



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY



School of Law
Scoil an Dlí
Postgraduate Prospectus 2026



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Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR)

Centre for Disability, Law & Policy

The Law School

Centre for Housing, Law, Rights & Policy (CHLRP)

Centre for Law, Religion & Society (CLRS)

School of Law | *Teaching law since 1849*

The School of Law comprises of five academic units, the Law School and four world-class research centres: the Irish Centre for Human Rights, the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, the Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy, and the Centre for Law, Religion and Society.

Our academic staff are nationally and internationally recognised experts in their fields of research. Their knowledge and experience provides students with a stimulating research-led learning experience.



Did you know...



Top 2%
of universities in the
QS world rankings



Expert
Academics



Global
Focus



Key
Skills



Career
Pathways

93%

of most recently surveyed
University of Galway
postgraduate students are
in employment or further
education by the March
following graduation .

Our Degree Programmes

We offer a diverse range of postgraduate programmes, delivered in a stimulating and supportive environment with exciting opportunities for specialised qualifications. Our postgraduate law programmes are taught by research-led academics who are driving thinking, global policy and activism in the fields of commercial law, public policy, human rights, disability rights and housing. Such expertise ensures that our postgraduate programmes provide an exceptional learning experience and equip you with the skills to achieve your career goals.

Galway is a place like no other, a medieval city and Ireland's cultural heart (Croí Chultúrtha na hÉireann). It is vibrant, cosmopolitan, rich in folklore and famous for its cobble-stoned streets, quaint shops and contemporary vibe. Set on the Wild Atlantic Way, from this position on the edge of Europe, University of Galway has a proud history of reaching out and connecting with the world.

Galway combines the energy of a young and diverse population with the authenticity of a place steeped in history and tradition. The city is celebrated for its culture, theatre and arts with festivals and fringe events running throughout the year. Students make up 20% of the city's population and the University is perfectly placed within walking distance of all amenities.



Research Centres

Research-led teaching

University of Galway is a fantastic environment in which to study law. Our LLM programmes allow students to obtain an advanced law degree and facilitate the development of research, critical thinking and presentation skills. All our LLM programmes are research-led and delivered by colleagues who are experts and passionate about their areas of teaching and research.



Centre for Disability Law & Policy (CDLP)

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy's mission is to advance the rights of people with disabilities through education, research and outreach activities. We pride ourselves on being at the cutting edge of research in, and advocacy of, disability rights. Our staff and students have been centrally involved in the development of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its implementation around the world. The Centre welcomes students from diverse cultures, disciplinary backgrounds, and with a wide range of life experiences – including disabled students from around the globe. I am proud to lead such a talented group of researchers, students and academics.

Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR)

The Irish Centre for Human Rights is one of the world's premier human rights law centres. Combining research, teaching and practice on human rights law and policy, the Centre is at the crossroads of today's most pressing human rights issues in law, public policy and practice. Our specialised LLM and PhD programmes provide students with the theoretical, conceptual and practical skills necessary to pursue a range of careers in human rights law, public policy, and practice. Whether your interests are in peace-building, international criminal justice, gender, women's rights, business and human rights, or refugee and migration law, you will find a range of specialised courses at the Irish Centre for Human Rights that will equip you to pursue your goals.



Centre for Housing Law, Rights & Policy (CHLRP)

At the Centre for Housing Law, Rights and Policy Research (CHLRP), we endeavour to create a space for a free and open discussion, combining research, resource development, advocacy and publications on housing law, rights and policy in Ireland, and internationally. The Centre is linked with many international organisations, such as the European Network of Housing Researchers, and the UNESCO Housing Chair in Tarragona, Spain, hosting visiting professors, researchers and IRC-funded PhD students. We aim to contribute to the development of housing law, rights and policy through research, conferences, lectures, training, advocacy, publications, specialist research and support to housing agencies and others.

Centre for Law, Religion & Society (CLRS)

At the Centre for Law, Religion and Society (CLRS), our mission is to be a multidisciplinary hub for research, teaching, and engagement at the intersections of law, religion, and society, to advance understanding of how norms, ethics, and belief systems shape law and justice across diverse contexts and to produce research that deepens knowledge, informs practice, and contributes to equality, gender justice, and social change. Our work focuses on how moral frameworks, ethical reasoning, and belief systems influence law and social norms, and on how legal structures, in turn, shape lived experience. CLRS builds on the foundations of the ERC-funded [BILQIS](#) Project.

