

Programme Specification 2024-25

DIPLOMAS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND IN LEGAL STUDIES

Awarding body	University of Cambridge
Teaching institution	Faculty of Law
Accreditation details	None
Name of final award	Diploma in International Law/Legal Studies
Programme title	Diploma in International Law/Legal Studies
HECoS code(s)	100485 (law)
Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)	None
Qualifications framework level	7 (Masters)
Date specification was produced	10 November 2023

Educational aims

The Diplomas in International Law and in Legal Studies are offered by the Faculty of Law as full-time or part-time research courses and introduce students to research skills and specialist knowledge. Their main aims are:

- To enable students of the highest calibre from around the world to pursue their legal studies at an advanced level;
- To give students with relevant experience at first-degree and/or Master's level the opportunity to carry out focussed research on an approved research topic in the field of Law under close supervision;
- To give students the opportunity to acquire or develop skills and expertise relevant to their research interests;
- To enable students to engage in work which is innovative and at the leading edge of legal scholarship;
- To provide students with opportunities to pursue research which builds on and develops in greater depth material which they have studied at undergraduate level;
- To provide students with opportunities to pursue research of a specialist nature, in areas too advanced or too focused to be included in an undergraduate degree course;
- To provide opportunities to learn within a cosmopolitan atmosphere, thereby encouraging a comparative approach among students and staff.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the programme, students will have:

1. Knowledge and understanding

- (a) Knowledge and understanding at an advanced level of the subject areas chosen for study, including a critical awareness of current issues and debates at the forefront of the areas concerned;
- (b) The ability to understand and make use of a range of perspectives on legal issues, viewed from the various and complementary perspectives of legal doctrine, history, philosophy and sociology.

2. Skills and other attributes

Intellectual skills

- Ability to understand, analyse and interpret complex primary and secondary legal materials, including case-law, statutory materials and academic writings;
- Ability to distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant;
- Ability to apply legal rules to factual situations;
- Ability to develop a coherent argument or view out of disparate materials;
- Ability to form conclusions supported by rational argument;
- Ability to think critically and independently about legal rules and institutions;
- Ability to engage critically with emerging issues and debates.

Research skills

- Ability to identify and locate source material independently on a range of subjects, including reports and statutory material, both in paper form and online;
- Ability to understand and assess the reliability, currency, relevance and relative importance of, and relationships between, source materials;
- Ability to use indexes and digests, both in paper form and online, for assistance in handling large quantities of source material, and to use these skills in areas not previously studied;
- Ability to make effective and independent use of libraries and other information resources.

Communication and literacy skills

- Ability to marshal arguments lucidly, coherently, logically and concisely;
- Ability to make correct, accurate and effective use of written and spoken English including specialist legal terminology;
- Ability to present material in a clear and effective way, in both oral and written form, in all cases showing sensitivity to the diverse perspectives of the intended audience or readership.

Interpersonal skills

- Ability to work creatively, flexibly and sensitively with others;
- Ability to interact successfully on a one-to-one basis;
- Capacity to respect different viewpoints;
- Ability to undertake research independently and to develop appropriate mechanisms for support and feedback.

Organisational skills

- Capacity for self-motivation, self-direction and self-discipline;
- Ability to take initiatives;
- Ability to write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines;
- Ability to manage time and resources.

Teaching and learning methods

The Diplomas are 12-month, full-time (or 2 years, part-time) research programmes: students are integrated into the research culture of the Faculty by their supervisor. They also have access to the Faculty's two PhD mentors if additional support is necessary. They are encouraged to attend the weekly classes provided by the Faculty's Research Training and

Development Programme, but most research training is provided within the group structure and is overseen by their research supervisor. Informal opportunities to develop research skills also exist through mentoring by fellow students and members of staff.

Assessment methods

- The Diploma in International Law or in Legal Studies is awarded after one year of full-time research (or two years, part-time) in Cambridge on the basis of a thesis not exceeding 30,000 words;
- Candidates are assigned a supervisor by the Faculty, but there is no course-work or formal teaching. The thesis is read by two examiners and an oral examination may be held.,

Programme outline

- The Diploma in International Law covers all topics within that field and the Diploma in Legal Studies covers all other topics within the field of law. Each candidate for a Diploma is assigned a supervisor by the Faculty Degree Committee and is required to keep at least three terms of residence (or six, for part-time students) before submitting for examination a thesis not exceeding 30,000 words;
- There is no course-work or taught element for the Diplomas, although students are encouraged to attend LL.M. lectures as recommended by their supervisor;
- The year of research leading to a diploma may, in appropriate circumstances, be counted towards a research degree such as the M.Litt. or Ph.D.

Student support

The Faculty conforms to the University's Code of Practice for research students. All students are assigned a research supervisor and must have their research title approved by the Faculty's Degree Committee.

Further information about student support may be obtained on request to the Faculty.

Graduate employability

The Careers Service maintains data about destinations of graduate students after leaving the University. The Careers Service also maintains links with relevant employers and takes into account employer needs and opinions in the services which it provides for students. The Careers Service also allocates a Careers Adviser to each College, Faculty and Department to act as a point of contact.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this programme specification. At the time of publication, the programme specification has been approved by the relevant Faculty Board (or equivalent). Programme specifications are reviewed annually, however, during the course of the academical year, any approved changes to the programme will be communicated to enrolled students through email notification or publication in the *Reporter*. The relevant faculty or department will endeavour to update the programme specification accordingly, and prior to the start of the next academical year.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for all awards of the University is available online at: <https://www.camdata.admin.cam.ac.uk/>