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Welcome to York Law School

I am delighted to introduce you to York Law School (YLS).

At York, we offer a diverse range of stimulating taught postgraduate courses, which reflect the research interests and strengths of our staff. The LLM International Corporate and Commercial Law provides cutting edge analysis of corporations in the post financial crisis and post pandemic period; LLM International Human Rights Law and Practice brings you face to face with the realities of implementing human rights in a variety of settings; LLM Legal and Political Theory offers a unique chance to engage in the interdisciplinary study of fundamental questions of law, morality and politics; and our LLM Art Law offers an exciting opportunity to work with YLS and York’s world class History of Art department.

We were delighted to launch our LLM Law (Juris Doctor) in September 2020 - the first of its kind in the UK. JDs are recognised around the world as entry-level professional qualifications, which equip you with the legal knowledge, mind-set and skills needed by today’s legal professionals. The programme simulates legal practice and integrates our ground-breaking problem-based learning to provide a comprehensive introduction to English law, to skills such as legal writing, communication and presentation skills and to an understanding of the international business context to which English law so often provides the framework.

The courses offer an innovative approach to the academic study of law. They combine the best of modern legal educational methods coupled with the traditional academic rigour and depth you would expect from a law school in one of the country’s leading universities. They will allow you to understand how law operates in the real world while also giving you the tools to critique that operation. Whether you want to practice law, enter academia or use your studies as a springboard to work in another field altogether we will provide you with a set of strong transferable skills.

York Law School has developed a vibrant research culture, particularly focused on an interdisciplinary approach to law where we work with colleagues across other University of York departments. Our state-of-the-art building on Campus East has allowed us to create an excellent community for learning and research.

If your aspirations match ours, then we look forward to welcoming you to join us at York and in the meantime please get in touch if we can help in any way.

Professor TT Arvind
Reasons to study as a postgraduate at York

York Law School is a vibrant community of research academics and a centre of teaching excellence. The quality of our research was recognised in Times Higher Education’s ranking of the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, ranking us fifth in the UK.

The Law School is engaged in a very broad range of research, covering many areas of private and public law, see page 24. The Law School welcomes proposals for research in any of these areas by prospective graduate students.

Taught graduate programs are directed by leading researchers in the relevant fields who will bring their latest research directly into the learning environment. Several of our graduate taught courses also employ York Law School’s signature problem-based learning approach.

At York, you will develop a range of transferable skills and accumulate a body of cutting-edge knowledge. All this is highly valued by employers, opening the door to a wide variety of occupations in the legal profession, in academia and in areas beyond.

You will become part of our friendly academic community which is mostly based in purpose-built accommodation on Campus East.
Reasons to study in York

The University of York is a leading research-driven university and a member of the UK’s elite Russell Group. The University is situated in one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, with a rich culture and history. York has a large student population making it an ideal location for study.

The city of York has a history stretching back almost 2,000 years to its origins as a Roman fortress, the site of which is now occupied by one of the finest Gothic cathedrals in the world, York Minster. The city boasts outstanding medieval, Georgian and later architecture, as well as excellent modern amenities, all within a compact city centre designed for walking and cycling. The wider region around York is stunning, with three national parks within easy striking distance – the North York Moors, the Yorkshire Dales and the Peak District National Park. Also within very easy reach are the areas of outstanding natural beauty in the Yorkshire Wolds and the Howardian Hills. The region also contains some of the finest houses, churches and other buildings in Europe, such as Castle Howard, Fountains Abbey, Rievaulx Abbey and many more.

York is regularly voted one of the best cities to live in the UK. Our beautiful historic city is vibrant, student friendly, and its great mix of heritage locations and contemporary life will provide you with a superb experience outside the lecture theatre.

Situated halfway between London and Edinburgh, York is easy to reach by road and rail and is no more than an hour or two from several major airports and ferry terminals.
Your future

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY
Our courses will prepare you to pursue a wide variety of careers both within and outside the legal profession, as well as further research through doctoral studies.

DEVELOPING KEY SKILLS THROUGH THE LLM
Our LLM courses involve a significant amount of collaborative work, primarily through problem-based learning. Through this approach you will gain necessary skills to become a legal professional, including legal and fact analysis and research. You will also develop many skills which are highly valued in any profession. These include communication and presentation skills, analytical and problem solving skills, project management, and the ability to negotiate and formulate an opinion based on a rounded view of an issue or problem.

CAREERS AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT
All LLM students will get active support in careers and development planning, both through structured sessions and workshops as well as individual advice from the Law School’s Employability Tutor. The Law School Careers and Development Programme is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students and we would encourage you to get involved with this. Several employers take part in the programme, providing an insight into the legal profession and the relevant recruitment processes. There is also help available for those of you who are thinking about non-legal employers or academic routes following your LLM.

