Ollscoil na Gaillimhe | University of Galway | Scoil an Dlí / School of Law

Master of Laws (Law and Digital Innovation) 1ML34/1ML35

Everything you need to know for the year ahead.

Scoil *an* Dlí
Leabhrán Acadúil
2025 –2026

School *of* Law
Academic Booklet
2025 – 2026

University of Galway Campus Map

Instagram @UniversityofGalwayLaw www.instagram.com/universityofgalwaylaw

Facebook @UniversityofGalwaySchoolofLaw www.facebook.com/schooloflaw

Twitter @UniofGalwayLaw www.twitter.com/UniofGalwayLaw

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Please note that the information contained in this document is subject to change.

Fáiltiú |*Welcome*

September 2025

Dear student,

As Programme Directors for the LLM in Law and Digital Innovation and on behalf of the staff of the School of Law, it is a pleasure to welcome you to University of Galway.

The Law School greatly values the contribution of its postgraduate students to scholarship and to the life of the School and College and we hope that your time with us will be rewarding and enjoyable.

The LLM in Law and Digital Innovation offers excellent opportunities to extend your knowledge of law, the digital transition, and new approaches to lawyering. You can tailor your studies to your particular area of interest. Students taking the programme may select modules from across all of the Masters programmes available at the School, the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, plus selected modules from the J E Cairnes School of Business and Economics. In addition, students will be advised as to opportunities to attend conferences, publish articles in student law journals, participate in internships, and to build your curriculum vitae. We very much hope that you take advantage of these opportunities.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with general information on postgraduate studies at the School of Law and to provide specific information on the LLM in Law and Digital Innovation.

If there is anything that you wish to know and that is not covered in this guide, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We wish you all the best in your studies for the forthcoming year.

Regards,

Dr Rónán Kennedy
Programme Director
LLM in Law and Digital Innovation
ronan.m.kennedy@universityofgalway.ie

Dr Abigail Rekas, JD
Programme Co-Director
LLM in Law and Digital Innovation
abigail.rekas@universityofgalway.ie

Ollscoil na Gallimhe | *University of Galway*

Your university, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe | University of Galway, was established in 1845 as Queen's College Galway. Today, University of Galway is one of Ireland's foremost centres of academic excellence. With over 18,000 students, it has a long-established reputation of teaching and research excellence. University of Galway is situated on a beautiful riverside campus right in the heart of Galway city and by now you will have witnessed for yourself the extent of the recent building and modernisation programme. Academically, University of Galway is structured around Colleges and Schools. As a Law student, you are a member of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law.
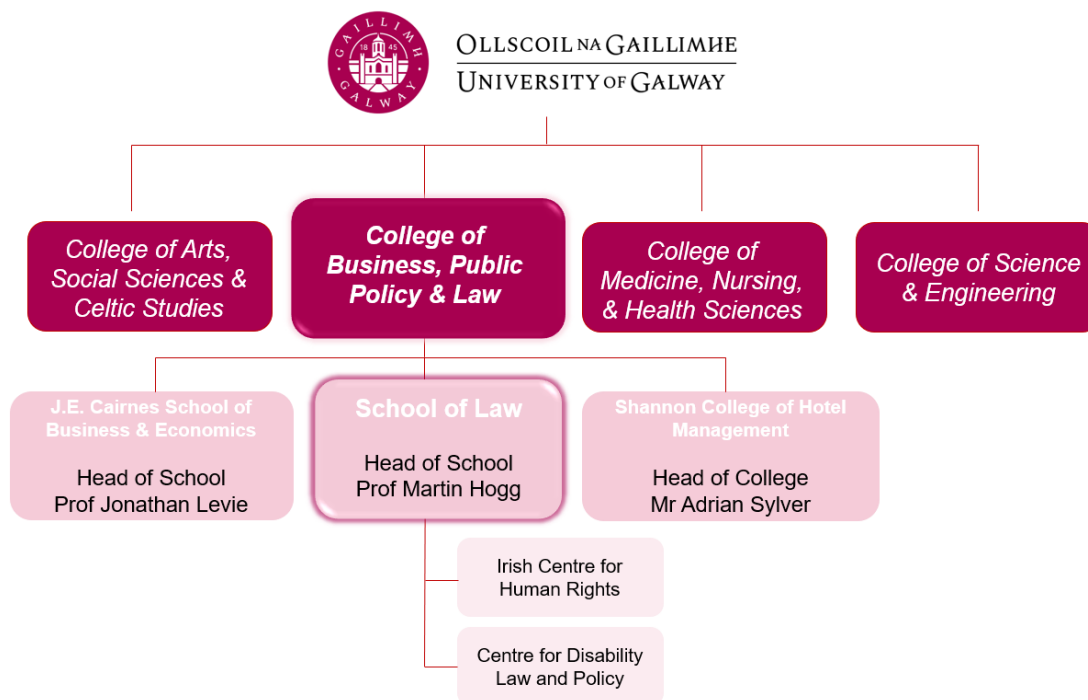
School of Law

Established in 1849, the School of Law at the University of Galway delivers innovative legal education in a dynamic school dedicated to impactful, high quality legal research.

With 800 undergraduate and postgraduate students and over 40 staff, the School emphasises student-focused, research-led teaching delivered in a supportive and intellectually challenging environment.

It hosts the internationally renowned Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Disability Law & Policy; both centres with established reputations as world leaders in their fields. The School is passionate about research that meets the highest standards of scholarship, informs student learning and engages with current societal challenges, impacting public debate and informing government policy.

ACADEMIC STAFF

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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Dr Rónán Kennedy	**Dr Abigail Rekas, JD**
ronan.m.kennedy@universityofgalway.ie	abigail.rekas@universityofgalway.ie

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Professor Martin Hogg **Head of School**	**martin.hogg@universityofgalway.ie**
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Ms Carmel Flynn School Administrator	carmel.flynn@universityofgalway.ie
Ms Tara Elwood Administrative Assistant	tara.elwood@universityofgalway.ie
Ms Lorna Cormican Administrative Assistant	lorna.cormican@universityofgalway.ie
Ms Michelle Lantry Administrative Assistant	michelle.lantry@universityofgalway.ie
School Web Address	https://www.universityofgalway.ie/law/
School Email Address	law@universityofgalway.ie

Academic Year 2025/2026 - Important Dates

Semester 1

Orientation / Start of teaching	Monday, 8th September 2025
End of teaching	Friday, 28th November 2025
Submission of Semester 1 Essays	Thursday, 18th December 2025

Semester 2

Start of teaching	Monday, 12th January 2026
Study Week	Monday, 13th – Friday 17th April 2026
End of Teaching	Friday, 3rd April 2026
Submission of Semester 2 Essays	Wednesday, 6th May 2026

Minor Thesis

Submission of Minor Thesis Title	Friday, 20th February 2026
Submission of Minor Thesis	Friday, 7th August 2026

SCHOOL SUPPORT

The School Administration Office staff are available for contact from 9.30am – 4.30pm, Monday – Friday throughout the academic year, unless otherwise indicated. Queries should be raised in the first instance by emailing lorna.cormican@universityofgalway.ie. For urgent queries, call 091 492389.   The School of Law administration offices are located on Floor 2, Tower 2, Arts/Science Building. Please contact the office by email to arrange an in-person appointment.

