



Introduction to

LLB (Honours) Law with International Relations

COMBINED HONOURS PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION SUPPLEMENT

Primary Purpose:

Course management, monitoring and quality assurance.

Secondary Purpose:

Detailed information for students, staff and employers. Current students should refer to the related Course Handbook for further detail.

Disclaimer:

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information given in this Programme Specification supplement and believes it to be correct. We will endeavour to deliver the course in keeping with this Programme Specification but reserve the right to change the content, timetabling and administration of the course whilst maintaining equivalent academic standards and quality.

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1. **Named Award**
LLB Law with International Relations

2. **Course Code (and UCAS Code if Applicable)**
C2391S, UCAS ML12

3. **Awarding Body**
University of Portsmouth

4. **Teaching Institution**
University of Portsmouth

5. **Document Control Information**
Version 5, July 2016

6. **Effective Session**
2016/17

7. **'Home' Course Leader**
Claire Sparrow

8. **'Home' Faculty**
Portsmouth Business School

9. **'Home' Department**
School of Law

10. About this Programme Specification Supplement

This Combined Honours Course Programme Specification Supplement is designed for prospective students, registered students, University staff and potential employers. It provides an introduction to combined honours courses at the University of Portsmouth, and an overview of the course rationale, aims and learning outcomes.

A full Programme Specification is prepared for each half of the course. This supplement links the full Programme Specifications for each half of the Combined Honours Course. In the full Programme Specification documents (see 10.1 and 10.2) you will find more detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes, unit information, reference points, support for student learning and regulatory arrangements for each half of the Combined Honours.

10.1 Combined Honours Law Half

10.2 Combined Honours International Relations Half

11. The Combined Honours Degree Course at the University of Portsmouth

At the University of Portsmouth our Combined Honours Degrees are predetermined combinations of subjects (subject A and subject B). Most students will be registered on a joint award where the number of credits studied in both subjects is roughly the same (approximately 50/50). A small number of combined Honours courses are designated major/minor courses where subject A is the major subject and subject B is the minor subject (approximately 66/33). For a joint Combined Honours, a student may choose to undertake a dissertation in subject A or subject B; in the case of major/minor awards, the dissertation will always be in the major subject.

12. Course Management

For each course, one of the academic departments owning one of the two subject halves will be designated the 'home' department. The home department is often, **but not always**, the first named of the subject combination, see section 9 above for this course's home. The home department will be the students' base and is responsible for providing the academic course leader, personal tutor and student support. A deputy course leader is appointed from the 'away' department.

The University operates a two tier course management structure at department level, which monitors students' progression and achievement at unit level and award level. At University level, there is a dedicated Combined Honours Management Board which reviews annually overall student experience, monitors student achievement and advises on the introduction and withdrawal of new course combinations.

13. Course Rationale

What are your rights when you enter a mobile phone contract?

Is it right for courts to grant super injunctions?

In what circumstances can you be arrested and charged?

These are the sort of topics that you will discuss as part of your law course. You will learn about the key rules of English and European law and see how they develop

from cases and government-made law. In some units you will focus on who makes the law and what influences them. The course also offers opportunities to put your developing legal knowledge into practice in 'real world' situations where you can perhaps choose to train to be an adviser in one of our legal advice clinics, or perhaps work with a partner organisation such as the British Red Cross..

Law is perceived as a difficult subject. It does involve a lot of reading. However, because of this law graduates are much in demand, not only from law firms but other organisations where legal knowledge may be useful, such as commercial companies or public bodies. There is no doubt that a law degree will give you a valuable qualification.

As this is a qualifying law degree, students who pass the degree are able to go on to vocational training as barristers or solicitors.

International relations

What is globalisation? How do we assess its impact?

Why do states go to war?

How do we understand global issues such as poverty and injustice?

Studying international relations will help you to understand the world in which you live. The course looks at key factors such as sovereign states, regional and international institutions, and non-state actors. It investigates the challenges by looking at core themes such as the changing nature of warfare, conflict between, within and across states, the impact of globalisation and interdependence on states and societies, and perennial global issues such as poverty, injustice and human rights.

