



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

School of Law – Semester One Module Options

Welcome to the module options for study abroad students studying at Queen's University Belfast from September 2020, for the first semester of the 2020-2021 academic year.

The School of Law at Queen's, part of the Russell Group, is a leading UK Law School. The School interacts with the wide community of people who have an interest in the study of law locally, nationally and globally. It provides innovative teaching delivered by world class staff in a beautiful environment. More information about the school can be found on our [website](#).

Please make note of the module code and the module title of the modules that you are interested in for when you fill out the [online application form](#). The level of study typically refers to the year of study a student would usually take the module in, though all modules listed are available for study abroad students. Higher level modules will sometimes require evidence of previous study.

If you have any questions about the modules available or the selection process please email AHSSabroad@qub.ac.uk and we will be happy to help.

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Level 1

European Constitutional Law

LAW1020 – Level 1

The course content will be divided into two main parts. Part 1 will be concerned with the development of the EU and with the powers of its institutions. Part 2 will be concerned with core constitutional principles developed by the EU Courts.

Constitutional Law in Context

LAW1021 – Level 1

Introduces students to the basic institutions and principles of the constitution of the United Kingdom. Examines these institutions and principles in their wider philosophical, historical and political contexts. Introduces a comparative dimension to enable the distinctive features of the constitution to be better understood. Covers the different levels of governance including central government, devolved administrations and supranational institutions and explores the role of non-state actors in the development and workings of the constitution. Links to the Rights and Accountability module and to the European Constitutional Law module.]

Legal Methods and Skills

LAW1026 – Level 1

Legal Methods and Skills, as its title makes clear, is designed to introduce students to legal craft—specifically, the craft of case-handling. Cases are a primary source of law within both the UK legal system and the common law world more broadly. This course provides students with a staged introduction to case-handling, taking them from the basics of navigation and description to more advanced skills, such as written and oral argument. In so doing, the course also addresses a key question: what is law? Specifically, is law's essence to be found in its form, its function(s), its key actors and institutions, in some combination of these, or in some other way?

Level 2

Contract Law

LAW2040 – Level 2

The course covers the fundamental principles of the general law of contract; rules relating to the formation of contracts and what makes a contract different from a non-binding agreement; key issues concerning the contents of a contract; grounds on which relief may be afforded to a contracting party because of some defect in the making of the contract; ways in which a contract may be ended. The theoretical context in which the module is set is one which stresses the transactional quality of Contract Law, i.e. how it enables transactions to be processed, and how it connects with Torts in a joined up Law of Obligations.

Equity

LAW2041 – Level 2

The course will comprise four major areas of study: 1. The Nature of Equity and its Role in the 21st century; 2. Express Private Trusts; 3. Charitable and Non-charitable Purpose Trusts; 4. Resulting and Constructive Trusts.

Introduction to the Law of Torts

LAW2042 – Level 2

The course covers the fundamental principles of the general law of torts, informed by a theoretical, practical and comparative approach emphasizing the underlying function and role of the law of torts in contemporary society. There is also a recurring stress placed throughout the module on the relationship between the law of contract and tort. What is the law of torts? Syllabus Preview (incl. Human Rights Act 1998). Underlying function and philosophy of torts. Harm to the Person. Deliberate and Negligent harm to the person. Protection of Land. Private Nuisance/Public Nuisance. Protection of Reputation. Defamation. Privacy. Concluding Issues Parties, remedies and defences.

European Constitutional Law

LAW2050 – Level 2

The course content will be divided into two main parts. Part 1 will be concerned with the development of the EU and with the powers of its institutions. Part 2 will be concerned with core constitutional principles developed by the EU Courts.

Level 3

Public International Law

LAW3034 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

There has never been a more exciting time to study Public International Law (PIL). Issues of international law and international justice are at the forefront of public debates and feature prominently also in domestic courts to a greater degree than ever before. International law provides the intellectual and the technical underpinnings to large areas of international co-operation. The PIL module covers the major areas of general international law and is not over-specialized. The lectures cover the core topics such as the nature and sources of international law, its relationship with national law but also introduces students to special areas such as international criminal law, and international human rights law. In addition, students will be examining the contextual constraints associated with public international law. The module will also cover the applicable rules governing international relations, and develop an understanding of the specifics of the law-making process in public international law and the intended and unintended consequences of present-day rule-making processes with regards to the politics and philosophy that dominates some of these areas. In sum, the PIL module will enable students to critically examine public international law.

