

Student profile: Frances Gwilliam

[\(/postgraduate/courses/taught/law/criminal-law.aspx\)]((/postgraduate/courses/taught/law/criminal-law.aspx)) Programme: **LLM Criminal Law & Criminal Justice**

[\(/postgraduate/courses/taught/law/criminal-law.aspx\)]((/postgraduate/courses/taught/law/criminal-law.aspx)) Nationality: British



“ The LLM programme is fascinating, challenging and hard work! I completed an undergraduate law degree at Cambridge. I really enjoyed the justice aspects of that degree and wanted to continue my studies, so I chose Birmingham Law School because it offers a specialist LLM in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice.

“ From the first day it was clear I was going to be spending a lot of time in the library! I chose four modules from a broad range and I have a fortnightly seminar in each one. For every seminar, reading is set, often with questions that will be discussed in class. The seminars have been intellectually stimulating and a great opportunity to try out ideas, to debate issues that have arisen from the reading and to be taught by some highly respected academics.

“ The highlight of the first term was undoubtedly a visit to the Criminal Cases Review Commission in Birmingham for a guest lecture. Every student has to write a dissertation as part of their LLM and at the moment I am researching mine. It is exciting to be able to look at one aspect of the course that has particularly grabbed my attention, although it is also a bit daunting. An LLM degree is not like an undergraduate degree: the onus is very much on you to develop ideas, do the reading and then ask questions. However, the academic staff are always keen to help and I have found my teachers and the support staff only too willing to answer queries and assist with my study.

“ Should you study an LLM at Birmingham? Definitely! I will not lie, it is hard work, but I have met some great people, had a lot of fun and have loved having the chance to study in a great city, challenging myself intellectually and focussing on an area of law that I am passionate about.”