WELCOME TO YORK LAW SCHOOL
WELCOME TO YORK LAW SCHOOL

I am delighted to introduce you to York Law School (YLS) where studying law will engage you in a dynamic learning experience and provide you with a high quality, well regarded degree.

Our undergraduate programmes offer an innovative approach to the academic study of law, providing highly-integrated courses designed to teach the range of skills needed to pursue a career in the legal profession and elsewhere. These encompass 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.

Our approach is distinctive – we are the only law school in the UK to base our undergraduate degrees on problem-based learning – and you will need to have a real willingness to participate in collaborative study and be prepared to contribute to the activity of the school. But I believe you will find this a very rewarding experience: through it you will develop exceptionally appropriate knowledge and skills for the world of law, and to equip you to make your mark in a broad range of professions.

This prospectus provides information on our degrees and our teaching methods and I hope it inspires you to apply for a place at our stimulating Law School.

I look forward to welcoming you to our vibrant community.

Professor Caroline Hunter
Head of School

A TOP TEN LAW SCHOOL
Guardian and Times League Table 2018
JOINING THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK

As a student of the University of York you will be part of an institution with a distinguished reputation for scholarship and learning.

A TOP UNIVERSITY

Since 1963 the University of York has powered its way to a consistently high ranking and after over 50 years of outstanding academic achievement, we are firmly established as one of the success stories in UK higher education. A member of the prestigious Russell Group; our first half century of success is built on an ethos of equal opportunity and advancement for all, anchored by the highest standards of academic excellence.

A GREAT LOCATION

The University is located just a short distance from the historic city of York, in beautiful parkland, and offers all the advantages of a modern campus-based university. We have recently invested in a stunning campus development at Heslington East where York Law School is based, sharing an exceptional, purpose-built environment with the Management School.

A DIVERSE STUDENT BODY

Around 18,000 students study here, spread between sciences, social sciences and the arts, and the strong sense of community we have owes much to the collegiate structure. We’re known for our friendliness, excellent employability scores, low drop-out rates and our positive approach to access for all.
The latest Research Excellence Framework (REF) ranked us the joint 5th best Law School for research excellence.
York Law School provides an innovative programme relevant to modern society
STUDYING LAW AT YORK

Studying law at York offers a dynamic learning experience.

Join a vibrant community
As a student at York Law School you will join a vibrant community. You will find it a very friendly environment with highly approachable, expert tutors, committed to providing you with a high quality learning experience. We welcome our students’ active participation in the school and aim to make you feel part of a community, rather than just passing through.

Enjoy an innovative programme
York Law School offers innovative and distinctive programmes of studies relevant to today’s society. We use a practical mix of modern teaching and learning experiences which integrate rigorous academic, applied, practical and inter-disciplinary perspectives, ensuring you develop a deep understanding of law in all its contexts.

Choose a successful future
To become a rounded lawyer it is important to build skills of analysis, reasoning and judgement. Our problem-based learning approach will help you to develop and hone these skills as you apply them to topical questions with ethical, political and social dimensions. You will also gain communication and project management skills which will help to develop your effectiveness in the world of work.

OUR DISTINCTIVE APPROACH
Your degree at York Law School will encompass:

- **Contextual learning:**
  using simulated legal problems that cross traditional subject boundaries to build deep understanding and equip you to work with the law in an applied context.

- **Contemporaneity:**
  focusing on legal issues of contemporary relevance, through research-led courses designed and taught by experienced academics in conjunction with leading practitioners.

- **Integration with other disciplines:**
  developing understanding of the social and cultural environment in which laws operate through interdisciplinary teaching teams in law related subjects leading to a broader and deeper knowledge of legal issues.

- **Balance:**
  blending practical, theoretical and skills-based learning that strengthens professional and academic abilities.
Choice and collaboration

Our distinctive approach organises the range of subjects law degrees cover into three streams: the Foundation Stream, the Law and Society Stream and the Clinical Stream. They have been designed to provide flexibility and allow you to choose a pathway through the programme that reflects your individual interests and career preferences.

Problem-based learning is used extensively in delivering these learning streams. This may be a new approach to you and you can find out more about it in this prospectus. It will engage you in collaborative study which is a highly effective way to learn and will develop key skills that you will need for a successful future.

