Graduate Diploma in Law

Full/Part Time Study (Attendance and Online) from September 2020 and January 2021

Programme Demands Document

V1.0 – Feb 2020
Introduction

This document is produced by The University of Law for the information of prospective students. It explains the demands of the course in order that applicants with disability support requirements can assess their ability to undertake the course. Detailed questions about the extent of adjustments which may be made should be addressed to the Disability Support and Inclusion Service. This document may be made available to medical practitioners who may be asked to provide a professional judgement on the ability of an applicant to complete the course.

The information included is an indicative guide for September 2020 and January 2021 intakes only. Students who enroll on the course will be subject to the course regulations in force at that time.

Details of the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) including subject coverage and the learning environment for all modes of study can be found on the University web-site.

Modes of Study

The Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) can be studied full time over 9 months by attendance at a Campus or over 12 months through online study. Alternatively the programme can be studied part time over two years either by attendance at a Campus (by study weekends or allocated evenings) or online.

The most popular course is the full time course starting in September and ending the following June (9 months), this course runs at most University of Law campuses and can be studied with timetabled classes over four days or two days a week at most campuses (please note that the option of Law of Organisations is likely to require attendance on Campus for an additional day when on the two day a week timetable).

Full time attendance courses also commence in January with timetabled classes over four days, this is a more intensive programme of only 34 weeks, starting in January and ending in early September. Courses commencing in January are offered at selected Campuses and run subject to sufficient demand.

The programme can be studied online through an interactive online platform with participation through online activities undertaken to a set timetable along with fellow online class students. Study is either full time over a calendar year (12 months) or part time over two years.

The programme can also be studied part time on a September start through attendance to timetabled classes on Evenings or Study Weekends.

See the chart below for details of where the different study options are offered, please note that all courses and study locations are run subject to sufficient demand.
Study Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GDL Courses</th>
<th>Birmingham</th>
<th>Bristol</th>
<th>Exeter*</th>
<th>Chester</th>
<th>Liverpool*</th>
<th>Guilford</th>
<th>Reading*</th>
<th>Leeds</th>
<th>London Bloomsbury</th>
<th>Norwich*</th>
<th>London Moorgate</th>
<th>Manchester</th>
<th>Nottingham</th>
<th>Hong Kong</th>
<th>Online</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Time September start - 9 months (attend)</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Time September start - 12 months (online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part Time September start (Weekends)</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part Time September start (Evenings)</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Part Time September start (Online)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time January start - 9 months (attend)</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time January start - 12 months (online)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>x</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part Time January start - 24 months (online)</td>
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<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Campuses with * mark are satellite campuses run at another University from the home University of Law Campus in the previous column for example; Exeter is the programme taught and assessed at the University of Exeter by staff and student services based in the Bristol University of Law Campus.

Note Hong Kong has own year planners and classes may be held in evenings or weekends.

Summary of Key Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

- Demonstrate sound knowledge and understanding of the legal principles relevant to the areas studied on the programme and the contexts that shape such principles.

Intellectual

- Analyse complex practical problems and accurately apply legal knowledge with supporting reasons.
- Approach a problem logically, analyse complex factual situations, evaluate a range of solutions in light of legal issues raised and make critical judgements on the merits of particular assertions.

Skills

- Conduct Independent legal research into familiar and unfamiliar areas, retrieve relevant data, using a variety of primary and secondary sources (both hard copy and online), providing accurate and precise conclusions.
• Use language proficiently and present knowledge and an opinion in a way that is succinct, accurate, grammatically correct and comprehensible to others both orally and in writing.

• Utilise technology effectively for the purposes of research and the presentation or communication of information.

• Demonstrate a basic ability to use, present and evaluate data presented in numerical or statistical form and derive appropriate conclusions.

• Work capably within a team and become an effective participant who is able to contribute to group tasks.

• Demonstrate self-analysis and active personal development planning; and

• Assume responsibility for the continued development of their own learning.

