Masters of Law (LLM)
Distance learning degree qualification
Qualification details

This taught masters degree is a flexible modular qualification designed to consider the role and place of law in an increasingly globalised world.

A critical legal approach is taken and the modules use different perspectives and case studies to explore, contextualise and illustrate a number of contemporary issues challenging the international community. Study on the degree is also designed to develop key postgraduate transferable skills, including advanced legal research, which are attractive to employers and which assist with professional advancement. It is designed for law graduates, non-law graduates and lawyers wanting to develop their interests in law at postgraduate level.

As part of your studies you will explore the interaction of law, law making bodies, institutions and regulators in an international context, the role and function of law in an increasingly global society, the role of states, international institutions and multi-national companies. You will consider a range of contemporary legal issues such as corporate social responsibility, trans-national crime, humanitarian aid and security issues providing you with an opportunity to engage with topical legal issues. You will also explore current and possible future developments; receive grounding in law and its place in society; study methods of reasoning and analysis in law and evaluate the complexities inherent in law, regulation and legal study. At the end of your studies you will have the opportunity to undertake an in-depth piece of independent legal research.

Career relevance and employability

This degree will contribute to your career development by providing academic knowledge and a number of highly sought after transferable skills valued by employers. Typically holders of the LLM will: deal with complex legal issues both systematically and creatively; communicate their subject knowledge clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences; demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems; act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks reflect on the responsibilities linked to the application of knowledge; demonstrate the ability to conceive, design, implement and adapt a substantial piece of independent research with scholarly integrity; exercise initiative and personal responsibility; be able to develop a persuasive legal argument based on evidence; demonstrate independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Credit for previous study elsewhere

If you have already completed some successful study at postgraduate level at another institution you may be able to transfer credit for this study and count it towards this Open University qualification. If you wish to apply to transfer credit you must do so as soon as possible as it may affect your choice of OU modules. If you are awarded credit for study completed elsewhere, you may find that you need to study fewer OU modules to complete your qualification with us. We particularly welcome postgraduate credit from our partner, The College of Law.

Qualification leaflet

Modules

For this 180-credit masters degree you require:

150 credits from the following compulsory modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate compulsory modules</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exploring legal meaning (W820)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring the boundaries of international law (W821) NEW</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The law dissertation (W800)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, human rights law and corporate social responsibility (W822)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And 30 credits from the following optional modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate optional modules</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacities for managing development (TU870)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing professional development in practice (U810)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development: context and practice (TU871)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical criminological perspectives (D867)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic psychology: crime, offenders and policing (D872)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic psychology: witnesses, experts and evidence on trial (D873)</td>
<td>30</td>
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For more information and to register go to www.openuniversity.edu, or call +44 845 241 6555
For details on all the modules available, please refer to our website, www.openuniversity.edu.

**Assessment key**
- EMA: End-of-module assessment
- iCMA: Interactive computer marked assessment
- TMA: Tutor-marked assignment

<table>
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<th>Modules</th>
<th>Credits:</th>
<th>Assessment:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exploring legal meaning (W820)</td>
<td>30 at Postgraduate</td>
<td>3 TMAs, 1 EMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring the boundaries of international law (W821)</td>
<td>30 at Postgraduate</td>
<td>2 TMAs, 1 EMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, human rights law and corporate social responsibility (W822)</td>
<td>30 at Postgraduate</td>
<td>3 TMAs, 1 EMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The law dissertation (W800)</td>
<td>60 at Postgraduate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing professional development in practice (UB810)</td>
<td>30 at Postgraduate</td>
<td>2 TMAs, 1 EMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development: context and practice (TU877)</td>
<td>30 at Postgraduate</td>
<td>3 TMAs, 1 Examination</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**The law dissertation (W800)**

The law dissertation is the final module of the Masters of Law (LLM) qualification and provides an opportunity to undertake a significant piece of independent legal research in a topic within a chosen specialist legal subject from the qualification.

**Business, human rights law and corporate social responsibility (W822)**

This interdisciplinary course considers how business increasingly conducts its operations with responsibility to its stakeholders and the wider society. It takes a socio-legal approach when examining how this expectation is being framed in terms of corporate social responsibility and human rights and the challenges of a globalised world. The course is diverse and wide-ranging, considering the development and application of these concepts in very different business contexts such as the development of international labour standards, criminal liability (corruption and corporate manslaughter), branding and marketing, charitable foundations and a range of specialist industries through the use of case studies.