LEARNING AND TEACHING SUPPORT

An exceptional learning environment

York Law School provides an inspirational place to study. It is based on the newly created Heslington East area of campus where the University has invested £750m to create a state-of-the-art, integrated learning environment.

A purpose-built law school

A new, purpose-built building houses our departmental and research offices together with knowledge transfer facilities and provides very high quality facilities to support your learning. There is a large suite of syndicate rooms – designed specifically for our student law firms’ problem-based learning – linked by a dynamic, open plan communal learning area. Lecture and seminar spaces, including a Harvard style lecture theatre, and a coffee bar are also within the building.

Extensive electronic resources

We have invested extensively in both IT and library facilities and have many electronic databases of primary legal resources including legislation, case law and related material. When you join the Law School we will introduce you to the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which provides a wide range of computer-based support for your studies. We also hold a wide range of journal and academic titles and you’ll find an extensive collection of law related materials in the library.
OUR PROGRAMMES

We offer two- and three-year programmes leading to the award of the degree of LLB (Hons)

**M100 LLB – 3 Year programme**

**M101 LLB (Senior Status) – 2 Year programme**

Our two-year Senior Status degree is an accelerated version of the three-year programme, open to those who have completed a first undergraduate degree. It provides graduates of other disciplines with an opportunity to study for an LLB over two years.

Unless otherwise stated, the information in this Prospectus is common to both programmes.

STUDY ABROAD

The Law School has opportunities for studying abroad as part of the degree. These opportunities are currently in Singapore and Hong Kong (partner institutions in both locations teach in English).

There is no separate application for the Law with a year abroad at the UCAS stage. Applications are taken during Year 2 to transfer on to the programme.
YOUR CAREER

A characteristic of graduates from YLS is the diverse career paths they take. Many pursue careers as solicitors or barristers (undertaking the LPC or BPTC) while others embark on academic postgraduate study.

Underpinning for professional qualification

Our programmes have been designed to develop knowledge and skills to support your entry into the legal profession, whether as solicitor, barrister, or other routes.

Qualifying as a solicitor

If you plan to qualify as a solicitor, we have agreements with a number of providers which guarantee places on the Legal Practice Course to students who achieve a 2:2 or higher degree class.

Pursuing an academic path

We offer a number of postgraduate study opportunities including:

- LLM in International Corporate and Commercial Law,
- LLM in International Human Rights Law, and
- PhD programme.

As an LLB student you can prepare for further study and get a taste of working with academic colleagues through the research internship programme.

SUPPORT FOR SUCCESS

A key consideration for you while studying at YLS is how you want to develop your career. We will support you as much as possible with your decision making and have developed a range of initiatives that can develop your employability and prepare you for the world of work in the legal profession or elsewhere.

Our pioneering Careers and Development Programme

Our Careers and Development Programme, designed and delivered by our full-time Law Employability Tutor, has pioneered collaboration with leading local, national and international firms and key vocational providers. We draw on ‘real world’ lawyers as part of the teaching team and have a number of partnering arrangements with a wide range of legal organisations.

The Programme consists of a series of activities which run alongside the academic component of the LLB. It develops over the years of your study so that you gain the right knowledge and experience at the right time.

The main elements include careers workshops for building professional skills, one to one sessions for personal development, employer events, mentoring schemes, and link days designed to give you real world legal experience in practice environment, such as a solicitors’ office or barristers’ chambers.

For more information see: york.ac.uk/law/current-students/careers

Additional help with careers decision making

As well as the events which make up our Careers and Development Programme, we have a number of activities which can support your career decision making and develop your employability skills. These include:

- Pro bono activities including various aspects of the Law School’s clinic.
- Mooting, commercial awareness and other competitions.
- Careers-related and social events arranged by the Student Law Society which include activities with a range of law firms and barristers’ chambers.
OUR DISTINCTIVE APPROACH IN DETAIL

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING (PBL)
A key feature of our programme is problem-based learning in student law firms. This approach to learning may be new to you and it does require a great deal of interaction and application. It is a modern learning method that ensures you experience and understand law in its social and theoretical contexts, and helps to develop the skills and techniques you will need to work as a professional.

How the student law firms work:
During much of the course, you will be based in student law firms where you decide how your firm will operate and how work should be divided within it. You will build relationships with the other members of your firm and work in a team to tackle problems in a realistic way.