**Preliminary Knowledge and Skills**

Generic skills associated with the attainment of a recognised first degree in a non-law discipline consistent with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland level 6 awards. Including;

• Ability to acquire through study coherent and detailed knowledge of a new subject.
• Ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline.
• Conceptual understanding that enables student to devise and sustain arguments and/ or solve problems using ideas and techniques.
• An appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge.
• Ability to manage own learning to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources.

A sufficient command of English to follow the course to a successful conclusion (a score of 6.5 or above in all subjects of the IELTS test).

**Disability Support Agreements**

The University has a dedicated Disability Support and Inclusion Service to assist students in accessing the programme. To utilise the Disability Support and Inclusion Service medical evidence ideally should be provided prior to starting the course to ensure adjustments are put in place promptly. On receipt of the medical evidence the Disability Support and Inclusion Service will create an individual Disability Support Agreement detailing the course and exam adjustments. These are then communicated to tutors and assessments officers to implement the adjustments.

The University is able to provide diagnostic assessments with an Educational Psychologist for students suspecting a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) for example: Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD, and Dyscalculia. The student will incur a small contribution fee of £75. Once completed the Disability Support and Inclusion Service can put in place a Disability Support Agreement detailing the relevant adjustments to the course and assessments.

We provide Skills4Study Campus access via our interactive learning environment, ELITE, this service is available for all students. We are not, at this time, offering one-to-one SpLD specific tutoring. However Disabled Student Allowance funding should be sought if a Specialist Study Skills Tutor is required. The Disability Support and Inclusion Service can advise you on how to obtain DSA, we recommend you apply as
soon as possible. If you are eligible you can apply for Disabled Student’s Allowance https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas.

For more information please visit our the disability micro-site http://www.law.ac.uk/disabilitysupport-service/ or contact disabilitysupportservice@law.ac.uk

Pre-Course Demands
Pre- course online study (approx. 40 hours) should be completed in the three weeks prior the course.

Learning Environment

Course framework
There are nine modules on the GDL programme, all of equal credit rating, but the number of modules studied at any time and the order of study varies depending on the course taken.

Full Time -September start - 9 months attendance study only
Nine modules studied across two semesters, with the spring semester being slightly longer. Four modules are studied in the autumn semester and five modules in the spring semester. Each module is assessed at the end of the semester in which it was studied.

Full Time January start - 9 months attendance study only
Nine modules studied across one semester and shorter summer term. Five modules are studied and assessed in the spring semester, three modules are studied and assessed in the shorter summer term. The ninth module (research based) starts in the spring semester but completes at the end of the summer term. Each module is assessed at the end of the semester or term in which the module is completed. Note the ninth module research taught option may be offered online if insufficient demand to run by attendance study on the January start.

Part Time September start - attendance (Evenings or Weekends) and online
Nine modules studied across two academic years (four semesters). Two modules are studied each semester and the ninth module (research based option) is either self-study or study online is spread across the two academic years. Each module is assessed at the end of the last semester in which it was studied.

Full Time September start - 12 months online only
Nine modules studied across two semesters with a shorter summer term in the end. Three modules are studied in the autumn semester, three modules are studied in the spring semester and two modules in the shorter summer term. The ninth module (research based option) is started in the spring semester and completed at the end of the summer term. Each module is assessed at the end of the semester or term in which it was studied.

Full Time January start - 12 months online only
Nine modules studied across two semesters with a shorter summer term in the middle. Four modules are studied and assessed in the spring semester, two modules in the shorter summer term and three modules (include research based module) are completed in the autumn semester.

Part Time January start - 2 years online only
Nine modules studied across two calendar years. Two modules are studied each semester and the ninth
module (research based option) is either self-study or study online completed in the second year of study. There is an extended break over the summer between the spring and autumn semesters. Each module is assessed at the end of the semester in which it was studied.

**Learning Model**

The GDL is a very demanding course covering a broad syllabus in a short period of time, so students will need to get to grips with a number of new complex concepts and a large knowledge base within a short space of time. The material assumes that the students (as post graduate) are already a skilled learner and will be able to devise their own strategies for covering extensive amounts of reading. The programme is devised around a structure learning pattern covering new topics and concepts each week through a cycle of learning of self-guided Preparation, Engagement with fellow students and a tutor, either in attendance at a workshop or through a range of online activities and followed up with self-guided Consolidation activities.

