Programme Specification 2018-19

LAW TRIPOS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding body</th>
<th>University of Cambridge</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching institution</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation details</td>
<td>Students passing the seven 'Foundation Subjects' and the legal skills requirement are recognised as holding a Qualifying Law Degree by the Law Society and General Council of the Bar.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Name of final award: Bachelor of Arts
Programme title: Law Tripos
UCAS code: M100 BA/Law
HECoS code(s): 100485 (law)
Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s): Law
Qualifications framework level: 6 (Honours)
Date specification produced: August 2019

Aims of the Programme

Knowledge and Understanding

- To give a thorough grounding in the principles of law viewed from an academic rather than vocational perspective, while enabling those wishing to qualify as legal practitioners to obtain exemption from the academic stage of professional training in England, Wales and in Northern Ireland.
- To enable students to specialise in fields which are of particular interest to them and to provide opportunities to study law from a historical, philosophical or sociological viewpoint.
- To provide opportunities for students to study non-common-law systems and public international law.

Skills and other attributes

- To develop legal skills enabling students to handle legal questions in areas which they have not previously studied.
- To develop general transferable skills enabling students to operate effectively in a range of legal and non-legal fields of employment.

Relevant subject benchmark statements

The programme falls within the QAA Benchmark Statement for a Bachelor’s degree with honours in law. Cross-references to the Benchmark Statement are provided below [BS] and are to the ‘subject-specific abilities’ section unless otherwise indicated.

The programme is designed to enable compliance with the Joint Statement of the Law Society and General Council of the Bar on Qualifying Law Degrees. Cross references to the Joint Statement are provided below [JS].

Programme Outcomes
By the end of the programme, students should be able to demonstrate:

**Knowledge and Understanding**

[BS 2.4 i., iii., iv. and x.]
[JS Schedule One (a)(i), (ii), (iii); Schedule Two]

(a) Knowledge and understanding of the sources and institutions of English law and of the basic structure, principles and concepts of key areas of English law, both public and private, and of European Union law. They should also demonstrate an elementary knowledge of the principles and concepts of civil-law systems.

**Development:** No prior knowledge of law is expected.

**Opportunities:** All three-year students must take papers in Civil Law, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, the Law of Tort and the half-paper in Legal Skills and Methodology. Almost all such students will subsequently also take papers in the Law of Contract, Land Law, Equity and European Union Law. Further optional subjects also enable the development of knowledge and understanding in these fields.

(b) Knowledge and understanding of, and relationships between, other fields of particular interest to the student, building upon knowledge and understanding of the key areas.

**Opportunities:** In addition to papers in Civil Law, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, the Law of Tort, the Law of Contract, Land Law, Equity, European Union Law and Legal Skills and Methodology, all three-year students take a further six papers or a further five papers and two half-papers, including advanced papers in aspects of topics previously studied at a more basic level.

(c) Depending on a student’s choice of options, knowledge and understanding of non-common-law systems and public international law.

**Opportunities:** All three-year students study Civil Law and thus have a basic grounding in civil-law systems. Students may choose to study Civil Law II, Comparative Law or Public International Law. Students may also participate in an Erasmus exchange programme with a university in continental Europe.

(d) The ability to understand and make use of a range of perspectives—doctrinal, historical, philosophical and sociological—on legal issues.

**Opportunities:** Apart from a thorough grounding in doctrinal legal approaches, both compulsory and optional subjects provide opportunities to examine legal issues from a range of other perspectives. In addition, students may choose options which focus on historical, philosophical or sociological perspectives (e.g. legal history, jurisprudence, criminology, sentencing and the penal system, family in society).

**Teaching Methods:** (1) **Lectures** provide students with an overview of a field and a framework around which to focus their individual study (2) **Supervisions** provide opportunities, in discussion with supervisors and other students, to gain further insights into subjects, to resolve uncertainties and to participate in problem-solving and theoretical discussion. Supervisors provide detailed guidance on reading, provide feedback on written work and report termly on students’ progress. (3) Final-year students may take half-papers, in which supervisions are not provided. (4) Final-year
students may also choose to take a seminar paper, enabling them to participate in seminar discussion and to submit a research dissertation.

Means of Assessment: All papers (other than the first-year half-paper in Legal Skills and Methodology and third-year seminar papers) are assessed by formal, written, unseen examinations. The half-paper in Legal Skills and Methodology is assessed by an extended essay of up to 3,000 words. Final-year seminar papers are assessed by way of a dissertation of up to 12,000 words.