There are also taught postgraduate and research postgraduate versions of the Employability Tutorial available to you. The Employability Tutorial is an online resource which is aimed at helping you to think about or review your personality and values, to assist you when you are thinking about your options after the LLM and how to move forward with your career plans.

UNDERTAKING FURTHER RESEARCH STUDY
The research skills developed during the LLM are excellent in preparation for further research, including doctoral studies. Many of our successful LLM graduates have gone on to pursue PhD studies, both at York and elsewhere.

CAREERS AFTER THE LLM
Graduates from the LLM courses at York Law School have gone on to a wide variety of careers: careers in the legal profession as a solicitor or barrister; in-house legal work (for example in a media company); investment banking and many others. Other graduates have gone on to study for a PhD (see page 23).
Which postgraduate degree?

You can apply for a taught degree which provides lectures and seminar modules in a specific area, or undertake your own studies under expert academic supervision as part of a research degree. Each route has its own unique features and benefits. Flexible study routes are available to fit around your life and preferred style of study.

RESEARCH DEGREES (FULL-TIME/PART-TIME)

The University of York is a research-intensive university which offers a wide range of research degrees. Research students develop their own project of academic study with their academic supervisor. Training is provided by the York Law School and assessment is by thesis which is submitted at the end of the degree.

TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE DEGREES (FULL-TIME)

York Law School currently offers six taught postgraduate degrees:
- LLM International Corporate and Commercial Law
- LLM International Human Rights Law and Practice
- LLM Legal and Political Theory
- LLM Law
- LLM Art Law
- LLM Law (Juris Doctor)

All courses at York Law School are based on the principle that a 21st-century law graduate requires more than a thorough knowledge of legal rules. A rounded lawyer understands law in its economic, political and theoretical contexts, while developing skills and techniques which provide a solid foundation for the world of work. Courses normally start at the beginning of term in September. Modules may be subject to change.

Tom Metcalfe

Construction & Engineering Solicitor, Pinsent Masons LLP

How did the course help you develop for employment or future study?

The involved, problem-based learning approach means that you learn by application. This means that you understand things with greater clarity and you learn how to select relevant knowledge and add value to it for clients. This is the really valuable stuff which helps you hit the ground running in practice.

How has it prepared you for the future?

At YLS you don’t learn for the sake of learning and you understand rather than memorise. There is a real emphasis on higher level thinking skills and how you understand. The confidence, decision-making and communication skills you develop along the way open many doors.

At YLS you don’t learn for the sake of learning and you understand rather than memorise.”
LLM International Corporate and Commercial Law

The LLM International Corporate and Commercial Law puts York at the forefront of legal education on corporations. It takes a comparative and international approach to the key areas of corporate governance and corporate and commercial law. The contextual approach taken in this LLM enables an understanding of why different countries adopt different laws and governance approaches and how they respond to economic and social pressures. It assesses these approaches in times of economic stability and in crisis, with particular reference to the current crisis. The course particularly focuses on corporate governance and on commercial transactions.

The LLM International Corporate and Commercial Law aims to provide:

- a critical understanding of the process of corporate globalisation
- an in depth and contextual coverage of the main topics in corporate governance and commercial law.

At the end of the course students should have:

- an understanding of the economic and social context in which commercial decisions are made
- an understanding of the nature of the company and company law and how this and corporate governance operates
- a conceptual framework in which to understand these developments and to anticipate future developments.

The course also includes an introduction to legal research and an extended thesis on a subject of your choice. Each student is allocated a personal adviser, from the Law School’s academic staff, who will help you to tailor the programme to suit your individual interests.
The course reflects the latest innovations in legal education including York’s pioneering problem-based learning as well as more traditional lectures and seminars. Its research-led teaching is built on the world class scholarship of the School’s staff. Our postgraduates are drawn from all over the world giving you the opportunity to study with and learn from a truly international group.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

The LLM International Corporate and Commercial Law is a taught programme of one year. It runs from October to the following September. On the LLM you will study 180 credits. 120 credits are studied through a mix of compulsory and optional taught modules. The remaining 60 credits are obtained through undertaking a 12,000 word dissertation. For example, a student may follow a course structured in the following way:

- **Autumn Term:** 50 credits (Legal Systems: Sources and Operation (10 credits); Law and Commercial Transactions (20 credits) and International Corporate Governance (20 credits).
- **Spring Term:** 60 credits (Students will choose three 20-credit optional modules).
- **Summer Term/Summer:** 70 credits (Research Skills and Methods, Dissertation).