**Preparation**

Preparation for workshops (or engage activities online) is up to 24 hours a week for full time study or 12 hours a week for part time study. This is mostly reading and working through the study Manual for each module but also includes some media, online library research and self-study activities provided on-line via the ELITE system (at University or at home using Broadband). Students may also be asked to complete Test and Feedback exercises via the ELITE system (at University or at home using Broadband) to test their understanding of material covered.

**Workshop (attendance) or Engage Activities (online)**

For attendance study, students attend Workshops sessions of approximately 20 students, these are based around group activities, facilitated by a tutor and are two hours in length.

For online study, students are placed, through an online learning platform, in an online class of approximately 20 students for each module. Within that module platform there are 8/9 units of study to be completed for that module (usually one unit each week for the module). Each unit of study has learning activities divided into three folders Prepare, Engage and Consolidate. The Engage folder contains learning activities to be undertaken both individually and as part of a group along with fellow online students in the class using specified online tools. These activities may take 4 to 5 hours to complete online and require collaborative learning with fellow classmates and will be facilitated or reviewed by a tutor. The online activities are asynchronous (meaning they are not delivered live) and will need to be completed with fellow online students each week as highlighted in the year planner.

There are three live tutor sessions per module – an Introduction, a Review of the Practice Test approximately halfway through the module, and a Consolidation session. These sessions are recorded. Other than these sessions, online delivery is not a live environment but an asynchronous study method.

Workshop sessions for attendance and Engage online learning activities for online study are based on the same concept of learning by doing and require students to actively engage with learning activities requiring analysis, evaluation and problem solving.

**Consolidation**

Students are expected to undertake up to 12 hours a week for full time study or 6 hours a week for part time study, consolidating their knowledge and skills, this includes completing self study consolidation media (online and part time study) or attending consolidation lectures for full time attendance students. Note
consolidation lectures sessions are usually 60 or more students (180 maximum at London Bloomsbury, 120 maximum at London Moorgate and Birmingham), delivered by a tutor and one hour in length. For online students, the same content is delivered through a range of online learning tools.

**Participation in practice-related activity** is not a requirement of the GDL but is actively encouraged to improve employment prospects. Activities such as mooting, a business game or StreetLaw are offered in Campus. (Some practice-related activities will involve presentations to community groups or other students).

**Students are expected to participate fully in all workshop / online group activities and practice-related activities and carry out self-study for preparation and consolidation as directed.**

**Attendance requirements**

Specific attendance requirements at Campus (including Virtual Campus for online study) vary depending on the course selected, however the semester and summer term lengths and assessment points are the same for all courses on the GDL programme.

The autumn semester comprises of twelve weeks of tuition, plus two weeks for revision and two weeks for examinations finishing mid-January. In addition there is one week’s holiday for Christmas. The spring semester comprises of fifteen weeks of tuition plus two weeks for revision and two weeks for examinations. In addition there is a two week break for Easter. For those courses where there is a summer term, this comprises of nine tuition weeks with no breaks plus two weeks revision and one week of exams.

Students must attend at the relevant University Campus (Online Elite Portal) in tuition weeks and attend scheduled examinations in Campus (nominated Campus for Online) in exam weeks. Attendance is not required during holiday and revision weeks. Please note that attendance at Workshops / participation in online class activities is compulsory and will be monitored.

**September start - Full Time attendance**

- Study period is last week in September to following June (38 weeks)
- Must attend at the relevant University Campus up to four days (two days at some Campuses) a week in tuition weeks and for your scheduled examinations (may be any day in the exam weeks).
- Attendance at both workshops and lectures is compulsory
- An average week is three lectures and three workshop but some weeks will be four lectures and four workshops

The indicative week on this course is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning format</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation (self-study prior to workshop)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidation lectures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Consolidation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**This course may be taken on a four day or, at some campuses, on a two day timetable**
Four day timetable
- Each day will involve two or three hours tuition
- Average student day: one lecture and one workshop

