

Programme Specification 2025-26

1.	Programme title	LLM International Law and Human Rights
2.	Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a	Teaching institution	1 Middlesex University London, 2 Middlesex University Dubai, 3 Middlesex University Mauritius
3b	Language of study	English

4a	Valid intake dates and mode of study
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Mode of Study	Cohort	Delivery Location	Duration
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Hendon	1 Years
Full-time (FT)	Semester 2	Hendon	1 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Hendon	2 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 2	Hendon	2 Years
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Dubai	1 Years
Full-time (FT)	Semester 2	Dubai	1 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Dubai	2 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 2	Dubai	2 Years
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Mauritius	1 Years
Full-time (FT)	Semester 2	Mauritius	1 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Mauritius	2 Years
Part-time (PT)	Semester 2	Mauritius	2 Years

4c	Delivery method	On Campus/Blended Learning
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5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body (if applicable)
N/A

6.	Apprenticeship Standard (if applicable)	N/A
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7. Final qualification(s) available
Target Award Title(s)
LLM International Law and Human Rights

Exit Award Title(s)
PGCert Law
PGDip Law

8. Academic year effective from	2025-26
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9. Criteria for admission to the programme
<p>The University's standard entry requirement for LLM International Law and Human Rights consists of a Law degree at 2:2 or Graduate Diploma in Law.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>University policies supporting students with disabilities apply, as described in the University Regulations.</p> <p>Principle of fair admission</p> <p>The University aims to ensure that its admissions processes are fair, open and transparent and aims to admit students who, regardless of their background, demonstrate potential to successfully complete their chosen programme of study where a suitable place exists and where entry criteria are met. The University values diversity and is committed to equality in education and students are selected on the basis of their individual merits, abilities and aptitudes. The University ensures that the operation of admissions processes and application of entry criteria are taken in compliance with the Equality Act.</p> <p>We take a personalised but fair approach to how we make offers. We feel it is important that our applicants continue to aspire to achieving great results and make offers which take into account pieces of information provided to us on the application form.</p> <p>This includes recognition of previous learning and experience. If you have been working, or you have other learning experience that is relevant to your course, then we can count this towards your entry requirements and even certain modules once you start studying.</p>

10. Aims of the programme
<p>The programme aims to:</p> <p>The programme aims to:</p> <p>Equip students with advanced and comprehensive knowledge in International Law and Human Rights Law, including the foundational principles of public international law, international and regional human rights regimes, and mechanisms. This includes critical analysis of their role in addressing contemporary global challenges, such as international</p>

dispute resolution, the impact of business on rights, and evolving ethical, cultural, and geo-political issues.

Deepen and broaden students' academic understanding of law by fostering systematic knowledge of legal processes, methods, and concepts, while contextualising these within the social, political, and theoretical frameworks in which legal systems operate.

Enhance students' professional development and career horizons by refining their analytical, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills. This involves developing a nuanced understanding of the complex legal, economic, cultural, and political environments that shape international law and human rights practice in transnational and interdisciplinary contexts.

Develop transferable research and writing skills applicable across professional sectors, including legal practice, policymaking, corporate governance, international organisations, governmental bodies, and academia.

Provide students with the tools and support to apply their acquired knowledge and research skills to produce a dissertation or original piece of research focused on International Law, Human Rights Law, or their intersection, with critical awareness of advanced academic and practical methodologies.

Offer eligible students opportunities to gain professional experience at a postgraduate level, fostering practical application of academic knowledge, enhancing critical thinking, and expanding their understanding of real-world challenges in international law and human rights.

11. Programme learning outcomes

Programme - Knowledge and Understanding

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

- 1.** The historical development and current influence of international law and human rights frameworks on global governance, human rights protection, and the regulation of international trade and business, including their intersections and impacts.
- 2.** Key scholarship, legal principles, and sources underpinning international human rights law, including regional and international human rights regimes, with an emphasis on their application in addressing contemporary challenges, such as the corporate impact on human rights.
- 3.** The legal, political, and social dynamics that influence the creation and evolution of human rights law and transnational legal frameworks, particularly with regard to the role of international organisations, state sovereignty, and global actors in shaping legal norms and jurisprudence.
- 4.** The efficacy, authority, and impact of dispute resolution mechanisms in international human rights law, including international courts, tribunals, and alternative dispute mechanisms like arbitration, mediation, and human rights commissions.

