

SCHOOL OF LAW

RAISING THE BAR

“ The School of Law at the University of Reading is a transformative and international learning environment with a world-wide reputation for research. We welcome students from across the globe into our diverse, inclusive, supportive and highly ambitious community. We pride ourselves on achieving excellence in our teaching, learning and research. Our students develop as independent thinkers and learn about a variety of laws in relevant social, economic, cultural, political and global contexts. You will be taught by innovative, passionate teachers, who work on research that pushes boundaries, contribute to leading publications, receive international awards and grants for their research, and have a direct effect on policy and practice. The School of Law is very proud of its strong relationship with alumni and employers. We look forward to welcoming you on an exciting journey that will provide opportunities for you to thrive, in a department that is passionate about the development and impact of law at a global level.”



Professor James Devenney
Head of School and Professor of
Transnational Commercial Law

www.reading.ac.uk/law

“The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings capable of law, where there is no law, there is no freedom.”

John Locke



Disclaimer

This brochure was issued in 2022 and is aimed at prospective undergraduate students wishing to apply for a place at the University of Reading (the University) and start a course in autumn 2023. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in the brochure is accurate and up-to-date at the time of going to press (May 2022). However, it may be necessary for the University to make some changes to the information presented in the brochure following publication – for example, where it is necessary to reflect changes in practice or theory in an academic subject as a result of emerging research; or if an accrediting body requires certain course content to be added or removed. To make an informed and up-to-date decision, we recommend that you check reading.ac.uk/study

The University undertakes to take all reasonable steps to provide the services (including the courses) described in this brochure. It does not, however, guarantee the provision of such services. Should industrial action or circumstances beyond the control of the University interfere with its ability to provide the services, the University undertakes to use all reasonable steps to minimise any disruption to the services.

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Modules disclaimer

Sample modules are provided as a taster of some of the modules that may be available on each course. The sample modules listed may be compulsory (core) or optional modules. Information is correct at the time of going to press (May 2022) but the University cannot guarantee that a module appearing in this list will definitely run. Teaching staff on specific courses or modules mentioned in this prospectus may be subject to change.

For optional modules, the University cannot guarantee that all optional modules will be available to all students who may wish to take them, although the University will try to ensure that students are able to take optional modules in which they have expressed interest at the appropriate time during their course. Optional modules vary from year to year and entry to them will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Joint courses disclaimer

Our joint courses may have extra requirements, including English language requirements. Please check the individual course pages on our website for further details.

Year abroad and placement fees

Some courses include an optional or compulsory year abroad or placement year. During this year you will only pay a partial fee which is currently set at 15% of the normal tuition fee. Check the website for the latest information: reading.ac.uk/fees-and-funding

Placements disclaimer

Programmes with a Professional Placement Year (also known as 'Year in Industry' or 'Placement Year') are fully dependent on students securing their own placement opportunity, normally through a competitive recruitment process. The University provides dedicated career and application support for placement year students. Students who do not secure a placement or who are unable to complete the placement year due to extenuating circumstances, have the option to transfer to a three year variant of their programme with agreement from their School/Department.

Study abroad disclaimer

The partnerships listed are correct at the time of publication (June 2022). For up to date information on the University's partnerships contact studyabroad@reading.ac.uk

Where Study Abroad is not a compulsory part of the degree programme, the University of Reading cannot guarantee that every applicant who applies for the scheme will be successful. Whilst efforts are made to secure sufficient places at partner institutions, the number of places available and the University's partners can vary year-on-year. In all cases, the University cannot guarantee that it will be possible for applicants to choose to study abroad at a particular institution.

Further, certain courses and/or institutions may require you to satisfy specific eligibility criteria. It can be a competitive process. For further information on the University's Study Abroad Scheme please contact studyabroad@reading.ac.uk

POLITICAL LIMBO



Dr Reuven (Ruvi) Ziegler, Director of Postgraduate Taught Programmes

As an aspiring postgraduate law student at Oxford University, Dr Ruvi Ziegler's MPhil thesis focused on electoral participation of convicts from an international and comparative law perspective. He queried the potentially adverse effects of exclusion of convicts as members of their political communities and on protection of their rights.

