

LLM Legal Practice (SQE Pathway)

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	LLM Legal Practice (SQE Pathway)
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a Teaching institution	Middlesex University
3b Language of study	English
4a Valid intake dates	September
4b Mode of study	Full time
4c Delivery method	Blended
5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body	N/A
6. Apprenticeship Standard	N/A
7. Final qualification(s) available	LLM Legal Practice (SQE Pathway) PG Dip Legal Practice (SQE Pathway) PG Dip Legal Practice PG Cert Legal Practice (SQE Pathway) PG Cert Legal Practice * *Point 12 provides further detail on exit awards
8. Academic year effective from	2023-24

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

The University's standard entry requirement for LLM consists of a Law degree at 2:2 or Graduate Diploma in Law/CPE.

However, graduates in related disciplines, with law minors or with relevant professional experience or qualifications may be admitted subject to the programme leader's discretion.

Other non-UK qualifications will be considered in accordance with NARIC guidelines.

International students who have not been taught in the English medium must show evidence of proven ability in English equivalent to IELTS grade 6.5 (with minimum 6.0 in all four components).

University policies supporting students with disabilities apply, as described in the University Regulations 'Information for students with disabilities and learning difficulties'.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Support the development of the necessary legal knowledge required to undertake the mandatory external SQE1 examination, part of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination, for those wishing to qualify and practice as solicitors of England and Wales.
- Equip students with the necessary skills required to undertake the mandatory external SQE2 examination, part of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination, for those wishing to qualify and practice as solicitors of England and Wales.
- Deepen and broaden students' knowledge in specialised international legal fields and processes of their choice.
- Enhance students' professional development and horizons by maximising their academic potential and refining their problem-solving skills in a transnational context.
- Enhance advanced practice through a challenging programme of study which promotes critical self-awareness.
- Stimulate creative thinking and enhance problem solving and decision-making techniques.
- Provide students with the necessary tools to apply the acquired knowledge, legal research and writing skills to the process of producing an original piece of research on a topic connected to an area of choice and relevant to legal practice.
- Provide eligible students guidance, so that they can obtain professional experience commensurate with postgraduate level of study and, by so doing, to advance knowledge, critical thinking and understanding appropriate to level 7.
- Support the development of high-level professional and transferable skills and attributes needed for career success.
- Develop an ability to apply knowledge and understanding of law in relation to complex issues affecting persons, property and actions, both systematically and creatively, to improve legal practice.
- Equip students with research and writing skills which will be transferable to different professional sectors, including the legal profession, policymaking, corporate sector, governmental bodies or academia.

11. Programme outcomes*

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:

1. Fundamental legal principles, concepts, and techniques in the key areas of law required by the SRA.
2. The limitations of the body of knowledge, with regard to law in context and practice.
3. Research data and the use of primary sources such as legislation, case law, and secondary source material such as government reports, white and green papers, and refereed journal articles.
4. Recent developments in the legal discipline and its professional practice, including the significance of ethical, social, business and political contexts within which the law operates.
5. How to deal with complex legal and policy issues both systematically and creatively, making informed judgments in the absence of complete information, and communicating conclusions clearly.
6. Approaches, tools and techniques for Master's level research and/or advanced scholarship.
7. Methodology and research skills necessary to transfer the learning acquired through taught modules or work placement to the process of writing a dissertation or a substantial evidence-based report.

Students gain knowledge and understanding through

live and pre-recorded lectures (depending on the module), seminars, workshops, professional internships and self-directed studies using a variety of resources, including audio visual media, formatives, one-to-one consultations, the library and e-learning. Lectures, seminars and presentations regularly involve interactive exercises and opportunities for peer and self-assessment.

They will be used to communicate core information, develop themes and ideas and seek to encourage the active participation of students. Students will be required to engage in intensive programmes of structured reading and research and to present their findings orally and in writing (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5).

Learning and teaching on all modules is informed by a critical approach which encompasses relevant aspects of the ethical, social, professional, historical and cultural contexts within which the law operates. Ethics are specifically embedded in some modules and students are provided with the opportunity to understand the ethical dimensions of their own research and within which the law operates at each level (A2, A3, A4, A5).

