



# QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

## School of Law – Semester Two Module Options

Welcome to the module options for study abroad students studying at Queen's University Belfast from January 2021, for the second 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](mailto:AHSSabroad@qub.ac.uk) and we will be happy to help.

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## Level 1

### European Internal Market Law

*LAW1023 – Level 1*

The course will focus on the core of the substantive law of the European Union, and in particular: 1. The concept of the internal market and the scope of the relevant EU competence; 2. The four fundamental freedoms, i.e. the free movement of goods, services, persons (including workers, economically inactive citizens, and establishment), and capital (including the Economic and Monetary Union); and 3. The interaction, including convergences and divergences, between the fundamental freedoms of the internal market.

### Rights and Accountability

*LAW1024 – Level 1*

Building upon semester 1's study of basic constitutional law, this module will develop a fuller understanding of how public power is (or is not) constrained in the UK, whether within the framework of the Human Rights Act 1998, through judicial review, and/or through other accountability actors such as Commissions and Ombudsmen. While the focus of the course will be largely UK-centric, it will also contain an important comparative element, understanding the relationship between domestic law and international human rights standards. Students will also develop a deeper understanding of common law constitutionalism.

### Criminal Law

*LAW1025 – Level 1*

Elements of Crime Actus Reus Mens Rea Offences against Property Theft, Burglary and Robbery, Criminal Damage, NonFatal Offences against the Person, Assault, Aggravated Assault, Sexual Offences, Homicide, Murder, Manslaughter, Inchoate Offences, General Defences.

## Level 2

### Contemporary Issues in Property Law

LAW2043 – Level 2

The course is designed to allow students to study contemporary issues in property law, building in particular on Equity and integrating elements of Land Law. The course begins with a conceptual introduction to the nature of private law in the twentyfirst century. Students will have an opportunity to study discrete and topical areas of property law such as: 1) the family home; 2) succession law ie. transfer of wealth on death (not studied elsewhere and a professional requirement in the Republic of Ireland); 3) planning law; 4) personal property; 5) novel constructions of property - such as cultural property, property rights in body parts and human tissue; 6) constitutional protections for property.

### Contemporary Issues in the Law of Obligations

LAW2044 – Level 2

The course will fill out students' understanding of the role of the Law of Obligations in the modern legal system. It will try to develop in students an appreciation of the true significance of the categories Contract, Tort, Restitution, and Equity and an ability to think across categories. Connections with other areas of law, e.g. Commercial Law and Public Law will also be made. Part A Historical Introduction. Part B Economic Torts and Conversion. Part C Consumer Law. Part D Disgorgement of gain. Part E Public authority liability.

### Land Law

LAW2045 – Level 2

The basic structures of Northern Irish and English Land Law in a critical and comparative context. Lectures will outline basic doctrinal rules/principles, setting them in a social/theoretical context, emphasis on setting out the conceptual/framework, with doctrinal depth added later through private study, supported by (a) group tutorials; and (b) interactive podcasts.

### European Internal Market Law

LAW2053 – Level 2

The course will focus on the core of the substantive law of the European Union, and in particular: 1. The concept of the internal market and the scope of the relevant EU competence; 2. The four fundamental freedoms ie the free movement of goods, services, persons (including workers, economically inactive citizens, and establishment), and capital (including the Economic and Monetary Union); and 3. The interaction, including convergences and divergences, between the fundamental freedoms of the internal market.

## Level 3

### Evidence

*LAW3002 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

General: the operation of the rules of evidence in Northern Ireland and England with particular emphasis on criminal proceedings. Topics covered include: the burden and standard of proof; the right to silence; the admissibility of confessions; improperly obtained evidence; similar fact evidence; cross-examination of the accused; witnesses; hearsay.

### Gender, Justice and Society

*LAW3024 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

The module provides students with an understanding of how law affects people differently, depending on gender and the ways in which law contributes to regulating and representing gender. This understanding is not specific to one area of law, rather the course cuts across a number of different areas (such as criminal law, human rights, international law) increasing students' knowledge and understanding of legal issues more generally at the national and international levels from a gendered perspective. Students will have the opportunity to further evaluate these issues through film and visual representation of the interaction between gender, justice and society. The module introduces students to a number of new and different topics (for example, judicial decision making, the Global South, LGBTQI, kinship and reproduction, the military) from which to interrogate contemporary debates on gender and contribute to the development of students' critical and analytical skills.

