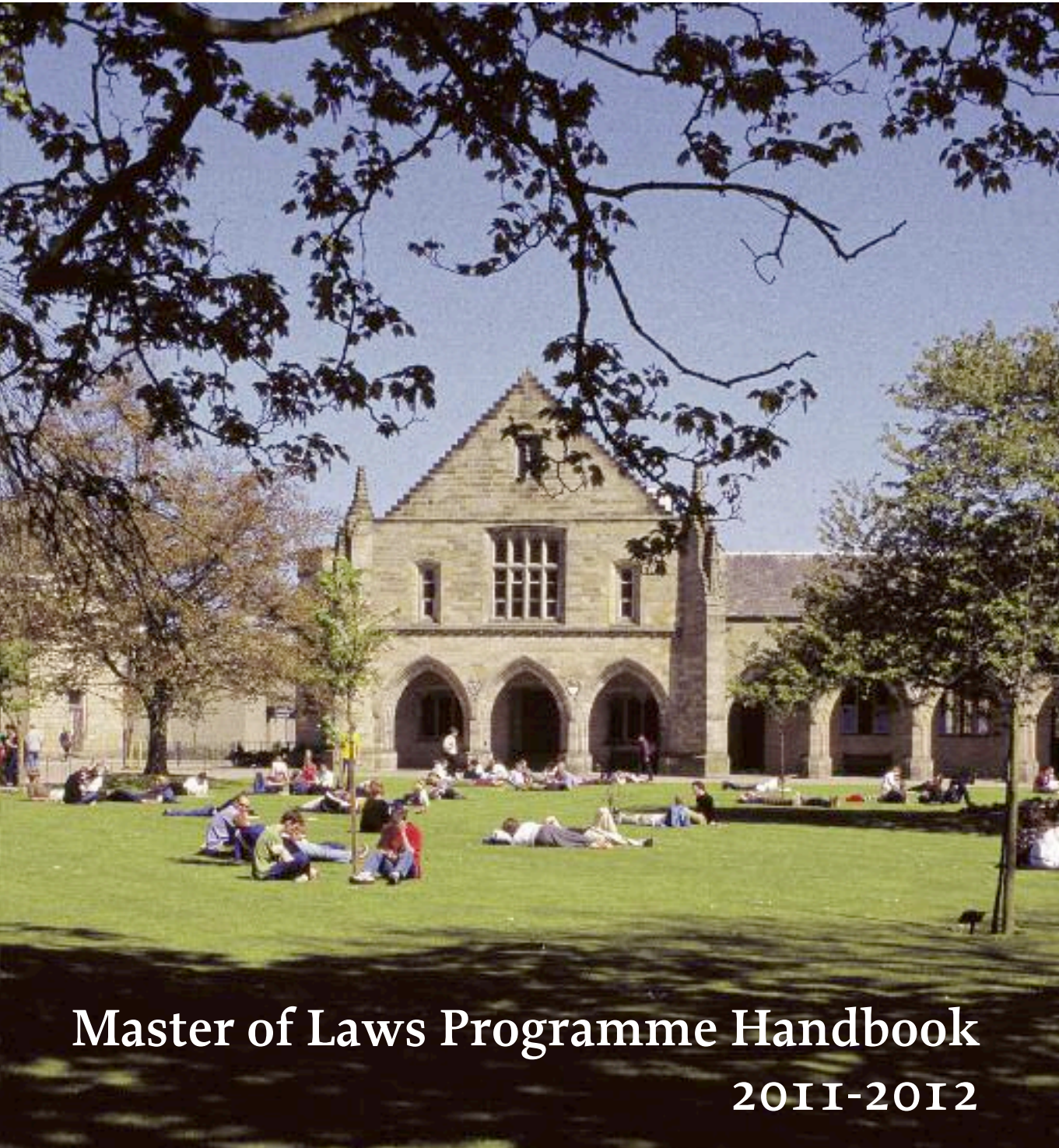




UNIVERSITY  
OF ABERDEEN

School of Law



Master of Laws Programme Handbook  
2011-2012

# I | Welcome

## **Welcome to our School of Law**

The academic and administrative staff at the School of Law are very pleased to welcome you to the Master of Laws programme at the University of Aberdeen. We hope that your time with us in the Law School will be both interesting and enjoyable. The success of the programme depends on a partnership between staff and students. This means that we expect a substantial input from you and that you, in turn, will expect a commitment from us. We recognise that your decision to register for a taught Masters degree in Law represents a considerable investment of time and resources.