Continuing his intellectual journey, Ruvi's doctorate appraised the unique political predicament of refugees, who are, in the main, in political limbo for an indeterminate period.

Since completing his doctorate, Ruvi has become an authority in matters pertaining to International Refugee Law, recognised as a Senior Research Associate of the Refugee Law Initiative and Editor-in-Chief of its working paper series. Ruvi has also established himself as a global expert on questions of political membership and participation, contributing to the work of

the International Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the GLOBALCIT observatory at the European University Institute and the European Union.

From law student to change agent and social reformer, Ruvi has been able to make a real impact on policy and practice. Recently, much of his academic work, as well as public advocacy, has focused on the effects of the 2016 EU referendum on citizens' rights on both sides of the channel.

Speaking at the Liberal Democrat 2018 Autumn conference, Ruvi argued that citizens of other EU countries who are long-term residents in the UK should be granted full voting rights to foster their inclusion. The Conference adopted a policy motion supporting this radical legislative change. He also succeeded in moving amendments to the Liberal Democrat's new Migration Policy that commits the party to a world-leading progressive and modern approach to asylum.

Recently, Ruvi co-authored a letter to the Israeli Attorney General, signed by 50 leading academics the world over, imploring him not to authorise plans to forcibly deport Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers from Israel. The controversial policy was averted with Israel's announcement of cancellation of deportation orders and the subsequent renewal of permits.

As an academic who is regularly involved in presenting contemporary issues in government forums and the media, Ruvi's teaching and seminar discussions link theory with burning political issues. Whether referring to the Israel-Palestine conflict while teaching international human rights law, or referring to the electoral rights of non-resident British citizens in his teaching of UK Public Law, Ruvi encourages energetic debate in class and an active contribution from his students.

“The challenge was to look at where the law stands and how it needs to be developed. The sense of accomplishment is in being able to set out ideas, engage with scholars, advocate ideas in relevant forums and pursue them until you achieve the desired long term impact.”

EFFECTIVE REFORMS



Dr Bolanle Adebola

Dr Bolanle Adebola, Associate Professor in International Commercial Law at Reading, is a trained advocate with dual qualifications: Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Her research and teaching span three broad areas of commercial law. These include international corporate insolvency and restructuring law, international corporate governance and finance, as well as international commercial arbitration. Her interest in corporate and commercial law stemmed from the cases she worked on during her brief time in legal practice.

Bolanle came to the UK for a Master's degree in 2007, during which she was introduced to corporate insolvency law as a course of study. She focused her dissertation on a comparative analysis of her most notable insolvency case during her period of legal practice. The dissertation became the basis for her doctoral studies as she sought to propose recommendations for the reform of the corporate insolvency and restructuring law in Nigeria and beyond. Her core research focus has thus been on international insolvency and restructuring law, ever since.

Beyond her teaching, Bolanle engages actively in capacity building in both advanced and emerging economies. In 2021, she contributed to judicial training in both Nigeria and the US. In Nigeria, she was invited by the Attorney General Alliance Africa Partnership (AGA) and the Nigeria Judicial Institute (NJI), to participate in the training of justices of the Federal High Court and Court of Appeal of Nigeria. In the US, she was invited by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges of the United States. Both workshops focused on knowledge exchange between bankruptcy practitioners and judges.

Many of Bolanle's students are from emerging economies across the globe. During her classes, she discusses broad principles of law, as well as their policy underpinnings within both advanced and emerging contexts. This ensures that her students can apply their new knowledge to the realities of their preferred jurisdictions. She encourages students to undertake comparative studies that highlight lessons that can be learnt from both advanced and emerging economies.

With the aim to help emerging economies make their own laws, Bolanle founded and convenes the Commercial Law Research Network Nigeria (CLRNN), a network established to promote research and knowledge exchange on matters relating to the development and reform of commercial law in economies such as Nigeria. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Research Networking Scheme, CLRNN seeks to (i) influence the reform of commercial law in emerging economies, (ii) encourage the development of research in such jurisdictions and (iii) facilitate the dissemination of research from such jurisdictions. In Summer 2021, CLRNN broadened its remit through the CLRNN Spotlight on Corporate Governance and Insolvency Law in Africa seminar series, which looks more across Africa.