How you will learn:
Through the student firms you will learn to identify the legal principles involved in problems, the known facts, and the facts that need to be ascertained, and through this process unravel the legal and contextual issues that lie at the heart of the problem, which will typically involve more than one area of law. In many situations you will have to interact with other firms, sometimes working alongside them, sometimes working in opposition.

Each firm is guided through the process by tutor-facilitators who will help and support you, and illuminate particular points and issues. You will also consider and reflect on deeper social and theoretical issues, such as questions of justice, fairness and human rights that arise in real life situations through firm meetings, larger group sessions, and individual study.

Preparing you for your future career
All of this learning activity will be under-pinned by the development of robust academic and legal skills which will enhance your employability for a range of professions.

OUR THREE LEARNING STREAMS
We deliver our integrated approach through three learning streams:

- The Foundation Stream,
- The Law and Society Stream and
- The Clinical Stream.

These streams reflect:

- The core legal subjects and concepts.
- The inter-disciplinary nature of law related subjects.
- Advanced clinical subjects which incorporate higher level skills in a practical and applied context.

Selecting options from the streams
The streams are designed to fit closely together and form an integrated whole. They allow you to choose a pathway through our programmes that reflects your own interests.

If you are thinking of practising law you may wish to select modules mainly from the Clinical Stream, or if your interests lie in academic / interdisciplinary perspectives on law you might choose modules from the Law and Society Stream.

The streams allow you to:

- Take a range of subjects solely from the Law and Society Stream and so focus your degree with a liberal arts orientation.
- Take a range of subjects solely from the Clinical Stream and gain a degree with a strong focus on skills in an applied and professional context.
- Combine subjects from the two streams and gain a law degree with a focus on a small number of subjects with a contextual understanding of theoretical and social issues and an ability to apply that within the vocational world.

Option choices are made during your studies, so that you do not have to select your preferences until the appropriate stage.
The Foundation Stream

This stream comprises compulsory modules covering core legal knowledge and concepts in an integrated way. The foundation subjects are entirely taught through problem-based learning, combining certain skills which are introduced in the Clinical Stream. The Foundation Stream will provide you with an understanding of the traditional core subjects integrated with a number of key legal skills and a range of critical and socio-legal perspectives on the law.

Subjects covered across the Foundation Stream:
- Criminal Law
- Property Law (Including Land Law and Equity and Trusts)
- Private Law of Obligations (Contract, Tort, Restitution and Remedies)
- European Law
- Public Law (including Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights)

Law and Society Stream

The Law and Society stream is made up of mainly optional modules which focus on law in its social, cultural and theoretical contexts. It builds upon the substantive knowledge and skills acquired during the Foundation Stream in order to develop a deeper, critical understanding of the relevant rules and principles of law in certain areas.

You will be taught by specialists who are actively involved in research in a particular area from across the Law School and from other departments at the University, such as Social Policy, Politics, and Sociology.

Subjects covered in the Law and Society Stream may include:
- Introduction to Law and Society (compulsory in 3 Year Programme)
- Professionalism and Ethics (compulsory in 2 and 3 Year Programmes)
- Human Rights: Law Power and Global Challenges
- Philosophy of Law
- Key Themes in Criminal Justice
- Crime and Punishment
- Environmental Law
- History of Law
- Health Care Law
- Mental Health and Mental Capacity Law

Our unique Careers Programme will prepare you for a successful future
Clinical Stream

The Clinical Stream concentrates on the accumulation of more specialised legal knowledge and the application of law and legal skills within a practical and applied context. It involves realistic, complex and multi-faceted problems and will introduce you to specialised areas of technical legal knowledge including the processes adopted and the skills needed for professional work.

The stream’s strong clinical legal education element involves a range of teaching and learning methods but essentially you will learn ‘by doing’ through the tool of a student law firm, focusing on how the law works in the ‘real world’ through real or simulated (but realistic) cases.

The subjects offered in the Clinical Stream reflect the idea of multi-faceted problems within broad practice areas and may include:

- Legal Skills (compulsory in 2 and 3 Year Programmes)
- Advanced Legal Skills (compulsory in 2 and 3 Year Programmes)
- Law, Commerce and Finance
- Intellectual Property Law and Practice
- Law Clinic

Students in second and third years of our programmes have the possibility of taking options at the Law Clinic within the Clinical Stream.