LLM Law and Digital Innovation

The LLM in Law and Digital Innovation prepares graduates to become future leaders in shaping how law and legal practice responds to rapid advances in technology and innovation. The programme equips students with the legal, ethical, and innovation skills needed to navigate emerging tech landscapes. Students will explore how lawyers and law firms respond to AI, big data, and digital transformation in society and business. This innovative programme moves beyond the simple examination of the regulation of technology to foster curiosity about legal futures.



Applied Design
Thinking Project



Skills &
Employability Focus



Expert
Lectures

Programme Structure

The LLM in Law and Digital Innovation is ideal for law graduates, legal professionals, and technologists who want to deepen their understanding of the evolving challenges that digital technologies present to lawyers and law firms who have to re-think their processes for a rapidly evolving technological landscape. It is particularly suited to individuals who are interested in areas such as digital legal services, digital innovation, and access to justice, and who are looking to build or advance careers in law firms, tech companies, policy bodies, or regulatory agencies.

Future- Focused Curriculum

Combining legal study with cutting-edge topics like AI, computation and law and digital technology together with specialised electives like digital visualisation and digital ethics.

Research-Led Teaching

Delivered by academic experts from the [Technology and Rights Research Cluster](#), integrating cutting-edge legal and digital innovation research.

Industry Skilled Learning

Involves real-world case studies, legal tech tools, and simulations to develop practical skills in digital law and builds expertise in legal analytics, design thinking, and digital innovation.

What our students say...

'This programme is the first of its kind and couples my passion for law and the digital world. The legal landscape is constantly changing and it's a really interesting post-graduate course. 'The Future of Law' module allows for peer to peer discussions surrounding recent developments within law tech which is really insightful and collaborative. This LLM programme is helping me to further tailor my career.'

Cian Moore,
LLM Law and
Digital Innovation

This programme equips graduates with the specialist knowledge and practical skills that employers in these sectors are actively seeking. Graduates of the LLM in Law and Digital Innovation will be well prepared for roles such as legal digital services specialists, legal practitioners, and access to justice experts. They will be in demand across sectors including legal technology companies, international organisations, law firms, public agencies and academic research institutions.

Career Opportunities

LLM (General)

The LLM General offers the freedom to design your own legal specialisation while gaining a global perspective. Whether you're aiming for legal practice in Ireland or internationally, a bridge to a PhD, policy work or a range of other careers, the LLM General provides the flexibility, expertise and critical insights to take your career where you want it to go. You can personalise your LLM with a flexible module structure that comports with your interests and career goals.



Interdisciplinary
Opportunities



Global
Perspective



Expert
Lectures

Programme Structure

The LLM General is ideal for law graduates, legal professionals and others with relevant experience seeking a flexible and customisable path to advanced legal training. It offers a flexible and intellectually stimulating learning environment where you can explore a wide range of legal topics while developing practical, career-focused skills. You will engage in interactive lectures, seminars, workshops, and group projects led by expert faculty with research specialisms across diverse legal fields including international law, human rights, environmental regulation, and more.



Vis Moot
Module

This international arbitration competition offers a unique international opportunity allowing students to develop and refine practical advocacy and oral argumentation skills while engaging with peers and legal professionals from around the world.



Design Your
Own Legal Path

Choose from a wide range of optional modules to shape your LLM to match your personal and professional goals with interdisciplinary opportunities to study subjects like human rights, technology, environmental law, or business.



International
Field Trip

As part of Vis Moot, selected students will go on an international field trip to Vienna as part of the Vis Moot module. Selected students compete in the prestigious [Willen C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot](#) each April, gaining valuable global exposure.

What our students say...

This course has given me a foundation of transferable skills in a variety of areas, allowing me to develop a critical thinking approach to my studies. The selection of modules available stems across the other master's programmes, which allows you to shape and mould your own masters and develop your own area of expertise. Most importantly, I have become confident in my ability to engage these skills and develop them further. I felt supported, valued and appreciated throughout my academic efforts.

*Emily Brennan,
LLM General*

Graduates of the LLM General are equipped with the advanced legal knowledge, critical thinking, and analytical skills sought after across a wide range of sectors. The flexible structure of the programme allows students to tailor their learning to align with specific career aspirations, making them highly adaptable in a competitive job market. With the growing need for professionals who can navigate legal systems across jurisdictions, the LLM General prepares graduates for emerging roles in global legal services, tech regulation, and transnational governance.