"Every week the network publishes something for people to read on their website and it's been interesting to see just how responsive people have been. All of that is bringing the emerging economies onto the world stage where our conversations are now being had on a level that is more at par."

“There is not enough spotlight on the legal advances happening in emerging economies. Many of my students are from these jurisdictions. I want them to understand the contexts within which their laws exist, and the advances that their jurisdictions contribute to the global legal landscape, so that they are encouraged and imbued with confidence to also make their contributions.”



INSURANCE LAW

The teaching of Insurance Law is an exciting new development at the University of Reading. The School of Law will soon introduce a module in Insurance Law, and it is intended to expand LLM teaching into the related maritime law field.

Insurance is essential to every aspect of commercial and private life, and indeed explains many of the legal disputes that come before courts worldwide. Inexplicably, very few institutions teach the subject.

Most people have been involved with insurance claims of one form or another, ranging from minor property damage to accidents at work or on the road. However, the importance of the subject becomes even more apparent when there is a major catastrophe, for example, a collision at sea leading to damage and oil pollution, or a series of destructive earthquakes.

The subject hit the headlines in recent times with claims by businesses forced to close or restrict their activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a series of complex and lengthy court cases brought to recover compensation under business interruption insurance policies.

The School of Law has an unparalleled team of experts with experience in every aspect of insurance law.

Dr Kyriaki Noussia, Associate Professor in Commercial Law, has practical experience as a lawyer and has published in the field of insurance regulation, dispute resolution and new technologies. She is particularly interested in environmental issues arising from oil and gas, and has received numerous grants from prestigious bodies to further her research.

Professor Rob Merkin QC has been teaching, researching and writing on insurance law for many years. His most recent work *Marine Insurance: A Legal History* is a study of the development of the law from earliest times up to the turn of the 20th century. He was a Parliamentary adviser on the Law Commission proposal that ultimately became the Insurance Act 2015, and has since advised overseas governments on potential changes to their insurance laws.

Both Kyriaki and Rob are members of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Insurance Law (AIDA) and along with two other colleagues from AIDA are preparing a new multi-volume 'Encyclopaedia of Insurance Law' which draws upon contributions from practising and academic lawyers in many countries.

Lecturer in Commercial Law, Dr Yong Han has authored the monograph *Policyholder's Reasonable Expectations* (Hart Publishing 2016) and has co-edited *Carter v Boehm and Pre-Contractual Duties in Insurance Law: A Global Perspective after 250 Years* (Hart Publishing 2018), an important collection of essays on Utmost Good Faith in Insurance.

Peter Tyldesley, Lecturer in Common Law, is a solicitor who worked as an insurance underwriter and a consultant to the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau — a forerunner to the present Financial Ombudsman Service. He then went to work for the English Law Commission, and was the solicitor responsible for preparing proposals that ultimately passed into law as the Consumer Insurance (Disclosure and Representations) Act 2012.

The School of Law also welcomes Honorary Professor John Birds, a world-leading expert in insurance and company law. His work *Modern Insurance Law*, now in its eleventh edition, is widely recognised as the standard student text on the subject. He is also the lead editor of *MacGillivray on Insurance Law* — an established authority and trusted work among insurers, brokers, and practitioners.

Although insurance law is a fascinating area of study, both for its history and for its pervasive influence, perhaps the most important aspect is just how much you learn about the real world and the way in which businesses carry out their operations.





LEARN FROM EXPERTS

Based at the stunning Grade II listed Foxhill House, you will be taught by leading academics in the field of law.

Their expertise and commitment to their subject and students cultivates a stimulating learning environment that will encourage you to excel.