The teaching strategy and/or internship experience (provided by students who enrol in the Work Integrated Learning LEX4770) allow students to devise, research and execute sustained pieces of writing and research projects under the supervision of a suitably qualified member of the staff from Middlesex (A2, A4, A5, A7).

The teaching strategy for SLK- LEX4730 and SLS- LEX4731 modules, both of which are delivered fully online, include online instruction, personal 1-2-1 supervision, consultation of core e-texts or e-handbooks with integrated multiple-choice tests, audio-visual media, flashcard exercises,

client/ethical based case studies with multiple choice tests, media demonstrations of legal writing, self-practice skills tasks and feedback sessions. All teaching and learning methods incorporated aim at engaging students in active learning, imparting information through different methods whilst engaging them in active learning with student-led activities to solidify knowledge in the fundamental areas of law, identify the limitations therein and engage with the relevant legal sources in clear and meaningful manner (A1, A2, A3, A4).

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding are assessed by summative assessment in all modules which take a variety of forms including MCQ exams mirroring the external Solicitors Qualifying Examinations (for SLK-LEX4730), presentations and other oral examinations, portfolios, literature review, coursework, class participation and the written legal research project (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A7).

The assessment of SLK- LEX4730 that aims to prepare students for the external SQE1 examination will take the form of a best answer multiple choice exam, assessing students' knowledge of the fundamental areas of law as identified by the SRA (A1,A2). This mirrors the structure of the external SQE 1 examination that students who wish to qualify as England and Wales solicitors will need to pass and prepares them for sitting the same.

The assessment for SLS- LEX4731 that aims to prepare students for the external SQE2 examination will take the form of three assessments on the core legal skills identified by the SRA, in a similar structure as would be assessed for those who wish to qualify as England and Wales solicitors. (A1,A2,A3,A4,A5). The assessment of the Legal Practice Research Project builds on the knowledge and skills gained from the SLK- LEX4730 and SLS- LEX4731 modules and through the development of a longer

	<p>research project furthers the learning outcomes (A1,A2,A3,A4,A6,A7).</p> <p>The assessment of the Work Integrated Learning module will take the form of a diary and an original academic research paper that indicates understanding of the background and questions faced by the organisation within which the placement is conducted (A7).</p>
<p>B. Skills</p> <p>On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synthesise legal data, original source material, legal authority, and a critical interpretation of findings. 2. Display the ability to critique the validity of competing arguments based in law. 3. Critically evaluate the logic for and against core theories that underpin the legal tradition and reflect systematically on their applicability in a real-world context. 4. Communicate the six legal skills of client interviewing, advocacy, case and matter analysis, legal research, legal writing and legal drafting. 5. Apply a range of academic and intellectual skills relevant to postgraduate level study including information gathering, critical analysis, synthesis, problem solving, creativity, innovation and evaluation to aid decision making by policy makers, governmental and non-governmental actors in the private and public sector. 6. Undertake critical, independent research and systematically identify, retrieve, investigate and manage information from a range of academic and other relevant sources. 7. Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements and produce solutions which best address the needs of the 	<p>Teaching/Learning Methods</p> <p>Students learn cognitive and practical skills primarily through discussion of case-studies and group discussions interspersed with exercises requiring previous readings and preparation. These may involve written and oral communication which allows students to practice the identification and analysis of legal principles and the application of them to practice-based problems. (B1,B2, B3,B5,B6,B7).</p> <p>Supervised work undertaken by LLM students to complete their legal practice research project or internship will further foster the capacity of students to write an independent research paper and develop networking skills (B5, B6).</p> <p>Students are provided with opportunities to develop their oral skills and ability to formulate and present competing arguments and possible solutions to topical issues through group discussion, student-led sessions and debate (B3, B4, B5, B7). The Legal Research Skills and Legal Practice Research Project modules are designed to enhance the ability to retrieve information, critically evaluate it and apply it coherently and analytically (B1, B2, B3). The supervised process of writing a legal practice research project or the placement report at the end of their internship will equip them with the skills to conduct in-depth research in any area of law (B6).</p> <p>Skills training, particularly through the Legal research skills module (LEX4701) will equip students with the intellectual tools necessary for postgraduate work, whilst the Solicitors</p>