THE LAW CLINIC MODULE

What is the role of the Clinic in my legal education?

The Clinic is a vehicle for the study of law through the application of theory to practice. Although it is designed to provide a valuable service to the community, its primary objective is educational. Through ‘doing law’ and reflecting on that ‘doing’ you will thoroughly research the law in key practice areas.

The Clinic provides a mechanism where you can see how real cases progress and develop the skills that are relevant to your legal studies. It will enable you to critically evaluate the professional, ethical and contextual issues involved in the workings of the law and the justice system.

How will I learn from the experience?

There are three principal ways in which you should learn from this clinical experience:

- Working with real clients who have real legal problems or issues.
- Discussion with student colleagues, YLS staff and legal practitioners at your follow-up meetings.
- Evaluating your experiences – through discussions and in compiling your coursework.

What skills will I use?

- Interviewing
- Factual analysis
- Legal research
- Formulating case theory
- Legal drafting, especially letter-writing
- Negotiation
- Advocacy
- Problem-solving
- Case management
York Law School uses two main forms of assessment, formative and summative.

Formative assessment provides ongoing feedback about your performance both within firm sessions and as a result of your private study.

Summative assessment is comprised of formal examinations and skills-based tasks you will cover through coursework.

Although formal examinations are used extensively in the Foundation Stream, these examinations have been specially designed to reflect the PBL learning process.

In addition, many modules may assess student performance using coursework in various forms. These may include essay-style tasks or reflective tasks, such as “Learning Portfolios” an important element of which is a narrative journal/diary that captures your reflections on the activities undertaken and what you have learned from these.
HOW TO APPLY

Please check york.ac.uk/law/applying for the latest information on admissions – it may save you a phonecall. We try to update information on admissions regularly.

STUDENT INTAKE
York Law School has approximately 220 places for entry in September 2019.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
We strongly welcome international students and have a diverse range of international students who study on the programme.

WIDENING ACCESS
We are committed to widening access to higher education. The YLS selection process selects applicants on the basis of their potential and suitability for the course but takes account of evidence of educational, social, health or other personal disadvantage.

TRANSFER APPLICANTS
We do not normally accept transfer students from other Law Schools or other programmes unless the application is to join our first year. This is because of the highly integrated nature of the modules in all years of our programmes.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY
All applications are given full consideration irrespective of the applicant’s age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marital or parental status, religion, social class, nationality, ethnic origin or area of UK residence.

DEFERRED ENTRY
YLS is happy to consider applications for deferred entry. Applications may be made either during the A level year (for deferred entry) or during a gap year. Like all other applicants, gap year applicants must be able to take an interview on one of the prearranged dates which will usually fall between December and March. These can be arranged by Skype where appropriate.

PRE-APPLICATION EXPERIENCE
There is no prescribed pre-application experience, though some understanding of the different types of legal work may be helpful.

THREE YEAR LLB ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS
The following provides a guide to our typical entry requirements:

A Level
Typical offer is AAA/A*AB/A*A*C at A Level. We do not prefer any specific subject choices at A Level, and include all subjects in our standard offer

Scottish Highers/Advanced Highers
AAAA at Higher Level and AA at Advanced Higher Level

Irish Leaving Certificate
H2, H2, H2, H2, H2, H3

International Baccalaureate
36 Points

Other European or Overseas qualifications
Information about the marks or grades normally required in school leaving examinations from other countries can be requested from the admissions office.

TWO YEAR LLB ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR STATUS

2.1 degree or international equivalent

See york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/entry
OUR SELECTION PROCEDURES

Our selection procedure is structured to identify students who have the right skills and outlook to benefit from and engage critically with the distinctive blend of different teaching and learning styles at York Law School. Selection is a two-stage process, involving scrutiny of all UCAS forms, followed by interviews with short-listed applicants.

INTERVIEW

The interview is a formal, structured process, which explores and assesses your attributes and competencies. The questions are structured to give us a better idea of you as a person, and to try to assess your attitudes, creativity and personality. The aim of the interview is to identify students who are best suited to, and likeliest to thrive in, a problem-based learning environment.

