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LLM Criminal Law and Criminal Justice

This programme draws upon Birmingham Law School's long standing research strengths in the areas of criminal law and criminal justice. Criminal Law is concerned with the most potentially invasive assertion of authority by the state: if you fail to comply with the law you will be punished. This programme provides a holistic analysis of the criminal process through an analysis of the law, its philosophical underpinnings and its operation in practice.

Students can study to attain a broad overview of criminal justice processes or specialise in particular aspects as diverse as underpinning theories, policing, health aspects of criminal justice or indeed international aspects of law enforcement co-operation. Many modules have been created and are taught by leading scholars of the particular field and students benefit from close contact with researchers.

For those wishing to gain in-depth understanding of criminal law and criminal justice, this course offers the opportunity for broader or deeply specialised study within an innovative research-led teaching environment which benefits from BLS's longstanding stature in this field and our staff's dedication to ensuring it lives on; also in our LLM graduates.

Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham has been awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)

Course fact file

Type of Course: Taught

Study Options: Full time, part time

Duration: 1 year full-time; 2 years part-time

Start date: September

Contact

The LLM Programme Secretary
Tel: +44 (0)121 414 6290
Email: law-llm@bham.ac.uk (mailto:law-llm@bham.ac.uk)

Birmingham Law School (/schools/law/index.aspx)

Follow us on Twitter (http://twitter.com/bhamlaw)

Details

At Birmingham Law School we research into topics as diverse as the ever widening net of criminalisation and (at least quasi-) criminal justice processes, to money saving tactics and their effect on the very philosophy which underpins our criminal law and justice system, the justice which emerges from it and effects.

These specialisations flow into the modules on this LLM which will allow you to study the five separate objectives used in enforcement of Criminal Law; retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation and restitution taught. All of these are subjects of great debate and controversy across all jurisdictions and students benefit from debating these informed by and in exchange with our broad range of experts.

Why study this course

- **Research-led teaching -** Birmingham Law School are ranked 7th in the UK for world-leading and internationally excellent research: our research profile features particular expertise in criminal justice, human rights, policing and broader law enforcement as well as a rare concentration of specialisation in particular substantive areas – such as counter-terrorism – and relevant international law aspects.
- **Module choice** - One of the widest ranges of LLM modules available in the UK
- **Employability** - Birmingham is one of the top universities in the UK for graduate employment

- **Professional links -** annual law fair, visits to and from leading firms
- **Dedicated facilities** - including the **Harding Law Library (/schools/law/life/harding.aspx)** and Law common room
- **Student experience** - **see what our students have to say (/schools/law/courses/llm/llm-profiles.aspx)** about our degrees

Modules

You follow a modular programme (180 credits in total), which comprises six taught modules (20 credits each) and a dissertation of 15,000 words (60 credits); the latter to be submitted at the end of the year of study. Students following the Criminal Law & Criminal Justice programme study a minimum of four of their six modules from the list below:

- **British Legal Responses to Terrorism (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-british-legal-responses-to-terrorism.aspx)**
- **Criminal Justice: Law Enforcement (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-criminal-justice-law-enforcement.aspx)**
- **The Death Penalty in Law and Practice (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-death-penalty-in-law-and-practice.aspx)**
- **European Criminal Law and Justice (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-european-criminal-law-and-justice.aspx)**
- **Global Crime Problems (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-global-crime-problems.aspx)**
- **Human Rights and Criminal Justice (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-human-rights-and-criminal-justice.aspx)**
- **International and European Legal Responses to Terrorism (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-international-and-european-legal-responses-to-terrorism.aspx)**
- **International Criminal Law and Justice (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-international-criminal-law.aspx)**
- **International Humanitarian Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-international-humanitarian-law.aspx)**
- **Mentally Disordered Offenders (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-mentally-disordered-offenders.aspx)**
- **Restorative Justice (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-restorative-justice.aspx)**
- **Sentencing: Prison Studies (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-sentencing-2-prison-studies.aspx)**
- **Socio-Legal Method (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-socio-legal-method.aspx)**
- **Socio-Legal Theory (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-socio-legal-theory.aspx)**
- **Theory of Criminal Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-theory-of-criminal-law.aspx)**
- **Transnational Criminal Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-transnational-criminal-law.aspx)**
- **Victimisation and Victim Policy (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-victimisation-and-victim-policy.aspx)**

Students can also choose to study up to two of their six modules from those available on the General LLM