<p>client and reflects the client's commercial or personal circumstances;</p> <p>8. Apply relevant core legal principles and rules within the context of the practice areas in which they apply appropriately and effectively to realistic client-based and ethical problems and situations</p>	<p>Legal Skills module (LEX4731) will equip students with the professional skills required for practice, including the identification and location of appropriate materials, critical and analytical reading, drafting and writing skills (B1,B2,B3,B6,B7,B8).</p> <p>The SLS- LEX4731 module specifically equips students with the necessary skills of client interviewing, advocacy, case and matter analysis, legal research, legal writing and legal drafting, key in passing the external SQE2 examination (B4,B8). Students undertaking the Legal Practice Research Project on the module build on these legal skills and are further supported in engaging students in the discussion of ethical problems learn how to evaluate and discuss relevant legal principles to produce the required outcomes (B4, B8).</p> <p>The SLK-LEX7XX varied teaching and learning methods, and in particular the use of client/ethical based case studies develops the skill of critically evaluating arguments, assumptions, concepts and data to make judgements and produce solutions which best address the needs of the client and reflects the client's commercial or personal circumstances (B7).</p> <p>Assessment Methods</p> <p>The range of assessment methods allow students to demonstrate their ability to identify and analyse legal issues by requiring them to apply knowledge of legal principles to practical questions drawing reasoned and defensible conclusions supported by legal authority (B1, B2, B3).</p> <p>Assessment methods in every module expect students to demonstrate a critical and evaluative approach which analyses and discriminates between competing legal arguments and reflects on the doctrines and principles underpinning the law (B2, B3, B6, B7).</p> <p>The SLS- LEX4731 module assessments</p>
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	are formulated in a way to accurately assess the attainment of the core legal skills identified as fundamental by the SRA for practicing solicitors of England and Wales and the students' ability to apply legal principles effectively and appropriately in real life scenarios (B4,B8).
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12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12.1 Structure of the programme

The LLM Legal Practice (SQE Pathway) has been designed to combine the academic and vocational stages of legal education in a single qualification. It comprises of 180 credits in total, made up of a combination of compulsory and optional modules. One of the main objectives of this programme, is to prepare students wishing to practice as England and Wales solicitors to undertake the external Solicitors Qualifying Examinations set by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). Therefore, two of the compulsory modules, accounting for 80 credits (40+40) focus on the knowledge and skills tested in this examination. The SRA has identified that all newly qualified solicitors in England and Wales must demonstrate their knowledge of the Foundation of Legal Knowledge (FLK) areas to comply with the competencies required to practice. The Foundation of Legal Knowledge (FLK) areas and SQE1 will be covered in 1 core module delivered in term 1 (LEX4730- SLK) comprising of 40 credits. The SRA also requires newly qualified solicitors in England and Wales to be competent in the six legal skills; client interviewing, advocacy, case and matter analysis, legal research, legal writing and legal drafting. These six legal skills and SQE2 will be covered in one compulsory module (LEX4731-SLS) of 40 credits. The remaining 100 credits comprise of 40 credits (20 + 20) of taught modules, 20 credits each (compulsory LEX4701- Legal Research Skills module in term 1, and an optional module on an area of law from the list below in term 2) and a compulsory 60-credit writing project (Legal Practice Research Project or Placement) in the summer term. The latter allows students to demonstrate originality in their application of knowledge of theories gained during the taught modules, with a practical understanding of the law in practice.

LLM Legal Practice (SQE Pathway) *

Term One (September-December) (60 credits)

LEX4730 Solicitors Legal Knowledge - 40 credits
LEX4701 Legal Research Skills- 20 credits

Term Two (January-May) - (60 credits)

LEX4731 Solicitors Legal Skills - 40 credits	Choice between: - LEX4720 International Commercial Litigation and Arbitration - LEX4722- Comparative Corporate Governance - LEX4711- UAE and DIFC Employment Law (DBI only)
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Summer Term - (60 credits)

LEX4760 Legal Practice Research Project
Or
LEX4770 Work Integrated Learning (eligible placement only)

*Students who fail to obtain the 180 credits as per above diagram, may exit on a **PG Dip Legal Practice (SQE Pathway), PG Dip Legal Practice, PG Cert Legal Practice (SQE Pathway), or PG Cert Legal Practice**, depending on the specific modules passed and credits gained and as set out below:

