

Programme Specification: Undergraduate For students starting in Academic Year 2022/2023

1. Course Summary

Name of programme & award title with UCAS code	Criminal Law [M131]
Awarding Institution	Aberystwyth University
Individual Accreditation(s)	The qualifying law degree is recognised by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) for the purposes of satisfying the academic stage of training.
Final Award	Bachelor of Laws
Date of Publication	September 2023
QAA Subject Benchmark	Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology Law

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/study-with-us/ug-studies/terms-conditions/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

2: Duration

Programme	Years
Criminal Law [M131]	3

3: Educational aims of the programme

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

- To equip students with the analytical skills necessary to undertake the intellectual study of law.

- To stimulate students intellectually to take an active role in their learning and lead them to a critical appreciation of the discipline and its major debates.

- To develop students' ability to apply knowledge to the resolution of practical problems.

- To equip students with the research skills to permit them to locate, read and critically assess the work of others and to conduct simple research projects of their own.

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

Although the Themed LL.B (Criminal Law) degree is a qualifying law degree for the purposes of the legal profession, it provides a much broader basis for life long intellectual, personal and social development. In addition to enabling students to acquire a sound knowledge base and an understanding of Law and the legal environment, it raises awareness of the role of Law in society. The learning experience provides many opportunities to acquire a wide range of distinctive legal skills. It also facilitates the development of generic skills. Together, these provide a sound foundation for entry into the legal profession and other professions, and for postgraduate study. In addition to the core modules, the programmes direct students towards modules that share a common general theme, namely the working of the criminal law and the criminal justice system. This provides a particular focus within the scheme allowing for some legal specialisation, and hence a distinctive type of qualification.

4: Intended learning outcomes

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

The learning outcomes of this programme are designed to meet the expectations of the Benchmarking Statement for Law, and the current Joint Statement issued by the Solicitor's Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board. The structure and the delivery of the degree scheme recognise the need to achieve an appropriate balance between the acquisition of legal knowledge, and the development of legal and generic skills. Integrating these two components is a central feature of the learning outcomes listed below. Reference should also be made to guidance given in the Classification of Examination Results in Law & Criminology, which describes the expected level of performance for each class of degree.

5: Knowledge and understanding

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

Learning Outcome 2: Application

- a. the ability to apply acquired knowledge to solving hypothetical or actual problems
- b. the ability to distinguish relevance and irrelevance
- c. a recognition that problems often have more than one solution

Learning Outcome 3: Sources and research

- a. the ability to identify and research issues
- b. familiarity with the main primary and secondary legal sources (traditional and electronic) relevant to the subject
- c. acquisition of the skill of identifying and retrieving relevant and up to date legal information (traditional or electronic)
- d. the development of reading and listening skills

Learning Outcome 4: Analysis, synthesis, critical judgement and evaluation

- a. development of the skill of critical evaluation and a willingness to challenge accepted wisdom
- b. the ability to assess the relative weight of competing arguments and information

c. synthesising a wide range of possibly conflicting doctrinal and policy issues in relation to a topic

Learning Outcome 5: Autonomy

- a. a recognition of the importance of the learning process and the personal responsibilities inherent in that process
- b. a recognition of the importance of personal development and the ability to act independently in planning, researching and executing legal projects
- c. the ability to reflect and be constructively critical of personal development and achievement
- d. the ability to identify and keep under review realistic aims, and to measure success in achieving them

Learning Outcome 6: Communication and literacy

- a. the ability to use written and spoken English and/or Welsh proficiently in a legal context
- b. the ability to present an argument or information in a clear and logical way, and to respond to counter-arguments
- c. effective use of often complex legal material including an ability to understand and explain the content
- d. the ability to communicate by electronic means

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

Learning Outcome 1: Knowledge

- a. knowledge of major concepts, values, principles and rules of the legal system
- b. an understanding of the institutions and procedures operating at sub-national, national, European and international levels
- c. an awareness of 'legal environment'
- d. knowledge of specialist areas of law
- e. an awareness of the role of Law in society and its historical context
- f. an understanding of the theoretical underpinning of the Law
- g. the historical context of Law
- h. the relationship of Law with another discipline

6: Skills and other attributes

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

Learning Outcome 7: Other key skills

- a. time management and personal organisation
- b. self awareness and self confidence
- c. interpersonal skills
- d. team working
- e. numerical skills
- f. IT skills - e.g. WWW, legal databases, e-learning, email and word processing

7: Transferable/Key skills

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

Professional practical skills

The knowledge and transferable skills identified in the recent Joint Statement (referred to in section 10) are consistent with those identified in the Law Benchmarking Statement and in the Department's Learning Outcomes.