CORE MODULES

**Legal Systems: Sources and Operation (10 credits)**

This module introduces you to the study of Law at Masters level by considering the variety of sources of Law and how those sources operate. It will focus on the differences between common law systems and those based upon codified civil law.

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**Stanislav Masevych**

Ukrainian electricity law expert, Project Office of Energy Community

The LLM course at the University of York opened a new window of opportunities for my professional legal career. The variety of necessary aspects from international commercial law, special case-based method of learning the regulations to multi-national exchange between students from different states ... made a tremendous contribution to me as the person and lawyer. I am glad that I now use all these experiences and skills in the process of reforming the Ukrainian energy system representing the European Energy Community as the legal expert in Ukraine.

I am glad that all these experience and skills I now use in the process of reforming the Ukrainian energy system representing the European Energy Community as the legal expert in Ukraine.”
Research Skills for Dissertation Writing (10 credits)
This module is designed to prepare students for their dissertation. It will introduce students to a variety of research methodologies and key research skills. At the end of the module, students will prepare a 'research proposal' for their dissertation.

International Corporate Governance (20 credits)
Corporate governance is at the heart of current global responses to the financial crisis. This module provides a contextual framework in which to understand and critically evaluate corporate governance and company law. It considers international and national corporate governance with particular focus on Anglo-American systems.

Law and Commercial Transactions (20 credits)
This module evaluates the fundamental ideas and concepts underlying commercial law including its sources. It examines the role of contract and property in international and domestic commercial transactions.

OPTION MODULES
Students may choose modules such as:
- International Business Negotiation
- Intellectual Property
- International Trade Law and Regulation
- Law and Circular Economy
- Law and Society
- Financial Crime

Please note this is an indicative list and that options may change or not be available.

Students may be permitted to study subjects offered in the LLM International Human Rights Law and Practice and the LLM Legal and Political Theory with the permission of the programme director.

Dissertation (Summer Term and Summer, 60 credits)
Students will write a 12,000 word dissertation on a topic of their choice and under the supervision of a faculty member. Students will be supported in the preparation of the dissertation proposal during the 'Research Skills for Dissertation Writing module'. Students have a wide flexibility in choosing their topic and they are encouraged to make the most of the international flavour of the programme.

Assessment
The modules are mainly assessed through coursework, with some take home exams.

Award
LLM International Corporate and Commercial Law.

Eligibility
Applicants will normally be expected to have obtained an undergraduate degree in Law or Management, with honours (2:1 or equivalent).

Applicants with equivalent legal professional, management or commercial experience will also be considered on a case by case basis.
LLM International Human Rights Law and Practice

OUR MISSION

The key paradox of international human rights law is that the proliferation of treaties and adjudicative bodies of the past decades has not significantly diminished serious human rights violations and abuses in every state. As a consequence, standard setting and implementation, international treaties and domestic law, states and non-state actors have become central focuses of human rights activists and scholars.

The LLM International Human Rights Law and Practice engages students in a critical, nuanced and interdisciplinary examination of this paradox and the multiple focuses of today’s human rights law and practice, while providing you with the practical socio-legal skills necessary to apply global norms at the local level.

I was a solicitor in the UK, litigating social welfare and other human rights issues, and wanted to transition into international human rights work. The Centre’s LLM was my first choice because of its ‘applied’ focus and the opportunity to do field-based research with a Malaysian NGO. The LLM equipped me with the skills and confidence needed to gain an internship with Human Rights Watch’s Africa Division and to refocus my career.”

John, LLM International Human Rights Law and Practice

Through the LLM and other activities, the Centre for Applied Human Rights helps train the next generation of human rights defenders to do human rights work more effectively and safely.

WHAT MAKES OUR LLM DIFFERENT?

The LLM Human Rights Law and Practice is distinctive because our students:

- **work on real human rights issues** - you will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to apply international human rights frameworks and to make use of international mechanisms for promoting and protecting human rights at local, regional, national and global levels.

- **have the opportunity to work in partnership with international and local NGOs, human rights defenders, UN mechanisms and governmental bodies** - you will develop socio-legal research skills and acquire fieldwork experience during a two-week placement with a human rights organisation.

- **learn from the experiences of human rights defenders** based at the Centre for Applied Human Rights (CAHR) and from the interactions with your student peers - you will learn to critically examine how political and social context shape human rights issues at legal and policy levels and develop advocacy strategies to address these issues.