5. Recent developments in international law and human rights practice, including the evolving relationship between business, human rights, and corporate social responsibility, as well as the ethical, social, and cultural contexts that influence law-making and law enforcement.
6. The necessary research skills to independently apply learning from taught modules, case studies, or work placements towards producing a dissertation or substantial evidence-based report on a topic related to international law and human rights.
Programme - Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:
7. Undertake critical, independent research by systematically identifying, retrieving, and managing information from a wide range of academic and non-academic sources, including legal texts, case law, and reports from international organisations.
8. Apply comprehensive knowledge and advanced understanding of theories, concepts, and methods relevant to international law and human rights, demonstrating an awareness of the social, political, and economic contexts in which these legal frameworks operate.
9. Demonstrate postgraduate-level academic and intellectual skills, including information gathering, critical analysis, synthesis, problem-solving, creativity, and innovation, to aid informed decision-making by policymakers, international organisations, and stakeholders in the human rights and legal sectors.
10. Conduct advanced research in international law and human rights to solve complex legal problems, frame hypotheses, and execute projects that address the legal, economic, cultural, ethical, and political factors shaping global human rights and governance.
11. Present information and complex legal arguments clearly, succinctly, and analytically in oral and/or written forms, making complex ideas accessible to academic, professional, and public audiences.
12. Demonstrate self-direction, originality, and critical thinking in research and writing, adhering to academic conventions, and recognising the authority of diverse sources in professional and research contexts.

12. Teaching/learning methods
<p>The LLM in International Law and Human Rights employs a diverse range of teaching and learning methods, including interactive workshops with peer and self-assessment to foster active student engagement. Class discussions, videos, and visits further enhance learning where suitable. Independent study is guided by recommended readings, materials, and exercises, which are then applied in classroom activities. Research skills are developed intensively, especially in the Legal Research Skills module, which provides essential tools for postgraduate work, such as critical analysis, academic writing, and information retrieval.</p> <p>The programme's modules, particularly the dissertation and research skills components, help students to identify research questions, conduct research, and draft substantial projects. A critical approach frames the learning experience, considering the social, historical, and cultural contexts within which the law operates. For those enrolled in the</p>

Work Integrated Learning internship module, real-world experience is provided, allowing students to develop professional skills through practical challenges, with mentorship from faculty or industry partners. Assessment methods vary across modules, including but not limited to presentations, literature reviews, case study analysis, critical essays, research papers, enabling students to demonstrate their ability to analyse, evaluate, and synthesise legal concepts and arguments.

1Approx. number of timetabled hours per week (at each level of study, as appropriate), including on-campus and online hours

FT 8 hours

PT 5 hours

Approx. number of hours of independent study per week (at each level of study, as appropriate)

FT 43 hours

PT 22 hours

Approx. number of hours on placement (including placement, work-based learning or year abroad, as appropriate).

FT 35 hours

PT 35 hours

13. Employability

13a Development of graduate competencies

13b Employability development

The LL.M in International Law and Human Rights is designed to equip students with the essential competencies required in the legal and human rights sectors. Through a combination of rigorous academic coursework, practical learning experiences, and research-based activities, students will enhance their communication skills by engaging in structured discussions, written assignments, and presentations, fostering clarity, precision, and persuasive argumentation. Problem-solving abilities are cultivated through the critical analysis of complex human rights issues, where students are encouraged to apply legal principles to address real-world challenges in the field of international law and human rights and demonstrating a mindset around sustainable solutions.

The programme promotes strong organisational, planning, and management skills through the completion of research projects, assignments, dissertations, and internships, where students must manage time effectively, plan their work, and navigate multiple tasks. Students are also encouraged to demonstrate enthusiasm and a commitment to learning, as they engage with current global human rights issues, adapt to evolving legal frameworks, and expand their knowledge of international law in diverse cultural, political, and legal contexts. Flexibility is developed through exposure to various international legal systems, human rights mechanisms, and challenges, enabling students to adapt their approach and thinking to a range of international human rights contexts.

The development of leadership and influence is enabled through the many opportunities provided in modules through teamwork exercises, research initiatives and working on their research projects. Students build their confidence to undertake such roles and academic colleagues encourage students accordingly. Entrepreneurship is promoted through identifying and generating solutions to complex challenges and global issues to facilitate a strategic entrepreneurial mindset. Their self-directed learning and ability to identify gaps in knowledge enhances their deep intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm to learn. Skills of empathy and inclusion are enhanced by the diversity of the student body and communicating with fellow students and staff, many of whom have diverse international experience. Collaborative innovation is enabled by actively contributing to and encouraging idea generation and respectfully challenging peers to ensure creative, positive outcomes. Using more advanced methodologies, researching multiple solutions and applying findings with precision and impact expands problem solving skills and enables the delivery of high quality outcomes working within deadlines. Technological agility is increased using legal cutting edge platforms for research and innovation and adapting to rapidly changing technological landscapes, including generative AI and utilising new techniques that are transformative to the legal discipline. All the graduate competencies are designed to produce employable graduates with a diverse range of knowledge and skills, making them valuable assets in the workplace.

