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Course Specification

**LLM International Law:
Conflict, Security and
Human Rights**

Course Code: LILCS

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

LLM International Law: Conflict, Security and Human Rights (LILCS)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 12/2025

General Information

Award	Master of Laws International Law: Conflict, Security and Human Rights
Contained awards	Postgraduate Diploma International Law: Conflict, Security and Human Rights Postgraduate Certificate International Law: Conflict, Security and Human Rights
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
Course lengths and standard timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is 12 months (full time, campus based).
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus. Workplace (optional Professional Practice Placement module) location TBC.
Entry requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/ Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk .
Course fees	Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk .

Policies, Standards and Regulations

www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations

There is a non-standard regulation in place for this course relating to the Masters award eligibility criteria. The exemption requires students to achieve an average of 50% or more in modules equivalent to 150 credits at this level (or above). All the remaining standard award criteria applies.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

N/A

Accreditation/recognition summary

N/A

'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

The course contains a modular placement.

On campus students may elect to undertake an optional Professional Practice Placement module. The placement would commence at the start of semester 2 and needs to be completed by the end of August. The University will support a student in securing their placement, but cannot guarantee that a suitable placement will be obtained. The option to undertake the placement is limited to five students per year.

Placement Delivery

Students are expected to source their own placement, and for this to be approved by the Law School prior to the start of the Professional Practice Placement module. Standard placements will be from the start of Semester 2 to the end of August, subject to any specific requirements of an individual employer.

Location

Students may secure a placement in the Leeds region, or elsewhere in the UK by prior agreement with the Course Director and/or Professional Practice Placement Module Leader. Further information on the placement process is provided by the Course Director and/or Module Leader prior to option choices being made.

Approval

Whilst students source their own placements, they will need to meet requirements which will be outlined before module enrolment.

Timetable

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Key Contacts

Your course leader

Dr. Agata Fijalkowski: A.A.Fijalkowski@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your course director

Dr. Pavel Repyeuski: P.Repyeuski@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your course administrator

Academic Services Team: pgdl@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

LLM International Law: Conflict, Security and Human Rights aims to expose students to current issues in the topical areas of international human rights law, democracy, rule of law, warfare, and security and to explore their interconnectedness.

The course helps students to gain a critical understanding of the key areas of international law relating to armed conflict, war crimes, and human rights abuses with special emphasis on rules and regulations guaranteeing the freedoms of a democratic society. This includes the development and operation of international law and norms governing the conduct during war, and the ways in which breaches of these norms are dealt with. Students will examine the impact of conflict, such as the displacement of people and violations of their human rights and how the evolved concepts of democracy and rule of law can cope with contemporary political and global changes. Students will study how law, in the form of legal theory and practice, is shaped by and in turn shapes our ethical, social, and political environment.

The Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights module covers in detail the current worldwide crisis of all three concepts by tracing the democracy theory tensions between republicanism and liberalism and focuses on the concept of the rule of law in domestic and international politics. The Laws of Armed Conflict and Use of Force module explores how the rules of war and international humanitarian law evolved in response to the changing face of armed hostilities in the modern world, and evaluates whether the current international legal framework is robust enough to cope with the rapid political and technological changes. Students will evaluate the dualist concept of the law of armed force, namely *jus ad bellum* – the conditions under which armed force may be used and *jus in bello* – the rules of international humanitarian law regulating the conduct of parties already engaged in armed conflicts, such as Bosnia, Darfur, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sahel region, Ukraine and Palestine.

The course provides students with a critical understanding of the careful balance that is required in international law between ensuring security while remaining within the agreed international legal norms and treaties, guaranteeing the freedoms of a democratic society.

The curriculum of this programme builds on the theoretical underpinnings of human rights, the principles of democracy and the rule of law. This enables students to acquire knowledge of the features and principles of different jurisdictions and legal systems providing graduates with a distinct advantage in areas related to human rights, security, international norms and conflict.

Course learning outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	Analyse, synthesise and apply knowledge of international norms relating to conflict, security and human rights and the context in which such norms function.
2	Undertake complex analysis and evaluation of the efficacy of international legal norms in the context of gross human rights abuses and the vulnerability of people to state and non-state aggression.
3	Critically evaluate the theoretical underpinnings of the liberal world order – democracy, rule of law and human rights - and show an ability to combine and apply these concepts to an analysis of international and national regulatory frameworks dealing with war crimes and human rights abuses.
4	Demonstrate self-direction, originality and autonomy in the production of a relevant piece of independent research in this field.
5	Show critical application of knowledge of relevant socio-legal theories and legal research methods and demonstrate the ability to apply key concepts of international law to a research question in this field.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

The design and delivery of this course and its substantive content means that student cohorts will typically be diverse, coming from a range of social, cultural, academic and professional backgrounds and countries.

The course shares modules with other level 7 Academic LLM programmes, in particular cores for Legal Research Methods, Dissertation, and electives. There are three core 'subject' modules for this programme and the fourth is an elective students chose from the range of modules running on other LLMs.

For our on-campus delivery, the student community will be supported by in-person seminars and students will be encouraged to get involved with the broader Law School and Leeds Beckett community. Module delivery will be supplemented with the online recorded lectures/content, whilst reading and related activities will form the foundation of the seminars.

For teaching activities, which will emphasise student-led evaluation and critique of issues, students will respond to tutor-prepared materials, tasks, problems and questions. Module materials will provide a framework which will steer students to both the knowledge and critical components of the programme. Students will be given an opportunity to relate the studied material to current issues of conflict, security and human rights. The variety of student body provides an important opportunity for students to learn by sharing their and their peers' experience. Indicative content and approaches for each module is articulated in the respective module specification. For each module there are arrangements for individual and group feedback on student activities.

The Legal Research Methods module will provide students with founding knowledge about various legal research methods and how to use these in the Master's level research. The dissertation is an exercise in independent student learning, involving sustained research and a substantial piece of writing which is supported by both the dissertation Module Leader and an individual dissertation supervisor. The supervisor will guide the student on the planning and execution of the dissertation, the development of ideas, organisation and structure of the work. The preparation of the dissertation will require students to become involved with issues at the forefront of the disciplines concerned with this programme.

Your modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 7 (Full-time)

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Laws of Armed Conflict and use of Force	30	1
Legal Research Methods	30	1
Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights	30	2
Dissertation	60	Year-long
Number of credits of compulsory modules	150	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
International Commercial Law	30	2
Competition Law and the Digital Economy	30	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	30	

Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard 30-credit point module equates to 300 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

Level 7

On this course students will be assessed primarily through coursework. There is a major independent study module (Dissertation) which will require the production of a dissertation of 15,000 words.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	198 hours
Independent study	1,602 hours
Placement	1,800 hours