- **are taught in innovative and interactive small-class formats by academics who undertake cutting-edge research and are also experienced practitioners** - you will acquire a solid academic foundation relevant to human rights practice, an excellent basis for a new career, career progression or PhD studies in the field of human rights.
LLM STRUCTURE

Taught over 1 year, (full-time) or 2 years (part-time), the LLM draws on the interdisciplinary expertise of staff in the York Law School and the Centre for Applied Human Rights. The course is distinctively applied and its structure reflects the three sides of human rights activism: law, policy and advocacy. The core modules enable you to acquire holistic knowledge and the necessary socio-legal skills for a successful career in human rights practice or progression to PhD study. You will have the opportunity to work in partnership with an international or local non-governmental organisation, with UN experts, or governmental bodies on a human rights project, including by undertaking fieldwork with an organisation in York or Kuala Lumpur.

- Legal Systems: Sources and Operation (10 credits; term 1)
- Applying International Human Rights Law (20 credits; term 1)
- The Practice of Fieldwork (20 credits; term 1)
- Human Rights Placement (20 credits; terms 1 and 2)
- Research Skills for Dissertation Writing (10 credits; terms 2 and 3)

In the second term, you will be able to choose two option modules from a variety of courses taught by staff from the York Law School or other departments at the University of York (i.e. Politics, Social Policy and Social Work), subject to availability. You will have the opportunity to tailor your programme to enhance its interdisciplinarity and to explore areas where rights are being used in new and innovative ways.

Option modules may include:
- Law and Society (Law; 20 credits, term 2)
- Issues in the Philosophy of Criminal Law (Law; 20 credits, term 2)
- International Human Rights Laboratory (Law; 20 credits, term 2)
- Current Issues in Counter-terrorism and Media Law (Law; 20 credits, term 2)
- Mental Health and Mental Capacity Law (Law; 20 credits, term 2)
- Critical Theory (Politics; 20 credits, term 2)
- Global Crimes and Justice (SPSW; 20 credits, term 2).

The core and option modules rely on innovative learning methodologies such as ‘flipping the classroom’ and provide a wide range of assessments, including: oral presentations, academic essays, advocacy reports, draft universal periodic review (UPR) submissions and project outputs linked to the human rights placements.

Finally, the 12,000-word dissertation (60 credits; summer term) represents the culmination of your studies. It gives you the opportunity to apply the substantive knowledge and versatile skills acquired to a topic of interest. It can be the springboard to progressing to PhD studies.

HUMAN RIGHTS PLACEMENT

A distinguishable feature of the LLM International Human Rights Law and Practice is our practice-oriented approach. You will have the opportunity to work on a project in partnership with local and international human rights NGOs, United Nations mechanisms or governmental bodies. You will develop the project over two terms (from October to February) and undertake fieldwork, in person in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) or York (UK) (if the situation allows), or virtually with project partners working on human rights issues around the world.

Students choosing to conduct fieldwork in Kuala Lumpur will be expected to cover travel and accommodation costs of around £1,500.
Working together with your student peers in small groups you will:

- undertake extensive background research on local and country context, the host organisation, relevant thematic issues
- devise a human rights project in collaboration with the host organisation
- undertake two weeks of intensive fieldwork in Kuala Lumpur, York, or virtually (end of term 1, if the situation allows)
- work to complete the project output for the host organisation (report, study, advocacy campaign, funding application, training manual etc) during term 2 in York.

All projects give students the experience of writing project plans, drafting informed consent form and questionnaires, developing safety plans, and conducting interviews or focus groups.

Previous projects have included the following:

- drafting a legal brief for women's groups to obtain standing in proceedings affecting women's rights in Malaysian courts
- developing a policy framework and standard procedure for Malaysian local governments to combat trafficking
- assessing whether a York-based international development organisation should resume its operations in Mali after conflict had subsided
- developing human rights indicators for the York Human Rights City Network.
- researching new strategies for effective engagement between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UN human rights mechanisms
- designing a user-friendly version of the thematic report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

FULL-TIME/PART-TIME STUDY

The course may be taken on a part-time basis. In year 1, part-time students will normally take two core modules in term 1: Legal Systems: Sources and Operation and Applying International Human Rights Law, and two option modules in term 2. In year 2, part-time students will complete in term 1, the Practice of Fieldwork and the two-term Human Rights Placement module. In term 3, they will take the Research Skills & Methods core module and complete the dissertation over the summer terms. The schedule is somewhat flexible and can be adjusted to accommodate individual needs.

EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS

The LLM provides the knowledge, skills and networks to enable mid-career professionals and recent university graduates to find good jobs with human rights NGOs, charities, humanitarian organisations, policy think-tanks, bar associations, national human rights institutions, governmental bodies, domestic judiciaries, UN agencies and other international and regional organisations.
LLM Legal and Political Theory

It is sometimes said that political theory concerns the questions of “who gets what and who says?”. In modern pluralistic societies an additional question arises: how can we live together peacefully in circumstances in which we disagree about how best to live? These issues are both political and legal. States, and increasingly the international domain, regulate citizens’ lives through law. LLM Legal and Political Theory – a collaboration between the Departments of Politics and Philosophy and York Law School – offers students the opportunity to study the core issues and approaches of political and legal theory and to consider the relations between them.

The LLM Legal and Political Theory aims to provide:

- opportunities to study some of the enduring questions of political life including: By what right do some people rule over others?; What is the relationship of law and morality?; Do citizens have an obligation to obey the law?; and, What is the just distribution of rights and socio-economic goods and opportunities within states and globally?
- opportunities to choose from a wide range of option modules in Law, Politics and Philosophy
- the opportunity to write an independent dissertation on a topic of your choosing supervised by a member of the academic staff.

At the end of the course students will:

- have a critical understanding of the central questions of legal and political theory and of the works of the great legal and political theorists both past and present who have examined these questions
- have knowledge of the fundamental questions of jurisprudence and of how these connect to issues of political theory
- understand the distinctive methodologies of the study of legal and political theory.
The taught programme, which can also be taken part-time over two years, is organised around four core modules that run through the first two terms and provide the foundations of the study of legal and political theory. In addition, students take option modules in subjects of their choosing. In the third term and over the summer, students write a dissertation.

Each student is allocated a personal advisor who will help you to tailor the programme to suit your individual interests. Teaching is done through small groups led by members of the academic staff.

**STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME**

LLM Legal and Political Theory is taught over one year (or two years if taken part time). The LLM is made up of 180 credits; 120 are studied through a mix of compulsory and optional taught modules. The remaining 60 credits are obtained through undertaking a 12,000 word dissertation. For example, a student may follow a course structured in the following way:

- **Autumn Term**: 50 credits (Legal Systems: Sources and Operation (10 credits); Foundational Issues in Legal Theory (20 credits) and Advanced Topics in Political Philosophy (20 credits).
- **Spring Term**: 60 credits (Advanced Issues in Legal Theory; and two 20 credit option modules).
- **Summer Term/Summer**: 70 credits (Research Skills and Methods, Dissertation).

**CORE MODULES**

**Legal Systems: Sources and Operation (10 credits)**
This module introduces you to the study of Law at Masters level by considering the variety of sources of Law and how those sources operate. It will focus on the differences between common law systems and those based upon codified civil law.

**Research Skills for Dissertation Writing (10 credits)**
This module is designed to prepare students for their dissertation. It will introduce students to a variety of research methodologies and key research skills. At the end of the module, students will prepare a 'research proposal' for their dissertation.

"I chose the LLM Legal and Political Theory because of its unique interdisciplinary approach that allows you to consider complex problems within different contexts and to study the relationships between them. There is a huge amount of flexibility to your own interests with modules on offer from the Law, Politics and Philosophy departments. My favourite thing about the Law School is the friendly atmosphere; you can often find staff in the problem-based learning area engaging directly with students.”

Hugh, LLM, Legal and Political Theory
Foundational Issues in Legal Theory (20 credits)
Introduces the fundamental issues and theories of jurisprudence. The module addresses the questions of what law is and of its relation to morality. At its heart, is law a coercive enterprise or is it rather a system of norms? With what range of activities ought the law to be concerned? And, for those activities that are rightly regulated by law, how ought this to be done? The module considers these, and other, questions through a critical examination of historical and contemporary writers including HLA Hart, Lon Fuller, and Ronald Dworkin.

Advanced Topics in Political Philosophy (20 credits)
This module will examine a range of core conceptual, normative, and methodological issues relating to philosophical approaches to thinking about politics. Readings will be drawn from a mixture of contemporary and historical authors. The module aims to develop academic skills in the reading of texts in political philosophy and the relating of those texts to real world political problems.

Advanced Issues in Legal Theory (20 credits)
Considers advanced questions in legal theory with reference to broader underlying philosophical and political issues often through the consideration of meaningful examples. Indicative topics include: the authority of law (why, if at all, the law binds us; whether unjust laws can bind us; and whether there is a legitimate role for disobedience to law); feminist and critical legal studies; violence and the State. The module aims to develop advanced academic skills in the reading of legal and philosophical texts and the relating of those texts to moral and political problems. As a result, the module aims to develop in students advanced analytical skills of problem identifying and solving.