14. Educational Aims of the Course

For Law :

- To enable students to obtain a qualifying law degree (QLD) by providing 180 credits covering the 'foundations of legal knowledge' as identified by the Law Society and Bar Council in the 1999 Joint Announcement and a minimum of 240 credits in legal subjects in total.
- To enable students on the pathway, who successfully complete the programme, to enter a Solicitors Regulation Authority validated Legal Practice Course or a Bar Standards Board validated Bar Professional Training Course
- To enable students on the pathway, who successfully complete the programme and the accredited CILEX Level 6 optional unit to apply for membership of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives
- To equip students for a career where they can make use of their legal knowledge
- To enable students to see how the law operates in its social context
- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment
- To equip students with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning, employability and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career and postgraduate study opportunities
- To enable students to study two subject areas and develop specialist interests and knowledge
- To provide an opportunity to create links between two different subject areas

For International Relations:

- Challenges students to look at public events and international dealings in two different ways.
- Students have to look at the legal rules which govern international dealings and analyse if they are being followed.
- Students have to become comfortable with different schools of political thought and international relations theory, seeing dealings between nations in their historical and political context.

15. Employability Statement

- All of the LLBs are Qualifying Law Degrees accredited by the English legal professional bodies. Successful completion of the LLB allows students to complete the 'academic stage' of legal training and progress to the 'vocational stage' – eligible to undertake a Legal Practice Course or Bar Professional Training Course.
- There is an option at level 6 to study the CILEX accredited CILEX Level 6 Practice and Client Care Skills units. Successful completion of these units allows students, on graduation, to seek employment as a trainee legal executive.
- There are opportunities to develop employment skills and links through community engagement within the School's Clinical Legal Education (CLE) programme. Projects currently include in-house initiatives (such as the Employment Law Clinic) as well as work with outside organisations. These projects assist students in developing valuable skills and enhance their CVs with relevant work experience. The links have also led to some students being offered employment with outside organisations (e.g. Portsmouth City Council and Havant Citizen's Advice Bureau). Legal work experience is particularly difficult to obtain and so this initiative is very valuable to law students.
- If students choose not to follow the CLE stream, there are still simulated work scenarios built into a number of units. Many assessments require students to assume the role of a lawyer dealing with a client. Students may be required to hold a client conference, negotiate on behalf of their client, provide written legal advice for a client or written legal arguments for a court. Most units will require students to apply their knowledge to legal problem questions and provide advice. The School's mock court-room also provides an ideal venue for students to undertake advocacy in a realistic setting.
- The School supports an active Student Law Society which both runs and enters many legal skills competitions each year (including mooting, negotiation and client conferences). Competitions they organise are usually sponsored by solicitors or barristers, who act as judges and offer prizes of work experience in their firms or chambers. Participation in external competitions allows students to meet potential employers and develop their networking skills, as well as their legal skills. Academic staff support this with assistance as judges, as well as coaching, writing appropriate legal problems, administrative support and the School pays fees to enter some competitions. The School itself also organises and participates in competitions and skills exercises, including internal mooting competitions sponsored by barristers' chambers and mock trials.
- Career management skills are built into the core level 5 unit, Research and Professional Development. This unit is designed by the course team with the assistance of staff at Purple Door. A programme of guest speakers helps students with information and advice about career choices, as well as providing opportunities

for students to network. Students will submit a reflective written piece which helps them to set out their career plans and steps they need to take to achieve them. .

- Careers guidance and development are also supported by events such as Law Careers week. During this week, students are able to attend a programme of events, including workshops on making the most of networking opportunities and the Law Careers Fair. Employers and providers of postgraduate study attend the Fair. The Law School has also produced a booklet with Purple Door on presenting oneself effectively at interviews and other careers events.
- The School has a mentoring programme open to second and third year law students. Mentors are drawn from local employers (particularly those with a legal focus) and are linked up with individual students. Mentor and students meet at a mentoring reception and students receive advice and guidance on their career plans. Many mentors also offer students work experience.
- Many members of staff are professionally qualified and maintain strong links with the legal community as well as keeping fully informed with changes to the professions.
- At the end of their second year, students may choose to take a work placement in industry. While law placements are limited in number, law staff are active (and often successful) in seeking new placements from employer contacts.
- Personal Development Planning (PDP) is delivered through the personal tutoring programme.