### Environmental Law

*LAW3031 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

The course introduces students to the issues faced by the legal community in tackling environmental degradation. In particular the course highlights how the law seeks to achieve and enforce a sustainable balance between economic development and the protection of the environment for present and future generations.

### Contemporary Issues in Property Law

*LAW3046 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

The course is designed to allow students to study contemporary issues in property law, building in particular on Equity and integrating elements of Land Law. The course begins with a conceptual introduction to the nature of private law in the twentyfirst century. Students will have an opportunity to study discrete and topical areas of property.

### Contemporary Issues in British and Irish Human Rights

*LAW3056 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

This module will allow students to explore in some depth a variety of issues that raise important and difficult questions in the UK and/or Ireland concerning the extent to which certain claims should be legally protected as human rights claims. It will build on knowledge and skills already transferred to students through their Constitutional Law in Context and Rights and Accountability modules. The content of the module will vary from year to year depending on the issues that are most topical at the time and the staff available to teach on the module, but it is likely that in most years at least two or three weeks of teaching will be devoted to each of the following: (a) the prevention of terrorism, (b) the right to freedom from Torture, (c) the right to education, (d) the right to freedom of expression, and (e) the right to fair trial. The focus will be on how legislative and judicial institutions the UK and Ireland and the European jurisprudence have addressed these matters, with particular emphasis on case law.

### **Employment Law**

*LAW3058 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

This module will expose students to the wide range of laws relating to the world of work. It will introduce them to some of the theories explaining the relationship between employers and employees and the importance of industrial relations more generally. It will then analyse some of the key topics in employment law such as the nature of an employment contract, the legal duties of an employer (especially as regards health and safety), the rights of an employee (especially as regards discrimination and privacy), the law relating to trades unions, the influence of the International Labour Organisation and the European Union in this field, and the means by which employment contracts can be terminated. It will to some extent build upon knowledge gained from the 2nd year module in Contract Law. The focus will be on how legislative, administrative and judicial institutions in Northern Ireland (and in England and Wales) have addressed the issues most commonly arising in the employment relationship.

### **Intellectual Property Law**

*LAW3074 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

The course addresses the following topics: intellectual property theory; copyright; passing off; trade marks; image rights; design rights; patents; and the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

### **Criminal Liability**

*LAW3088 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

This module explores the boundaries of the criminal law examining issues of current controversy. Deciding what to criminalise or decriminalise are important issues for any society. The proper boundaries of the criminal law are often contested with competing ideologies and perspectives offering different viewpoints. The module adopts a doctrinal, socio-legal and philosophical approach to the exploration of these issues. Issues to be examined include: theories of criminalisation; responding to hate crime; responding to stalking and harassment; regulating prostitution; regulating the use of illegal drugs; regulating pornography; the criminalisation of transmission of disease; responding to anti-social behaviour.

### **European Internal Market Law**

*LAW3098 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

The course will focus on the core of the substantive law of the European Union, and in particular: 1. The concept of the internal market and the scope of the relevant EU competence; 2. The four fundamental freedoms ie the free movement of goods, services, persons (including workers, economically inactive citizens, and establishment), and capital (including the Economic and Monetary Union); and 3. The interaction, including convergences and divergences, between the fundamental freedoms of the internal market.

### **Financial Services Law**

*LAW3099 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

This course will offer an introduction to the law of finance. Finance is often defined as the backbone of the economy as it provides essential services such as payment or credit intermediation, without which no business would be possible. In recent decades, the volume of legislation on financial law has increased exponentially and it touches virtually every aspect of financial intermediation, from day-to-day financial transactions to the regulation of cryptocurrencies. The objective of the module is to equip students with the analytical tools to navigate the complex world of finance from a legal perspective. The module will offer a broad overview of the three main pillars of financial law: financial institutions, financial transactions, and markets.

