LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

Course information for applicants

This information applies to the course as it will be delivered to students starting the course in 2027/28.
Information provided here was confirmed on 25/09/2026

General information

Programme code
LICRL

Target award
If you complete this course successfully you will be eligible for the award of:
LLM International Criminal Law

Delivery mode
✓ On campus
☐ Distance learning

Where you will study
The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.

Awarding body
Leeds Beckett University

Regulator
Office for Students

Level of qualification
Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

Course duration
If you are made an offer of a place on the course, your offer letter will include the start date.

This course can be studied:
12 months full-time
24 months part-time

Work placement
This course includes an optional placement module(s).

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.

Entry requirements

Admissions criteria are available on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have previous relevant qualifications or experience, you could be exempt from certain parts of your course.
Recognition of prior learning (RPL) allows you to start your course at a point appropriate to the learning and skills that you may have developed in a professional, vocational or community setting.

Find out more here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning.

If you have questions about entry requirements and admissions, contact AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Course fees

Course fees and a breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have questions about fees for this course, contact Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Timetable

You will receive your full timetable for the year during induction week.

What you will study

Course aims

LLM International Criminal Law aims to expose students to current issues in international criminal law by looking at topical areas such as crimes against humanity, aggression, liability of principals and accessories, operation of International Criminal Court and jurisdictional immunities.

The course helps students gain a critical understanding of key areas of international criminal law regulating crimes against humanity. This includes development and operation of international law and norms on war crimes and aggression, function of international criminal tribunals and ICC, liability of perpetrators and various defences--all considered in an international human rights context. The course enables students to acquire knowledge of the features and principles of different jurisdictions and legal systems and be able to compare them. Students will study how law, in the form of legal theory and legal practice, is shaped by and in turn shapes our ethical, social, and political environment.

The core International Law module gives students a grounding understanding of the nature, history and sources of international law focusing on the law of Treaties and International Organisations. The module considers various subjects linked to international law, such as the law of jurisdictions, responsibility and immunities and introduces aspects of international economic and humanitarian law.

The core International Criminal Law module identifies and explains the sources and historic development of international criminal law, focusing on the principles and forms of state jurisdiction, operation of international criminal courts and tribunals, aggression and prohibited conduct, prosecution for international and war crimes, as well as defences and jurisdictional immunities. The module provides students with the tools and legal instruments applied by criminal justice practitioners in identifying, investigating and punishing perpetrators. Students are equipped with a critical understanding of the nature and varied forms of international humanitarian crimes by considering the underlying causes of these offences, from both the victim perspective and the wider global context.

This programme's curriculum will further refine students' knowledge of the underpinnings of the post-war, liberal world order by exploring global collaboration on serious human rights abuses (such as genocide or abuse of rights of minorities) by the state actors through various international organisations and multilateral treaties. The dissertation will give students the opportunity to pursue critical, independent research in a defined area of interest, helping students to specialise in ways specific to their chosen careers and/or field of academic interest.

Teaching and learning activities

This course is offered on campus. 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 International Law, 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, students will be supported by in-person seminars and are encouraged to get involved with the broader School and Leeds Beckett community. Module delivery will be supplemented with the recorded content whilst reading and related activities will form the foundation of the seminars.

For on campus teaching activities, which will emphasise student-led evaluation and critique of issues, students will respond to tutor-prepared materials, tasks, problems and questions. Module units' materials will provide a framework which will steer students to both the knowledge and critical components of the programme. Students will be given the opportunity to relate the material covered to current issues of modern international criminal law. 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 are articulated in the respective module specification. For each module there are arrangements for 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.

Course structure

This information is correct for students progressing through the course within standard timescales. If you have to repeat study or take time out during your course, you may be taught alternative modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes.

The option modules listed may vary. Those listed here are likely to be offered in a typical year.

Level 7

Compulsory modules

Module title	**Credits**	**Semester/ teaching period**
International Law	30	1
Legal Research Methods	30	1
International Criminal Law	30	2
Dissertation	60	Summer
Number of credits of compulsory modules	150	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
International Business, Competition Law and the Digital Economy	30	2
International Commercial Law	30	2
International Trade Law	30	2
Laws of Armed Conflict and use of Force	30	2
Disability in International Human Rights Law	30	2
Professional Practice Placement	30	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	30	

Assessment and feedback

The balance of assessment may change depending on which option modules you choose.

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

You can expect to spend a total of 100 hours learning per 10 credits.

Typically, a student on this course can expect to divide their time like this:

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	198 hours
Independent Study	1,602 hours
Total	1,800 hours