Career Opportunities

LLB Bachelor of Laws

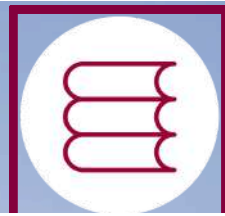
The LLB provides an excellent foundation for a career in legal practice as a solicitor, barrister, as well as in related fields such as business, media, social work and administration. It also prepares graduates for roles involving legal advisory work in both the private and public sectors. Students can choose between several pathways designed to support students with their career goals. Students can complete the LLB over 2 years (full-time), 3 years (full-time) or 4 years (part-time).



Practical
Training



Accreditation



Streamlined
Curriculum



Unique
Course

Fast-track a legal career with a 2 or 3 year LLB covering subjects approved by the Honorable Society of King's Inns, enabling graduates to sit the King's Inn Entrance Examination.



Practical-Led
Training

Gain real-world experience through our mooted module and case studies that builds versatile skills such as advocacy and problem-solving skills, valued in law, public service, business, and other professional sectors, enhancing your career prospects.



Research-Led
Teaching

Learn from research-active academics with specialist expertise across multiple areas of law, who bring real-world insights to teaching while building strong competencies in advocacy, analysis, legal research, and professional practice.

Programme Structure

The LLB (Bachelor of Laws) offers a dynamic foundation in legal knowledge, critical thinking, and advocacy skills. Explore how law shapes society while developing analytical and practical skills valued across the legal profession. The LLB empowers you to drive change and make an impact in legal, public, or corporate careers worldwide. It prepares students for careers in the legal professions, equipping them with the skills and knowledge required for entrance exams to the legal professional bodies for solicitors and barristers in Ireland.

What our students say...

Before my LLB, I completed a BA in Law and Philosophy at University of Galway because it allowed me to study two subjects I'm passionate about, providing versatility and a strong academic foundation. I returned for my LLB because of its inclusive environment, practical learning opportunities, and strong support system. The programme aligns with my goal of working in policy and human rights law, combining theory with real-world applications. I highly recommend this course.

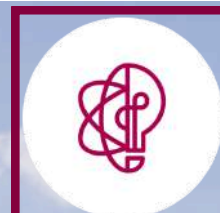
Salma Smith,
LLB Bachelor
of Laws

The LLB degree opens the door to diverse and rewarding career pathways, both within the legal profession and beyond. Graduates can pursue qualification as a solicitor through the Law Society's Blackhall Place, with many graduates choosing to specialise in areas such as corporate law, human rights, criminal justice, property, or emerging fields like technology and data protection law. Beyond traditional legal roles, the LLB provides an excellent foundation for careers in policy, human resources, journalism, consultancy, and the NGO sector.

Career Opportunities

LLM International and Comparative Business Law

Our LLM International and Comparative Business Law offers a globally connected programme that builds on Ireland's unique position at the intersection of common and EU law. With small classes, expert faculty, and a vibrant community, it equips students with the legal and commercial skills to navigate cross-border transactions, regulation, and international trade.



Industry
Collaboration



Work Placement
Opportunities



Expert
Lectures

Programme Structure

This LLM is ideal for law graduates, legal professionals, and those interested in the international business environment who want to deepen their knowledge of comparative and global legal frameworks. If you are motivated by complex international legal challenges and seek a career in multinational corporations, law firms, regulatory bodies, or consultancy, this programme equips you with the critical legal and analytical skills needed for success. The course also suits students aiming to develop interdisciplinary expertise or prepare for further academic research in international business law.



Global
Perspective

Explore business law with a focus on global trade and cross-border transactions, building strong connections with legal practitioners and business leaders through guest lectures and networking.



Practical
Skills

Emphasis on negotiation, drafting, compliance for real-world experience which prepares graduates for diverse roles with attention to sustainable development and corporate responsibility.



Research-led
Teaching

In-depth study of international trade law, delivered by academics from the [Private and Commercial Law Research Cluster](#), incorporating cutting-edge global business law research.

What our students say...

The programme provided a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the complexities of international business law, preparing me for the challenges of the modern legal landscape. The university's faculty was outstanding, comprising experts in international law and business who were always approachable and supportive. I am truly grateful for the opportunities and knowledge this programme offered, propelling me towards a successful career in international business law.