If you are seeking support and guidance for personal or academic concerns, School of Law Student Support Officer AnnMarie Gilchrist, is available to all Law students in need of assistance:

Student Support Officer - School of Law
Ms AnnMarie Gilchrist

My name is AnnMarie Gilchrist and I am the Student Support Officer for the School of Law in University of Galway.

My role is to support students who may be at personal or academic risk. I offer a confidential, non-judgmental service to students, and can offer advice on time management, structuring study plans, financial assistance, exam preparation, and general welfare.

I also support students who are feeling overwhelmed or experiencing personal difficultly which impacts their academic success.   I can offer advice and information on various supports which are available to students of NUI Galway and no problem is too big or too small, so please don't hesitate to contact me.

I work full-time, and you can contact me via email on studentsupportlaw@universityofgalway.ie

School of Law T: +353 (0) 91 492389 law@universityofgalway.ie	Career Development Centre T: +353 (0) 91 493589 careers@universityofgalway.ie	Student Registry Helpdesk T: +353 (0) 91 495999 askregistry@universityofgalway.ie
Registration Office T: +353 (0) 91 494329 reghelp@universityofgalway.ie	Disability Support Service T: +353 (0) 91 492813 disabilityservice@universityofgalway.ie	Fees Office T: +353 (0) 91 492386 fees@universityofgalway.ie
Chaplaincy Centre T: +353 (0) 091 495055 chaplains@universityofgalway.ie	Student Counselling Service T: +353 (0) 91 492484 counselling@universityofgalway.ie	

JAMES HARDIMAN LIBRARY

library@universityofgalway.ie   http://www.library.universityofgalway.ie

Effective use of the library is a crucially important part of legal education. Students should take advantage of every opportunity to familiarise themselves with the library and the services it offers. Nowadays, many excellent services are available through electronic sources (located on the ground floor of the library). Training sessions are available, and details may be found at the information desk located in the library.

Introduction - Law - LibGuides at University of Galway
https://www.universityofgalway.ie/academic-skills/readingandresearch/

The Law Collections are located at the podium level in the James Hardiman Library. This contains all the primary materials for the study of Law together with the Official Publications and the European document centre located in the same area. Click on Law Resources for a guide to the collections available to students, researchers and staff.

The Law Databases page will bring you to our electronic collections of law reports, journals and legislation.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This programme is a taught programme designed to prepare students to address digital and other transformations in the legal industry through their selection of modules and topic for their minor thesis. It provides students with core modules in research skills, the future of law, and design thinking. Unlike other Masters programmes, however, it allows students to choose from a wide range of modules on offer across the School of Law, the Irish Centre for Human Rights, the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, and the JE Cairnes School of Business and Economics so that students may take modules that further their career plans or academic interests.

The programme is thus designed for students seeking an advanced postgraduate degree but who do not wish to specialise in a particular area of law. Students undertaking this programme will develop critical thinking skills about different aspect of law and develop legal research and legal writing skills.

Semester	ECTS
Semester 1	30 ECTS
Semester 2	30 ECTS
Summer	Minor Thesis (30 ECTS) (15,000 words excluding footnotes and bibliography)

FULL-TIME MODE

The LLM (Law and Digital Innovation) is a one-year programme of full-time study, combining two semesters of course work and the preparation of a minor thesis.

In Semester 1, students must take three foundation modules (LW483 Advanced Legal Research and Methods, LW5220 The Future of Law, and LW5221 Design Thinking for Lawyers I) as well as choosing two substantive modules (see table of modules at the end of the guide). Each module will be examined mainly by oral presentation and/or essay.

In Semester 2, students must take three foundation modules (LW5222 Design Thinking for Lawyers II, LW5223 Computation and Law, and LW5224 Digital Transformation and Access to Justice) and then electives from across the suite of modules available on any of the Masters Programmes (LLM General, LLM (International and Comparative Business Law), LLM (International and Comparative Disability Law), LLM (Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights) and the Masters Programmes available at the Irish Centre for Human Rights). Please note module LW5215 Criminology Criminal Justice and Human Rights is *not* available for LLM in Law and Digital Innovation students.

While we endeavour to ensure there are no timetabling clashes, it is important for students to ensure that it is possible to take their chosen modules and that they have registered for the required number of ECTS (a total number of 90 ECTS). Some modules may not run if there are not sufficient numbers of students as this would not allow for in-class discussion and critical engagement. Also, on occasions, module leaders may not be available if they are on sabbatical or other research leave. Each course will be examined mainly by essay and/or oral presentation.

Students must write a minor thesis of 15,000 words excluding footnotes and bibliography in one of the subject areas of the programme. It is advisable to begin thinking about your topic of interest for your thesis as you progress through semester 1. To help you focus on this, please note that there is a requirement to submit your proposed thesis title and brief outline of your research topic by 20th February 2026.

Towards the end of Semester 2, we will be running a workshop to assist you on refining your research methods and writing technique to assist you towards the completion of your minor thesis. Each student will have a member of the teaching staff on the LLM programme as their minor thesis supervisor (see section on Selecting a Supervisor).

As noted above, occasionally some modules on the timetable may not run. If, however, you are interested in doing your thesis research in this particular area of law, you may contact the academic listed as module leader and they may be able to facilitate your research.

The thesis will be completed between April and July.

PART-TIME MODE

In Year 1 students must take LW483 Advanced Legal Research in Semester 1 and 10 ECTS credits in each semester.

In Year 2 students must take 10 ECTS credits in one semester and 20 ECTS credits in the other semester, an additional elective module and write a minor thesis (15,000 words excluding footnotes and bibliography) related to the themes of the course.