	PG Dip Legal Practice (SQE Pathway)	PG Dip Legal Practice	PG Cert Legal Practice (SQE Pathway)	PG Cert Legal Practice
Credits	120-179	120-179	60-119	60-119
Required modules for specific exit award:	LEX4730, LEX4731	-	LEX4730- LEX4731	-

12.3 Non-compensatable modules	
Module level	Module code
7	LEX4770- Work Integrated Learning
7	LEX4760- Legal Practice Research Project
7	LEX4730- Solicitors Legal Knowledge
7	LEX4731- Solicitors Legal Skills

13. Information about assessment regulations

This programme conforms to the regulations of Middlesex University and the Law School concerning postgraduate studies.

https://www.mdx.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/665120/Final-Regulations-2022-23-V1.pdf

14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

LEX4770- Work Integrated Learning is a 60-credit placement module available to LLM students and can be undertaken as an alternative to the Legal Practice Research Project if the placement chosen by the student meet eligibility criteria. Module leaders of LEX4770 as well as the Employability Service provide information and guidance on obtaining placements, but students must be pro-active in finding a suitable placement and it is ultimately their responsibility to identify such a placement and confirm with the module leader whether this is suitable. Considering that part of Solicitors' qualification, qualifying work experience (QWE) needs to be demonstrated, this module allows students to engage in such work, if able to secure such a qualifying placement, and further their steps towards qualification.

15. Future careers / progression

The LLM Legal Practice (SQE Pathway) is specifically developed to support students in employability and career progression. The specific SQE focused modules are tailored to support them to be ready to undertake the SQE exams, required for anyone to be employed in law firms and work as a solicitor of England and Wales. Both the knowledge and skills developed through these two modules prepare students for practice and make them more attractive to employers. This LLM also supports career progression for those already in legal practice, as there is great demand by international law firms for England and Wales qualified solicitors and great interest from such lawyers to shift to such firms. The 'dual' degree in terms of SQE prep and a postgraduate level degree will make students more employable, considering the established benefits of an LLM degree. In addition, as students entering this programme will have the opportunity by arranging themselves to sit the external SQE1 exam in January (whilst the degree is still ongoing), they will already be in a position of strength to approach law firms in order to secure Qualifying Work Experience, an additional requirement to the SQE examinations to qualify.

Generally, students have access to the University Employability Service and are offered guidance by the Programme Leader and other contributors to the programme, including guidance recruitment processes for national and international organisations. Students are invited to Employability Talks organised as part of the Clinical Legal Education Programme by the Law and Politics Department as well as talks and events organised by the School of Law.

The LLM is a marketable qualification and previous graduates of the programme have gone on to work for legal departments of public and private sector organisations, multinational companies, international organisations, governmental departments and within the judiciary. Many have continued their higher education studies via a PhD.

16. Particular support for learning

MDX-led modules:

- Tailor-made and comprehensive Welcome and Induction Programme and advice on decisions regarding module and programme enrolment;
- Specialist skills training and advice about opportunities for generic language and skills training;
- Availability of individual help and group sessions on academic writing and language from the Learning Enhancement Team.
- Supply of a comprehensive programme handbook and separate module handbooks for all modules including a detailed legal practice research project handbook;
- Electronic and tailored reading lists available through MyUniHub for each module;
- Online systems on MyUniHub to support learning opportunities;
- Opportunities to consult Law Progression Advisers;
- Availability and guidance from library staff, including a dedicated Law Librarian;
- Availability of computer assisted learning facilities;
- Electronically accessible feedback on all summative module assessments;
- Facilities and equipment available to assist students with disabilities;
- Access to careers information and an Employability Service staffed with careers advisers with extensive knowledge of career options in law;
- Access to libraries other than Middlesex University;
- Provision of close personal supervision throughout the course via their module tutors/programme leader/ supervisors of research projects or internships, including availability of guidance during weekly open office hours.