*Jyothish Krishna,
LLM International
and Comparative
Business Law*

Graduates of this LLM programme are well-prepared for careers in international trade, corporate law, financial regulation, compliance, and commercial dispute resolution. They are in demand across sectors including law firms, multinational corporations, financial institutions, international organisations, and regulatory bodies. Typical roles include legal associate, compliance officer, legal advisor, regulatory affairs specialist, and in-house counsel. With experience, graduates can progress to senior roles such as legal counsel, partner, or policy advisor in global institutions.

Career Opportunities

LLM International and Comparative Disability Law & Policy

The LLM International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy offers an in-depth study of disability rights law, international policy frameworks, and comparative legal systems, engaging students with global disability advocacy and policy initiatives. This programme is suitable for you if you are motivated by international legal challenges, committed to advancing disability rights, and eager to engage with a global community of scholars and practitioners.



Work Placement
Opportunities



Research-Led
Teaching



Field
Work

This LLM is ideal for law graduates and professionals seeking expertise in disability law, students interested in human rights, advocacy, and equality law, and those pursuing careers in international organisations, government, NGOs, law firms, or consultancy. It also suits students combining legal knowledge with interdisciplinary skills in social policy, education, or healthcare law, or preparing for further research. It will empower you to shape inclusive societies through legal reform, advocacy, and innovative policy.

Programme Structure

Global & Industry Perspective

Study with guidance from world-leading scholars at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) while engaging in cutting-edge research and develop advanced skills in legal analysis, policy design, and advocacy.

Specialist Modules

Tailor your studies with optional modules in inclusive education, employment rights, healthcare law, or social policy. Apply your learning to practical projects that address contemporary global disability challenges and legal reform.

Career Enhancing Opportunities

Opportunities to apply for a limited number of work placements, offering valuable real-world legal experience and professional networking opportunities, preparing for impactful careers within the field.

What our students say...

For me, the greatest part of this programme is being surrounded by incredible peers all of whom are doing amazing work within the disability sector. Being able to come together in the class and share ideas, thoughts and understandings and then be able to go back into the world and share that knowledge within our respective fields is a huge part of the reason why I enjoyed this programme so much.

Conal Fagan
LLM International and
Comparative Disability
Law & Policy

Graduates of the LLM International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy are well-prepared for careers in international and comparative law, disability rights advocacy, human rights policy and equality initiatives. Typical roles for graduates include Disability Rights Policy Advisor, Human Rights Advocate or Consultant, Legal Counsel or Legal Analyst, Equality and Diversity Officer, Researcher in law, policy, or social justice. With experience, graduates can progress to senior leadership roles in NGOs, government or international institutions.

Career Opportunities

LLM Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights

The LLM Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights prepares graduates to take a leading role in advancing justice, human rights, and criminal law reform. Practical and research-informed, this programme equips students with critical thinking, legal analysis, and policy evaluation skills vital for impact in modern legal and advocacy contexts. Students will explore how criminology, criminal justice, and human rights intersect to address complex challenges in national and international systems.

Programme Structure

This LLM uniquely combines criminology, criminal justice, and human rights, delivered by research-led academics from the [Crime, Punishment and Rights Research Cluster](#). It offers a comprehensive, interdisciplinary curriculum designed to deepen your understanding of contemporary justice systems, human rights frameworks, and criminal law. The course blends theory with practical and policy-focused learning. A key element is the supervised minor thesis, a significant research project that develops your analytical skills and prepares you for further study or professional careers.

What our students say...

Studying the BCL Law, Criminology, and Criminal Justice deepened my passion for justice and human rights. Progressing to the LLM Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Human Rights felt like a natural next step. Now, as a Legal and Knowledge Management Researcher, I feel both prepared and inspired.

Emily Donnellan
LLM Criminology,
Criminal Justice and
Human Rights



Field
Trips



Career
Preparation



Expert
Lectures



Practical
Real-World
Exposure

Features
extracurricular field
trips such as trips to
the Irish High Court,
local prisons, and
human rights
organisations,
enhancing
understanding of
justice systems and
professional skills.



Interdisciplinary
Focus

Combines
criminology, criminal
law, and human
rights to provide a
broad, critical
understanding of
justice systems, state
accountability, and
rights-based
approaches.



Research &
Practice Pathways

Provides flexibility
for students to follow
a more research-
driven academic path
or focus on practical
application through
real-world case
studies and policy-
oriented learning.