Unless you have studied at postgraduate level before, you may find a significant difference between your experience at undergraduate level and teaching and learning on the Masters programme. Teaching is largely by directed reading with the focal point of each course being periodic seminars and/or lectures. You are expected to take considerable responsibility for organising your own study time. This may require you to make some adjustments to your ways of working but remember that this will also be the case with many of your fellow students. If you experience any difficulties with the adjustment, please contact your allocated Adviser of Studies.

Other students from different parts of the world will be joining the Masters programme at the same time as you. One of the benefits of postgraduate study is the opportunity to mix with other well-qualified graduates from different backgrounds. We hope you will take full advantage of your time in this Law School to make new and lasting friendships and to broaden your horizons.

This Handbook will give you information on your programme and direct you on where to find further information about the University, the School and your LLM programme. It is intended to help you to find answers to the questions you may have about the way things will work during the year. Please take time to read it thoroughly and remember to keep it by you throughout the year.

**Best wishes for your time  
in our School of Law**

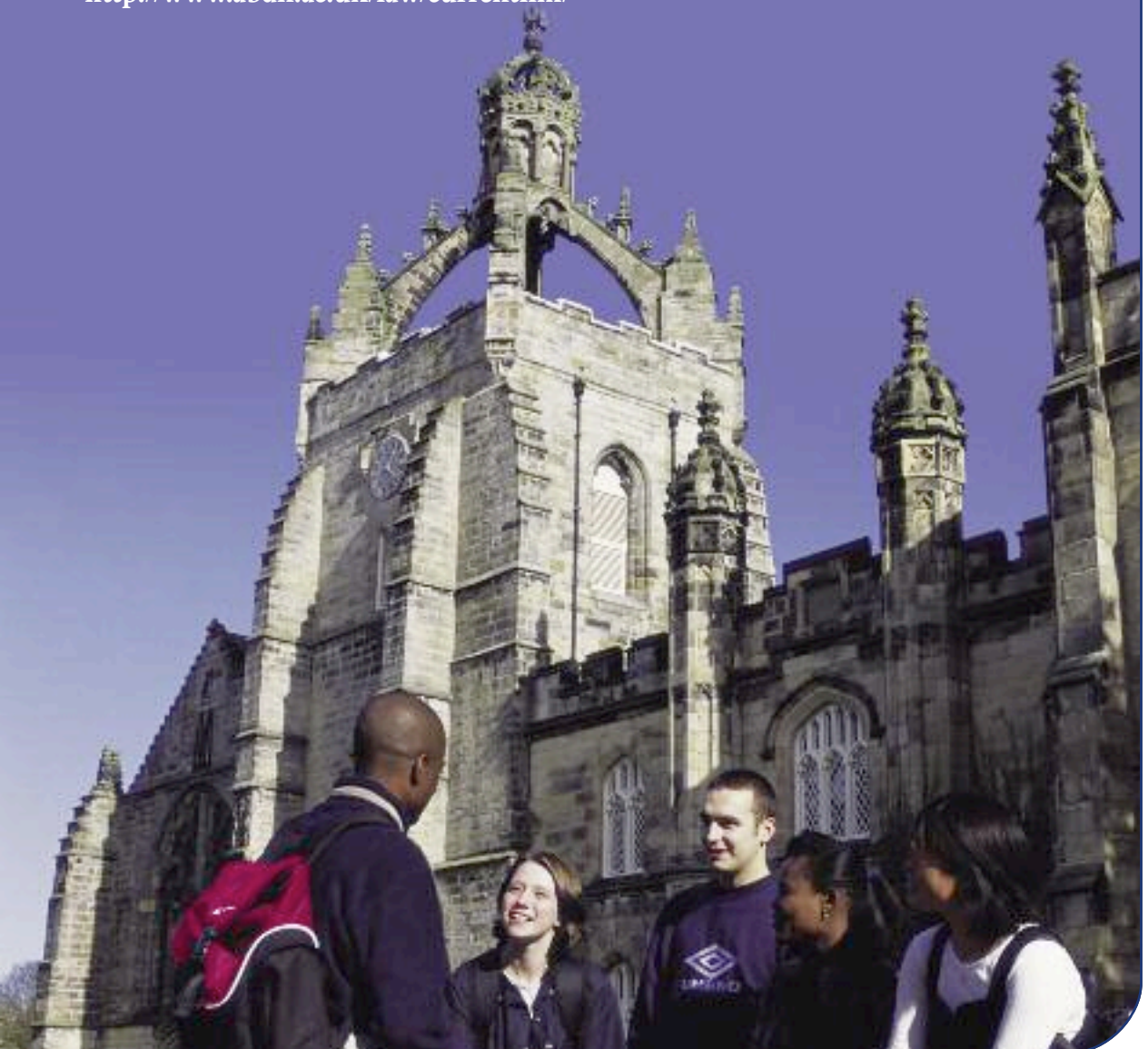


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The Handbook Appendices, links to resources and further information, including a **Frequently Asked Questions** section, are online at: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm/>

**Further Questions?**  
See the FAQ section at [www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm)



# 3 Programmes

The following programmes are on offer. Staff contact details are online at: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/staff.php>

Programme	Coordinator
International Commercial Law	Dr Mihail Danov
European Law	Professor Paul Beaumont
International Law	Professor Paul Beaumont
International & European Law	Professor Paul Beaumont
International Law & Globalisation	Dr Irène Couzigou
Private International Law	Dr Christa Roodt
Climate Change Law & Sustainable Development	Dr Aylwin Pillai
Oil & Gas Law	Greg Gordon & Professor John Paterson
Criminal Justice	Professor Pete Duff
Criminal Justice & Human Rights	Professor Pete Duff
Human Rights	Dr Mátyás Bódig
Human Rights & Criminal Justice	Professor Pete Duff
General Law	Dr Aylwin Pillai

The Programme Aims and Objectives for each programme are set out in the Handbook Appendices, see: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm/>

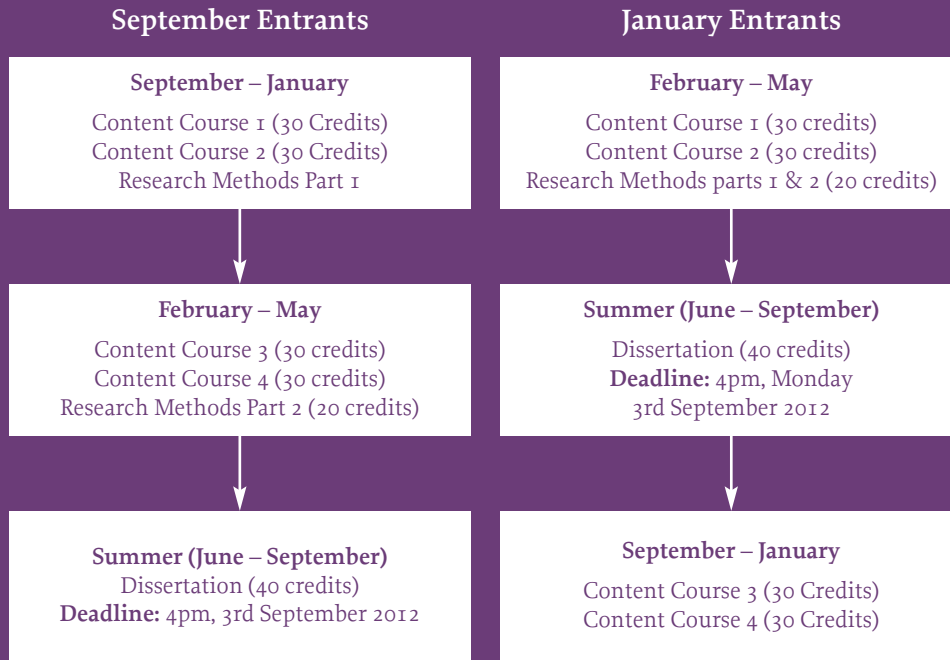
## Courses

The course list follows on pages 5 & 6. For details of the courses available on your programme, see Appendix 1 of the LLM Handbook.

