PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	LLM/MA
	The LLM/MA in Religion, Law and Society is an LLM/MA degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Postgraduate Diploma
	Postgraduate Certificate
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	University of Westminster, Central London (Regent campus) and Harrow
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	One year full time or two years part-time September and January start
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	Not applicable
Date of course validation/review:	24 April 2017
Date of programme specification approval:	24 April 2017
Valid for cohorts:	From 2017/18
Course Leader:	Sylvie Bacquet
Course URL:	https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/law/postgraduate-courses/september/full-time/religion-law-and-society-ma-llm
	Westminster Course Code: W50
	JACS code: M200
	UKPASS code: 060450

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information.

westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply

For most courses a decision will be DCDIe on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements.

More information can be found here: westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply

Aims of the course

The MA/LLM in Religion, Law and Society provides a platform for critical debates around the relevance of religion in modern pluralist societies and the challenges that democratic states face in dealing with religion in the public sphere. Current debates in Law and Religion include the pursuit of freedom of and from religion; non-discrimination, manifestation of religion and beliefs, church-state relations, religion and democracy as well as the threat of extremism, terrorism and fundamentalism in liberal and pluralist societies. The programme aims to explore those issues and contribute to a culture of tolerance by encouraging dialogue and critical self-awareness of individuals' personal trajectories. Students are encouraged to challenge their own perception of religion in order to enter into a constructive dialogue. This is done through respectful debates, peer review, critical thinking and reflection. The programme draws on interdisciplinary perspectives and offers students a wide range of options from the social sciences such as Law, Politics, Sociology and Media. This interdisciplinary perspective allows students to develop their own theoretical framework for evaluating the interaction between law and religion in modern contemporary societies.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses

- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students

- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision

- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

The MA/LLM in Religion, Law and Society will equip graduates with key skills such as the ability to carry out independent research in a range of disciplines and to deal with sensitive topics. Students will develop an awareness of world challenges posed by religion, a

thorough knowledge of equality, non-discrimination and human rights legislation, debating and mooting skills, the ability to be non-judgmental, and to work in a multicultural environment. Students will also benefit significantly from the Law and Religion Research Cluster which launched in February 2017. The research cluster will hold regular events on topical issues and provide an opportunity for students to network with academics and professionals associated with the field of Religion, Law and Society. Destinations for graduates will include for example academia, government departments, local councils, politics, education, human resources, the legal profession, marketing and journalism.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course successful students will have:

1. A systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights in relation to religion, law and society and other relevant subjects;
2. The ability to work with and understand primary legal material;
3. A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship including the ability to work with multiple disciplines;
4. Originality and self-direction in the application of knowledge and in tackling and solving problems, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in law and religion;
5. Conceptual understanding that enables the student to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in law and religion; and to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

Specific skills

By the end of the Course, the successful student will be able to demonstrate:

1. A critical awareness of the general framework of globalization and the place of religion in 21st century contemporary societies as well as associated legal and societal issues;
2. A comprehensive understanding of a range of research methodologies applicable to Law and Religion scholarship;
3. Demonstrate critical awareness of their own trajectories and how it impacts their perception of issues within Religion, Law and Society;
4. Challenge their own belief systems, prejudices and assumptions;
5. Work with a range of disciplines and methods;

Key transferable skills

By the end of the Course, the successful student will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:

1.   Decision-making in complex situations;
2.   The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development;
3. The ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgments in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly;
4.   The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility;

The Programme subscribes to the University's and the SEEC's list of HE transferable/employability skills, namely:
- group working
- learning resources
- self-evaluation
- management of information
- autonomy
- communication
- problem solving

All modules, to some extent, teach or/and assess these skills. Additionally, most modules offer you an opportunity to practise these skills through role-play exercises, scenario questions, and presentations.

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning

Within seminars, module leaders will develop modes of learning appropriate to the subject-matter of their module which might, for example, include small group work, problem-based tutorials, review sessions, workshops, debates and so on, as well as the more conventional student presentations.

Students should be clear that a postgraduate programme of study demands a much greater amount of individual work and of autonomy than they may have been used to at the undergraduate level. Thus, while a student may only be required to attend classes for 6-9 hours a week depending upon whether they are part-time of full-time and depending upon which modules they have chosen, they will nevertheless be expected to be studying independently for the remainder of the working week.

Teaching

Formal 'lectures' will be used on a whole-class basis, not only to develop a framework of essential knowledge on a topic-by-topic basis, but also to provide a common foundation for learning within each module.

The teaching and learning strategy will emphasise a student-centred approach developed within smaller groups involving close, interactive group-work focusing on a range of student (and occasionally staff) presentations within structured tutorials.

Assessment

There are various forms of assessment according to the module requirements, including coursework, blogs, reflective logs, and presentations. The specific forms of assessment within each module have been determined solely by the learning outcomes of that module. The wide use of coursework as an assessment method, alone or in conjunction with presentations/in-class tests, reflects the strong emphasis that the LLM/MA in Religion, Law and Society puts on developing the legal research skills of the students.

In a number of modules, formative work is given out during the semester and evaluative feedback provided to students. In other modules, module leaders hold revision sessions to guide the students on examination techniques, research methods, etc.