Dissertation (Summer Term and Summer, 60 credits)
Students will write a 12,000 word dissertation on a topic of their choice, incorporating a legal dimension, under the supervision of a faculty member. Students will be supported in the preparation of the dissertation proposal by specialist research training. Students have a wide flexibility in choosing their topic and they are encouraged to make the most of the broad range of expertise made available by the collaborative nature of the programme.

OPTION MODULES
Students choose two options from a range including modules in law and legal theory, politics and political philosophy, and philosophy. The precise range of modules on offer varies from year to year, but an indicative list is:
- Issues in Philosophy of Criminal Law
- Ending Life
- Critical Theories of International Political Economy
- Property, Privacy, and Consent
- Global Crime and Justice.

Assessment
The modules are mainly assessed through an essay completed over the course of the vacation following the term in which the module was taken.

Award
LLM Legal and Political Theory.

Eligibility
LLM applicants should have at least a 2:1 degree in law or a related social science and proficiency in English.
LLM Law

LLM Law enables you to develop a personal programme of study and further your interests in areas of law from across our LLM courses.

Your course will be underpinned by two core modules: Legal Systems: Sources and Operation (10 credits) and Research Skills for Dissertation Writing (10 credits). You will add your choice of modules from our LLM International Corporate and Commercial Law, LLM Legal and Political Theory, LLM International Human Rights Law and Practice and LLM Art Law. You will complete the programme with a supervised dissertation on a topic inspired by one or more of your chosen modules. Overall, you can tailor your own programme of study to prepare yourself for further academic study or for a range of legal careers including progression to the next stage of professional qualification, or for a wide range of other employment opportunities. At the same time, you can enjoy the benefits of world-class research-led teaching, problem-based learning, and learning law in context.

"The staff are the best part of studying at the University of York. Their expertise and style elegantly guided me through each subject area, which ultimately led me to achieve a Distinction for my work. The student body is actively invited to work alongside staff for the betterment of the students, courses and university as a whole. I would highly recommend studying at York to any prospective student or academic.”

Kristian, LLM Law
LLM Art Law

Art Law is an exciting and fast-developing area of commercial, legal and academic research significance and the LLM Art Law will provide you with opportunities to develop valuable skills used by those working in the art world, whether in such diverse areas as private client legal practice, fine art insurance, the not-for-profit sector, galleries, museums or cultural heritage.

The LLM Art Law is a unique collaborative and cross-disciplinary course which will provide you with a deep understanding of the complex legal, artistic, social and ethical problems raised by the global trade in art, which was estimated at over $45 billion in 2017 (TEFAF Art Market Report 2017). Art law is broadly conceived and the main focus of the course will be on the legal treatment of fine art and cultural heritage, although there will be opportunities to consider some of the problems surrounding definitions of ‘art’ which may be culturally, socially and historically contingent.

The LLM Art Law at the University of York is co-taught by academic specialists from both the research-active Department of History of Art and York Law School and aims to provide:

- a unique integrated and cross-disciplinary learning environment in which to explore legal, practical, commercial, ethical and financial issues arising in the art world
- a variety of postgraduate teaching methods including ‘Problem Based Learning’ ('PBL') which will provide you with opportunities to work collaboratively in a student ‘law firm’ and individually, on a variety of real-life simulations
- a broad range of legal skills including: research; document and case analysis; problem solving; negotiation and mediation and advocacy.

Additionally, you will have opportunities to develop your presentation and oral skills in debates and reading group sessions. You will undertake a specific History of Art module (chosen from a range of options) to gain subject-specific knowledge and exposure to this discipline, as well as interdisciplinary insights.
STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

The LLM Art Law is a taught course of one year. It runs from October to the following September. On the LLM you will study 180 credits. 100 credits are studied through a mix of core and option taught modules, with the remaining 80 credits being obtained by completing a 15,000 word dissertation on an art law topic of your choice. All students are required to take part in a field trip (if the situation allows), which is an important element of the degree programme and which will develop your appreciation of the realities of working in this field. Field trips are currently funded by the Law School.

CORE MODULES

Legal Systems: Sources and Operation (10 credits)
This module introduces you to the study of Law at Masters level by considering the variety of sources of Law and how those sources operate. It will focus on the differences between common law systems and those based upon codified civil law.

Research Skills for Dissertation Writing (10 credits)
This module is designed to prepare students for their dissertation. It will introduce students to a variety of research methodologies and key research skills. At the end of the module, students will prepare a 'research proposal' for their dissertation.