8: Work-based learning (where appropriate)

9: What is the structure of the programme?

Year 1 Core modules

Core (100 Credits)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Legal and Criminal Justice Systems	LC10120	20	Semester 1
Legal Skills and Research	LC10420	20	Semester 1
Criminal Law	LC10520	20	Semester 2
Tort	LC11120	20	Semester 2
Contract Law	LC13820	20	Semester 2

Year 1

Options Students must take one of the following modules:

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Cyflwyniad i Droseddeg	CT12220	20	Semester 1
Y Gyfraith ar Waith	CT13220	20	Semester 1
Introduction to Criminology	LC12220	20	Semester 1
Law in Action	LC13220	20	Semester 1

Year 2 Core modules

Core (40 Credits)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Public Law	LC20620	20	Semester 1
European Law	LC20720	20	Semester 2

Year 2

Options Students must take Land Law / Cyfraith Tir and Equity and Trusts / Ecwiti a Chyfraith Ymddiriedau in either Year 2 or Year 3 of the degree scheme. Year 2 and Year 3 versions of each module are mutually exclusive.

Options Students must take 80 credits of optional modules at Level 2 (please note that some optional modules are alternate year). Students may take 20 credits (of the 80) as elective modules outside of the Department (subject to the approval of both departments). Students will be directed by the Department towards optional modules which are related to the theme of the scheme. The Dissertation would also be related to the particular themes of the scheme. Appropriate co-requisite and/or pre-requisite modules must have been studied. For students starting their degree in 2019, 2020 or 2021 who wish to obtain a 'Qualifying Law Degree' in order to qualify as a solicitor via the LPC route or as a barrister, Human Rights (which is available at Level 2 and Level 3 and runs in alternate years) will be necessary as part of the 180 credits of 'Foundation of Legal Knowledge' subjects.

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Yr Heddlu, Plismona a'r Gymdeithas	CT21020	20	Semester 1
Cyflwyniad i Droseddeg	CT22220	20	Semester 1
Cyfraith Tir	CT24820	20	Semester 2
Ecwiti a Chyfraith Ymddiriedolaethau	CT24920	20	Semester 1
Police, Policing and Society	LC21020	20	Semester 1
Introduction to Criminology	LC22220	20	Semester 1
Contemporary Issues in Criminology	LC24220	20	Semester 1
Crime and the Media	LC24320	20	Semester 2

Land Law	LC24820	20	Semester 2
Equity and Trusts	LC24920	20	Semester 1
Youth Crime and Justice	LC26120	20	Semester 1
Youth Crime and Justice	LC26120	20	Semester 1
Company Law	LC27220	20	Semester 2
Psychological Explanations of Criminal Behaviour	LC28120	20	Semester 1
Drugs and Crime	LC28220	20	Semester 1
Psychopathology	LC29220	20	Semester 2

Final Year Core modules

Core (20 Credits)

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Law and Criminology Dissertation	LC39000	0	Semester 1
Law and Criminology Dissertation	LC39020	20	Semester 2

Final Year

Options Modules which have to be taken in the final year of the degree schemes, dependant on language, if not already taken in year 2.

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Cyfraith Tir	CT34820	20	Semester 2
Ecwiti a Chyfraith Ymddiriedolaethau	CT34920	20	Semester 1
Land Law	LC34820	20	Semester 2

Equity and Trusts	LC34920	20	Semester 1
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Options Students must take 60 credits (or 80 or 100, depending on whether Equity and Trusts/Ecwiti a Chyfraith Ymddiriedau and/or Land Law/Cyfraith Tir have been taken at level 2) of optional modules (please note some optional modules are alternate year). Students may take 20 credits (of the 60, 80 or 100) as elective modules outside of the Department (subject to the approval of both departments). Appropriate co-requisite and/or pre-requisite modules must have been studied. Students must take at least 60 credits of theme related modules in Part Two. For students starting their degree in 2019, 2020 or 2021 who wish to obtain a 'Qualifying Law Degree' in order to qualify as a solicitor via the LPC route or as a barrister, Human Rights (which is available at Level 2 and Level 3 and runs in alternate years) will be necessary as part of the 180 credits of 'Foundation of Legal Knowledge' subjects.