- ! While every care is taken to ensure that the list accurately reflects the courses running within the academic year, students should note that changes to the list may occur from time to time due to staff illness or staff change. Furthermore, while we always endeavour to run courses for small numbers of students, should the number be such that the course is not considered viable then the course may not run.

## Law Postgraduate Taught Programme Structure

The structure of the **full time Masters** year is as follows:



**Part time students** take one content course per semester over 2 academic years. The dissertation is generally taken at the end of the second year, but can be taken in a third year. Research Methods part 1 should be taken at the start of studies. Research Methods part 2 should be taken in the second year in preparation for the dissertation.

Term, Examination and Vacation dates are online at:  
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/central/termdates.shtml>

### Graduation

Ceremonies take place at the end of November (normally September entrants) and early July (normally January entrants). If you do not want or are simply unable to attend a ceremony, it is also possible to graduate In Absentia.

For full information on graduation see:  
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/graduation/>

The following courses are on offer:

## Semester 1 (September 2011 – January 2012)

LS5003 Competition Law  
 LS5004 European Court of Justice: Judicial Activism  
 LS5021 Comparative & International Insolvency Law  
 LS5039 Issues in Criminal Justice  
 LS5043 Peoples, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities in International Law  
 LS5045 Oil & Gas: State Control  
 LS5046 Oil & Gas: Contracting  
 LS5049 Private International Law of Business Transactions; Jurisdiction  
 LS5054 Private International Law: Concepts & Institutions  
 LS5068 The Politics of Human Rights  
 LS5075 Intellectual Property 1  
 LS5076 Oil & Gas Law  
 LS5078 The Evolution of International Law in a World of Crises  
 LS5072 Climate Change Law and Policy  
 LS5081 Maritime Spatial Planning Law  
 LS5082 International Economic Law – the WTO

## Compulsory Courses for all students

LS5510 Research Methods

### Notes:

- For details of what courses are available for your programme see Appendix 1 of the LLM Handbook: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm/>
- Only students who are registered for the LLM Oil & Gas Law programme may select courses LS5045, LS5046
- Students may not register for more than 180 credits
- Course handouts will be distributed at the first classes. They are also available for consultation in the Taylor Library and on MyAberdeen

## Semester 2 (February - June 2012)

LS5507 Private International Law of Family Law  
LS5518 International Human Rights Law  
LS5531 Criminal Evidence & Proof  
LS5537 Principles of Environmental Regulation  
LS5539 International Criminal Law  
LS5540 Comparative & International Perspectives on Company Law  
LS5543 European Economic Law  
LS5548 Oil & Gas Law: Regulation  
LS5549 Use of Force in International Law  
LS5550 Trade Marks and Brand Development  
LS5561 Choice of Law in Business Transactions  
LS5562 Sustainable Development and Law  
LS5572 Comparative Constitutional Law  
LS5573 Taxation of Oil & Gas  
LS5574 Private International Law Aspects of International Arbitration  
LS5578 Intellectual Property, Human Rights & Development  
LS5579 International Tax Law  
LS5581 Renewable Energy Law  
LS5701 International Trade & Finance Law

## Compulsory Courses for all students

LS5801 Dissertation

### Notes (continued):

- Some programmes have compulsory modules. For details see Appendix 1 of the LLM Handbook: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm/>
- Only students who are registered for the LLM Oil & Gas Law programme may select courses LS5548, LS5573

# 7 Course Administration

## General

The main Law School office is in room C41 in the Taylor Building. The Law School Receptionist and the Postgraduate Secretary are both located in C41 and will deal with all postgraduate queries in the first instance. For enquiries of a sensitive or confidential nature, please see your Adviser of Studies (see page 13) or, alternatively, see the Graduate Programmes Coordinator in office D49B of the Taylor Building.