Students of this LLM are well positioned to pursue further research at PhD level and aim for academic careers as lecturers and researchers. They are also well equipped to enter roles within national and international human rights organisations, criminal justice agencies, legal advisory services, policy think tanks, and government departments, working as legal researchers, policy analysts, human rights advocates, programme officers, and consultants across both public and private sectors.

Career Opportunities

LLM International Human Rights

The LLM International Human Rights provides a comprehensive study of legal norms and mechanisms protecting human dignity globally. Analyse human rights challenges in diverse contexts and develop expertise for research, policy-making, or legal practice in international justice. By combining rigorous academic training with practical insight, this LLM prepares graduates to make a meaningful impact in advancing human dignity and justice worldwide.



Work Placement
Opportunities



Renowned
Academics



Practical
Training

This LLM is ideal for law graduates, human rights practitioners, and advocates seeking to deepen their understanding of international human rights law and its application. It is suited for those aiming to work with international organisations, NGOs, government bodies, or in academia, focusing on human rights protection, policy development, and advocacy worldwide. Whether you're pursuing a career in litigation, policymaking, or humanitarian work, this course equips you with the legal expertise and practical skills needed to promote and defend human rights globally.

Programme Structure



Unique
Curriculum

Comprehensive study of global human rights law, combining theory and advocacy-focused practical skills, preparing graduates for careers in NGOs, legal practice, global policy, and international human rights work.



Field
Work

Visit global human rights bodies like the UNHRC and ECHR for immersive, on-the-ground learning, while gaining hands-on experience through legal clinics, advocacy workshops, and real-world case analysis..



Research-Led
Teaching

Learn from leading human rights scholars actively shaping global research, law, and policy debates while being immersed in the ongoing research and activity at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, uniquely located on campus.

What our students say...

I chose this program for its blend of theory and practice, led by experienced professors with real-world expertise. University of Galway's reputation and the quality of its human rights program aligned perfectly with my passion for defending human rights. Highlights of my experience include guest lectures by experts and a visit to the Irish military base, which provided practical insights.

*Renato
Urtusuastegui,
LLM International
Human Rights*

The LLM International Human Rights equips graduates for rewarding careers in the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide. As human rights issues grow in prominence, there is increasing demand for professionals skilled in legal frameworks and practical advocacy. Graduates find opportunities in international and regional organisations, NGOs, government agencies, legal practices specialising in human rights, national and international courts, and research institutions.

Career Opportunities

LLM International Criminal Law

The LLM International Criminal Law explores the legal frameworks governing accountability for international crimes. Students will examine the history, law and practice of international criminal tribunals, including the International Criminal Court. The course provides an excellent foundation for research, policy or legal practice in the field.



International Field
Trip



Justice-Centred
Curriculum



Expert
Lectures

Programme Structure

This LLM is ideal for law graduates, legal professionals, and human rights advocates interested in efforts aimed at holding perpetrators of international crimes to account. It suits those aiming to work with international criminal tribunals (like the ICC), civil society organisations, national courts, or in academic research. The course is particularly relevant for careers in war crimes prosecution, transitional justice, human rights law, and post-conflict accountability processes. Explore key areas such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the functioning of international courts and tribunals.



Unique
Curriculum

The curriculum covers international crimes, including aggression, war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity, and issues of individual responsibility in an international context.



Field
Work

Includes extra-curricular study visits to key legal institutions such as the International Criminal Court in The Hague and other international tribunals.



Real-World
Insight

Study under academics and former practitioners with direct experience at the International Criminal Court (ICC), ad hoc tribunals, and UN investigative bodies.

What our students say...

Studying the LLM International Criminal Law at University of Galway gave me the opportunity to meet incredible, passionate people from different cultures and backgrounds. It also allowed me to develop insights into the global legal system, understandings of geopolitical conflicts, and interests in peace-building, international criminal justice, and humanitarian law. In addition, it was particularly fascinating to study and live in this exciting environment.

ALEXANDRE NEUMAN
LLM International
Criminal Law

The LLM International Criminal Law prepares graduates for impactful careers in international justice, human rights protection, and criminal accountability. Graduates are equipped for roles with international courts and tribunals, the United Nations, NGOs, human rights bodies, and national prosecution services. Career paths include legal officer, human rights advocate, investigator, policy advisor, and roles in transitional justice or war crimes prosecution. Many also progress to PhD study or academic careers in international law and justice.