Skills and other Attributes

Intellectual skills

[BS 2.4 v., viii., ix., x. and xii.]
[JS Schedule One (a) (iv), (b) (i), (ii), (iii), (v)]

• Ability to understand, analyse and interpret primary and secondary legal materials, including case-law, statutory materials and academic writings.
• Ability to distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant.
• Ability to apply legal rules to factual situations.
• Ability to form conclusions supported by rational argument.
• Ability to think critically about legal rules and institutions.

Development: These skills are developed throughout the programme, in particular through instruction by lecturers and supervisors and through students’ preparation for and engagement in supervisions, research for and writing of supervision essays and receipt of feedback on them.

Assessment: These skills are assessed formatively through supervisions and supervision essays, together with termly reports on supervisions and written feedback on supervision essays. They are assessed summatively by formal written examinations, which may include both the application of legal rules to (hypothetical) factual situations and critical analysis of the rules.

Research skills

[BS 2.4 v., vi., vii. and ix.]
[JS Schedule One (a) (iv), b (iv), (vii)]

• Ability to identify and locate source material, including reports and statutory material, both in paper form and online.
• Ability to understand and to assess the reliability, currency, relevance and relative importance of, and relationships between, source materials.
• Ability to use indexes and digests, both in paper form and online, for assistance in handling large quantities of source material and in approaching areas not previously studied.

Development: These skills are developed throughout the programme through preparation for supervisions, through researching supervision essays and Part II seminar dissertations, through participation in moots and through the use of the university and college libraries and networked databases. In particular, there is induction training through introductory tours of the Squire Law Library and through participation in the Legal Skills and Methodology half-paper, which includes sessions
on research using paper resources. The Faculty has produced a plagiarism policy which it makes available to the students and the Chair gives a lecture at the start of the Michaelmas Term to Part II students on plagiarism and on research skills.

Assessment: These skills are assessed formatively through supervisions and supervision essays, together with termly reports on supervisions and written feedback on supervision essays. They are assessed summatively by an extended essay for the Legal Skills and Methodology half-paper and by the examination of Part II seminar dissertations.

**Computer literacy skills**

[BS 2.4 xi.]
[JS Schedule One b (vii), (viii)]

- Ability to word-process simple documents.
- Ability to use the internet and e-mail.

Development: For those students who do not have these basic skills, there is support from the University Computing Service and colleges. These basic skills are enhanced throughout the programme, by participation in the Legal Skills and Methodology half-paper (including provision of additional sessions for students who feel they require more support), by the production of word-processed essays for supervisions, by the use of online library catalogues in the Squire Law Library, University Library, or college libraries, by the use of the internet in preparation for supervisions and by communication by e-mail with directors of studies, supervisors and others.

Assessment: These skills are assessed formatively through e-mail communication with directors of studies and supervisors and through the production of word-processed essays for supervisions. Word-processing and the use of the internet-based legal resources are assessed summatively by production of coursework of up to 3,000 words in electronic form for the Legal Skills and Methodology half-paper.

**Numeracy skills**

[BS 2.4 vii.]

Ability to understand and employ numerical and statistical data.

Development: Mathematical skills are relevant to those parts of the programme in which arguments or principles are based upon numerical or statistical data, such as aspects of the law of tort, the law of trusts, company law, and criminology, sentencing and the penal system. The University offers further opportunities to enhance such skills on an optional and unassessed basis.

Assessment: These skills are assessed formatively through supervisions and supervision essays in the relevant areas. These skills are assessed summatively by formal written examinations in a few relevant areas.

**Communication and literacy skills**

[BS 2.4 xi.]
[JS Schedule One (a) (v), (b) (vi)]
• Ability to marshal arguments lucidly, coherently, logically and concisely.
• Ability to make correct use of written and spoken English.
• Ability to make correct and effective use of specialist legal terminology.
• Ability to present material orally in a clear and effective way, with sensitivity to the listener’s perspective.
• Ability to present written material clearly and effectively, with sensitivity to the reader’s perspective.

**Development:** Written skills are developed formally throughout the course by regular writing of supervision essays and receipt of feedback on them, by writing of seminar dissertations, and by informal communication with directors of studies, supervisors and others. Oral skills are enhanced particularly by participation in supervisions. Optional activities available include mooting.