Additionally, all students will undertake four further compulsory modules (although there is an element of choice in relation to one of the modules – see below):

Art: A Problematic Life Cycle (20 credits)
A wide variety of legal issues arise during the ‘life cycle’ of art and this module considers the key pressure points at which problems arise and their nature. For example, the creation of art work can lead to problems relating to artists’ creative rights under copyright and moral rights, commissioning art, and censorship. The sale of art can raise contractual issues relating
to auction house terms of business, consignment contracts and droit de suite rights. The destruction and deaccessioning of art can cause problems with moral rights and can have significant personal property implications.

**Art: Commodity or Valuable (20 credits)**
There is an inherent tension between art as a financial asset or commodity to be bought and sold, and art as a cultural good often viewed as ‘other’. This module focuses on areas of difficulty raised by the complex nature of art, such as tax regimes and restrictions on the import and export of art, the management and protection of art using trusts and charities law, and ethical conflicts raised by art including the work of the Spoliation Advisory Panel.

**Law and Art: Parallel Perspectives (20 credits)**
This module benefits from being explicitly co-taught by academics from both the Department of History of Art and York Law School, with joint sessions considering the disciplinary interactions and complexities inherent in art law. The module considers issues such as defining ‘art’, artistic processes and ideas such as copies, reproductions and originality, the multiple roles played by participants in the art world including museums and non-commercial galleries as well as auction houses.

**Dissertation (Summer Term and Summer, 80 credits)**
Students will write a 15,000 word dissertation on an art law topic of their choice and under the supervision of a faculty member. Students will be supported in the preparation of the dissertation proposal during the ‘Research Skills and Methods’ module. Students have wide flexibility in choosing their topic, depending on their art law interests, and are encouraged to make the most of the interdisciplinary nature of the programme.

**OPTION MODULES**
All students will undertake a module drawn from those on offer by the Department of History of Art’s MA modules. Individual students will be able to choose from the MA modules on offer in any given year. For example, indicative provisional modules for 2021 include a wide variety of topics including:
- Painting on Light: Stained Glass in the Medieval Tradition
- Ceramic Arts of the Islamic World
- Art, Mass Media and Communication
- Fashion: Theories, Materials and Images (1540-1940)
- Mapping the World, 1100-1300
- Bauhaus Worlds

**Award**
LLM Art Law.

**Eligibility**
LLM applicants should have at least a 2:1 degree (or equivalent) in Law, History of Art or a related social science and proficiency in English.
LLM Law (Juris Doctor)

York Law School's LLM Law (Juris Doctor) is a graduate-entry 3-year law degree taught by experienced legal professionals and world-class academics that is setting the benchmark for professional legal education in the UK. Subject to any local requirements, completing this course could be a stepping stone to sitting Bar exams in jurisdictions as diverse as the USA, Australia and Hong Kong.

COURSE STRUCTURE

English law is, with US law, one of the two main governing systems of law for international commercial activity. This course will attune you to applying it in a range of cross-jurisdictional and international contexts. It has been developed to provide you with the legal knowledge, skills and commercial awareness needed to enter the corporate commercial legal sector around the world; and it reflects the reality of practice by adopting an integrated approach to learning about legal practice by exposing you to realistic scenarios involving a multiplicity of client issues.

Years 1 and 2

In Years 1 and 2, you will study the core Foundation subjects needed to gain a Qualifying Law Degree recognised by the Bar Standards Board and the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

In addition, you will develop your understanding of a number of overarching concepts such as responsibility, risk, rights and accountability; you will explore the professionalism and ethics which underpin a lawyer’s work; and you will develop professional skills such as oral and written legal communication, negotiation and advocacy.

1The Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board are making changes to their systems of qualification in England and Wales. These may affect the status of ‘Qualifying Law Degrees’ for all Law Schools.

CORE MODULES

- Foundations in Law I-IV
  - Criminal Law
  - European Law
  - Obligations (Contract, Tort and Restitution).
  - Property Law (Land Law and Equity)
  - Public Law (Constitutional and Administrative Law)
- Professionalism and Ethics
- Legal Skills
- Legal Concepts
- Advanced Legal Skills
- Optional Modules
  - Choose 2 in Year 2 e.g. Competition Law, Law Clinic, Business of Trusts
Year 3
Year 3 sees you putting together your core understanding of the law gained through PBL, your developing legal skills, and your awareness of professional and ethical issues, in a unique, final-year, professionally-focused programme. As part of a compact student law firm of 4-6 colleagues, you will act for a variety of business clients on a range of corporate and commercially focused transactions. Through this simulation of practice, you will develop your legal and transactional knowledge and skills, as well as gaining a deep insight into what it means to be a practising lawyer in a commercial law firm.