Our team of experienced academics are passionate about their subject and are recognised as experts in specialist areas such as medical, environmental, international and commercial law. As a law student at the University of Reading, you will benefit from

teaching supported by applied research led by our academics who contribute regularly to global and UK policy development and law reforms through their work with governments and regulatory agencies. They are regularly invited to speak at conferences and to provide their expert opinion in the media. Some of our tutors are advisers to government and policy-making bodies like the Law Commission and the United Nations, whilst others have been involved with, or cited in, cases before courts, including the European Court of Justice and UK Supreme Court.

All of our programmes are supported by networking, conference and work experience opportunities for our students, which result directly from the strong industry links that our staff have developed in their disciplines in both academia and practice. Our academics are not only research experts in their specialist fields, many have applied and developed their knowledge and research interests through a career in legal practice.

Joining our School of Law will give you the opportunity to flourish in a dynamic and collaborative teaching environment and immerse yourself in legal debate and

developments alongside academics, who are at the forefront of changes to global legal systems.

“The LLM undoubtedly makes me more employable. The academic experience within the School of Law is second to none, and the modular nature of the course allowed flexibility of learning. I would thoroughly recommend this course to anyone seeking to develop skills and knowledge in international law to an advanced level.”

Nicholas Hilton
LLM International Law graduate



RESEARCH THAT CHANGES LAW

The School of Law at Reading is a hub for high-quality research and teaching with impact.

Our academics are established legal scholars who feed their acknowledged expertise into teaching, thus enriching the learning experience for our students.

Our academics undertake a wide variety of individual and collaborative research, much of which has made a discernible impact beyond the school. Aside from challenging the preconceptions of law, much of our academic research subjects the process of legal decision-making to strict analysis, often igniting debate and challenging governments and policy-makers to redress the balance from a legal perspective.

From court decisions and public policy made by central and local government and international organisations, to the activities of NGOs and charities, we aim to create positive

change. Our subject experts undertake a wide variety of research, around themes such as Global Law; Justice, Rights and Legal Theory; Family, Gender and Sexuality; Public Policy; Legal History; Property, Transactions and Markets; Commercial Law and Financial Regulation.

Our recent research projects include: the changing legitimacy of health and safety, 1960–2015; the international legal regulation of detention in armed conflict; public attitudes towards – and justifications of – retention of the death penalty; and Civil partnership dissolution – expectations and experiences.

As a University of Reading law student, you will benefit directly from this and further research projects, as our academics encourage lively debate around their findings and invite their students to join them in thinking beyond existing laws and policies, to create positive change at a national and global level.

“Challenging the preconceptions of law, subjecting the process of legal decision-making to strict analysis and igniting debate with government policy-makers to redress the balance from a legal perspective.”

OUT IN THE FIELD

Aside from first class research and learning from experts, one of our School of Law's distinctive features is the direct involvement we have in supporting our students' chosen career paths.

Our focus on commercial awareness, access to well-established industry connections and breadth of placement opportunities are all designed for you to expand your knowledge and experience in the legal field.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We provide you with a comprehensive range of opportunities to maximise your employability. We have excellent links with industry and support our students with several prestigious work experience opportunities in renowned commercial enterprises, law firms and research centres, allowing successful candidates to gain hands-on experience on topics related to their studies. The School has a dedicated senior member of academic staff overseeing careers guidance and placements in conjunction with the University's Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre.

All of our master's programmes offer networking opportunities supported by guest lectures, conferences, research seminars and workshops. We also have a calendar full of career-orientated events

built into our degree portfolio including careers fairs, employer-run workshops, CV advice clinics and mock interview sessions.

You will be exposed to a wide range of pro bono opportunities during your time with us, presenting you with the chance to put your legal skills to use in real-life situations. This experience is not only a valuable addition to your CV when it comes to applying for training contracts and placements, but also provides the opportunity to provide valuable services to the community.

GRADUATE PROSPECTS

Past students from our International Commercial Law programmes have gone on to work for a range of national and international law firms, as lawyers and as in-house legal counsels for large multinational companies in the UK and abroad, in addition to international organisations and NGOs.