Competition Law

LAW3038 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This module will examine the EU competition law regime governing private market behaviour. Topics covered will include the aims and institutional framework of EC competition law; Article 81 of the EC Treaty prohibiting anti-competitive agreements between undertakings; Article 82 of the EC Treaty prohibiting abuse of a dominant position; enforcement of EC competition law and the approaches towards international competition law.

Contract

LAW3044 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The course covers the fundamental principles of the general law of contract; rules relating to the formation of contracts and what makes a contract different from a non-binding agreement; key issues concerning the contents of a contract; grounds on which relief may be afforded to a contracting party because of some defect in the making of the contract; ways in which a contract may be ended. The theoretical context in which the module is set is one which stresses the transactional quality of Contract Law, i.e. how it enables transactions to be processed, and how it connects with Torts in a joined up Law of Obligations.

Torts

LAW3045 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The course covers the fundamental principles of the general law of torts, informed by a theoretical, practical and comparative approach emphasizing the underlying function and role of the law of torts in contemporary society. There is also a recurring stress placed throughout the module on the relationship between the law of contract and tort. What is the law of torts? Syllabus Preview (incl. Human Rights Act 1998). Underlying function and philosophy of torts. Harm to the Person. Deliberate and Negligent harm to the person. Protection of Land. Private Nuisance/Public Nuisance. Protection of Reputation. Defamation. Privacy. Concluding Issues Parties, remedies and defences; Course review.

Legal Theory

LAW3060 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This module is designed to equip students with the skills to better understand law, to ask questions about what law 'is' and what it 'ought' to be from a variety of perspectives. In doing so, students are encouraged to consider their own views and understandings of law, but also to encounter new views and understandings. This involves moving from a 'black letter' understanding of law and legal rules to engage with law in a more conceptual, creative and critical way. Students will explore a number of different theoretical perspectives which each provide contrasting ways to think about law, legal institutions and contemporary legal problems. These perspectives include Marxism, feminism, queer theory, post colonialism, critical race theory, sociology of law, critical legal studies, and legal positivism. Students will become familiar with the variety of tools which these interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives offer to interrogate law and ask critical questions about its everyday operation. The questions these theoretical tools help us to ask include 'What role does law play in society?', 'Is law neutral?', 'What do the ideas of "justice" and "equality" mean?', 'What is the relationship between law and social change?

Criminology: Theory and Practice

LAW3066 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This course is designed to offer students an introduction to some of the key issues and controversies surrounding the study of crime from a social scientific perspective. Crime will be understood as a legal and social construct rather than as an unchallengeable fact. Crimes are legally defined, they vary over time and between jurisdictions, they are therefore clearly linked to questions of power and powerlessness, gender, race and a host of other variables. The analysis of the criminal justice process, therefore, will be underpinned by such critical views. These issues will be explored through an array of national and international research evidence, and will also draw upon current developments and the lecturers' own research. Drawing on inter-disciplinary sources and establishing an academic agenda for critical analysis it considers the foundations of and alternatives to criminal justice in the context of a society and social order that is 'in transition'. Finally, it seeks to develop interdisciplinary skills and to encourage a full appreciation of the social nature of legal regulation and the role of criminology in understanding and resolving conflict.

Sentencing

LAW3073 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

- Theories of Punishment • Sentencing and Human Rights • Pre-Sentence Decisions • The Sentencing Process • Custodial Sentences • Non-Custodial Sentences • Sentencing the Young Offender

International Trade Law

LAW3077 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

Following a brief overview of the events that led to the formulation of World Trade Organisation, the module will concentrate on the substantive obligations in the agreements that form part of the WTO Agreement, including the general principles of mostfavoured nation treatment and non-discrimination, subsidies, antidumping and countervailing duties, safeguards, trade in services and trade-related intellectual property rights. It will also examine the dispute settlement system of the WTO and consider future needs trends in international trade regulation, including competition law, environmental protection and the growing role of developing countries.