DURATION

Full-Time Mode

The programme is divided into two semesters. The first semester commences in September and runs through to December. The second semester begins in January and ends in April. The period April-July is devoted to the writing up of the minor thesis and terminates with the submission of the thesis in early August. During the two semesters candidates are required to attend a full course of seminars in each subject, while the third period, April-July, is devoted entirely to the research and writing required for the preparation of the final minor thesis.

Part-Time Mode

Year 1 commences in September and runs through to April (as above). Year 2 commences in September and runs through to April, and the period from May to early August is devoted to the preparation of the minor thesis (as above).

MODULE OUTLINES

COMPULSORY MODULES

SEMESTER 1

LW483 Advanced Legal Research and Methods
Module Co-ordinator: Mr Larry Donnelly

This module will build on the research skills already acquired by students in their primary law degree programmes. The module will be closely linked with and designed to facilitate the writing components and the minor thesis requirement of all students on the programme. The emphasis will be on practical exercises which will include elements of the following: textual analysis, database training, literature review, research presentation, abstract writing, report writing and research evaluation.

LW5220 The Future of Law
Module Co-ordinator: Dr Rónán Kennedy

Diverse strands of change are influencing how law itself, the practice of law, and the business of law operate. These include information and communications technology (particularly so-called 'artificial intelligence'), globalisation, the rise of in-house lawyering, outsourcing, off-shoring, equality, inclusion and diversity issues, and environmental, social and governance challenges. This module explores these issues, placing them in an empirical and critical context, and encourages students to develop mechanisms to future-scan while remaining capable of maintaining a reflective perspective on what changes might be coming and how they should respond to those.

LW5221 Design Thinking for Lawyers I
Module Co-ordinator: Dr Abigail Rekas, JD

This first module introduces students to the core principles of design thinking and their application in legal and policy contexts. Working in interdisciplinary teams, students learn to approach problems from a user's perspective through empathy-driven research, persona creation, and journey mapping. The emphasis is on understanding stakeholders' needs and experiences, framing clear problem statements, and generating early solution concepts. Along the way, students build skills in collaboration, communication, and creative ideation, with an introduction to concepts such as wireframing and decision trees to support later prototyping work.

*Note that **both** Design Thinking modules are compulsory.*

SEMESTER 2

LW5222 Design Thinking for Lawyers II
Module Co-ordinator: Dr Abigail Rekas, JD
Pre-requisite LW5221 Design Thinking for Lawyers I

Building on the research and ideas developed in the first module, this course focuses on turning concepts into tangible, testable solutions. Students develop low-fidelity prototypes using accessible low-code/no-code tools, refine their designs through iterative testing with partner organisations, and integrate feedback into improved versions. The module also explores user flows, decision logic, and interactive design principles, culminating in a professional-level pitch. By the end, teams will deliver a prototype, a clear value proposition, and a roadmap for how their solution could create impact in legal or policy practice.

LW5223 Computation and Law
Module Co-ordinator: Dr Rónán Kennedy

Lawyers and technologists are now using software tools as a means of analysing legal information, including case law, legislation, and practice data. This module explores the use

of analytics for and by lawyers. It begins with a foundation in the essential legal and regulatory framework, including data protection, privacy protections, and the EU Artificial Intelligence Act. Incorporating insights from the use of analytics in other disciplines, and decades of experience in the development of business information systems, it provides students with an opportunity to develop critical perspectives on the appropriateness of legal analytics in different contexts while also building their practical data management and analysis skills through hands-on projects.

LW5224 Digital Transformation and Access to Justice
Module Co-ordinator: Dr Abigail Rekas, JD

This module aims to explore the opportunities and drawbacks of the digital transformation of the legal industry in the context of access to justice. It will begin with a discussion of access to justice issues broadly, identifying inflection points where systems are overloaded or failing, in Ireland and beyond. The course will then focus on e-justice initiatives, from e-courts and online dispute resolution, to app based support for individuals, including AI interventions, in order for students to assess whether those initiatives are successful in addressing these inflection points. The module concludes with an examination of access to justice initiatives in the context of vulnerable populations and explores how enabling technologies for one population may be dis-enabling for another.

OPTIONAL MODULES

Please see table at the end of the guide outlining a full list of all modules available from the School of Law, the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, the Irish Centre for Human Rights, and the J E Cairnes School of Business and Economics. Should you wish to undertake a module outside of the assigned modules on your programme, please notify and agree same with the Programme Directors, Dr Rónán Kennedy ronan.m.kennedy@universityofgalway.ie and Dr Abigail Rekas, JD abigail.rekas@universityofgalway.ie Information on Human Rights modules will be provided at Orientation.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

For each class, assessment is based primarily on written submissions, or portfolios of completed work. Some lecturers may include a percentage given for class participation and presentations. The assessment guidelines for each module should be consulted, and any queries on assessment should be directed to the individual lecturer responsible for the module.

All essays must be submitted via Canvas. You can download a receipt for submission. There is no need to email a copy to staff. Check with Canvas help for questions concerning submission, and follow instructions provided by your lecturer. It will be compulsory to complete Academic Integrity Training before submitting coursework.

You must also include the following declaration with all coursework submitted.

I, [STUDENT NAME], do hereby declare that this work that is submitted for assessment is my own and that due credit has been given to all sources of information contained herein according to the rules that govern the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the School of Law. I acknowledge that I have read and understood the [Academic Integrity Policy](#) and the [University of Galway Student Code of Conduct](#) and that I am bound by them.

PENALTIES FOR LATE SUBMISSION OF ESSAYS AND / OR MINOR THESIS

Up to and including 7 days late:
Where course work, essay(s) or minor thesis are submitted up to and including 7 days late, 5% will be automatically deducted from the mark achieved.

Up to and including 14 days late:
Where the work is submitted up to and including 14 days late, 10% will be automatically deducted from the mark achieved.

More than 14 Days Late:
Work submitted more than 14 days late will not be accepted.

Penalty Calculation
The percentages are specified by reference to the total marks available. For example, if a student submitted work worth 60% five days late, he or she would only be credited with 55%.

REPEAT EXAMINATIONS, ASSESSMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS APPEALS

If a fail mark is awarded for a module in Semester 1 or Semester 2, students will be required to resubmit by **Friday, 7th August 2026.** For details on examination appeals please see: http://www.universityofgalway.ie/exams/results/appeals/

Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Examination Boards
In accordance with the **Postgraduate Marks and Standards**, there are two PGT Examination Boards.

