

## **THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION LLB HONOURS**

1. Awarding Institution:	Edinburgh University
2. Teaching Institution:	School of Law
3. Programme accredited by:	Law Society of Scotland
4. Final Award:	LL.B.
5. Programme Title:	Bachelor of Laws with Honours
6. UCAS Code:	M114

Relevant QAA Subject Benchmarking Group(s): Law

7. Postholder with overall responsibility for QA: School of Law Director of Quality

8. Date of production/revision: [date to be inserted]

9. Educational aims of programme:

The programme aims to promote advanced knowledge and understanding of the theory, concepts and rules of Law in their socio-economic, institutional, and historical frameworks.

10. Programme outcomes

### **Having completed the programme**

#### **A student should demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of:**

1. the sources and institutions of Scots law in its wider context
2. legal concepts
3. legal philosophy
4. legal rules in a variety of areas
5. legal analysis
6. the socio-economic framework in which legal rules operate

A student should demonstrate the following graduate attributes at the end of each stage of LL.B. studies.

**By the end of Year 1** a student in the LL.B. programme should be able to display the following attributes:

#### **Graduate Attributes: Skill and Abilities in Research and Enquiry**

To demonstrate a basic ability to

1. differentiate between and use appropriately primary and secondary sources of law, and identify, retrieve and use relevant and appropriately up-to-date legal information using paper and electronic sources by using sources that are up-to-date from relevant paper and electronic repositories; using sources that are appropriate to the context; using recognised methods of citation and reference; using sources that are current at the point of assessment; using sources to support arguments and conclusions.
2. apply knowledge and understanding of law to a situation of limited complexity in order to provide argued conclusions to concrete legal problems (actual or hypothetical)
3. identify accurately the issues which require to be researched, and to formulate them clearly.
4. analyse, evaluate, and interpret primary and secondary legal sources relevant to the topic studied.
5. view critically existing legal rules.
6. recognise and rank arguments and evidence in terms of relevance and importance by: managing a volume of legal sources and to select key materials to construct answers to problems; identifying the legal problem from the information provided; addressing problems by reference to relevant material; bringing together and integrating information and material from a

variety of different primary and secondary sources; applying knowledge and analysis of the law creatively to solve legal problems by presenting a range of viable options from a set of facts and law; and presenting, and evaluating, arguments for and against propositions.

7. be aware that arguments require to be supported by evidence, and therefore to produce a synthesis of relevant evidence (eg doctrinal and policy issues) in relation to a topic in order to allow the student to present and make a reasoned choice between alternative solutions.
8. make a critical judgment of the relative and absolute merits of particular arguments and solutions.
9. apply knowledge and analysis in a legal context.

### **Graduate Attributes: Skills and Abilities in Personal and Intellectual Autonomy**

To demonstrate a basic ability, with limited guidance, to:

1. act independently in planning and undertaking tasks in areas of law which he or she is studying or has already studied.
2. be able to undertake independent research in areas of law which he or she has not previously studied starting from legal information sources (both paper-based and electronic) without reference to a reading list.
3. reflect on his or her own learning, and to seek and make use of feedback
4. be able to work collaboratively in groups to test, modify, and strengthen his or her individual views.
5. think critically about law and its place in society.

### **Graduate attributes: Skills and Abilities in Communication**

To demonstrate a basic ability to

1. Understand and use the English language proficiently in relation to legal matters being able systematically to structure academic writing, expressing views and ideas succinctly, pursuing and argument with proper care and attention to academic literature with proper recognition of counter-arguments
2. present knowledge or an argument in a way which is comprehensible to its intended audience, directed to the concerns of that audience (both orally and in writing)
3. read and discuss legal materials which are written in technical and complex language.
4. produce a word-processed essay or other text and to present such work in an appropriate form.
5. use the internet and e-mail, including specifically the ability to exchange documents electronically; and to conduct efficient searches of websites to locate relevant information.
6. where relevant and as the basis for an argument use, present and evaluate information provided in numerical form.
7. Use language proficiently in relation to legal matters and specifically to use appropriate legal terminology in work, and to use recognised methods of citation and reference.
8. communicate information (including discussing technical and complex legal materials), ideas, advice and choices in an effective manner (appropriate to the context, individually or with others) by: giving oral presentations which address a specific issue within a prescribed time frame; listening and questioning effectively; giving and receiving feedback and responding effectively to others; and ensuring that all communications (both oral and in writing) are relevant.
9. communicate in plain English, using legal terminology only where needed.
10. contribute effectively in group work.
11. demonstrate an ability to address the resolution of disputes by various adversarial and non-adversarial skills.

### **Graduate attributes: Personal effectiveness**

To show a basic ability to:

1. work effectively with others in groups, contributing and capitalising on the different experiences, skills, and thinking of each group member.