Decisions following the interview are made based on the following criteria:

- Evidence of an understanding of problem-based learning
- Written and oral communication skills.
- Evidence of conscientiousness, self-motivation and responsibility, and an appropriate level of self-awareness and maturity.
- An aptitude for rigorous, independent thought, and clarity of reasoning.
- An aptitude for group-work and reflective learning.
- Academic ability, judged by prior or predicted academic performance.
- Evidence of comfort with non-directional teaching and active learning.

More information about the interview is available on our website york.ac.uk/law/applying
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The University of York is situated just a short distance from the historic city of York. Choosing to study here will bring you into a modern, vibrant university community based in a renowned location which together can provide a really stimulating student experience.

Your international perspective will be an asset here

Studying law at York is dynamic process and a good mix of students greatly enhances this. We really value the contribution students from across the globe can make to our community and the different perspectives they can bring. As much of the teaching and learning on our programme is via our student law firms, international students can help this approach to more closely replicate team-working in a globalised and multicultural context.

We have a friendly, supportive community

Studying abroad is a big step, so we understand the importance of settling in and feeling welcomed. We have a relatively small cohort of students so you will quickly feel part of our vibrant community. You will also get to know your colleagues and tutors very quickly through our distinctive learning approach where you will be part of a small student law firm learning collaboratively with others.

What you need to apply

Competition for places is strong. You must have a good command of the English language (minimum IELTS 6.5 overall, with at least 6.0 in each component for the 3 Year LLB and 7.0 overall, with at least 7.0 for Writing and 6.5 for Speaking, Listening and Reading for the 2 Year LLB) and meet the relevant academic criteria. If you are invited for an interview, this will normally take place by Skype at a mutually convenient time.

Come and visit us

You are welcome to visit the Law School at any time with prior arrangement with the Law School Administrator. We are based on a stunning campus and exploring this learning environment could help you make your decision to apply.

Who is an international student?

This depends upon your residential category. If you are from outside the European Union and not a British citizen you will be defined as ‘Overseas’ by fee status. As part of our admission process we will review your self-selected Residential Category status on your application and contact you if we require further clarification.

MATURE STUDENTS

We welcome mature applicants to the Law School where your skills and experience can make a significant contribution to our community. Problem-based learning is well suited to mature students, as drawing on life and work experiences enhances learning, and our experience has been that mature students find they can contribute significantly and greatly enjoy and benefit from our approach.

Each application is considered individually and on its own merit. Please feel free to contact us informally to discuss your application and we are always happy to answer your questions and provide advice.

APPLICANTS WITH DISABILITIES

We welcome applications from students with disabilities. If you declare any disability or serious medical condition on your UCAS form this will not adversely affect our assessment of your application and it will not be discussed at the selection interview; the declaration ensures that we can seek early advice about any necessary adjustments to the interview process and/or the programme of study, and we will make reasonable adjustments where possible.
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 programme we offer.

Please call the YLS Admissions Office which can help you with routine enquiries or identify which staff member could assist you the most. They can also provide you with further copies of this prospectus if required.

**+44 (0)1904 325802**

Our address is:
York Law School
University of York
Law and Management Building
Freboys Lane
York YO10 5GD
United Kingdom

*law-ug-admissions@york.ac.uk*

**For the University of York Prospectus**

+44 (0)1904 324000

**Admissions and Schools Liaison Office**

University of York
Heslington
York YO10 5DD
United Kingdom

+44 (0)1904 324000
+44 (0)1904 323538 (Fax)

*ug-admissions@york.ac.uk*

---

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY**

**Personal development**

University of York offers courses which are designed to broaden your knowledge and skills.

The York Award comprises a range of courses designed to improve your employability. Languages for All offers you the chance to learn a foreign language whilst studying your main degree.

**Accommodation**

All first year students who register as per University guidelines and within the deadline set are guaranteed accommodation within one of the undergraduate colleges. Many of the rooms have en suite facilities. Colleges have a full range of facilities including cafés, dining rooms and basic kitchens. Most colleges also have a TV room, a bar area, a common room and laundry facilities. There is special accommodation for those with disabilities. As a guide, in 2017/18, a typical week’s rent ranges from approximately £106 to £179 including heating and internet access.

Photographs: John Houlihan, Terence Michael Photography, Mark Woodward