Two day timetable (note if take Law of Organisations option will require attendance for additional day)
- Each day will involve four to five hours tuition
- Average student day: one or two lectures and up to two workshops

January start - 9 months Full Time attendance (Four day timetable only)
- Study period is January to early September (34 weeks)
- Must attend at the relevant University Campus up to four days a week in tuition weeks and for scheduled examinations (may be any day in the exam weeks).
- Attendance at both workshops and lectures is compulsory
- An average week is three lectures and three workshop but if elect to take the taught research module Law of Organisations (subject to demand in Campus) a substantial number of weeks will be four lectures and four workshops

The indicative week on this course is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning format</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation (self-study prior to workshop)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidation lectures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Consolidation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note there are no breaks in the short summer term and so this course is more intensive than the September start Full Time.

September start - Part time attendance (Evenings)
- Study period is September to the following June (38 weeks) each year for two years.
- Induction takes place over two evenings in the first week and is compulsory.
- Must attend at the relevant University Campus for scheduled workshops in Evenings in tuition weeks and for scheduled examinations (may be any day in the exam weeks).
- Workshops will usually be two evenings a week, spread across the semesters but for three weeks will be one evening per week and in the longer spring semester there will be also a consolidation week in the 15 week tuition period.
- Attendance at workshops and completing consolidation media is compulsory
- Average student evening: one workshop
- Average study pattern of two evenings per week with allocated consolidation and preparation weeks

The indicative week on this course is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning format</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation (self-study prior to workshop)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Workshop  4
Consolidation media  2
Personal Consolidation  4
**Total**  22

September start - Part time attendance (Weekends)

- Study period is September to the following June (38 weeks) each year for two years.
- Induction takes place on one weekend day and is compulsory
- Must attend at the relevant University Campus for scheduled workshops on both the Saturday and Sunday on study weekends and for scheduled examinations. Please note that the exams will be on week days and may be any day in the exam weeks.
- There are five study weekends spread across the semesters in a 2 or 3 week pattern over the tuition period, ie 10 days per semester.
- Attendance at workshops and completing consolidation media is compulsory
- Average student weekend: four workshops with two workshops on the last or first weekend
- Average three week study pattern: four workshops followed by four online pieces of consolidation media with allocated preparation and consolidation activity.

The indicative three - week cycle on this course is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning format</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation (self-study prior to workshop)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidation media</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Consolidation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average per week</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

September start (22 months) and January start (24 months) Part time online

- September start: study period is September to the following June (38 weeks) each year for two years (22 months). January start is January to January each year for two years (24 months) with break for summer (July/ August)
- Induction takes place Online at the start of the course to introduce the online learning platform via the ELITE system (can be accessed at home using broadband). Induction is compulsory. There is no live event for induction; it is delivered through a specifically designed module containing recordings, written information and other online tools.
- Students are placed within an online class for each module with fellow students and an allocated tutor via an online platform for that module. Students must participate in all allocated online activities within the online class for the module in accordance with the year planner. The “class” is an asynchronous one with occasional live sessions (three per module).
- Must attend a nominated physical Campus for scheduled examinations. Please note that the exams will be on week days and may be any day in the exam weeks.
- Participation in the online class learning Engage activities and completion of consolidation media is compulsory
- Average student week: Complete a unit (Prepare, Engage and Consolidate) for two modules
The indicative week cycle on this course is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning format</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepare (self-study prior to class engage)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage activities (within class platform)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidate (including media)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average per week</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Full Time September start and Full Time January start - 12 months online only**

- Study period for September start is September to the following September (53 weeks) and study period for January start is January to the following January (53 weeks). Both courses study over the spring and autumn semesters and the shorter summer term in June to August.
- Induction takes place Online at the start of the course to introduce the online learning platform via the ELITE system (can be accessed at home using broadband). Induction is compulsory. There is no live event for induction; it is delivered through a specifically designed module containing recordings, written information and other online tools.
- Students are placed within an online class for each module with fellow students and an allocated tutor via an online platform for that module. Students must participate in all allocated online activities within the online class for the module in accordance with the year planner. The “class” is an asynchronous one with occasional live sessions (three per module).
- Must attend a nominated physical Campus for scheduled examinations. Please note that the exams will be on week days and may be any day in the exam weeks.
- Participation in the online class learning Engage activities and completion of consolidation media is compulsory
- Average student week: Complete a unit (Prepare, Engage and Consolidate) for three modules in semesters (with breaks) or for two modules (without break) in summer term.