Career Opportunities

LLM International Migration and Refugee Law and Policy

The LLM International Migration and Refugee Law and Policy equips students to understand, critique and work in the field of international migration and forced displacement at the domestic, regional or international level. Explore the international legal framework and policies that shape regular and irregular migration, both voluntary and forced. Examine how those law and policies impact the human rights of migrants and refugees, enhancing or launching your career in migration and displacement.



Employability



Renowned
Academics



Research-Led
Teaching



Future-Ready
Curriculum

Engage with pressing global challenges such as climate-induced displacement, trafficking, statelessness, and EU border governance through targeted elective modules.



Global
Perspective

Analyse how international, EU, and Irish legal systems respond to migration and asylum issues—bridging global frameworks with domestic application.



Sustainable and
Justice Focus

Investigate the legal dimensions of climate migration, inequality, and forced displacement, and explore innovative, rights-based solutions for sustainable change.

Programme Structure

This LLM programme is designed to provide a rigorous and progressive learning experience over the course of one academic year (full-time) or two years (part-time). This specialised programme equips students with the legal, political, and policy tools necessary to address global challenges related to migration, displacement, and international protection. Students will engage with a curriculum that blends core legal theory with applied, policy-focused learning.

What our students say...

The LLM International Migration and Refugee Law and Policy is the most specialised programme that there is within Migration and Refugee Law. Being at the Irish Centre for Human Rights has been a really immersive experience for my studies. The PhD professors and students here are doing really groundbreaking research at the ICHR. One of my career goals is to continue working within specialised humanitarian work around refugees which this course is helping me to achieve.

Paula Cordova
LLM International
Migration and Refugee
Law and Policy

Graduates will gain the specialist knowledge and practical skills that employers across international organisations, NGOs, government agencies, legal practice, and academia actively seek. This expertise positions them well for roles such as legal advisers, policy analysts, human rights advocates, migration programme officers, and researchers. Employment opportunities exist across sectors including United Nations agencies, refugee and humanitarian organisations, immigration services, law firms specialising in asylum law, public policy institutions, and universities.

Career Opportunities

LLM Peace Operations, Humanitarian Law and Conflict

The LLM Peace Operations, Humanitarian Law and Conflict prepares students to engage with the legal and policy challenges of armed conflict, peacebuilding, and humanitarian response. Students gain the expertise to work in international peace operations, conflict zones, or global institutions advancing conflict resolution and protection.



Field
Trips



Practice-Focused
Learning



Research-Led
Teaching

Programme Structure

This LLM is ideal for graduates, legal professionals, and practitioners seeking to understand the complex legal frameworks governing armed conflict, humanitarian protection, and peace operations. If you are passionate about contributing to international peace efforts, shaping humanitarian responses, or working in conflict-affected environments, this course is designed for you. It suits those aiming for careers in international organisations, NGOs, government agencies, or academia focused on conflict, security, and human rights.



Specialised,
Conflict-Focus

Explore complex legal and ethical challenges in peacekeeping, humanitarian intervention, accountability for war crimes, and the protection of civilians in armed conflict.



Global
Outlook

Examine the legal frameworks guiding international peace operations and humanitarian action, with emphasis on the UN system, international humanitarian law, and post-conflict justice.



Justice, Ethics &
Sustainability

Address the intersection of conflict, human rights, and sustainable peacebuilding – equipping you to shape ethical and durable legal responses in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

What our students say...

Studying my LLM Peace Operations, Humanitarian Law and Conflict at the Irish Centre for Human Rights was an incredibly rewarding experience. Its distinctive program, inclusive multicultural environment, inspiring courses, and exceptional faculty mentorship enriched me both academically and professionally. I highly recommend it to anyone committed to strengthening legal frameworks and advancing the protection of civilians in conflict zones worldwide.

Mehari G. Gebru
LLM Peace Operations,
Humanitarian Law and
Conflict

This LLM prepares graduates for careers with international organizations such as the UN, and in humanitarian response, peacekeeping, and conflict resolution fields that are increasingly vital in today's world of complex emergencies and evolving global challenges. Graduates are well-suited for roles with organisations such as the UN, OSCE, EU, ICRC, NGOs, and government agencies with other typical roles including legal or policy advisers, humanitarian or protection officers, programme managers, or researcher in humanitarian and conflict-related fields.