## Communication

You will receive information and communications from the Law School and University in the following ways:

- Email: Please check your university email account (you will have set this up through e-registration) on a daily basis
- Notice: The LLM Noticeboard is located in the D corridor of the Taylor Building.
- Student Portal: Exam dates and final course results are published by Registry to the student portal: [www.abdn.ac.uk/students](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/students)
- MyAberdeen: Course and General Programme information will also be posted to your MyAberdeen account: [www.abdn.ac.uk/myaberdeen](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/myaberdeen)

MyAberdeen is the University of Aberdeen's Virtual Learning Environment. This is where you will find learning materials and resources associated with the courses you are studying.

## Attendance

Attendance at classes will be monitored. It is expected that students will attend all classes for courses on which they are registered formally. It is in your interest to report any medical or other unavoidable reasons for absence from study to your Adviser of Studies and course coordinators as soon as possible, particularly if you are an international student studying on a Tier 4 visa. For further information on attendance and monitoring see: [www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/monitoring.shtml](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/monitoring.shtml)

With permission, students may exceptionally audit extra courses where they have received the specific permission of the Course Coordinator. Considerations such as group numbers, classroom size and teaching format may all have an impact on the decision whether or not to grant such permission. Auditing is a privilege, not a right, and it is granted entirely at the discretion of the individual Course Coordinator. You will not be registered for nor earn credits for courses you audit.

## Course Evaluation

We value your opinion regarding our courses. At the end of each course you will be given an opportunity to input your comments on that course on a Course Evaluation Form. It is important that you take part in this exercise. The evaluation forms will be reviewed by the Law School Management and the Postgraduate Taught Policy Committee. They will also be reviewed by the University's Academic Standards (PG) Committee.

# Student Representation

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We value students' opinions in regard to enhancing the quality of teaching and its delivery; therefore in conjunction with the Students Association we support the operation of a Class representative system.

The students within each course, year, or programme elect representatives by the end of the fourth week of teaching within each half-session. The Law School operates a system of programme representatives. Any student registered within a programme that wishes to represent a given group of students can stand for election as a programme representative. You will be informed when the elections for class representative will take place.

## What will it involve?

It will involve speaking to your fellow students about the courses and programmes you represent. This can include listening to and reporting any comments that they may have. You will attend the Postgraduate Taught Policy Committee and you should represent the views and concerns of the students within this meeting. As a representative you will also be able to contribute to the agenda. You then give feedback to the students after this meeting with any actions that are being taken.

## Training

Training for class representatives will be run by the Students Association. Training will take place in the fourth or fifth week of teaching each semester. For more information about the Class representative system visit [www.ausa.org.uk](http://www.ausa.org.uk) or email the VP Education & Employability [vped@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:vped@abdn.ac.uk)

## Student Societies

There are three societies connected to the Law School: the Law Society, the Law Mooting Society, and the Legal Research Society. Law students also run a legal clinic and a student law review. For more information on these, contact the Law School office.

In addition, there are over 100 other societies connected to the Aberdeen University Students' Association. There is no reason to be bored or lonely outside classes! For further information, see the AUSA website: [www.ausa.org.uk/societies](http://www.ausa.org.uk/societies)



**ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Further Questions?  
See the FAQ section at [www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm)

# 9 | Assessment

Assessment arrangements vary between courses. Most courses on the Masters programme are assessed partly on coursework and partly on a written examination. Coursework is usually in the form of essay or other written assignment but may take the form of an oral presentation. Where there is more than one element of assessment counting towards the final mark for a course, usually the marks for the elements are aggregated to obtain the overall result. Assessment details are made clear in the individual course handouts.

All counting elements of assessment are second marked i.e they are reviewed by two examiners in the law school, and they are available for scrutiny by the external examiners. All elements of assessment which count towards the final mark for a course will be assessed *anonymously*.