1st sitting
The PGT Summer Exam Board will consider results for Semesters 1 and 2.
It is important to note that compensation cannot be applied at the first sitting. If a module mark is not returned for a student, the result will be recorded as zero (fail), and their second sitting result will be capped at 40%, (Students can carry forward the mark of any component of their assessment that was passed e.g. a mark awarded for class participation or presentation) they will also be liable for a repeat fee of €295.

In the case of deferrals, capping and fees do not apply. Repeat assessments are capped at 40%.

2nd sitting
The PGT Autumn Exam Board will consider repeat and deferred module results along with dissertation results. Overall awards will be considered, and compensation can be applied at this board.

If all results for a student have not been returned and considered by the PGT Autumn Board, it will be necessary for the student to repeat the year, incurring repeat fees for the year.

Please see detailed link to the PG Marks and Standards QA236- (p.3 – repeats) here:
https://www.universityofgalway.ie/exams/policies-procedures/

Criteria For Assessment of Essays | Marking Scale
Marking Scale

Marks and Standards for all LLM programmes
Postgraduate Marks and Standards

Support for Assessment Preparation
https://www.universityofgalway.ie/academic-skills/assignmentsexams/

Academic Integrity
Please familiarise yourself with the Research Ethics and Academic Integrity guidelines.
Policies & Procedures - University of Galway
Ethics Integrity
Epigeum Training Course: Academic Integrity For Students

The Academic Integrity adviser for the School of Law is Ms Anna-Louise Hinds. If you have any queries about the University of Galway Research Ethics and Academic Integrity guidelines you should contact Ms Hinds for advice anna.hinds@universityofgalway.ie

Plagiarism

Any copying of material from work by others, including by directly or indirectly quoting without acknowledging the source, is likely to be deemed an act of plagiarism. In other words, when you use someone else's work and present it as your own, it is plagiarism. **The penalties for plagiarism are outlined in the University Academic Integrity policy and related documents, and in the School of Law policies.** Please take measures to ensure that you are careful to acknowledge and correctly cite your sources, and please ensure that you are using authoritative sources, drawing on the reading lists assigned by staff and course materials.

Please note the following.

1. Where you have quoted from a source, **you must use quotation marks** to indicate the sections of the text that you are citing. It is <u>NOT</u> enough to just place a footnote at the end of the quote or paragraph. If the quote is verbatim (that is lifted directly from the text), then **you must place the text inside quotation marks**. This tells the reader not just that you derived the information from another source but that the words you are providing are the author's and not your own summary. After each end quote, you must place a footnote.

2. If you have paraphrased a statement or argument from another author (that is you are taking information from an article, book or data analysis from another author but are not quoting word for word, but rather summarizing the arguments in your own words) you do not need to place this text within quotes (as it is not a direct quotation) but you still must provide a footnote to signal that the argument or data is not yours, but from another author.

AI Cheating

Under the University of Galway's Academic Integrity Policy (QA220), the unauthorised use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in assessed work is treated in the same way as other forms of plagiarism or contract cheating. AI cheating occurs when a student uses AI-generated content—such as text, data analysis, problem solutions, code, or other material—and presents it as their own without proper acknowledgement. While AI technologies may, in some cases, be used appropriately to support learning and research where expressly permitted by your lecturer, any undisclosed or unapproved use breaches University regulations. You are responsible for knowing what use of AI, if any, is allowed for each piece of assessment, and for clearly acknowledging any authorised AI input. Submitting work generated in whole or in part by AI without permission or proper citation is academic misconduct and may result in serious penalties, up to and including failure of the module or programme.

WORKLOAD/EXPECTATIONS

The LLM in Law and Digital Innovation is a taught postgraduate degree consisting of seminars given on a weekly or fortnightly basis. However, students should note that the formats of these seminars differ considerably from undergraduate courses. At undergraduate level students merely take notes from the lecture given. At LLM level students will be given reading lists at the start of term and are expected to have familiarised themselves with the reading materials for each week in advance of the seminars. This prior preparation is essential in order for students to get full personal benefit from the seminar. Seminars are conducted in an interactive/ participative/ discursive style between students and lecturers. Students must come to the seminars having read the materials assigned and must be

prepared to participate in the discussion. The examining process in each module will include oral presentation.

IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE

The university is committed to providing students with a vibrant on-campus experience. Teaching will take place in person and online materials will act as a supplement to, but not a replacement for the in-person learning experience.

Attendance is not optional, but an obligatory requirement for students. Consistent attendance and participation in lectures and tutorials are the best way to get the most out of your education. There are many reasons why attendance is a key factor in your university experience:

- College semesters are short, and it is easy to fall behind. Consistent attendance is the best method to avoid falling behind in your studies.
- High levels of engagement and activity in classes and coursework will make it more likely that students will acquire a high level of knowledge and understanding of their chosen subjects, feel confident in their abilities and experience less stress during assessments and be better prepared for subsequent years.
- Non-attendance may be considered de facto withdrawal from a course and students may be unable to proceed to examination or subsequent registration. It is essential that first-year students are made aware of this requirement.
- The student grant (SUSI) scheme requires that attendance is monitored and reported on.
- Similarly, fees are paid by the State on behalf of students on the implicit understanding that the students are fully participating in the programmes for which they are registered.
- Many Schools and programmes already register attendance at each class and this should be continued. It is necessary, at the very least, to take attendance at key (or random) stages in the semester which can be reported for each School to Colleges and then to Academic Council.
- Research has shown convincingly that poor attendance results in lower levels of achievement and a higher chance of failure and withdrawal from programmes.
- If students have any concerns regarding the quality of the teaching or learning experience in any of their scheduled classes (or other components of their modules) they should provide feedback using the various channels at their disposal (for example, module questionnaires, Class Reps, Liaison committees) so that any issues may be resolved or considered, as appropriate. Non-attendance is not a means of raising any such issues and may be interpreted, rather, as a reflection of student commitment levels.

The School of Law aims to support students to succeed in their degrees. Because of the importance of attendance, The School does engage in some targeted attendance monitoring in lectures and tutorials. The purpose of this is not to be punitive but supportive. We are acutely

aware of the difficulties students may face when it comes to attendance (illness, care responsibilities, lack of accommodation etc). If we are aware of these issues, we can put in place supports to address them. Attendance monitoring is one way of doing this.

Clearly, there will be extenuating circumstances faced by students from time to time, such as illness and other personal difficulties. Students in these situations should notify the appropriate person responsible for their course so that appropriate measures can be taken.