Career Opportunities

LLM Transitional Justice, Human Rights and Conflict

The LLM Transitional Justice, Human Rights and Conflict offers an interdisciplinary exploration of the legal, policy, and practical challenges facing societies emerging from conflict, authoritarianism, or mass human rights violations. The programme critically examines mechanisms such as truth commissions, criminal tribunals, reparations, and institutional reform, and addresses urgent global issues including enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, torture, genocide, and gender-based and sexual violence in conflict.

This LLM allows students to gain a deep understanding of how transitional justice contributes to peacebuilding, accountability, and reconciliation, with a strong emphasis on international human rights and humanitarian law. Delivered by the internationally renowned Irish Centre for Human Rights, the programme draws on the expertise of leading scholars and practitioners and benefits from close partnerships with the United Nations, international courts and tribunals, NGOs, and regional organisations.

Programme Structure

What our students say...

I chose this LLM due to the interdisciplinary approach, bridging the fields of peacebuilding, transitional justice, and international human rights law. The module's restorative, survivor-centred focus introduces students to emerging theories and practices, fostering critical thinking and innovation. My LLM experience set the foundation for my career in transitional justice research as I went on to complete my PhD at the ICHR, focusing on survivor-centred approaches to transitional justice and peacebuilding in Liberia.

Kelsey Rhude
LLM Transitional
Justice, Human
Rights and Conflict



Employability



Renowned
Academics



Research-Led
Teaching



Research & Field
Engagement

Conduct independent research on pressing transitional justice challenges, with potential collaboration opportunities with NGOs, UN bodies, or advocacy networks.



Global
Perspective

Analyse how international, EU, and Irish legal systems respond to migration and asylum issues—bridging global frameworks with domestic application.



Sustainable and
Justice Focus

Investigate the legal dimensions of climate migration, inequality, and forced displacement, and explore innovative, rights-based solutions for sustainable change.

Graduates are equipped for impactful careers in post-conflict recovery, human rights protection, international justice, and peacebuilding. Career opportunities span international organisations (such as the UN, ICC, and OHCHR), NGOs, truth commissions, reparations bodies, legal practices, government agencies, and academic institutions. The programme provides strong grounding in international human rights law, mechanisms of transitional justice, and conflict-related legal and policy frameworks, preparing students to work in complex, post-conflict environments.

Career Opportunities

LLM Gender Human Rights Law and Policy

The LLM Gender and Human Rights offers a unique and cutting-edge exploration of the intersection between gender and international human rights law. This programme critically engages with global and regional human rights systems, while examining key themes such as gender equality, gender and conflict, peacebuilding, and the complex relationship between gender, law, and religion.



Practice-Focused
Learning



Work Placement
Opportunities



Research-Led
Teaching



Specialist Gender-
Justice Focus

Explore the intersections of gender, law, and human rights with a curriculum centred on feminist legal theory, reproductive rights, LGBTQI+ rights, and gender-based violence.



Applied
Research &
Policy Work

Undertake independent research aligned with current legal and policy challenges, often in collaboration with NGOs, government bodies, and UN agencies.



Career-Skill
Development

Gain professional competencies in gender-sensitive legal analysis, international development, equality law, and transnational lawyering—preparing you for impactful roles across sectors.

Programme Structure

As the only programme of its kind in Ireland and the UK, this LLM provides students with an unparalleled academic and professional foundation to analyse, apply, and shape gender-sensitive approaches to law and public policy—particularly in conflict and post-conflict contexts. Faculty and researchers are actively engaged in groundbreaking collaborations with global organisations including UN Women, the Council of Europe, UN CEDAW, and Women's Link Worldwide, as well as key national actors such as the National Women's Council of Ireland, CUAN, COPE Galway, and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.



Mia Brennan
LLM Gender and
Human Rights Law
and Policy

I was drawn to study the LLM Gender and Human Rights: Law and Policy programme as The Irish Centre for Human Rights is world renowned for activism, research and also teaching. There are endless opportunities to learn and this environment of participation and growth in knowledge is really fostered by the incredible academics leading the programme. I highly recommend this programme to anyone with an interest in gender and human rights.

Graduates of the LLM Gender and Human Rights Law and Policy at University of Galway are prepared for impactful careers across a wide range of sectors including international organisations (such as UN Women and OHCHR), NGOs, government agencies, legal practice, academia, and private consultancy. They typically qualify for roles such as gender and human rights legal advisors, policy analysts, programme officers, advocates, and researchers.