## Submitting Assessed Coursework

All assessed coursework must be submitted to the Law School office by the given deadline and have a pink assessment cover sheet attached. The time and fact of submission of the essay will be recorded by the Law School office. The deadlines set out in course handouts are not negotiable. A coursework hand-in checklist is available in the LLM Appendices at: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm/>

If the coursework counts towards the final mark in the course, a deduction of one mark will be made for every day that the coursework is overdue. (Saturday/Sunday counts as one day for these purposes). Applications for extensions on submission dates for assignments must be made by the student on a form available from the secretaries in Room C41; Course Coordinators do not independently grant extensions. Extensions are only granted in exceptional circumstances eg medical problems, and provided they are supported by appropriate evidence. Computer and printing problems are *not* acceptable reasons for seeking extensions. All students should take steps to ensure that work is adequately saved and backed-up in case of computer failure, damage or theft, or in case you are requested to submit an electronic copy of your assessment to the School.

The Law School reserves the right to require students to submit electronic copies of their assessments for screening by plagiarism detection software.

## Feedback on Assessment

The University recognises that the provision of timely and appropriate feedback on assessment plays a key part in students learning and teaching. The guiding principles for the provision of feedback within the University are detailed in the Institutional Framework for the Provision of Feedback on Assessment available at: [www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/appendix7x8.pdf](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/appendix7x8.pdf)

**Marking criteria**

Courses are assessed using the Common Assessment Scale from 0-20:

<b>ACHIEVING LLM STANDARD</b>	<p><b>Band 18 – 20 Outstanding (Distinction Standard)</b> As for very good but in addition shows excellence in understanding and critical analytical ability. Arguments are cogent, well supported in almost all respects or demonstrate creativity or originality. No significant deficiencies within the context of the assessment format.</p>
	<p><b>Band 15 – 17 Very Good (Commendation Standard)</b> Develops and analyses the core issues covered by the assessment, deals with some advanced aspects of the assessment topic and shows an ability to engage in debate on relevant material. Arguments are well supported in most respects.</p>
	<p><b>Band 12 – 14 Good</b> Develops and analyses the core issues covered by the assessment to a limited extent and shows understanding of relevant material. Arguments are well constructed but omit or do not develop sufficiently some significant issues.</p>
	<p><b>Band 9 – 11 Limited Pass</b> Identifies and states accurately relevant legal principles but fails to develop or analyse the core issues covered by the assessment. Shows limited understanding of relevant material. Arguments are badly constructed or superficial.</p>
<b>BELOW LLM STANDARD</b>	<p><b>Band 0 – 8 Fail</b> Fails to meet the required standard</p>

For further information see Appendix 2 at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm/>

**Plagiarism and the Code of Practice on Student Discipline**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University’s strict policy on plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined in section 2.1.1(h) of the University’s Code of Practice on Student Discipline. Plagiarism is unacceptable in all elements of assessment and any instances of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the University’s Code of Practice on Student Discipline. Students should also note that these procedures are followed regardless of a student’s intention to plagiarise or not.

The Code of Practice on Student Discipline is available for students to consult at:

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/appendix5x15.pdf>

# II Examinations

Most LLM courses have an examination as part (or all) of the assessment process. Detailed information will be in individual course handouts.

Exams take place as follows:

Semester	Main Exam Diet	Re-sit Diet
First Half Session courses September – December 2011	14th – 27th January 2012	9th – 13th April 2012
Second Half Session courses February – May 2012	19th May – 8th June 2012	6th – 17th August 2012

Exam dates are set centrally by Registry and communicated to students via the Student Portal at: [www.abdn.ac.uk/students](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/students). The set exam dates cannot be changed. Consequently, students must be available during all examination diets, including the re-sit diets.

If medical or other personal circumstances arise which affect a student at the time of the exams or prevent a student from attending the exams then they must contact (or have a message sent to) the course co-ordinator of the course to let them know what has happened before the exam takes place or **within 7 days afterwards**.