### **Criminal Law**

*LAW3105 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

Elements of Crime Actus Reus Mens Rea Offences against Property Theft, Burglary and Robbery, Criminal Damage, Non Fatal Offences against the Person, Assault, Aggravated Assault, Sexual Offences, Homicide, Murder, Manslaughter, Inchoate Offences, General Defences.

### **Rights and Accountability**

*LAW3106 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

Building upon semester 1's study of basic constitutional law, this module will develop a fuller understanding of how public power is (or is not) constrained in the UK, whether within the framework of the Human Rights Act 1998, through judicial review, and/or through other accountability actors such as Commissions and Ombudsmen. While the focus of the course will be largely UKcentric, it will also contain an important comparative element, understanding the relationship between domestic law and international human rights standards. Students will also develop a deeper understanding of common law constitutionalism.

### **Land Law**

*LAW3107 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

The basic structures of Northern Irish and English Land Law in a critical and comparative context.

### **Regulating Commercial Sex**

*LAW3108 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

The issue of sex is perhaps the one area of human behaviour that has been historically subject to particularly high levels of formal and informal regulation including the law, the police and official agencies but also via cultural norms and mores. This regulation extends to the arena of sexual commerce generally (pornography, lap dancing and strip clubs, massage parlours, Internet based web cams) but also to the regulation of commercial sex which usually involves the exchange of money or other goods for the provision of direct and physical sexual services. In many respects the provision of commercial sex and how it is policed and regulated has been challenged fundamentally by the growth of the digital economy and the contribution of the Internet to the growth and development of new sex markets.

The module focuses primarily on developments that have occurred in the UK and Ireland but also draws upon comparative international evidence where required. The module considers how debates about commercial sex are intertwined with notions of sexuality more generally and reflect gendered norms around what is perceived as appropriate sexual conduct. The module provides a historical overview of how female commercial sex came to be regulated in Ireland and the UK in ways that did not apply to that of males before moving on to consider a number of regulatory models (abolitionism, decriminalisation, legalisation) adopted in a number of jurisdictions. The nature of commercial sex is considered theoretically by drawing on competing explanations from within feminism (i.e. between second, third and fourth wave feminism) but also to those sociological and socio-legal perspectives that view commercial sex as a form of 'work'. The module challenges our understanding of commercial sex as an exclusively 'female' domain and investigates the role of males and transgendered individuals in the provision of commercial sexual services since they have remained absent from much of these discussions. As a fundamental starting point the module adopts a reflexive stance to argue that a full understanding of the nature of commercial sex can only be obtained by paying attention to the voices and views of those that participate in it. As such, the module takes an evidence-based approach arguing that research evidence not 'opinion' should be used as the basis for public policy. Broad thematic areas of the module will include: Theoretical approaches to commercial sex and its regulation (feminist, socio-legal, sociological) Models of regulating commercial sex: abolitionism, legalisation, decriminalisation.

### **Media and Information Law**

*LAW3110 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

In this module, students consider the various ways in which the media and information industries are regulated. The growth and significance of these industries in the 21st century has given rise to a range of legal disputes, as well as new legislation, regulatory systems, and international treaties; these disputes and interventions share a common feature of how a legal system ought to address innovation, human rights, transnational transactions and services, and the effectiveness of existing mechanisms, in a context of often rapid technological, economic and cultural change. Indicative topics include the regulation of broadcasting, film, and games; electronic commerce and related consumer issues; data protection; the liability of intermediaries; Internet-related criminal offences. Conceptual issues explored include the interaction between different types of regulation (e.g. statute, industry-led self-regulation, system design), whether 'information' and information technologies have special characteristics making conventional forms of control less feasible, and questions of jurisdiction and globalisation.

### **Research Project B**

*LAW3041 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

Students will research an approved legal topic under supervision and present the results as a dissertation or report.

### **Medical Law & Ethics**

*LAW3112 – Level 3 – Students may need to show evidence of previous study.*

This module will familiarise students with the law on medical law and ethics. There will be a particular focus on current issues in the area.

- Knowledge and understanding of the ideas underpinning research and development of medical law and ethics.
- Familiarity with legal frameworks applicable to the practice of medicine.
- Understanding of the application of the theoretical constructs and legal frameworks to 'real world' cases and scenarios in the area of medicine.