The LLM in International Law and Human Rights is designed with a strong emphasis on employability, ensuring that students are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and professional experience necessary for a successful career in the legal sector and in international organisations and NGOs. Employability is embedded throughout the programme through a combination of academic learning, practical experiences, and employer engagement activities, including career fairs, guest lectures with practitioners, and employment skills sessions.

Planned activities to support students' career readiness include workshops on legal career pathways, CV writing, interview preparation, and networking opportunities with legal professionals and employers, organised and delivered in collaboration with MDXWorks. The Work Integrated Learning module offers students the chance to gain hands-on experience through internships, where they can apply academic knowledge to real-world business and legal challenges, building both practical skills and professional networks. Additionally, students are encouraged to attend career fairs and employer presentations, which provide valuable insights into the industry and enhance their employability prospects.

Engagement with employers is integral to the programme, with opportunities for students to interact with industry experts through guest lectures. The effectiveness of employability development is evaluated through student feedback, employer input, and the monitoring of career outcomes.

13c Placement and work experience opportunities (if applicable)

Students may choose to undertake the LEX4770 Work Integrated Learning module (60 credits) as an alternative to the Dissertation module (LEX4165), allowing them to gain practical experience in a context aligned with their LLM pathway. Additionally, students may enrol in the LEX4800 Postgraduate Legal Work Experience module (non-credit bearing) that further enhances their practical exposure.

The programme team can provide guidance on suitable projects and may assist in connecting students with potential internships for both modules. However, a key part of the learning process is for students to take the lead in researching, selecting, and negotiating

their internship. During the placement, each student is assigned both a workplace mentor and a university supervisor. The module leader offers support throughout the placement, while MDXWorks aids students in establishing a learning agreement with the host organization. MDXWorks also ensures that the host meets the necessary standards of employment, health, and safety.

In Term 2, students may apply to attend LEX4816 International Human Rights Litigation, a unique internship-base module focusing on human rights litigation at the international level. The module applies a clinical legal education model to learning and teaching. Students will work closely with experienced practising lawyers at the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC), which litigates cases from five countries: Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Students will work on live pending cases at the European Court of Human Rights and other international bodies, carrying out research, drafting correspondence and other case-related papers and documents.

13d Future careers / progression

The LLM in International Law and Human Rights equips graduates with the practical and theoretical foundation necessary for success in a variety of dynamic career paths. The skills, knowledge, and professional connections developed throughout the programme ensure that graduates are well-prepared for roles in the rapidly evolving global legal landscapes. Graduates of the LLM in International Law and Human Rights have access to a wide range of career and study pathways, including:

International Human Rights Lawyer: Graduates are well-equipped to embark on the pathway to becoming a solicitor or barrister specialising in international law, international criminal law, and human rights law.

NGO Legal Advisor / Human Rights Advocate: Many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) focused on human rights, environmental justice, or humanitarian law require legal experts to support advocacy campaigns, litigation, or policy development. Graduates can contribute by drafting legal opinions, engaging in advocacy, or providing legal advice to clients.

International Organisation Expert: Graduates can work with international bodies like the United Nations, World Bank, or regional organisations (e.g., the African Union, European Union) on human rights policy development, monitoring, and enforcement.

Government Policy Advisor: Graduates can serve as advisors in the formulation of national and international human rights policies, particularly in areas such as refugee law, international humanitarian law, and environmental justice.

Advocacy and Campaign Manager: Many advocacy organisations, both at the grassroots and global level, seek individuals with expertise in international law to help manage campaigns, engage with stakeholders, and influence policy reform regarding human rights protections.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Human Rights Compliance Officer: Many corporations are increasingly focused on human rights due diligence and compliance. Graduates can work in-house for multinational corporations, ensuring that business operations respect human rights standards and laws.

Doctoral Studies (PhD): Graduates wishing to continue in academia may pursue a PhD in international law, human rights law, or related fields, enabling them to conduct advanced research and contribute to the development of legal theory and practice.

Specialised Training or Certifications: Graduates may opt for further professional certifications or specialised training in areas such as international humanitarian law, refugee law, or business and human rights to enhance their qualifications and expertise.

14. Assessment methods

Assessments take a variety of forms including courseworks, research essays, case studies, policy reports, portfolios, literature reviews, oral presentations and dissertation. The assessment of the Work Integrated Learning module will include 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. The range of assessment methods allows 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. This will require the interpretation and application of primary and secondary source materials. Students will recognise potential conclusions for particular situations and provide supporting reasons for them. 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. Literature reviews are particularly designed to enable students to identify authoritative sources and assess their contribution to a given area of research or professional practice.