If a student misses an exam through illness or other good cause then they are entitled to take a re-sit exam during the diets specified above. In these cases, the re-sit is treated as a first attempt and the mark will not be capped. If a student fails (obtains a mark at CAS 8 or below) or simply does not attend the first sitting of an exam, then they are entitled to take a re-sit exam during the diets specified above. However, in these cases the mark for the re-sit will be capped at CAS 9. Students only have one opportunity to re-sit a failed examination, and may only re-sit one failed course per exam diet.

The re-sit diets are fixed and cannot be changed. If you are on a Tier 4 visa which will expire before the re-sit exams start, you should consult both the School and the International Student Advisers in The Hub as quickly as possible.

The LLM Exam Board meets after each exam diet to review the progress of all students and, where appropriate, to award degrees. If a student has any special circumstances which they think may be relevant when the examiners are considering their progress or the class of their degree they should communicate this in writing to their Adviser of Studies or to the Graduate Programmes Coordinator in advance of the Board. Students will be notified of the date of the Exam Board well in advance.

The University's Assessment and Examination Policy is set out at:  
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/section7.shtml>

# Degree Regulations

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## Registry Requirements for Award of Postgraduate Taught Programmes

Progression and awards in Taught Postgraduate programmes are governed by the Grade Spectrum (Postgraduate), full details of which can be found at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/quality/appendix7x7.pdf>

All students commencing a modularised postgraduate taught programme of study in or after 2005/06 will be required to meet the following credit requirements:

Postgraduate Master's Degree:	180 credit points, including at least 150 credit points at Level 5
Postgraduate Diploma:	120 credit points, including at least 90 at Level 5
Postgraduate Certificate:	60 credit points, including at least 40 at Level 5

This ensures that awards are made in compliance with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). This is a common national Framework for all awards in Scotland. Further information is available at [www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk)

Accordingly, students failing to meet these credit requirements will be governed by the terms of Regulations 10, 11 and 12 of the General Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards, as appropriate.

In particular students should note General Regulation 12, which states:

In the case of a candidate who has failed to complete satisfactorily a prescribed element of degree assessment at the time prescribed by Regulation 10, then the appropriate procedure from (a) to (d) below shall apply.

- (a) If, but only if, the failure is on account of illness or other good cause, the candidate shall be required to submit themselves for assessment at the next available opportunity, and shall be permitted to count the result of that assessment towards progression and programme award.
- (b) If the failure is the result of absence or non-submission for any other cause, the candidate shall be awarded zero for the assessment concerned and shall not be permitted to progress to the next stage of the programme.
- (c) \*If the candidate has completed the assessment but been awarded a mark on the Common Assessment Scale between 6 and 8 inclusive, and if they would otherwise be permitted to progress to the next stage of the programme, they shall be awarded the same amount of unnamed specific credit, not exceeding 30 credit points in total, at level 3 for a Postgraduate Diploma or for a Master's Degree and not exceeding 20 credit points in total, at level 3 for a Postgraduate Certificate. Such level 3 credits will count towards achieving the overall credit requirement of the award in question.
- (d) \*If the mark awarded on the Common Assessment Scale is less than 6, the candidate shall not be permitted to progress to the next stage of the programme.

\* For Master of Laws programmes, paragraphs (c) and (d) refer to the mark achieved after re-sit.

You will also be provided with a copy of the Grade Spectrum in your induction pack.

# 13 Supporting Students

We hope that your year at our Law School will be enjoyable and problem free. However, if at any time you experience difficulties or feel you need assistance, there is a range of support services available to help you.

## Academic Support

- On arrival, you will be allocated an individual adviser of studies who can provide general academic advice and support. Your adviser of studies will be communicated to you at the start of term and a list will be available on MyAberdeen.
- Course related support: concerns regarding a course should first be directed to the particular course coordinator. If you do not feel able to speak to the course coordinator, you should approach your Adviser of Studies or Programme Coordinator.
- Library Services: The Taylor Library is a dedicated Law Library. The staff are very helpful and willing to ensure that you and all students know how to make full use of research resources.
- Dyslexia & Other Disabilities: contact the Student Advice and Support office in The Hub and make an appointment to discuss your learning needs with a Disability Officer.
- The Student Learning Service provides students with a whole range of information and workshops designed to enhance your academic skills. See: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sls/>
- Directorate of Information Technology (DIT): DIT provides computing and technology support to all staff and students, including the maintenance of a network of computer classrooms. Computing difficulties should be reported to the DIT Helpdesk: [helpdesk@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:helpdesk@abdn.ac.uk) or visit them on the ground floor of the Edward Wright Building. For a list of computer classrooms and workstation availability see: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/dit/student/class/wherepc.php>