Graduates from our Global Law programmes have gone on to work in different professional environments, including international organisations, such as European Union institutions, the United Nations and the International Criminal Court. Others have engaged in work leading to careers in foreign and diplomatic affairs.

“An inspirational aspect of study for me was the extensive module on Research Methods that opened my eyes to the richness of legal research. Having rigorous discussions on the various ways to think about law made me confident that I wanted to pursue a career in academia. This module helped me orient myself within research and enabled me to change the way I engaged with the literature: from seeing myself as a student to regarding myself capable of contributing to the production of knowledge. I now work as a Lecturer at the University of Lincoln Law School. This role allows me to continue developing the research I began at the University of Reading whilst teaching on Lincoln's LLB and LLM degree programmes.”

Faye Bird

LLM International Law graduate

GLOBAL LAW



The University of Reading School of Law has harnessed its world-class expertise in the area of Global Law. We provide specialised LLM programmes that underpin the relationship between legal systems and the legal regulation of human rights, armed conflict, refugee movement, the use of force and other contemporary areas of global governance. You will engage with academics working at the forefront of research in these areas giving you unparalleled insights to help you forge a path in your career.

GLOBAL LAW AT READING (GLAR)

Global Law at Reading (GLAR) has an international reputation for research excellence in public international law, EU law, and human rights law. Our academics publish leading works in these fields and many frequently engaged in policy and practice in both the UK and overseas.

To support a thriving postgraduate community, GLAR hosts the Gandhi Research Seminar Series, which attracts internationally renowned speakers from around the world. Students on our global law programmes benefit from significant networking, conference and work experience opportunities.

LLM ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

The LLM Advanced Legal Studies promotes a critical awareness of the methodology of the common law and further develops students' knowledge of substantive subject areas within the English Legal System, with the opportunity to also explore international and human rights law. All students will be required to undertake the compulsory module in research methods and a dissertation together with optional modules including some commercial law options.

LLM International Law

Gain an in-depth understanding of international legal responses with a focus on resolving contemporary global challenges within an international learning environment. You will gain invaluable insights from research active academics in the field offering practical and

interdisciplinary insights. Study topics such as refugee law, law of armed conflict, the use of military force, international organisations and global governance, and our frequently updated offering on the contemporary issues in international law.

“The module arrangements at the School of Law were beyond my expectations and gave me a far deeper understanding of issues related to human rights and the role of regional and international treaties. Not only did the topics covered enhance my legal knowledge, they also equipped me to evaluate ideas and concepts in ways that challenged me to think critically.”

Nattapapim Phattranurukkul
LLM International Law

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW

Studying on our International Commercial Law programmes will provide an invaluable opportunity to acquire a unique legal and multidisciplinary perspective of commercial law issues.

Offered in conjunction with the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) Centre of Henley Business School, our programmes allow you to tailor your studies with a number of pathways to help you develop your commercial law expertise and specialise in an area of interest. This is a unique aspect of our programmes, which unlike other universities offers students the opportunity to develop a multidisciplinary perspective by studying business-related modules directly from a business school

CENTRE FOR COMMERCIAL LAW AND FINANCIAL REGULATION (CCLFR)

The School of Law and the ICMA Centre have established the CCLFR as a forum for conducting research and disseminating knowledge on international commercial law and financial regulation. CCLFR focuses on advancing legal scholarship, brings together scholars and policymakers in law and finance and influences the development and application of commercial law and financial regulation in practice through research projects, conferences, teaching and publications.

LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW

The LLM International Commercial Law provides an overview of the main commercial law issues that arise in a multiplicity of transactions. It covers those aspects of law that practitioners could expect to encounter on a regular basis, including banking law, competition law, and intellectual property law. The overarching aim of this LLM programme is to facilitate the recognition and appreciation by students of international commercial law and permits detailed study of some aspects of law. This programme will be relevant to graduates

or professionals aspiring to work in law firms, multinational corporations, government agencies, international financial institutions, the judiciary and academia (subject to further study).

All students selecting a pathway will study Advanced Issues in International Commercial Law and International Corporate Finance and the Law, together with the specified module(s) for your chosen pathway, and a written project related to that area of law.

LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW WITH CORPORATE FINANCE

The aim of this pathway is to analyse the different aspects of corporate finance from an international perspective. This LLM programme will provide the tools to recognise the key elements to implement a successful financing technique by means of the analysis of theoretical issues and actual case studies. You will develop an understanding of the basic corporate framework at the national, regional and trans-national level. You will be aware of different financing techniques and have a broad understanding of the theory and practice of the capital markets and financial regulation in a comparative context.

LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW WITH BANKING LAW AND FINANCIAL REGULATION

This pathway addresses financial regulation and supervision with a specific emphasis on banking and securities law. The programme tackles regulatory and legal control of financial markets and financial intermediaries including banks (commercial banks and investment banks), as well as securities firms, insurance undertakings and other more specialist types of service provider, and financial conglomerates. You will take compulsory and optional modules at the School of Law and ICMA Centre, Henley Business School, having the opportunity to develop a holistic perspective of the legal and financial issues and to enhance your employability prospects in the financial sector.

LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW WITH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW AND MANAGEMENT

Intellectual property has a central role in the enhancement of creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and commercial growth in the modern economy. The first and only LLM in the UK offering Law and Management of Intellectual Property, this pathway is designed to respond to the emergent demand for professionals who have studied intellectual

property to a high level. This pathway will also provide you with the opportunity to develop an advanced understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of intellectual property law and an ability to critically assess and provide practical solutions to problems of the type commonly encountered in intellectual property law. You will be able to identify the key challenges for organisations involved in the production or distribution of cultural products and services, and analyse the various ways in which organizations have responded to these challenges in different commercial and cultural contexts.



RAISING THE BAR

Nudchanard Jindatummanusarn took a leap of faith leaving the Far East to travel to Reading based on internet research and rankings alone. However her decision paid off as her LLM at Reading propelled her into a successful career.

The main reason Nudchanard chose to study LLM International Commercial Law at the University of Reading was the wide range of modules offered. She was able to tailor the course to her interests, choosing from a variety of internationally orientated topics which covered an array of commercial law issues. Her favourite modules included International Commercial Arbitration and Legal Aspects of International Financial Regulation, which helped her develop a critical and up-to-date understanding of international dispute resolution – something that she could not study as part of her Bachelor's degree in Thailand.

Nudchanard thrived on the high level of academic support provided at Reading. She believes “the lecturers in the School of Law are truly amazing people – friendly, approachable, and not to mention experts in their fields”. Nudchanard developed her analytical skills through discussion with lecturers of controversial issues, and they also supported her as an international student through development of her English speaking skills. Her learning experience was further enhanced by guest lectures delivered by professionals from leading UK law firms.

Following completion of her LLM at Reading, Nudchanard achieved her ambition of becoming a practitioner in International Commercial Law. She is now a legal officer in a Thai state-owned oil and gas company, which is the only company in Thailand to be listed in the Fortune Global 500. Nudchanard believes the skills and knowledge she acquired from her studies at Reading helped her secure this job.

“Studying at Reading broadened my acumen and increased my overall proficiency. I am extremely happy in my job now, but wouldn't rule out returning to Reading as I loved my time there.”



A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

The School of Law thrives on the lively academic environment developed from cross cultural collaboration, and both our student and staff community is made up of people from all around the globe. If you are joining us from another country, we want to make your transition as easy as possible.

At the School, we offer pre-arrival support, a specialised induction programme, dedicated library, careers sessions and law language teaching to all our international students. We recognise that our students' learning styles vary greatly, so we ensure that you are supported by a range of teaching methods, learning styles and opportunities to give you the best possible chance to excel during your studies.

Our course on "Academic writing for LLM students", run in conjunction with the International Study and Language Institute (ISLI), will help you to enhance your skills in essay writing, with the addition of language support if you are an international student.

DOUBLE MASTER'S OPPORTUNITY

We are pleased to offer our Double Master's Programmes in Commercial Law with leading universities around the world.