Name	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Yr Heddlu, Plismona a'r Gymdeithas	CT31020	20	Semester 1
Sgiliau Cyflogadwyedd ar gyfer Gweithwyr Proffesiynol	CT36600	0	Semester 1
Sgiliau Cyflogadwyedd ar gyfer Gweithwyr Proffesiynol	CT36620	20	Semester 2
Traethawd Estynedig y Gyfraith a Throseddeg	CT39000	0	Semester 1
Traethawd Estynedig y Gyfraith a Throseddeg	CT39020	20	Semester 2
Criminal Law	LC30520	20	Semester 2
Victimology	LC30820	20	Semester 2
Police, Policing and Society	LC31020	20	Semester 1
Introduction to Criminology	LC32220	20	Semester 1
Crime and the Media	LC34320	20	Semester 2
Human Rights	LC35220	20	Semester 2
Youth Crime and Justice	LC36120	20	Semester 1
Commercial Law	LC36220	20	Semester 1

Family and Child Law	LC36420	20	Semester 1
Employability Skills for Professionals	LC36600	0	Semester 1
Employability Skills for Professionals	LC36620	20	Semester 2
Medicine Ethics and the Law	LC36720	20	Semester 2
Labour Law	LC36820	20	Semester 1
International Law	LC36920	20	Semester 1
Critical and Radical Criminology	LC37120	20	Semester 1
Company Law	LC37220	20	Semester 2
Environmental Law	LC37720	20	Semester 2
Psychological Explanations of Criminal Behaviour	LC38120	20	Semester 1
Drugs and Crime	LC38220	20	Semester 1
Law and Criminology Dissertation	LC39000	0	Semester 1
Law and Criminology Dissertation	LC39020	20	Semester 2
Psychopathology	LC39220	20	Semester 2

Options In relation to the SQE modules available in the final year, students may take up to four of the SQE modules, or up to five SQE modules if they have taken Land Law / Cyfraith Tir or Equity and Trusts / Ecwiti a Chyfraith Ymddiriedau in Year 2.

Options Students should note the pre-requisite modules for LC31720 Trusts, Wills and the Administration of Estates and Trusts and LC31820 Property Law and Practice.

10: University Regulations

Details of University Regulations can be found at <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/regulations/>

11: Support for students and their learning

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

In addition to the standard requirements outlined above, the department also provides the following:

Induction programme plus Student Compact; Handbook; and further online guidance

Careers advice and guidance; regular visits by practitioners who give presentations outlining their personal experiences of working in the industry; support to undertake short work placements

Academic support through the teaching, learning, and assessment activities, including providing feedback

Formal / informal feedback through the personal tutor and/or other staff members

Year Tutors – who oversee student attendance and welfare matters

The department fosters numerous international links and provides support for students seeking to study abroad

12: Entry Requirements

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

2014 Entry

Standard academic requirement = 320 UCAS Points

For those studying the International Baccalaureate = 32

All applicants are expected to have a minimum grade C in GCSE English or Welsh, or an acceptable equivalent

Applications from mature candidates (aged 21 years and over) = We adopt a flexible approach, taking into consideration all academic achievements, work experience, interest in the subject, and motivation. Mature applicants who do not meet the standard academic entry requirements are usually invited to interview.

Details of entry requirements for the scheme can be found at <https://courses.aber.ac.uk/>

13: Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

In addition to the standard requirements outlined above, the department also provides the following:

- Student Forum (open discussion for student feedback)
- Anonymous suggestion box
- Specific issues identified through the standard and departmental processes above are discussed further in departmental staff teaching fora

14: Regulation of Assessment

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

In addition to the work of the external examiner listed above, the department also undertakes the following:

Establishment of assessment criteria, including briefing examination markers about their role and the expectations for the questions they will be marking.

Recording of oral assessments at Part 2

Departmental verification of examination assessments (prior to consideration by the external examiner)

Internal moderation of assessment marking

Dissertations are double marked blind, and then both markers meet to discuss and agree (where agreement cannot be reached, the dissertation is sent to the external examiner)

Academic Regulations are published as Appendix 2 of the Academic Quality Handbook:
<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/aqro/handbook/app-2/>

15: External Examiners

External Examiners fulfill an essential part of the University's Quality Assurance. Annual reports by External Examiners are considered by Faculties and Academic Board at university level.

16: Indicators of quality and standards

Information provided by Department of Law & Criminology

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (2002)

Professional Accreditation (SRA accreditation processes)

Other indicators of quality include external examiners reports, internal review, and student evaluation

The Department Quality Audit questionnaire serves as a checklist about the current requirements of the University's Academic Quality Handbook. The periodic Department Reviews provide an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of quality assurance processes and for the University to assure itself that management of quality and standards which are the responsibility of the University as a whole are being delivered successfully.