Over the course of the year, you will produce a wide range of outputs including client-focused pieces of advice, relevant legal documentation, and formal and informal presentations. These will be collated in a portfolio of work, which will form the core evidence base for assessment of the programme, together with a major independent learning project.

Professional standards – in terms of attendance, working hours, collaboration and quality of work – will be expected throughout. There will also be a strong emphasis on personal development, teamwork and reflection.

Core Modules
- Professional Legal Skills
- Legal Services, Professionalism & Commercial Awareness
- Commercial Law and Practice
- Business Organisations
- Real Estate
- Dispute Resolution
- Professional Writing

Masterclasses
Throughout Year 3, there will be a series of masterclasses by leading legal practitioners, business owners and leaders, and representatives of voluntary organizations. These will explore contemporary debates like the reality of modern legal practice including business strategy, the role of technology and what it means to be a legal professional in the 21st century.

Assessment
The programme utilizes a variety of assessment methods to enable students to demonstrate the full range of their abilities. Depending on the module, these can include written coursework, portfolios, reflective analyses, problems, traditional exams and group vivas. In the final year, students, complete an extended professional writing project (7,500 words), developing a piece of “know-how” in a chosen practice area, with potential application to professional practice.

Award
LLM Law (Juris Doctor).

Eligibility
Applicants will normally be expected to have an undergraduate degree in any subject with honours (2:1 or equivalent). Candidates with lower grades, but substantial relevant work experience, should contact the department to discuss their options.
Research degrees

Research degrees leading to the award of PhD or MPhil are offered within the Law School in any area of staff research interest (see page 24). We also offer a one year research degree (MA Law by research) in any area of staff research interest. If you are interested in pursuing an interdisciplinary research project, we have very good links with other departments and research centres in the University, the Departments of Philosophy and Politics and the Centre for Applied Human Rights.

Postgraduate researchers meet regularly with their supervisors, and progress is assessed regularly through a Thesis Advisory Panel. Researchers are further supported by a training programme. Interactive research training seminars are supplemented by training days delivered in collaboration with the Universities of Sheffield and Leeds as part of the Economic and Social Research Council-funded White Rose Doctoral Training Centre. Training explores a wide range of styles of legal research including doctrinal, socio-legal, theoretical, comparative and empirical (including fieldwork and quantitative methods). Training also provides support with elements of the research project including research questions, literature reviews, critical and constructive approaches to reading and writing, presenting research and the development of research plans. In addition, a full range of transferable skills training is available through the Research Development Team. Research students are encouraged to be active participants in the Law School’s Super-relaxed Seminar Series.

Successful applicants will normally have a good undergraduate degree in Law or in a discipline related to the research area in which they intend to work. We would normally expect them to have obtained an average of at least 65% overall and a minimum of 65% in their undergraduate dissertation. In addition, MPhil and PhD applicants should have a Masters degree in Law or another discipline relevant to the research topic. We would normally expect them to have obtained an average of at least 65% in the Masters degree overall and a minimum of 65% in the dissertation module.
Law research areas

York Law School’s research covers a diverse and exciting range of subject areas. These areas have been developed in socio-legal, law and context approaches as well as doctrinal and practice-based approaches. Staff welcome collaborative projects and PhD candidates in a range of research areas.

All staff and postgraduate research students are located in at least one research cluster. Staff encourage applications from prospective postgraduate research students on topics within the interests of the clusters. For further information please see our cluster pages: york.ac.uk/law/research
How to apply

Applications are welcomed from both home and overseas students.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Ideally you will possess a good first degree (typically a 2:1 or equivalent) and preferably this will be in Law or a law-related subject.

For PhD or MPhil applicants, you will normally possess a relevant good first degree (typically a 2:1 or equivalent) and a relevant Masters degree, having obtained at least 65% in the Masters degree overall and a minimum of 65% in the dissertation module.

For MA (Research) applicants, you will normally possess a relevant good first degree (typically a 2:1 or equivalent).

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

IELTS 7.0 with no less than 7.0 in writing and no less than 6.5 in other components.

FEES AND FUNDING

Please check the website for up to date information: york.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees-funding

APPLICATION FORM

The online application process is available on the Postgraduate How to Apply page at york.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses see courses listed under the Law School.

Contacts and further information

We understand what a big decision it is to choose a university and a law school to attend. We are a friendly, approachable team and are always happy to answer your questions. Please feel free to get in touch with us to discuss any aspect of York Law School and the courses we offer.

For all postgraduate admissions enquiries, please contact us at: law-pg-admissions@york.ac.uk (Postgraduate Taught Admissions) +44 (0)1904 325737 (Postgraduate Research Admissions) +44 (0)1904 325818

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