2. display an informed knowledge and understanding of the social, economic, moral and ethical contexts in which law operates and how law responds to these social, economic, moral and ethical contexts by displaying legal knowledge in association with related policy, underlying social conditions, professional ethical issues and moral issues; and to respond to changes in law that arise from these contexts (for example by being able to remain up to date in considering primary and secondary material).
3. demonstrate an ability to organise and prioritise time and effort effectively in the performance of the student's work.
4. have the confidence to make informed decisions based on their knowledge and understanding and their personal and intellectual autonomy (for example in the answering of problem or essays questions on topics which the student has not previously studied).

### **In second year**

**By the end of Year 2** a student in the LL.B. programme should be able to display the following attributes:

#### **Graduate Attributes: Skill and Abilities in Research and Enquiry**

To demonstrate a developed ability to

1. differentiate between and use appropriately primary and secondary sources of law, and identify, retrieve and use relevant and appropriately up-to-date legal information using paper and electronic sources by using sources that are up-to-date from relevant paper and electronic repositories; using sources that are appropriate to the context; using recognised methods of citation and reference; using sources that are current at the point of assessment; using sources to support arguments and conclusions.
2. apply knowledge and understanding of law to a situation of limited complexity in order to provide argued conclusions to concrete legal problems (actual or hypothetical)
3. identify accurately the issues which require to be researched, and to formulate them clearly.
4. analyse, evaluate, and interpret primary and secondary legal sources relevant to the topic studied.
5. view critically existing legal rules.
6. recognise and rank arguments and evidence in terms of relevance and importance by: managing a volume of legal sources and to select key materials to construct answers to problems; identifying the legal problem from the information provided; addressing problems by reference to relevant material; bringing together and integrating information and material from a variety of different primary and secondary sources; applying knowledge and analysis of the law creatively to solve legal problems by presenting a range of viable options from a set of facts and law; and presenting, and evaluating, arguments for and against propositions.
7. be aware that arguments require to be supported by evidence, and therefore to produce a synthesis of relevant evidence (eg doctrinal and policy issues) in relation to a topic in order to allow the student to present and make a reasoned choice between alternative solutions.
8. make a critical judgment of the relative and absolute merits of particular arguments and solutions.
9. apply knowledge and analysis in a legal context.

#### **Graduate Attributes: Skills and Abilities in Personal and Intellectual Autonomy**

To demonstrate a developed ability, with limited guidance, to:

1. act independently in planning and undertaking tasks in areas of law which he or she is studying or has already studied.
2. be able to undertake independent research in areas of law which he or she has not previously studied starting from legal information sources (both paper-based and electronic) without reference to a reading list.
3. reflect on his or her own learning, and to seek and make use of feedback

4. be able to work collaboratively in groups to test, modify, and strengthen his or her individual views.
5. think critically about law and its place in society.

### **Graduate attributes: Skills and Abilities in Communication**

To demonstrate a developed ability to

1. Understand and use the English language proficiently in relation to legal matters being able systematically to structure academic writing, expressing views and ideas succinctly, pursuing and argument with proper care and attention to academic literature with proper recognition of counter-arguments
2. present knowledge or an argument in a way which is comprehensible to its intended audience, directed to the concerns of that audience (both orally and in writing)
3. read and discuss legal materials which are written in technical and complex language.
4. produce a word-processed essay or other text and to present such work in an appropriate form.
5. use the internet and e-mail, including specifically the ability to exchange documents electronically; and to conduct efficient searches of websites to locate relevant information.
6. where relevant and as the basis for an argument use, present and evaluate information provided in numerical form.
7. Use language proficiently in relation to legal matters and specifically to use appropriate legal terminology in work, and to use recognised methods of citation and reference.
8. communicate information (including discussing technical and complex legal materials), ideas, advice and choices in an effective manner (appropriate to the context, individually or with others) by: giving oral presentations which address a specific issue within a prescribed time frame; listening and questioning effectively; giving and receiving feedback and responding effectively to others; and ensuring that all communications (both oral and in writing) are relevant.
9. communicate in plain English, using legal terminology only where needed.
10. contribute effectively in group work.
11. demonstrate an ability to address the resolution of disputes by various adversarial and non-adversarial skills.

### **Graduate attributes: Personal effectiveness**

To show a developed ability to:

1. work effectively with others in groups, contributing and capitalising on the different experiences, skills, and thinking of each group member.
2. display an informed knowledge and understanding of the social, economic, moral and ethical contexts in which law operates and how law responds to these social, economic, moral and ethical contexts by displaying legal knowledge in association with related policy, underlying social conditions, professional ethical issues and moral issues; and to respond to changes in law that arise from these contexts (for example by being able to remain up to date in considering primary and secondary material).
3. demonstrate an ability to organise and prioritise time and effort effectively in the performance of the student's work.
4. have the confidence to make informed decisions based on their knowledge and understanding and their personal and intellectual autonomy (for example in the answering of problem or essays questions on topics which the student has not previously studied).

**In Years 3 and 4 the LLB (Hons) programme aims to promote advanced knowledge and understanding of the theory, concepts and rules of Law in their socio-economic, institutional, and historical frameworks.**

The programme also aims to reinforce and then to develop further and enhance the graduate attributes developed within Years 1 and 2 of the LLB programme.