Career Opportunities

Research Programmes

Doctoral Studies

The School of Law and its specialised research centres, notably, the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, offer structured PhD programmes in law. The Structured PhD is available as a 4-year Full Time programme or a 6 –year Part Time programme(360 ECTS). Each student must obtain a total of 30 ECTS through structured modules having a taught or skills component, over the course of the PhD and the remaining 330 ECTS are awarded for the Dissertation. The thesis remains central to the award of the PhD. The remaining ECTS are derived from the research component.

Research areas include:

- HUMAN RIGHTS
- DISABILITY LAW
- HOUSING LAW AND POLICY
- REFUGEE AND IMMIGRATION LAW
- CRIMINOLOGY
- CRIMINAL LAW
- CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
- FAMILY LAW
- EU LAW
- COMMERCIAL LAW
- JURISPRUDENCE
- INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
- INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW
- CONTRACT LAW

PhD candidates are supported by a specialist supervisor in their field of research and have access to all academics across the School and Research Centres. The doctoral programme at the School of Law is distinctive not only because of our exceptional standard of research and level of publication achieved by our students, but also because of the collegial and international environment in which doctoral students work.

Students interested in pursuing PhD research in the School of Law should contact a staff member with appropriate expertise in their proposed area of research, or the PhD Programme Director.

Scholarships

At University of Galway, we are keen to ensure that the brightest and most committed students progress to postgraduate study.

The **Hardiman Research Scholarship** is a prestigious scholarship scheme at University of Galway, offering four years of PhD funding (fees and maintenance). Please see the link [here](#) for further information.

For details on other research scholarship opportunities click [here](#).

Taught Postgraduate Scholarships

University of Galway has generous scholarships valued at €1,500 for EU students applying for full-time taught postgraduate courses. You will be eligible if you have been accepted to a full-time taught course at University of Galway, and have attained a first class honours (or equivalent) in a Level 8 primary degree. Full criteria and details are available [here](#).

International Scholarships

Government of Ireland Scholarship - Click [here](#)

Irish Aid Fellowship Programme and other international scholarship opportunities - Click [here](#)

Other Funding Opportunities Universities Ireland:

North/South Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme - Click [here](#)

How to Apply

You can apply online for law taught postgraduate masters on the University of Galway Postgraduate Admissions Office website [here](#).

Fees

Please see the course pages on the University of Galway website for fee information per programme.

International Students

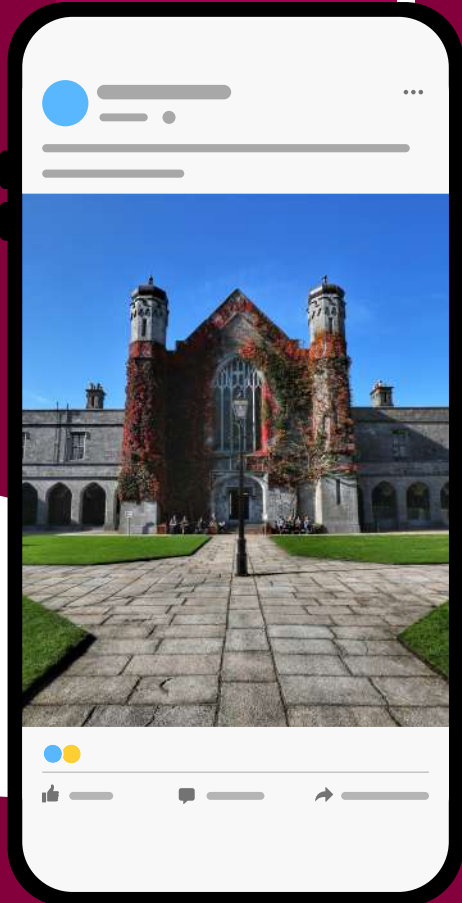
Immigration Regulations Students from EU and EEA member states do not require a visa to study in Ireland. Students from Non EU member states are required to comply with Irish Visa and Immigration regulations. It is important that you obtain and maintain a valid passport

English Language Requirements

All applicants, whose first language is not English, must present an English language test. Full details on English language requirements can be found [here](#).

LLM By Research

LLM By Research Students may also pursue a LLM by research (major thesis) in any of the main research areas of full-time permanent academic members of staff of the Faculty. Candidates are advised to contact the relevant staff member before applying in order to discuss their proposed topic or area of research.



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www.universityofgalway.ie/law

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