Company Law and Corporate Governance

LAW3082 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The course covers legal and regulatory issues largely pertaining to corporate governance in the UK and elsewhere. The aim of the module is both to introduce the student to the core components of UK Company Law and to discuss these components in the light of the regulatory regime that has developed around the corporate governance of large, especially multinational enterprises. We draw not only on debates around legal codes, but on socio-legal and other bodies of scholarship aimed at addressing theories of corporate governance and issues addressed in the UK Corporate Governance Code. We also discuss other matters relating to such issues as corporate social responsibility, corporate criminal responsibility and the regulation of particular sectors (banking, mining etc).

International Humanitarian Law

LAW3089 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

Atrocities in Syria, Ukraine and Central African Republic involving massacres of civilians, abduction of children, and violations of the laws of war highlight the indiscriminate nature of warfare.

International humanitarian law (IHL) is a core component of international law and is supposed to govern the conduct of hostilities (and minimise its excesses). Consideration will thus turn on whether this field can be truly considered humane? The module will begin by charting the history and legal basis of IHL, exploring the work of the Red Cross, the development of the Geneva Conventions, humanitarian intervention, accountability, and key principles in IHL. Further seminars will explore contemporary and technological challenges with conducting hostilities in a humane way through lectures, group work, presentations, and mock simulations.

Business and Human Rights

LAW3090 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This module is designed to provide students with an overview of important issues in the interactions of business and human rights. Global corporations have a profound effect on the social, economic and environmental lives of the people with whom, directly or indirectly, they interact. They have come to rely on human rights discourse and on human rights NGOs to govern and legitimate their global operations. Many human rights activities, at the same time, focus on commerce as both a problem and a solution in the pursuit of human rights norms at a global level. All this occurs in an environment where states either do not or struggle to impose human rights duties on corporations, and especially on those corporations that operate on a global scale. Our primary focus in this module is on attempts to construct human rights regimes around the governance of global corporations. We cover issues especially around the international regulation of human rights through and around law, important interactions between state and non-state actors and human rights discourses and obligations across corporate groups, through value chains and in investment operations. As such, the course will be divided up as follows:

Part 1: Introduction This will introduce some of the basic concepts of the course, ideas such as globalisation, the shift from government to governance and the impact that this has on our understanding of Human Rights norms

Part 2: The Code This part of the course will open with the idea of codes, and why companies seem to like codes. After focussing on the company code, interest then turns to external codes including, but not limited to, Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines for Multi National Enterprises and the UN Principles on Business and Human Rights (The Ruggie Principles) . This stage of the course is introducing students to more soft law principles.

Part 3: The Issues Whereas the course to date is more knowledge driven, at this point we are interested in developing the skills of evaluation, through focusing on a few key issues within the Business and HR framework. This include things like extraction, corruption, environment (although these are subject to change from year to year depending on the key issues within the field at that time).

Part 4: The Future of Business and Human Rights This marks the last stage of the course where students will start to think about corporate –led human rights protections via their Corporate Social Responsibility policies.

International Criminal and Transitional Justice

LAW3093 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

Since the Second World War international criminal justice has emerged as a body of law to hold individuals responsible for mass atrocities. This module aims to introduce students to the key questions on the relationships between international law, justice and the transition from conflict in the 21st century through an exploration of law, criminological and social theory and case studies. The module adopts a broad interdisciplinary approach to mapping these connected issues and draws on a range of source and geo-political contexts (Latin America and Africa). It touches on contemporary controversies with international justice and domestic political conflicts, such as the intervention of the ICC in Palestine, criminal responsibility child soldiers, and reparations by multinational corporations.

Equity

LAW3096 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The course will comprise four major areas of study: 1. The Nature of Equity and its Role in the 21st century; 2. Express Private Trusts; 3. Charitable and Non-charitable Purpose Trusts; 4. Resulting and Constructive Trusts.