## Pastoral Support

The University has a full network of support for students, eg:

- International Student Advisers
- Counselling Service
- Support for students with disabilities
- Financial Advice
- Chaplaincy

Further details about all these services are available at:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/studenthelpguide/>

The Students Association is also a source of information and neutral advice:

<http://www.ausa.org.uk/>

The Student Advice and Support Office and the Student Association Office are both located in The Hub.

Further useful information and resources for students are accessible from the University's For Students webpage: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/students>

If you do experience academic or personal difficulties during your studies, please do not suffer in silence. Contact a member of staff for help and advice. If they cannot help, they will know of someone who can. If you do not bring problems to our attention we cannot help you to do anything about it.



# Useful Contacts | 14

## Law School Contacts

The Law School office is located in room C41 of the Taylor Building. The Receptionist is Louise Middleton, email [louise.middleton@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:louise.middleton@abdn.ac.uk) or telephone 01224 274260.

**Acting Head of School of Law**  
Professor John Paterson  
01224 272441  
[j.paterson@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:j.paterson@abdn.ac.uk)

**Acting Deputy Head of School of Law**  
Anne Michelle Slater  
01224 272427  
[a.m.slater@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:a.m.slater@abdn.ac.uk)

**LLM Director**  
Dr Aylwin Pillai  
01224 272531  
[a.pillai@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:a.pillai@abdn.ac.uk)

**School Administrative Officer**  
Ms Sarah Duncan  
01224 272440  
[Sarah\\_duncan@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah_duncan@abdn.ac.uk)

**Graduate Programmes Coordinator**  
Ms Caroline Ransom  
01224 272429  
[c.ransom@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:c.ransom@abdn.ac.uk)

**Postgraduate Secretary**  
Mrs Claire Thomson  
01224 272443  
[c.thomson@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:c.thomson@abdn.ac.uk)

Contact Details for all members of Law School staff are online at:  
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/staff.php>

## University Contacts

**Taylor Library**  
01224 272601  
[lawlib@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:lawlib@abdn.ac.uk)

**Computing Centre Helpdesk (DIT)**  
Edward Wright Building  
01224 273636  
[helpdesk@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:helpdesk@abdn.ac.uk)

**Part time work**  
Joblink –  
AUSA Butchart Centre  
01224 272828  
[joblink@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:joblink@abdn.ac.uk)

**Registry**  
The Hub  
01224 273505  
[postgraduate@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:postgraduate@abdn.ac.uk)

**International Student Advisers**  
The Hub  
01224 273935  
[student.international@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:student.international@abdn.ac.uk)

**Careers**  
The Hub  
01224 273601  
[careers@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:careers@abdn.ac.uk)

**Cash Office**  
University Office  
01224 272266  
[cashofficecounter@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:cashofficecounter@abdn.ac.uk)

**Student Support (Disabilities, Counselling)**  
The Hub  
01224 273935  
[student.support@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:student.support@abdn.ac.uk)

**Money Advice Centre**  
AUSA Info and Advice  
Centre - Butchart  
01224 274200  
[nesma@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:nesma@globalnet.co.uk)

**Accommodation Office**  
The Hub  
01224 273502  
[studentaccomm@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:studentaccomm@abdn.ac.uk)

**Student Association**  
AUSA Butchart Centre  
01224 272965  
[ausa@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:ausa@abdn.ac.uk)

Also don't forget about the Student Help Guide:  
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/studenthelpguide/>

**Further Questions?**  
See the FAQ section at [www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law/currentllm)



School of Law:  
[www.abdn.ac.uk/law](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/law)  
Tel: 01224 274260  
Fax: 01224 242442