ENGAGEMENT WITH COURSEWORK

Enrolment on a full-time programme means a commitment to 40-50 hours of total student effort per week throughout all the weeks of each semester. The scheduled classes (lectures, tutorials, laboratories, etc) are only one component of the total effort that is required in order to succeed. Assessments and assigned coursework are designed on the basis that students are undertaking the full effort required and are not just based on material covered in scheduled class time alone.

Students should make sure that they timetable in their own diaries adequate time for study, reading, coursework and revision across the semester. Success at university level is not possible through cramming at the last minute.

PROGRAMME QUERIES

Queries about the programme in general should be addressed to the programme director. Queries about individual modules should be addressed in the first instance to the lecturer concerned and if not sufficient to the programme director.

CONSULTATION WITH LECTURERS

All School of Law staff set aside regular times for consultation with students and these times are notified in class and/or on Canvas.

SCHOOL OF LAW RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

The School of Law organises Research Seminars throughout the Academic year. See the Law School website for details of past and future Seminars. LLM students are encouraged to attend and participate.

SCHOOL OF LAW WEBSITE

The School of Law website is an important source of information for LLM students. The website contains a range of information about the teaching, research and other activities of the School of Law. The website also allows access for current students to relevant documentation pertaining to their programme and provides links to other University and law-related sites. Full staff biographies are available on the School of Law page and provides information on their research expertise and teaching.

The student online learning facility Canvas is used for uploading course materials and interactions between students and teaching staff in relation to course content.

Correspondence with students will be through Canvas. It is important that you check your e-mails regularly. Important details of assignment submission dates, conferences etc. will be placed on Canvas also.

Students are urged to check their University of Galway e-mails regularly as sometimes opportunities become available at short notice and these opportunities are communicated via e-mail as is various other information about the programme. Students are also encouraged to like the School of Law, University of Galway page on Facebook.

MINOR THESIS (30 ECTS)

To be eligible for the award of the LLM degree, a candidate must submit a minor thesis of not more than 15,000 words excluding footnotes and bibliography. Students are required to submit their minor thesis topic title by Friday, 20th February 2026 and the submission date for the thesis is Friday, 7th August 2026.

SELECTION OF TOPICS

Topics must be selected in conjunction with and approved by lecturers from any of the core courses or options or related areas.

An information session will take place on **Monday 8th September 2025.** The session will introduce students to the programme content. During this session, lecturers who will be teaching courses in Semesters 1 and 2 will present an introduction to their subjects. Not only will this provide students with an understanding of the themes of the LLM programme, it will also give you a good indication of the content of the Semester 2 courses to aid you in your choice of minor thesis topic. An advisory session relating to minor theses will be scheduled for Semester 2. In previous years the advisory session involved presentations to students on selecting the topic of your minor thesis; how to write a minor thesis; how to identify your research questions, etc.

SELECTION OF A SUPERVISOR

When seeking a supervisor students should first approach lecturers from any of the core courses or options or related areas by email.

Lecturers are only required to supervise a specified number of minor theses. The limit for each member of staff will be decided when the total numbers of students registered for the degree is confirmed. In the case of the LLM in Law and Digital Innovation, the maximum for any member of the teaching staff will normally be five. **Students are advised to approach staff members regarding supervision of their minor thesis in good time.**

Supervisors will advise candidates in relation to the submission of their minor thesis title, research questions and the final version of the minor thesis.

Please bear in mind that lecturers have busy schedules, and that they supervise other LLM and PhD students, and undergraduate students. Staff also have University administration and research commitments. Do not be unreasonable in your expectations as to the time it takes them to review written proposals, bibliographies, and outlines. In addition, much of this work is done during the summer months, when lecturers may be taking their annual leave. It is prudent to bear all of this in mind and to discuss a schedule for writing, reviews and meetings with your supervisor as early as possible.

SUBMISSION OF MINOR THESIS

Submission of minor thesis title: **5pm on Friday, 20st February 2026**. Please email your thesis title to [lawthesis@universityofgalway.ie.](mailto:lawthesis@universityofgalway.ie) The purpose of this deadline is to ensure that you begin the process of identifying a minor thesis topic and give consideration to which member of staff you will ask to supervise your research over the summer period. Failure to submit a minor thesis title by the deadline may result in failure to obtain supervision from your preferred supervisor in your preferred area of research.

Final Minor Thesis: (100%); to be submitted by **5pm on Friday, 7th August 2026**. Please email the final thesis to lawthesis@universityofgalway.ie and also upload a copy to LW450 Dissertation on Canvas.

OTHER INFORMATION

If, for some reason agreed with the programme director, your chosen supervisor is from outside the programme, a lecturer associated with the programme must be appointed as overall supervisor.

The deadline for submission of the form indicating minor thesis topic and signed by the supervisor is 5pm on Friday, 20th February 2026.

By that date students must have completed the minor thesis registration form by giving the title chosen, subject area and name and signature of supervisor. The form is annexed to this guide. The completed form must be returned by email to lawthesis@universityofgalway.ie

These are FINAL deadlines, and students are free to submit the title and supervisor's form at an earlier date if desired.

RELATIONSHIP WITH SUPERVISORS

Once your supervisor has agreed to oversee your minor thesis work and has approved the topic chosen there must be agreement on a schedule of meetings to suit both parties.

The onus is on the student to confirm the date of the next meeting at the end of each supervisory session. Neither you nor your supervisor should cancel scheduled meetings without good reason, and if a meeting is cancelled you should re-arrange the meeting as quickly as possible.

Regular meetings with your supervisor are recommended in the second semester with a record kept of the time and date of each meeting. These meetings can take place on campus or online. Keeping a record of the meeting is to benefit both student and supervisors and to ensure that time spent at each meeting is productive and concentrated on a specific issue. It should be noted by students that the supervisor's role in the researching and writing process is confined to offering guidance and supervision - the student alone must take on the work of compiling the substantive research needed and of writing the minor thesis.

A good working relationship with your supervisor is essential. If you are dissatisfied or uneasy about any aspect of the relationship, discuss the matter with, in this order:

1.   your supervisor
2.   the relevant module co-ordinator
3.   the programme director

In extreme cases, where the relationship with your supervisor breaks down completely, it may be necessary to consider changing supervisors. Note, however, that a change of supervisor can be unsettling and disruptive and should be considered as a solution of last resort. Note also that a change of supervisor is conditional upon the availability of suitable alternative supervisors within the School of Law.