Students undertake postgraduate study at two institutions in the form of a double master's programme, completing two master's programmes in two years. We offer double master's courses with a range of leading partner universities worldwide.

The double master's opportunity is only available to students studying at our partner universities. Students from our partner universities who are joining our Commercial Law master's programmes may be eligible for a discount on the University of Reading tuition fees.

ENGAGE IN INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

At the School of Law, our master's by research course aims to provide you with an advanced set of skills that will serve you well within legal research or a wide range of other careers.

MA BY RESEARCH IN LEGAL HISTORY

Our MA by Research in Legal History is an interdisciplinary programme that equips graduates with a sophisticated understanding of legal and historical approaches to social, cultural and political phenomena, advanced skills in archival research, and the ability to undertake high-level analysis of law and legal issues.

The programme allows students to undertake detailed research in some aspects of legal history and is primarily undertaken through guided research and writing, with each candidate's programme tailored to best reflect their needs, interests and goals. Students will be closely associated with the Law School's Forum for Legal and Historical Research.

This programme is particularly suited to those entering the legal profession or who wish to pursue a PhD in history, law or related areas. Pursued part-time, it is also of great value to people already undertaking academic research or members of the legal profession, especially barristers, who wish to build their skills in legal and historical analysis to contribute to the literature upon which superior courts, parliamentary bodies and law reform agencies frequently rely.

MRES LAW AND MRES LAW & SOCIETY

The Master of Research programmes are suited for students who wish to pursue career paths in research-based positions in national or international government or non-government institutions. The courses also appeal to those who are interested in professional research in law or the administration of justice, or those who wish to pursue a PhD in law or related areas. These degrees equip students with high-level analytical skills and a strong grasp of research methods, research design and research project management skills.

Some of our very best master's level students follow these programmes each year, frequently going on to become PhD candidates. The MRes Law & Society emphasises socio-legal research, the study of law in context and the interplay of legal and social theory. The MRes Law is suitable for candidates who are less focused on the pursuit of interdisciplinary links and who are primarily interested in the study of law as a discrete domain of knowledge and practice.

“Studying at the University of Reading was an incredibly enriching and intellectually stimulating experience. The depth of discussions, small class sizes, development of important skills and the guidance and insights imparted by supervisors proved exceptionally helpful.”

Tom Innes
MRes graduate



FIND YOUR PhD

Engage in cutting-edge research in your chosen area of law. The School of Law offers a vibrant research culture and welcomes high-quality applicants from all over the world to join a recognised centre of excellence in both doctrinal and socio-legal research across a wide range of areas.

The School of Law offers two main postgraduate research degrees: PhD (3 years full-time or 4–6 years part-time); LLM by thesis (1 year full-time or 2 years part time)

As a research student, you will join a dynamic and thriving community of postgraduate researchers and you will play an integral part in the life of the School. You will have excellent facilities and support, including research training programmes, informal lunches, faculty seminars, financial support for conferences and career development strategies.

All of our law students have access to the University's Graduate School where there is 24-hour access to study space and a range of up-to-date facilities for the exclusive use of postgraduate research students.

All students embarking on a PhD have regular meetings with their supervisors who are experts in their field, and annual independent monitoring panels ensure that progress is on track and provide additional assistance and support.

The School of Law offers an annual PhD proposal writing workshop. This provides potential applicants with hands-on advice and support to enable them to submit strong research proposals with a view to being offered a place on the doctoral programme and to provide help in securing studentship funding.

“The School of Law has provided unwavering support throughout my years of study, including arranging for external supervision and providing a research fund which has allowed me to attend some conferences in Europe. As well as ensuring a comfortable study environment, I have also gained teaching experience in a core law module and have supervised master's students. I have also had the opportunity to present at the Regional Doctoral Conference, and have presented yearly to the School of Law.

Such experience is invaluable when applying for jobs in academia. I would highly recommend the University of Reading School of Law if you are thinking of undertaking postgraduate studies. ”

Rosalynd Roberts, PhD



School of Law

www.reading.ac.uk/law

 UniRDG_Law

Ask us a question

www.reading.ac.uk/question



THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION
2021