In all modules, written feedback is provided to the students, with verbal feedback also available.

Coursework is submitted online by Turnitin upload. Dissertations are also uploaded online through Turnitin, and two bound hard copies must be submitted to the Faculty Registry.

All formal assessment is independently judged and approved by external examiners who are experts in the area of Law and Religion.

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7LLAW061W	Law and Religion Theory and Practice (LAS – LAW)	Core	20	10
7LLAW062W	Law and Religion in Context (LAS – LAW)	Core	20	10
7SOCL001W	Sociology of Religion (LAS – Sociology)	Core	20	10
7LLAW063W	Postgraduate Dissertation in Law	Core	60	30
7LLAW027W	Islamic Finance (LAS – LAW) (*LLM option*)	Option	20	10
7LLAW020W	International Human Rights Law (SHH – LAW) (*LLM option*)	Option	20	10
7LLAW064W	Terrorism, Law and the State (SHH – LAW) (*LLM option*)	Option	20	10
7PIRS018W	Islam and Politics in the Middle East (SHH – IR & P)	Option	20	10
7MEDS001W	Diversity in the Media (DCDI) – **This module takes place in the Harrow campus**	Option	20	10
7MEDS017W	Journalism Practice and Inclusive Society – **This modules takes place in the Harrow campus**	Option	20	10
7LLAW065W	Internship (LAW)	Option	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Course Diagrams:

MA route:

Core Modules – compulsory	Option Modules – choose ANY 3 options
Law and Religion Theory and Practice (LAS – LAW)	Islamic Finance (LAS – LAW)
Law and Religion in Context (LAS – LAW)	International Human Rights Law (SHH – LAW)
Sociology of Religion (LAS – Sociology)	Terrorism, Law and the State (SHH – LAW)
Postgraduate Dissertation in Law	Islam and Politics in the Middle East (SHH – IR & P)
	Diversity in the Media (DCDI)
	Journalism Practice and Inclusive Society (DCDI)
	Internship (LAW)

LLM Route

Core Modules – compulsory	Option Modules – choose 3 options in total
	Choose AT LEAST ONE Law Option
Law and Religion Theory and Practice (LAS – LAW)	Islamic Finance (LAS – LAW)
Law and Religion in Context (LAS – LAW)	International Human Rights Law (SHH – LAW)
Sociology of Religion (LAS – Sociology)	Terrorism, Law and the State (SHH – LAW)
Postgraduate Dissertation in Law	
	Choose up to two non-law options
	Islam and Politics in the Middle East (SHH – IR & P)
	Diversity in the Media (DCDI)
	Journalism Practice and Inclusive Society (DCDI)
	Internship (LAW)

Full time route:

MA/LLM RELIGION, LAW AND SOCIETY	
Semester 1	**Semester 2**
Law and Religion Theory and Practice (Core)	Law and Religion in Context (Core)
Sociology of Religion (Core)	Option 2
Option 1	Option 3
Dissertation (core)	

Part-time day route:

Part-time students study alongside the full-time students but over a period of two years. In the first year, they have two modules in semester 1 and 2 modules in semester 2. This equates to approximately 6 hours of tuition per week in addition to the expected hours of independent study. The teaching usually takes place over two days. In the second year, students also have two modules in semester 1 but no teaching in semester 2 as student are expected to work on their dissertation. Students will continue to have regular meetings with their dissertation supervisor. Classes mostly take place in the Law School which is part of our Regent Campus based in Regent Street, Wells Street and Little Titchfield Street – Central London. Two of our option modules take place in our Harrow Campus which is accessible on the tube (35 minutes journey from the Regent Campus).

MA/LLM RELIGION, LAW AND SOCIETY YEAR 1	
Semester 1	**Semester 2**
Law and Religion Theory and Practice (Core)	Law and Religion in Context (Core)
Sociology of Religion (Core)	Option 1
MA/ LLM RELIGION, LAW AND SOCIETY YEAR 2	
Semester 1	**Semester 2**
Option 2	
Option 3	
Dissertation (core)	

Full time students may take a maximum of one Free Choice option per semester of study. Part time students may take a maximum of Two Free Choice options during their studies.

Professional Body Accreditation or other external references

Academic regulations
The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

Award

Course Specific Regulations
Students can choose whether to study for the MA or LLM.

To qualify for the award of MA in Religion, Law and Society a student must have:
i) Obtained a minimum of 180 credits at Level 7
ii) Attempted modules worth no more than 240 credits;

To qualify for the award of LLM in Religion, Law and Society a student must have:
i) Obtained a minimum of 180 credits at Level 7
ii) Achieved 60 credits in taught Law modules in addition to the 60 credit Dissertation in Law. The dissertation needs to have a substantial law element and be supervised within the Westminster Law School
iii) Attempted modules worth no more than 240 credits;

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

Sylvie Bacquet, Course Leader
Room LTS 6.08 Ext: 69525
S.Bacquet01@westminster.ac.uk

Academic Support
Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students

Learning Support
The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students[1] can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services
The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?
The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2017. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to

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[1] Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years e.g. from Course Committees is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?
Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peer. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.

- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and university committees.

- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.

- The University also has an annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey or PTES which helps us compare how we are doing with other institutions, to make changes that will improve what we do in future and to keep doing the things that you value.