Any change must be agreed in advance with the programme director and then notified to Lorna Cormican (lorna.cormican@universityofgawaly.ie) School of Law administration, for our records.

CONTACTING SUPERVISORS BETWEEN MEETINGS

You should be able to contact your supervisor for advice and assistance at other reasonable times outside your planned schedule. You must ensure that you know your supervisor's work e-mail address in case you need to get in touch. The onus is on you to contact your supervisor quickly if you run into difficulty, without waiting for the next planned meeting. You are responsible for ensuring that your supervisor knows how to get in touch with you during normal working hours.

MAINTAINING CONTACT DURING PERIODS OF ABSENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY

If your supervisor plans to be away from the university, they will let you know in advance. If necessary, a temporary replacement supervisor will be arranged. If you want to work away from the university (e.g., fieldwork, placement), you must obtain your supervisor's agreement and the School of Law's permission. You must maintain effective contact with your supervisor by either e-mail or online communication while you are working away, even if an external supervisor is appointed for you.

If you are unexpectedly absent, report any unintended absence or sick leave to your supervisor as soon as possible. This is particularly important if you are in receipt of a studentship, as you must comply with your funding bodies' rules about absence, including absence due to sickness.

AVAILABILITY OF SUPERVISORS DURING THE PERIOD MAY - JULY

Supervisors will normally be busy marking undergraduate examinations during the period from the middle of May until early July. Contact during that period may be maintained by e-mail. Each student should aim to have much of the substantive research completed by the start of the summer vacation, leaving the holiday period free for refining and perfecting the minor thesis.

Students should not expect supervisors to be readily available during this time, as the School of Law members will have research commitments and responsibilities during the summer months.

The School will endeavour to have a rota in place over this time to answer urgent queries. A School of Law member shall be available one day a week to meet students in person. Otherwise, the fastest and most effective means of contact with your supervisor is the use of e-mail.

Supervisors will advise you right up to the time you and they feel confident that you are ready to go it alone. *While the supervisor may agree to read short sections for you in the early stages to ensure that your approach and writing style are appropriate, supervisors are NOT expected to read full or substantial drafts of the thesis in the later stages.*

Prof Burkhard Schafer, University of Edinburgh is the external examiner appointed for the programme.

Note: Supervisors may be asked to report to the School of Law on the progress of a student. The School of Law will *not* accept an essay or minor thesis which a staff member has not had the opportunity to supervise adequately. The approval of the relevant staff member acting as supervisor is very important in this process.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The deadline for submission of the final minor thesis is **Friday, 7th August 2026.** Requirements for submission are posted on the website of the Graduate Studies office https://www.universityofgalway.ie/graduatestudies/. Please consult the website of the Graduate Studies Office for up-to-date information. We will issue specific guidelines for submission of hard copies, electronic copies and an electronic copy for the library.

Approval of late submissions shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the LLM Programme Board in exceptional circumstances, e.g., illness, death of a relative, summer placement connected with aspects of the course (please see previous Extenuating Circumstances Policy)

PENALTIES FOR LATE SUBMISSION OF ESSAYS AND / OR MINOR THESIS

Up to and including 7 days late:
Where course work, essay(s) or minor thesis are submitted up to and including 7 days late, 5% will be automatically deducted from the mark achieved.

Up to and including 14 days late:
Where the work is submitted up to and including 14 days late, 10% will be automatically deducted from the mark achieved.

More than 14 Days Late:
Work submitted more than 14 days late will not be accepted.

Penalty Calculation
The percentages are specified by reference to the total marks available. For example, if a student submitted work worth 60% five days late, he or she would only be credited with 55%.

GUIDELINES FOR MINOR THESIS
MASTERS THESIS LAYOUT (Taught Degree)

1. A **thesis must be submitted in the registered name,** i.e., the name on the student's ID card, which reflects the name on the student's birth certificate. The **thesis will not be accepted by the Examining Discipline unless the name on the thesis is exactly as registered.** (i.e., shortened versions of names or names translated into other languages will not be accepted).

2. **There must be a title page to include the following information:**

   a) The full title of the thesis and the subtitle, if any.

b) The total number of volumes, if more than one, and the number of the particular volume.
c) The full name of the author, followed, if desired, by any qualifications and distinctions.
d) The qualification for which the thesis is submitted (LLM (Law and Digital Innovation)).
e) The name of the institution to which the thesis is submitted.
f) The College, school, discipline or organisation in which research was conducted.
g) The month of the year of Submission.
h) Name Head of the school/discipline.
i) Names of the Supervisor of the research.

3. The **title** should describe the content of the thesis accurately and concisely.

4. The **table of contents** shall immediately follow the title page.

5. The **front cover** should contain the following information:

Title of Thesis
Name of Candidate
Programme Title - Master of Laws (Law and Digital Innovation)
Year

6. The work shall be accompanied by a **short summary** of the contents and a bibliography of the works consulted in its composition.

7. **All copies of works so presented shall remain the property of the University.**

8. The Senate has decided that work on which a Degree in the University, or elsewhere, has already been obtained should not be accepted as the main work for a subsequent Degree. It may, however, be accepted as supplementary work.

9. You must also include the following declaration with all coursework submitted.

I, [STUDENT NAME], do hereby declare that this work that is submitted for assessment is my own and that due credit has been given to all sources of information contained herein according to the rules that govern the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the School of Law. I acknowledge that I have read and understood the Academic Integrity Policy and the University of Galway Student Code of Conduct and that I am bound by them.

Signature: ----------- ------------------------------------   Date: ---------------

MASTERS THESIS SUBMISSION

1. Please upload an electronic copy to Canvas.
2. E-mail an electronic copy of your minor thesis to lawthesis@universityofgalway.ie and to your supervisor.
3.Complete the compulsory University Academic Integrity Training, upload your certificate followed by a copy of your dissertation to Canvas on the LW450 Dissertation page.
4. If you wish to submit your thesis electronically to the library this can be done via the Library website under 'About our Collections' & 'Theses'; however, this is optional.

https://library.universityofgalway.ie/collections/theses/#

Please note that your minor thesis supervisor has to approve your minor thesis to be made available online. You may be required to make changes to your thesis before it is accepted for submission online. Your supervisor will communicate any required changes to you.

Please note also that any student whose thesis has not been submitted by the University's final deadline will have to re-register and pay fees for a further year.