- **Agency, Law of (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-law-of-agency.aspx)**
- **Banking Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-banking-law.aspx)**
- **Commercial Conflict of Laws (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-commercial-conflict-of-laws.aspx)**
- **Company Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-company.aspx)**
- **Comparative International Commercial Arbitration (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-comparative-international-commercial-arbitration.aspx)**
- **Criminal Law and Medicine (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-criminal-law-and-medicine.aspx)**
- **Cyberlaw (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-cyberlaw.aspx)**
- **Domestic Sale of Goods, Law of (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-law-of-domestic-sale-of-goods.aspx)**
- **English Law of International Sale of Goods (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-english-law-of-international-sale-of-goods.aspx)**
- **EU Competition Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-eu-competition-law.aspx)**
- **EU Constitutional Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-eu-constitutional-law.aspx)**
- **EU State Aid Law and Policy (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-EU-state-aid-law-policy.aspx)**
- **European Health Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-european-health-law.aspx)**
- **European Human Rights Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-european-human-rights-law.aspx)**
- **EU Security and Defence Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-EU-security-defence-law.aspx)**
- **Financing of International Trade (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-financing-of-international-trade.aspx)**
- **Human Rights and Health Care Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-human-rights-and-health-care-law.aspx)**
- **Intellectual Property Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-intellectual-property-law.aspx)**
- **International and Comparative Oil and Gas Law (upstream) (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-international-and-comparative-oil-and-gas-law-upstream.aspx)**
- **International Human Rights Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-international-human-rights-law.aspx)**
- **International Investment Law and Policy (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-international-investment-law.aspx)**
- **International Trade Law and Policy - Advanced Issues (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-international-trade-law-advanced-issues.aspx)**
- **International Trade Law and Policy - Foundations (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-international-trade-law-foundations.aspx)**
- **Law and Reproduction (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-law-reproduction.aspx)**
- **Law of International Organisations (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-law-of-international-organisations.aspx)**
- **Marine Insurance (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-marine-insurance.aspx)**
- **Maritime Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-maritime-law.aspx)**
- **Oil and Gas Law: Contracting, Decomissioning and Trade (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-oil-and-gas-law-contracting-decomissioning-and-trade.aspx)**
- **Partnership and LLP Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-partnership-and-llp-law.aspx)**
- **Public International Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-public-international-law.aspx)**

- **Public Procurement Law (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-public-procurement-law.aspx)**
- **Trading with the European Union (/schools/law/courses/llm/modules/LLM-trading-with-the-european-union.aspx)**

Students are also allowed to choose one of their six modules from those offered by the Political Science and International Studies department. Students may chose from the following list:

- **Advanced Political Analysis (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/advanced-political-analysis.aspx)**
- **Civil War, Conflict and International Intervention (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/civil-war-conflict-management-peacekeeping.aspx)**
- **Contemporary Issues in Global Ethics (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/contemporary-issues-global-ethics.aspx)**
- **Democracy, Power and Citizenship (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/democracy-power-citizenship.aspx)**
- **Ethical Dimensions of Terrorism, Political Violence and War (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/ethical-dimensions-terrorism-political-violence-war.aspx)**
- **European Security - Concept and Issues (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/european-security.aspx)**
- **Gender and Global Governance (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/gender-global-governance.aspx)**
- **Global Ethics: Theories And Approaches (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/global-ethics-theories-approaches.aspx)**
- **Multiculturalsim and Religious Conflict (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/multiculturalsim-religious-conflict.aspx)**
- **Politics of the Arab Israeli Conflict (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/politics-arab-israeli-conflict.aspx)**
- **Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and International Order (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/post-conflict-peacebuilding-international-order.aspx)**
- **Security Studies (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/security-studies.aspx)**
- **Sex, Death, Gender and (In) Security (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/sex-death-gender-security.aspx)**
- **Terrorism and Contemporary Conflict (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/terrorism-contemporary-conflict.aspx)**
- **Terrorism and Political Violence (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/terrorism-political-violence.aspx)**
- **Theory and Ethics of Terrorism & Political Violence (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/theory-ethics-terrorism-political-violence.aspx)**
- **Totalitarianism And The State (Political Ideas B) (/postgraduate/courses/taught/govsoc/modules/totalitarianism-state.aspx)**

Fees and funding

Fees for 2014 are:

- Home/EU: £5,940 full-time; £2,970 part-time
- Overseas: £13,665 full-time

Learn more about **fees and funding (/postgraduate/pgt-fees/fees.aspx)**

LLM scholarships

For 2014 Birmingham Law School will be offering a range of scholarships to applicants for its taught LLM programmes.

- up to £5,000 for international students (non-EU);
- up to £2,000 for UK/EU students.

Applicants are required to send a letter of motivation to **Law-LLM@bham.ac.uk (mailto:law-llm@bham.ac.uk)** addressing the twin requirements of academic merit and financial need. You must include your University ID number in your letter of motivation.

The closing date for the receipt of Scholarship applications is Friday, 20 June 2014.

Successful applicants will be notified in July 2014. Scholarships are not payable directly to successful applicants but are set off against the University fee invoice for 2014-2015 and will be transferred once successful applicants have paid the balance owed by them to the University.

University scholarships

The University offers a number of country-specific scholarships to postgraduate students commencing a one-year taught Masters degree.