COLP-led modules:

- A pre-course SQE study pack that includes legal knowledge in areas from the SLK Manual
- An individual personal tutor
- Full access to the College's Learning Portal and virtual community
- A mobile application
- Multimedia presentations, workbook scenarios and flashcards for each unit, to access as and when they like
- 2300+ MCQs including multiple-choice questions for every unit and across practice

- areas, building up from week 1
- 1-2-1 supervisions and personal tuition
- Virtual surgeries on legal content and concepts
- Weekly 'town halls' run by module leaders & supervisors
- Formative assessments
- Hard and soft copy SLK and SLS Manuals containing all reading materials
- 100+ activities, practice tasks and simulated assessments to access 10 x 30-minute surgeries on legal content and concepts
- 24 skill practices with individual supervisor feedback
- Performance supervisions/pastoral personal tutor sessions
- SQE Ready Review with 1-2-1 supervisor to assess readiness for SQE1 and SQE2 for every student.

17. HECos code(s)

100485 Law

18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)

The LLM Legal Practice (SQE Pathway) has been developed in line with the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Law 2023. The programme's aims are to equip students with knowledge and skills for a range of careers. The inclusion of two modules specifically preparing students for undertaking the SQE exams, a requirement for practicing as England and Wales solicitors, preparing students to enter the regulated legal practice, whilst the additional modules focusing both on a deeper understanding of specialised areas of law and legal skills, support students who may wish to pursue other high-skilled and analytical roles, such as in business, public policy, humanitarian work, finance, government etc. **(para 1.5)**. Both teaching and learning and assessment in this programme focuses on key knowledge and graduate competencies expected of a law graduate **(paras 4.3 and 4.4)** and as reflected in the learning outcomes herein.

The programme has strong partnership links and connections with the local and regional legal profession; who are actively involved in programme delivery and careers support activities **(para 2.8)**.

19. Reference points

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Law (2023).
- The QAA Quality Code for Higher Education.
- The QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications.
- University Learning and Teaching policies and strategies.

20. Other information

N/A

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

21. Curriculum map for [title of Programme]

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	Fundamental legal principles, concepts, and techniques in the key areas of UK law as required by the SRA
A2	The limitations of the body of knowledge, with regard to law in context and practice.
A3	Research data and the use of primary sources such as legislation, case law, and secondary source material such as government reports, white and green papers, and refereed journal articles.
A4	Recent developments in the legal discipline and its professional practice, including the significance of ethical, social, business and political contexts within which the law operates.
A5	How to deal with complex legal and policy issues both systematically and creatively, making informed judgments in the absence of complete information, and communicating conclusions clearly.
A6	Approaches, tools and techniques for Master's level research and/or advanced scholarship.
A7	Methodology and research skills necessary to transfer the learning acquired through taught modules or work placement to the process of writing a dissertation or a substantial evidence-based report.
Skills	
B1	Synthesise legal data, original source material, legal authority and a critical interpretation of findings.
B2	Display the ability to critique the validity of competing arguments based in law.
B3	Critically evaluate the logic for and against core theories that underpin the legal tradition and reflect systematically on their applicability in a real-world context.
B4	Communicate the six legal skills of client interviewing, advocacy, case and matter analysis, legal research, legal writing and legal drafting.
B5	Apply a range of academic and intellectual skills relevant to postgraduate level study including information gathering, critical analysis, synthesis, problem solving, creativity, innovation and evaluation to aid decision making by policy makers, governmental and non-governmental actors in the private and public sector.
B6	Undertake critical, independent research and systematically identify, retrieve, investigate, and manage information from a range of academic and other relevant sources.
B7	Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, concepts, and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements and produce solutions which best address the needs of the client and reflects the client's commercial or personal circumstances.
B8	Apply relevant core legal principles and rules within the context of the practice areas in which they apply appropriately and effectively to realistic client-based and ethical problems and situations.

Programme outcomes														
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8
Highest level achieved by all graduates														
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8
		Solicitors Legal Knowledge	LEX4730	x	x	x	x				x	x	x			x
Solicitors Legal Skills	LEX4731	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Legal Research Skills	LEX4701			x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Comparative Corporate Governance	LEX4722		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
International Commercial Litigation and Arbitration	LEX4720		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Work Integrated Learning	LEX4770		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
Legal Practice Research Project	LEX4760		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
UAE and DIFC Employment Law (DBI only)	LEX4711		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x