

Programme Specification: HND Legal Studies

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NOTE: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found (1) at <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/elss>, (2) in the Module Specifications and (3) in the Student Handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Awarding Institution / Body:	Birmingham City University
Teaching Institution:	Sutton Coldfield College
Interim Awards and Final Award:	HND in Legal Studies Cert HE in Law
Programme Title:	HND in Legal Studies
Main fields of Study:	Law
Modes of Study:	Full-time
Language of Study:	English
UCAS Code:	039M
JACS Code:	

Professional Status of the programme (if applicable):

The HND Legal Studies programme incorporates Level 4 of the LLB degree at Birmingham City University. Students who complete the Cert HE in Law have the right to progress to Level 5 of the LLB degree programme. The LLB (Hons) Law degree has Qualifying Degree Status as recognised by the Solicitors Regulatory Authority and the Bar Standards Board. It exempts students from the academic stage of training to become either a solicitor or barrister (subject to conditions laid down by the Joint Academic Stage Board (JASB))

Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to

inform programme outcomes:

QAA Benchmark Standards for Law

Joint Statement issued by the SRA and the General Council of the Bar Standards Board on the Completion of the Initial or Academic Stage of Training by Obtaining an Undergraduate Degree

Edexcel

Programme philosophy and aims**The aims of the programme are to:**

Provide students with:

- a curriculum which provides a broad choice of subjects to facilitate the development of abilities, pursuit of interests and promotion of wide career choice, and which gives the student a stake in his/her study programme
- a curriculum which provides an introductory body of knowledge drawn from the fields of law and associated disciplines
- opportunities to develop and demonstrate, through guided independent learning and enquiry, a range of skills in analysis, application, communication, presentation and employability
- opportunities for students from a wide range of educational, social and cultural backgrounds to advance their educational achievements
- transferable and marketable skills leading to employment opportunities in the legal profession and a range of other careers
- teaching and learning techniques which place emphasis on active and participative education
- an opportunity to acquire some of the skills necessary for lifelong learning
- a qualification accredited by relevant professional bodies

Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:

Learning Outcomes

1. Knowledge and understanding of the English Legal System and a range of the substantive rules of English Law, including an understanding of the classifications of law into public/private, domestic/European/international and civil/criminal.
2. An understanding of English law within its political, philosophical, historical and economic context, its relationship with ethical and moral issues, and the ways in which lawyers can effect social change through the application of legal principles.
3. Understanding of career opportunities, and experience, through focused research or work placement, of an employment environment.
4. The acquisition of basic techniques of research and analysis, using information and materials from a variety of sources proficiently in evaluating and solving legal issues and problems.
5. The development of a range of general working practices, including: working co-operatively with others, managing time and prioritizing workloads, reflecting on skills and learning.
6. The ability to understand and use the English language with precision, both orally and in writing, producing oral and written presentations that are coherent and comprehensible to others.
7. The skills necessary to extend knowledge, frame appropriate questions, marshal coherent and rational argument and analyse and evaluate argument, opinion and data.

Learning teaching, and assessment methods used

The acquisition of understanding of the law and legal concepts takes place through the medium of lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials and other directed learning activities, including the use of computer-based technologies such as Moodle to direct and support learning.

Case analysis and problem-based learning are used to develop students' abilities in analysis, critical evaluation and problem-solving. The acquisition of research skills is central to the learning strategy of the programme. Students are encouraged to develop these skills incrementally throughout the programme through the process of guided, self-directed and student-centred learning.

Transferable/key skills are core to the learning strategy of the programme. They are pervasive, and are incorporated into modules and assessments where appropriate, e.g. team-working skills are fostered through group-work and role-play in seminars/workshops. Teaching of the key skills is distributed across core LLB and HND-specific modules to ensure students are given adequate opportunities to learn, exercise and develop these skills. Students on this programme have the opportunity to experience employment through the work placement module, which further enhances employability skills.

Assessment is carried out, both formatively and summatively, through a range of methods, including seminars, coursework, examinations, oral and written assessments and group projects. In one core module, students are required to chart their skills development through the compilation of a skills portfolio.

Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

The structure of the course, the modules, levels and credit values, and the awards which can be gained are shown in the diagram below. The module which incorporates and assesses engagement with Personal Development Planning is underlined.

Students who pass all core modules drawn from Level 4 of the LLB (120 credits) will be awarded the Cert HE. Students who attain the Cert HE and achieve 120 additional credits from HND core and option modules will be awarded the HND Legal Studies.

The module in which Personal Development Planning is an integral part of the learning process is underlined.

Module number	Module name	Credits
<u>Year One</u>		
	<u>Skills, Processes and Scholarship (Cert HE)</u>	30
	Criminal Law (Cert HE)	30
	Option (HND)	15
	Option (HND)	15
	Option (HND)	15
	Option (HND)	15
<u>Year Two</u>		
	Law of Contract (Cert HE)	30
	Law of Tort (Cert HE)	30
	Work Placement (HND)	30
	Option (HND)	15
	Option (HND)	15

Award: Cert HE (120 Credits)
HND (240 credits)

Support for Learning including Personal Development Planning (PDP)

Students are encouraged to identify and, with guidance, to reflect on their own learning needs and are offered the following support as appropriate to meet those needs:

- a one-week induction programme at Sutton Coldfield College and Birmingham City University dealing with orientation and the dissemination of essential information;
- within Skills, Processes and Scholarship in particular, and continued throughout the programme, a programme of study skills, including library use, essay-writing, problem-solving and examination techniques;
- sessions on revision and examination techniques for those needing additional support;
- a Student Handbook, containing information relating to Sutton Coldfield College and Birmingham City University, the programme and the modules;
- access to administrative staff and to academic staff at Sutton Coldfield College and Birmingham City University including the Curriculum Manager, the BCU Franchise Liaison Tutor, the Module Co-ordinators and subject tutors, at reasonable times;
- a Personal Development Planning Tutor to advise on pastoral and academic issues;
- access to resources at Sutton Coldfield College and Birmingham City University, including the BCU and Sutton College Resource Centres, and a range of supported IT equipment;
- access to the library services at both Sutton Coldfield College and Birmingham City University, internet and personal e-mail address;
- assistance and support for learning skills from Sutton Coldfield College and the University's Centre for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching;
- access to Student Services at Sutton Coldfield College and Birmingham City University, including those offered by the careers service, financial advisers, medical centre, disability service, crèche, counselling service and chaplaincy.

Criteria for admission

Candidates must satisfy the general admission requirements of the programme.

The current admission requirements can be found under the 'Entry Requirements' tab of the web page for this course.

Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students

Committees:

- Board of Studies
- Examination Board
- Faculty Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee
- Learning and Teaching Committee

- Student Experience Committee
- Faculty Board
- Senate

Mechanisms for review and evaluation

- Individual module evaluation by students, staff and where appropriate, stakeholders
- Annual review of modules by module leaders
- Annual course evaluation reports and action plans
- Annual monitoring process
- Appraisal of teaching
- Individual performance reviews
- External examiners' comments and formal reports
- Student representatives' feedback to Boards of Studies
- Consideration of the minutes of Boards of Studies by Student Experience Committee
- Approval and review and re-approval events
- National Student Survey
- Student Experience Survey
- Course Development Day