ONLINE LEGAL RESEARCH

LLM students should be aware of the following online sources of law, which are available to registered students through the university homepage, www.universityofgalway.ie. Law students at University of Galway can simply turn on any computer at the university, or off-campus via a password, click on "Library" and access an alphabetical list of databases appearing on the right side of the screen. The following are just some of the databases students can benefit from utilising:

Celex: This is the official database of the European Union, available to the library due to its status as a European Documentation Centre.
Current Legal Information: This database includes a current law index, weekly case updates, an index to legal journals and articles appearing therein, as well as a financial journals index.

EuroLaw: This database contains the full text of many European treaties, legislation and case law.

GPO: This database contains the full text of a vast array of United States Government publications.

Hein-Online: This database contains the full text of over 700 North American law journals.

Index to Legal Periodicals: This user-friendly, searchable database allows its users to obtain the full citations for journal articles in over 1,000 academic law journals.

Lexis-Nexis Professional: This very user-friendly, completely searchable and incredibly comprehensive database contains the full text of tens of millions of cases, statutes and journal articles from across the globe.

Murdoch's Irish Legal Companion: This user-friendly database is an online dictionary of thousands of legal terms, ranging from the very basic to the highly complex.

Westlaw.IE: This is a very user-friendly and completely searchable database of Irish primary and secondary legal sources. Of particular utility is the online access to the full text of the *Irish Law Times,* especially because other Irish legal journals remain accessible in bound volume only.

Students on the LLM Programme will receive extensive, and on-going, formal and informal training in computerised legal research. In the process, students will become fluent in the usage of the above databases and of the ever increasing and incredibly powerful Internet sites devoted to legal research, www.legalcitation.ie (General citation information), www.irlii.org. (Irish law), www.bailii.org (British and Irish law), http://europa.eu/ (European law) and www.findlaw.com (North American law) perhaps foremost among them.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

STUDENT SERVICES https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-services/

The University experience is exciting, enjoyable and fulfilling, but it is also a challenging time for students. At University of Galway we aim to provide our students with a platform of security from which students can meaningfully engage with University life. While the day-to-day life of a student is, to a large extent, focussed on academic work, there are many complimentary opportunities for personal development, for example through Sports Clubs and Student Societies. It is our experience that the student-to-student support provided through the network of student clubs and societies is a very useful resource in dealing with the challenges of University life.

INFORMATION SOLUTIONS AND SERVICES https://www.universityofgalway.ie/iss4students/

The Service Desk is available to provide a technical support facility to all staff and students. Service Desk staff deal with administrative queries, account queries, technical queries and record hardware and software service requests and fault reports. Please login to the Service Desk Ticketing system (ISS Ticket Desk) or email the Service Desk (servicedesk@universityofgalway.ie).

ADMISSIONS OFFICE https://www.universityofgalway.ie/postgrad-admissions/

The admissions office web page provides, among others, information concerning term dates, fees and funding and the university map.

ACCOMMODATION OFFICE https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-life/accommodation/

The staff of the accommodation office can help students find appropriate accommodation in Student Residences, flats, apartments or houses. The staff can also help if problems arise with property owners. The accommodation office works in conjunction with several groups to assist students with their accommodation problems including Galway Threshold and www.findahome.ie

COUNSELLORS https://www.universityofgalway.ie/counsellors/

If there are any issues that are troubling you, consult the counsellors as early as you can. Counsellors are skilled in the art of listening and have wide experience in dealing with the variety of situations and issues which students encounter. They are caring and friendly professionals to whom, over the years, students have turned for help with every conceivable problem, ranging from work related stress to coping with personal loss and grief. If you would like to set up an appointment please email: counselling@universityofgalway.ie.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICE https://www.universityofgalway.ie/disability/

The above page offers advice and information on how to access the service and the kinds of supports available to students with disabilities. We hope this will answer some of your queries about the service.

University of Galway is committed to Equality of Opportunity and positively values the participation of students with disabilities in its educational and other programmes. The university welcomes applications from students with disabilities and makes provision, wherever possible, to facilitate access and participation.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' OFFICE https://www.universityofgalway.ie/global-galway/

Global Galway

42/43 Lower Newcastle
University of Galway
email: global@universityofgalway.ie

STUDENT HEALTH UNIT https://www.universityofgalway.ie/health_unit/

The health unit at University of Galway provides a totally confidential GP service. The Student Health Unit continues to operate in line with Public Health advice and guidance to reduce the risk of any potential COVID-19 virus transmission among our students and staff. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, the Student Health Unit will continue to operate on a very strict 'BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT ONLY' basis to ensure that optimal infection prevention and control measures can be maintained at all times. Students must be registered for the current academic year in order to avail of this service.

Students are not permitted to enter the student health unit facility without first contacting the practice.

To arrange an appointment online please click here
https://www.universityofgalway.ie/health_unit/bookonline/

This service is monitored from Monday to Friday ONLY. For Urgent queries please telephone (091) 492604.

Services include: Acne treatment, Meningitis Vaccination, Vaccinations for travel, Eating disorders and problems with obesity, Psychological disorders (there is a psychiatrist). Physiotherapy. Referral to consultants.

SPORT AND RECREATION https://sport.universityofgalway.ie/

Now, more than ever, sport is a vital part of university life as it offers all its participants the opportunity to remain fit and healthy and enables students to balance the pressures of academic life. Our intention in the University of Galway Sport and Recreation Department is to offer sport for all. A recreational and competitive programme exists for each student. Our students are our primary responsibility. There are regular classes where you can acquire new expertise, or improve existing skills, with professional tuition. If you are attracted by competitive activities, intervarsity sport may be of special interest.

SOCIETIES OFFICE https://socs.universityofgalway.ie/

The societies' office provides a wide range of services and support for the university societies. With over 60 societies there is never a dull moment. Riona Hughes, the Societies Officer, is available to advise on the wide range of activities available through the societies. If you are not already involved in a society there is no better way to make friends, learn new skills, go on exciting trips and have fun than joining a society or two. If you are one of the hard working society committee members or are thinking of setting up a new society you are welcome to call up to the societies office and find out what facilities we have available for you.

UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY LAW SOCIETY
https://socs.universityofgalway.ie/societies/lawsoc

The Law Society is one of the largest and most active societies on campus. It provides a forum for debate on a wide range of engaging subjects, and not just from the sphere of Law. Through inviting knowledgeable and entertaining speakers it seeks to provoke discussion in a relaxed atmosphere for students, and welcomes members from all faculties.

FLAC CLINIC ON CAMPUS

A FLAC clinic has been established on campus and is run by law students following training and with appropriate advice from qualified practitioners. Students interested in participating should contact the student Law Society.