15. Programme Structure (level of study, modules, credits and progression requirements)

Structure is indicative for Part-time routes.

Students must take all of the compulsory modules and choose following programme requirements from the optional modules.

Non-compensatable modules are noted below.

Available Pathways

Not Applicable

Year 1

The programme is studied full time over one year or part-time over two years. The programme has two entry points: September and January.

Students on the January intake will start on Semester 2 followed by Semester 3 and then Semester 1

Undersubscribed modules (under 12 students for the Hendon campus), following the formal registration of students, will not run

Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT Semester 1

One option module (15 credits):

For January FT intake : 3 modules (15 credits)

(different modules are core for different campuses):

LEX4806 European Human Rights Law and Practice (core for Hendon and Mauritius but option module for Dubai)

LEX4802 Law of the International Sale of Goods (core for Hendon and Mauritius but option module for Dubai)

SSC4803 Sustainable Development and Human Rights (core for Hendon but option module for Dubai)

LEX4807 Mergers and Acquisitions (core for Mauritius but option module for Dubai)

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4801	Compulsory	Legal Research Skills 2025-26	30 at Level 7
LEX4805	Compulsory	Principles of International Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4806	Optional	European Human Rights Law and Practice 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4802	Optional	Law of the International Sale of Goods 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4807	Optional	Mergers and Acquisitions 2025-26	15 at Level 7
SSC4803	Optional	Sustainable Development and Human Rights 2025-26	15 at Level 7

Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT Semester 2

One option module (15 credits):

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4821	Compulsory	Legal Research and Writing Skills 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4813	Compulsory	International Human Rights Law 2025-26	30 at Level 7
LEX4814	Compulsory	International Organisations and International Dispute Resolution 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4815	Optional	International Criminal Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7

LEX4812	Optional	Business and Human Rights 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4816	Optional	International Human Rights Litigation 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4817	Optional	Technology in Legal Practice and Dispute Resolution 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4819	Optional	International Maritime Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4818	Optional	UAE and DIFC Employment Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7

Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT Semester 3

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4165	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Dissertation 2025-26	60 at Level 7
LEX4770	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Work Integrated Learning 2025-26	60 at Level 7

Year 1 Level 7 FT and PT non-credit-bearing work experience module

Non-credit-bearing work experience module subject to students finding suitable work experience.

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4800	Optional	Postgraduate Legal Work Experience 2025-26	0 at Level 7

Year 2 Level 7 PT Semester 1 - PT

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4806	Optional	European Human	15 at

		Rights Law and Practice 2026-27	Level 7
LEX4802	Optional	Law of the International Sale of Goods 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4807	Optional	Mergers and Acquisitions 2026-27	15 at Level 7
SSC4803	Optional	Sustainable Development and Human Rights 2026-27	15 at Level 7

Year 2 Level 7 PT Semester 2 PT

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4814	Compulsory	International Organisations and International Dispute Resolution 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4815	Optional	International Criminal Law 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4812	Optional	Business and Human Rights 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4816	Optional	International Human Rights Litigation 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4817	Optional	Technology in Legal Practice and Dispute Resolution 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4819	Optional	International Maritime Law 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4818	Optional	UAE and DIFC Employment Law 2026-27	15 at Level 7

Year 2 Level 7 PT Semester 3 PT

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4165	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Dissertation 2026-27	60 at Level 7

LEX4770	Compulsory (pass required - non-compensatable)	Work Integrated Learning 2026-27	60 at Level 7
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Year 2 Level 7 PT non-credit-bearing work experience module

non-credit-bearing work experience module subject to students finding suitable work experience.

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4800	Optional	Postgraduate Legal Work Experience 2026-27	0 at Level 7

*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules

16. Programme-specific support for learning

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 dissertation handbook;

A free electronic copy of key textbooks and electronic and tailored reading lists available through MyMDX for each module;

Online systems on MyMDX to support learning opportunities;

Opportunities to consult Progression and Support 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 dissertation or internships, including availability of guidance during weekly office hours.

17. HECos code(s)	100485: Law
17. HECos code(s)	100681: Public International Law

18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)	Law 2023
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19. University Regulations

This programme will run in line with general University Regulations: [Policies | Middlesex University](#)

This programme conforms to the regulations of Middlesex University and the Law School concerning postgraduate studies. The University's assessment regulations can be found at:

<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies/>

20. Reference points

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Law.
- The QAA Quality Code for Higher Education.
- The QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications.
- University Learning and Teaching policies and strategies, in particular Middlesex University's Graduate Competencies and the 2031 Learning Framework.
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

21. Other information (if applicable)

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 they take 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.