**By the end of Year 4** a student in the LL.B. programme should be able to display the following attributes:

**Graduate Attributes: Skill and Abilities in Research and Enquiry**

To demonstrate an advanced ability to

1. differentiate between and use appropriately primary and secondary sources of law, and identify, retrieve and use relevant and appropriately up-to-date legal information using paper and electronic sources by using sources that are up-to-date from relevant paper and electronic repositories; using sources that are appropriate to the context; using recognised methods of citation and reference; using sources that are current at the point of assessment; using sources to support arguments and conclusions.
2. apply knowledge and understanding of law to a situation of limited complexity in order to provide argued conclusions to concrete legal problems (actual or hypothetical)
3. identify accurately the issues which require to be researched, and to formulate them clearly.
4. analyse, evaluate, and interpret primary and secondary legal sources relevant to the topic studied.
5. view critically existing legal rules.
6. recognise and rank arguments and evidence in terms of relevance and importance by: managing a volume of legal sources and to select key materials to construct answers to problems; identifying the legal problem from the information provided; addressing problems by reference to relevant material; bringing together and integrating information and material from a variety of different primary and secondary sources; applying knowledge and analysis of the law creatively to solve legal problems by presenting a range of viable options from a set of facts and law; and presenting, and evaluating, arguments for and against propositions.
7. be aware that arguments require to be supported by evidence, and therefore to produce a synthesis of relevant evidence (eg doctrinal and policy issues) in relation to a topic in order to allow the student to present and make a reasoned choice between alternative solutions.
8. make a critical judgment of the relative and absolute merits of particular arguments and solutions.
9. apply knowledge and analysis in a legal context.

**Graduate Attributes: Skills and Abilities in Personal and Intellectual Autonomy**

To demonstrate an advanced ability, with limited guidance, to:

1. act independently in planning and undertaking tasks in areas of law which he or she is studying or has already studied.
2. be able to undertake independent research in areas of law which he or she has not previously studied starting from legal information sources (both paper-based and electronic) without reference to a reading list.
3. reflect on his or her own learning, and to seek and make use of feedback
4. be able to work collaboratively in groups to test, modify, and strengthen his or her individual views.
5. think critically about law and its place in society.

**Graduate attributes: Skills and Abilities in Communication**

To demonstrate an advanced ability to

1. Understand and use the English language proficiently in relation to legal matters being able systematically to structure academic writing, expressing views and ideas succinctly, pursuing and argument with proper care and attention to academic literature with proper recognition of counter-arguments
2. present knowledge or an argument in a way which is comprehensible to its intended audience, directed to the concerns of that audience (both orally and in writing)

3. read and discuss legal materials which are written in technical and complex language.
4. produce a word-processed essay or other text and to present such work in an appropriate form.
5. use the internet and e-mail, including specifically the ability to exchange documents electronically; and to conduct efficient searches of websites to locate relevant information.
6. where relevant and as the basis for an argument use, present and evaluate information provided in numerical form.
7. Use language proficiently in relation to legal matters and specifically to use appropriate legal terminology in work, and to use recognised methods of citation and reference.
8. communicate information (including discussing technical and complex legal materials), ideas, advice and choices in an effective manner (appropriate to the context, individually or with others) by: giving oral presentations which address a specific issue within a prescribed time frame; listening and questioning effectively; giving and receiving feedback and responding effectively to others; and ensuring that all communications (both oral and in writing) are relevant.
9. communicate in plain English, using legal terminology only where needed.
10. contribute effectively in group work.
11. demonstrate an ability to address the resolution of disputes by various adversarial and non-adversarial skills.

#### **Graduate attributes: Personal effectiveness**

To show an advanced ability to:

1. work effectively with others in groups, contributing and capitalising on the different experiences, skills, and thinking of each group member.
2. display an informed knowledge and understanding of the social, economic, moral and ethical contexts in which law operates and how law responds to these social, economic, moral and ethical contexts by displaying legal knowledge in association with related policy, underlying social conditions, professional ethical issues and moral issues; and to respond to changes in law that arise from these contexts (for example by being able to remain up to date in considering primary and secondary material).
3. demonstrate an ability to organise and prioritise time and effort effectively in the performance of the student's work.
4. have the confidence to make informed decisions based on their knowledge and understanding and their personal and intellectual autonomy (for example in the answering of problem or essays questions on topics which the student has not previously studied).

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Year**

By virtue of completing a dissertation the students should be able to:

1. Through discussion, isolate an appropriate topic for research, develop a plan and realise that plan in an extended piece of work.
2. Structure a substantial and appropriately referenced piece of work, present it concisely and express themselves clearly and coherently.
3. Develop working knowledge and critical understanding of key literature in the chosen field.
4. Explain and justify research methods used in that research where appropriate.
5. Manage an extended period of time independently to achieve disparate goals.
6. Produce a piece of work which is creative with a high standard of analysis, displays systematic and discriminatory understanding of the literature of the field, and builds substantially upon knowledge and analysis developed in 3rd year.

Approved 2011