THE DISABILITY LEGAL INFORMATION CLINIC ON CAMPUS
https://www.universityofgalway.ie/centre-disability-law-policy/dlic/

The Disability Legal Information Clinic was launched by the Attorney General in Autumn 2011 and is a joint venture between the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) and the University of Galway Free Legal Advice Centre Society. The clinic has two main goals - to provide a drop-in information service on legal issues related to disability, and to serve as a research resource for practitioners and organisations on aspects of disability law.

STUDENTS UNION https://su.universityofgalway.ie/

Every student who registers at NUI, Galway automatically becomes a member of the Students' Union. Members are entitled to numerous benefits including representation by the Students' Union officers, membership of the Students' Union Club (College Bar) and access to a wide range of Students' Union services. So, if you need legal help, help with educational problems, direction or advice with your life at University of Galway, just contact the Students' Union officers. You pay the wages of the four sabbatical officers so don't be afraid to make use of them.

CAREERS SERVICE https://www.universityofgalway.ie/career-development-centre/

The mission of the Careers Service team is to provide a quality careers guidance and information service focused on facilitating and empowering students within the University of Galway to manage their own career development.

Who do we help? The full range of our services is available to the following clients:
➢ Current postgraduates
➢ Graduates – up to 3 years after graduation
➢ Employers
➢ Current students from Irish Universities or Institutes of Technology and UK Universities (some restrictions apply).
➢ University of Galway Access students

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendix 1 - Assignment Feedback Sheet

Student Name	
Student ID	
Module Name	
Module Number	
Title	
Date Submitted	
Name of Marker	

1	**Knowledge** Demonstration of knowledge about the content of the module	
2	**Critical Discussion** Ability to bring critical understanding to bear on the material; not accepting everything at face-value; exercise of reasonable judgment about what is important and what is not.	
3	**Use of Sources** Evidence of reading, both from the set texts and beyond them, and appropriate appeal to relevant literature to support and refute arguments	
4	**Argument** The overall construction of the argument of the essay, including the drawing of relevant conclusions	

5	Structure	
	The essay as a piece of writing: its structure, flow, style, and grammatical construction	

General Comments

_____

_____

_____

Appendix 2 - Module Evaluation Form

End of Module Questionnaire

This questionnaire will allow you to describe, in a systematic way, your reactions to this module and how you have gone about learning the subject. Please respond truthfully, so that your answers will describe your actual ways of studying, and work your way through the questionnaire quite quickly. It is important to respond to every item. Your answers will be confidential and the results will help us in reviewing the module and provide valuable input to future course design.

Please choose one of the choices for each of the questions given below. Your comments are especially valuable in assisting us in deciding on the organisation of courses for future years.

Name of module: _____

1. **Objectives** - Did this course fulfil your objectives in taking it?

     Very strongly   Strongly   Adequately   Unsatisfactorily   Not at all

Comments:

_____

_____

2. Course **organisation** - Did you find this course well organised in terms of its structure and presentation?

     Very well   Quite well   Adequately   Unsatisfactorily   Very unsatisfactorily

Comments:

_____

_____

3. Course **materials** - Did you find the materials appropriate to achieving your objectives for the course?

     Very appropriate   Quite appropriate   Unsatisfactory   Very unsatisfactory

Comments:

_____

4. Teaching - Did you find the teaching provided on this course

    Very good   Good   Satisfactory   Unsatisfactory   Poor

Comments:

_____

_____

5. Recommendation - Would you recommend this course to someone else?

    Strongly recommend   Recommend   Would not recommend

Comments:

_____

_____

6. Overall comments - Please provide any overall comments you have about this course and in particular how it might be improved

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Appendix 3 - Minor Thesis Title and Supervisor Form

LLM (Law and Digital Innovation)

Minor Thesis Plan Sheet

Name/ID of Student:

_____

Title of Minor Thesis:

_____
_____
_____
_____

Outline Plan of Minor Thesis:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Please return this form to Lorna Cormican by email lorna.cormican@universityofgalway.ie **by 5pm Friday, 20th February 2026.**

Master of Law (International & Comparative Business Law)

LW5201	EU Competition Law
LW5213	Law of International Business Transactions
LW5209	Legal Skills: Commercial Practice, Advocacy and Dispute Resolution
LW5205	Advanced Intellectual Property Law and Development
LW5218	Law and Economics of Corporate Transactions
LW5217	Vis Moot

Master of Law (General)

LW483	Advanced Legal Research & Method
LW439	Advocacy, Activism and Public Interest Law
LW5225	International Environmental Law

Master of Law Degree (Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights)

LW485	Sentencing and Penal Policy
LW5215	Criminology, Criminal Justice and Human Rights
LW5216	Policing, Security and Rights
LW5219	Minority Groups and the Criminal Justice System

Master Of Laws Degree (International & Comparative Disability Law & Policy)

LW552	Foundational Theoretical Framework in Disability Law and Policy
LW551	Contemporary Challenges in Disability Law and Policy
LW558	Legal Capacity Law and Policy
LW5101	International Disability Human Rights Clinic
LW550	Advocacy and Access to Justice
LW553	Inclusive Education Law and Policy
LW562	Regional Disability Law and Policy
LW561	Mental Health Law and Policy

Master Of Laws Degree (Law and Digital Innovation)

LW5220	The Future of Law

LW5221   Design Thinking for Lawyers I

LW5222   Design Thinking for Lawyers II

LW5223   Computation and Law

LW5224   Digital Transformation & Access to Justice

Master of Laws Degree - Human Rights

LW471   International Humanitarian Law

LW5118   Public International Law

LW5105   Contemporary Issues in International Migration Law

LW5123   Peace Support Operations

LW5120   European Convention on HR: Law and Politics

LW5114   International Refugee Law

LW5113   The Common European Asylum System

LW5121   Transnational Lawyering

LW5107   International Law on the Rights of the Child

LW5111   Business and HR

LW530   Procedures before ICC

LW5116   Gender and Human Rights

LW538   Transitional Justice

LW5124   Climate Justice

LW5103   Islam and Human Rights I

LW525   Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights

Available modules from other disciplines

MS804   Systems Development & Project Management

MS5107   Business Modelling and Analytics

MS5128   Decision Theory, AI and Analytics

MS5126   Philosophy of Information and Information Ethics

MS5129   Storytelling through Data Visualisation

MS5106   Data Science and Big Data Analytics