The indicative week cycle on this course is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning format</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepare (self-study prior to class engage)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage activities (within class platform)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidate (including media)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average per week</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessment Demands**

A summary of the assessment schedule for this programme is explained below.

If appropriate medical evidence is accepted, we may be able to re-schedule assessments to avoid more than one on any one day. As part of the University’s commitment to an inclusive learning environment, we anticipate the needs of our students and design the coursework tasks to have sufficient time for most students, this includes students with SpLDs. A SpLD is generally not considered a sole justification for granting coursework extensions and coursework extensions are only granted in exceptional, evidenced circumstances.
The University operates a fit to sit policy, which means that students who attend an assessment are deeming themselves to be fit to sit that assessment. It is therefore not possible to submit a concession application for impaired performance for an assessment that has been sat, unless there was a procedural defect in the conduct of the assessment.

Assessment Adjustments

The Disability Support and Inclusion Service can offer a range of adjustments on a case by case basis and the following adjustments are not normally made but can be considered in exceptional, evidenced circumstances which is assessed via the Disability Advisory Group.

- Replacing examinations taken under supervised conditions with take-away assessments / coursework;
- Splitting examinations into shorter units such that a different paper is taken from the rest of the cohort.
- Changing closed book to open book exams

If you have any queries regarding support or adjustments whilst studying at the University of Law please contact the Disability Support and Inclusion Service on disabilitysupportservice@law.ac.uk or 01483216657

Time limits

Irrespective of any adjustments made, in order successfully to complete the GDL all students are required, under the regulations, to pass all elements of the programme within three years of commencing the course where has studied full time or four years of commencing the course where have studied part time.

Summary of Assessment Demands

The following tables set out the duration, style and number of assessments.

Courses starting in September and January

Informal Assessments (formative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examinations</th>
<th>Number, style and duration of assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests in all of:</td>
<td>• Closed-book tests with Statutory Extracts provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU Law</td>
<td>• One hour each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Law</td>
<td>• Students sit mid-module in the semester or term in which the module is studied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tort</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity &amp; Trusts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Formal Assessments (summative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examinations</th>
<th>Number, style and duration of assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Legal Method (part of Ethics and Professional Legal Practice)                 | • Open-book Multiple Choice examination  
• 30 minutes  
• Early in the first semester.                                               |
| Final Exams of:                                                              | • Closed-book examinations with Statutory Extracts provided  
• Three hours for each  
• In the examinations weeks at the end of the semester or term in which the module is completed. |
| EU Law  
Public Law  
Criminal Law  
Tort  
Contract Law  
Land Law  
Equity & Trusts                                                             |                                                                                  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Number, style and duration of assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Ethics and Professional Legal Practice                                       | • Written Assessment (2,000 words)  
• Submitted at the end of the first semester                                   |
| Research Project                                                            | • Written Assessment (4,500 words)  
• Submitted at the end of your final semester or term                          |
| OR                                                                           | OR                                                                               |
| Law of Organisations problem based report                                    | • Written Assessment (2,000 words)  
• Submitted at the end of your final semester or term                          |
### Potential Resit Assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resit Assessments (if required)</th>
<th>Number, style and duration of assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Examinations                   | • Assessed on same style and duration as exams taken within the course.  
                                 | • Main resit period shortly after completion of the course ie August (September start) or November (January start or September start (12 month)).  
                                 | • Additional Resit opportunities available after course completion at end of each semester/term in January, June and September. Note not all subjects are available at every sitting. |
| Coursework                     | • If taken in following year, assessed in same style and format as coursework taken within the course.  
                                 | • Limited period for completion where coursework attempted, at the candidate’s option, during the three months following the course. |