- **Further information (/International/students/finance/scholarships/index.aspx)**
- For general information about other scholarships, email **sfo@contacts.bham.ac.uk (mailto:sfo@contacts.bham.ac.uk)**

International students can also gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government.

Entry requirements

Applicants should have a good Honours degree in law, or a degree in another discipline augmented with a pass in the Common Professional Examination.

International students:

International qualifications which are equivalent to a UK honours degree in Law will be considered. Learn more about **international entry requirements (/postgraduate/requirements-pgt/international/index.aspx)**.

If your first language is not English you must provide an English language qualification. Recognised qualifications include:

- IELTS: 7.0 with no less than 6.5 in any band

How to apply

Learn more about **applying (/postgraduate/courses/apply-pg/index.aspx)**

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the **How to apply pages (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx)**

Apply now (https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/CAL005.htm)

Related links

The Birmingham LLM programmes (/schools/law/courses/llm/index.aspx)

Learning and teaching

Birmingham's LLM programmes have been designed to allow in-depth analysis of important legal topics. Modules are all 20 credits in length, comprising 10 two-hour seminars, to enable students to develop significant expertise which will enhance their career prospects.

Birmingham is able to offer small-group teaching on the LLM and students following popular modules with large numbers of students will receive (where possible) additional teaching time. For these additional hours large classes will be split in to two separate seminar groups in order to provide an equal opportunity for class interaction compared to those in smaller groups.

The LLM programmes last 12 months, running from September to September. All LLM programmes follow the same basic structure.

- In part I of the programmes, you take six 20 credit modules: the range of choice depends on the programme you decide to follow. Assessment in those modules, by essay or formal examination, is in May and June.
- In part II of the programmes, you research and write a 15,000-word dissertation on a selected topic of law under the supervision of a member of staff.

The LLM programmes enable you to develop expertise in a range of subjects. You will acquire a systematic understanding of these along with a critical appreciation of the problems that arise these fields. You will be encouraged to demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge together with a practical understanding of how established research techniques are used to create and interpret knowledge.

Law School induction

At the start of the course there is a two-day induction designed to help you settle in and gain an understanding of the LLM programme.

Students do not register for modules before arrival as we feel it is important that you are able to make an informed choice. As part of the induction process module leaders will give a detailed description of what their subject entails and you will have the option to attend any areas which you are interested in for the first two weeks of the course before having to submit a final decision.

Studying part-time

All the LLM programmes may be taken part-time and completed over a period of two years. This mode of study is particularly suitable for barristers and solicitors who wish to combine professional practice with university-level study, gaining CPD points in the process.

Classes for part-time students on the LLM will be scheduled between 9am-6pm and students will typically have between 2-4 hours of teaching each week. Fees are the same as for full-time study but are split over two years.

International students

International students are invited to participate in an orientation course run by the university's International Office before the start of the academic session. For students from outside the UK, there are also lectures on the British constitution, sources of English law and the working methods of the common law system. The English for International Students Unit provides a range of support in reading and writing academic English.

Employability

The University of Birmingham has been ranked 8th in the UK and 60th in the world, for post-qualification employability in a global survey of universities commissioned by the International Herald Tribune. Historically, over 93% of our law students have been in employment or further study within six months of graduating, with many going on to obtain academic careers in the top law schools in the country.

Links to the Legal Profession

The Law School maintains strong links with the professional world, through our network of alumni and contacts in the barristers' and solicitors' professions. These links allow us to put on a series of law careers events throughout the academic year.

Each autumn, the University hosts the Law Fair, in which we welcome over 50 law firms, including some of the largest law firms in the world, to the University's Great Hall. The attendees represent law firms of all sizes and most areas of practice.

The Law School also organises "Law in Practice" seminars, in which practitioners explain to students how the area of law relevant to a specific module works in practice. These are invaluable opportunities for students to enhance their studies, and enable them to improve their commercial awareness.

In June each year, the Law School hosts "Employability Fortnight", after the end of the examinations period in the summer term. The events which run in this fortnight have included an Applications Process Panel Session, a Midlands Circuit Court Visit followed by an Inner Temple Drinks Reception in the evening, an Alternative Dispute Resolution Workshop by Herbert Smith, and dedicated Careers Advice Drop-in Sessions.

The Careers Network

The Careers Network (https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/index.aspx) organises regular events including presentations by top law firms and the annual Law Fair. It also runs workshops to help students prepare effective applications and to prepare for their next move. Its events on non-law careers, including journalism, marketing and working with charities, can be of interest to law students.

Mooting

The Law School organises a range of mooting opportunities and students have the opportunity to participate (a moot is a mock trial of a legal issue). The Moot Room was refurbished in 2011 and is now a state-of-the-art court room, complete with audio-visual equipment for recording moots. The Law School operates four mooting competitions, and students regularly represent the University at regional and national competitions, with notable success.

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