**Development: context and practice (TU877)**

TU877 explores contemporary debates on ‘development’. It does so in interdisciplinary fashion, and with an understanding that development is not confined to a particular geographical area but is happening anywhere and everywhere, presenting us all with challenges that are professional and personal, practical and political. The first part demonstrates the need on the part of managers to appreciate the significance of context – historical, cultural, social, political, economic – if they are to bring about development. The second part confronts conventional understandings of development and encourages critical reflection on how development is best undertaken, from local through to global levels.
FAQs

Can I study in any country?
This course is approved for study in most countries. Please use the Course Finder menu at www.openuniversity.edu to see if it is available in your country.

Is an OU qualification recognised in my country?
An OU degree is equal in academic standard to a degree from any other British university. The University is subject to the same quality assurance procedures, through the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), as all other British universities, and uses external assessors and examiners to ensure comparability of standard and level in its courses.

A leaflet is available on how you can apply for formal recognition in your country. To download the leaflet, please go to www.openuniversity.edu/brochures/recognition.pdf.

What tutor support will I receive?
The OU excels in its unrivalled support for students. You’ll have email and online support from a tutor and you will be able to discuss your study in online tutor group discussions, using our customised learning environment. Our community websites Platform and OpenLearn offer a different perspective on your subject, and a huge range of OU resources on YouTube and iTunes U can expand your understanding. In addition, you can tap into a range of enthusiastic and welcoming OU social network groups on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Are there any entry requirements?
To gain entry to our postgraduate programmes you’ll normally need an undergraduate degree or equivalent. However, your previous work experience and study, or qualifications from other higher-education institutions, may all count towards programme entry.

As part of the registration process, however, you will be asked to confirm your proficiency in English (if you are unsure, you can take a short online test, please see our website www.openuniversity.edu for more information).

Can I count previous study towards an OU qualification?
Any higher education level studies you’ve successfully completed elsewhere may count towards your OU degree or other qualification. We enable you to do this by awarding you a certain amount of ‘transferred credit’. By transferring credit gained from previous study, you can reduce the amount you need from OU study to achieve your qualification. For more information please go to www.openuniversity.edu.

How do you work towards a qualification?
We measure the size of our qualifications in credits - you need 180 credits for the masters degree.

How long does it take?
Our qualifications are designed to be flexible. So if you want to vary the amount of time you spend studying, you can.

The table below is a guide on the time required, and other services. When you register, we’ll tell you more about how we process and use your personal information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate qualifications</th>
<th>Credits required</th>
<th>Time required to completea</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masters degree</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>3 years part-time study</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For illustrative purposes only – in most cases you can vary the number of credits taken per year and therefore the time taken to complete your course.

How much will it cost?
You pay for your postgraduate studies module by module, rather than for an entire programme up front. Therefore, the total cost of a qualification may vary according to which modules you choose and how long you take to complete your degree.

The EU fee for this qualification in 2012/13 is: £7,740

Please note: prices are approximate and subject to change. Please check our website or call us for latest details.

For information please go to www.openuniversity.edu and view the details on the Courses pages.

When can I start?
To give you more opportunities to start, most qualifications have two intakes a year – November and May for this qualification.

Can I meet and network with other students?
Definitely – when you start with the OU you automatically become a member of the Open University Student Association (OUSA). OUSA also runs a popular student forum site. For more information, go to www.ousa.org.uk.

Once you have gained your qualification, you can join the OU Alumni Association, our vibrant and active alumni community with 280,000 members worldwide. You will enjoy many membership benefits, including regular newsletters, good networking opportunities and access to the alumni website.

How is my privacy protected?
We record your personal information when you contact us and use this to manage registration, study, examination and other services. When you register, we’ll tell you more about how we process and use your personal information.

When should I apply?
Apply as early as you can – particularly if you wish to claim for credit for previous study. Registration open dates are shown in the Courses section on each qualification page at www.openuniversity.edu.
What do I need to do next?

It takes just 2 simple steps. Begin the process to secure your place. Here’s how easy it is.

1. Register now

Go to [www.openuniversity.edu](http://www.openuniversity.edu), select the Courses section and the degree you require. You will then be asked to select your first module to register.

Alternatively call us on +44 845 241 6555.

Don’t worry, you don’t need to pay anything at this stage.

As soon as you have registered you’ll get an email confirmation which contains your login details.

2. Choose your first module, make payment to enrol

Before you start studying you will need to choose and register on your first modules and arrange payment; instructions for this will be emailed to you.

Once complete you will officially be an Open University student – welcome!
All details shown in this leaflet are correct as at February 2013, but are subject to change. Please call +44 845 241 6555 for the latest details.