**Assessment:** These skills are assessed formatively through supervisions and supervision essays, together with termly reports on supervisions and written feedback on supervision essays. These skills are assessed summatively in a written context by formal written examinations and in the production of coursework of up to 3,000 words in electronic form for the Legal Skills and Methodology half-paper.

**Interpersonal skills**

[B5 2.4 ii.]

• Ability to work creatively and flexibly with others.
• Ability to formulate and meet team objectives.
• Ability to interact successfully on a one-to-one basis.
• Capacity to respect different viewpoints.

**Development:** These skills are developed through co-operative learning in supervisions, by participation in class and seminar discussion, by taking part in the wider life of colleges, the Faculty and the University (for example through membership and officership of societies, including the Cambridge University Law Society), by participation in team-based mooting competitions and through sport, music or drama. These skills may also be developed in different cultural contexts by students participating in the Erasmus exchange scheme with universities in continental Europe.

**Assessment:** These skills are formatively assessed through supervision and supervision reports.

**Organisational skills**

[B5 2.4 ii.]

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

**Development:** These skills are developed through organisation of work-programmes, in particular in preparation for supervision discussion, in writing supervision essays and seminar dissertations, in managing extracurricular activities so that they complement and do not detract from course-related activities, through membership and officership...
of societies, and through arrangement of work placements, such as vacation schemes with solicitors and mini-pupillages.

**Assessment:** These skills are formatively assessed through supervisions and supervision reports and through participation in seminar courses.

**Programme structure**

The programme is a full-time course generally taken over three years. An exception is made for those applicants qualifying for status as Senior Status students, who may take the BA degree, full time, in two years.

Qualification for the BA degree with honours requires passes in a Part I and a Part II ‘Tripos’ examination. Three Tripos examinations in Law are available, namely Law Tripos Parts IA, IB and II. Parts IA and IB cannot be counted as two separate Tripos examinations to qualify for the BA degree. Law Tripos Part IA is taken at the end of the first year. Law Tripos Part IB is taken at the end of the second year by those who have passed Law Tripos Part IA, or by those changing into law from another Tripos. Law Tripos Part II is taken in the year after taking Law Tripos Part IB, and is available only to those who have taken Law Tripos Part IB.

There is no final degree classification. Students are classed in all three parts of the Law Tripos.

Admission to the programme is by application to a college of the University of Cambridge.

The papers for the Law Tripos are as follows:

**Group I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Civil Law I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Law of Tort</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Legal Skills and Methodology (half-paper)</td>
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**Group II**

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<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Law of Contract</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Land Law</td>
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**Group III**

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<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Civil Law II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Administrative Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Family Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Legal History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Criminal Procedure and Criminal Evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Comparative Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Jurisprudence</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>International Law</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Human Rights Law</td>
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**Group IV**
Up to 12 half-papers and up to 12 seminar courses are prescribed in each year. Those prescribed may vary from year to year.

Candidates for Law Tripos Part IA take papers 10-14.

Candidates for Law Tripos Part IB take five papers chosen from among Papers 11 and 13 and Groups II and III, excluding papers already taken. Candidates who were not candidates for honours in Part IA also take Paper 14 in Part IB.

Candidates for Law Tripos Part II take five papers chosen from among Paper 12 and Groups III and IV; or four papers chosen from among Paper 12 and Groups III and IV, plus two half-papers; or four papers chosen from among Paper 12 and Groups III and IV, plus a seminar course involving the submission of an essay of not more than 12,000 words, including footnotes and appendices, but excluding bibliography; or three papers chosen from among Paper 12 and Groups III and IV, plus two half-papers, plus a seminar course involving the submission of an essay of not more than 12,000 words, including footnotes and appendices, but excluding bibliography. Candidates may not take a paper already taken in Part IA or IB.

Senior Status students do not take Law Tripos Part IA.

Study Abroad

Students may, on application to the Faculty, spend the year following completion of Part IB studying at one of a number of universities in other countries of the European Union with which the Faculty has an exchange arrangement. On successful completion of the year spent abroad, students return to Cambridge to study for Law Tripos Part II.

Further information on the Law Tripos may be found in the Faculty Handbook and in the Faculty’s Marking Criteria and Classing Conventions, as well as on the Faculty website.