review

Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards:

- School Teaching Development Committee, meets termly, reports to School Meeting
- Postgraduate Committee
- Faculty of Post-Graduate Studies
- Boards of Examiners

Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on quality of teaching and their learning experience:

- Module questionnaire
- Postgraduate Committee
- Consultation times by lecturers

Staff Development priorities:

- Keep up to date with current developments and academic research.
- New staff to obtain formal teaching qualifications.
- All staff to undertake research and publication to be RAE returnable at required standard and to enhance teaching.
- Regular attendance at School meetings and active participation by all in core teaching, and in administration.
- Encouraging staff to keep up to date with current teaching developments.