EU Constitutional Law

LAW3097 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The course content will be divided into two main parts. Part 1 will be concerned with the development of the EU and with the powers of its institutions. Part 2 will be concerned with core constitutional principles developed by the EU Courts.

Global Business Law and Regulation

LAW3101 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

The role of law and regulation in the global economy shifted significantly over the past decades, This shift has been described as a shift to a modern regulatory state or to regulatory capitalism which is based on a complex mix of private and public regulation. This module focuses on the role of law and regulation in the area of global business and introduces students to key theoretical issues and practical problems affecting the operation of business in the global economy. Students will gain a detailed understanding and knowledge of the motives and drivers behind global business law and regulation, the dynamics of regulatory change and the problems, flaws, and challenges of global business law and regulation.

Contents include: • Key terms: regulation, governance, regulatory governance • Globalisation and objectives of global business regulation • Explaining regulation: theoretical approaches to (business) law and regulation • The role and power of lawmakers, regulators, firms and other actors in regulating business • The early Regulatory State, the modern Regulatory State, and Regulatory Capitalism • Good Regulatory Governance: From Better to Smarter Regulation and Law-making • Rules, Implementation, Compliance, and Enforcement • Public and private regulation of global business and finance • Transparency, accountability and regulation in the area of global business law • The international institutional regime for global business and finance: forum shifting and regulatory competition • Globalisation, international harmonisation: regulatory competition vs regulatory cooperation • The European Union as a Regulatory State in global business regulation • The British Regulatory State and its role in global business regulation • Regulation in selected areas and regulating industries

Legal Methods and Skills

LAW3103 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

Legal Methods and Skills, as its title makes clear, is designed to introduce students to legal craft—specifically, the craft of casehandling. Cases are a primary source of law within both the UK legal system and the common law world more broadly. This course provides students with a staged introduction to case-handling, taking them from the basics of navigation and description to more advanced skills, such as written and oral argument. In so doing, the course also addresses a key question: what is law? Specifically, is law's essence to be found in its form, its function(s), its key actors and institutions, in some combination of these, or in some other way?

Constitutional Law in Context

LAW3104 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

Introduces students to the basic institutions and principles of the constitution of the United Kingdom. Examines these institutions and principles in their wider philosophical, historical and political contexts. Introduces a comparative dimension to enable the distinctive features of the constitution to be better understood. Covers the different levels of governance including central government, devolved administrations and supranational institutions and explores the role of non-state actors in the development and workings of the constitution. Links to the Rights and Accountability module and to the European Constitutional Law module.

Law and Psychology

LAW3111 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This module provides students with an introduction to the role of psychology within the law and in the operation of legal systems. It aims to explore both the presence of psychological concepts within the substance of the law and the ways in which a range of legal skills is imbued with processes and dynamics that have psychological underpinnings. Group work and problem-based learning (PBL) approaches will form an integral part of the module.

The module will begin with an examination of skills development within a group context, including (but not limited to): individual learning styles, formation of group identity, legal research, individual roles within groups, conflict resolution and communication (oral and written). There will be discussion of psychological and organisational theories throughout.

In the second part of the module, the focus will be on areas of the law where psychological factors (including emotion, group behaviour, mental capacity) play a role, for example in criminal law, property law and obligations. There will also be an examination of decision-making processes within the justice system (e.g. juries), lie detection, eyewitness testimony and the role of the forensic psychologist.

The final part of the module will explore a mixed-subject PBL scenario, in which students identify key legal issues and conduct research into both substantive and normative areas of law, including the relevant psychological components. There will be opportunities for students to engage in presentations within class, based on group work.

Family Law

LAW3113 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

This module will provide an insight into family law, regarding the range of relationships involved and the consequences of the breakdown or cessation of these relationships. Depending on staff availability and topicality, it will consider aspects such as the varying nature of family relationships and legal recognition of these, domestic violence, child protection and access, ancillary relief and rights in the case of unmarried/unregistered cohabitants.

Research Project

LAW3001 – Level 3 - Students may need to show evidence of previous study.

Researching an approved legal topic under supervision and presenting the results as a dissertation or report.