Master of Laws

These regulations must be read in conjunction with the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses). These regulations are available online via the Open University ‘Essential Documents’ website at https://help.open.ac.uk/documents/policies.

Withdrawal of qualification
Approval has been given for this qualification to be withdrawn. The final date on which it will be awarded is 31 December 2027.

Short title
None

Award letters
LLM (Open)

Previous versions of Regulations to note
N/A

Entry requirements and registration
The minimum entrance requirement is an honours degree conferred by a UK university or other recognised degree-awarding body, or other study or experience approved by the Faculty Teaching Committee.

Classification scheme
If you obtain a Distinction in your dissertation and a Distinction in at least one of the 30 credit taught modules, you will be awarded the degree with Distinction.

If you obtain a Distinction in the dissertation and a Merit in at least one of the 30 credit taught modules, you will be awarded the degree with Merit.

If you obtain a Merit in your dissertation and a Merit or Distinction in at least one of the 30 credit taught modules, you will be awarded the degree with Merit.

Undergraduate credit will not count towards your classification.

Credit requirement
180 credits including:
(a) 60 credits from compulsory modules
(b) at least 30 and up to 60 credits from specified option modules in Group A. Up to 30 credits may be counted from undergraduate specified option modules in this group.
(c) up to 30 credits from specified option modules in Group B
(d) 60 credits from the compulsory dissertation.
Maximum duration of study
7 years

Maximum transferred credit
30 credits. Credit transfer is not permitted against the compulsory modules, specified option modules in Group A, or the dissertation.

Maximum age of credit transfer
N/A

Unique study requirement
60 credits

Dissertation/ Project requirement
You are required to submit a dissertation which must form the final credit for your degree.

The dissertation must be submitted within the specified period for the degree and must conform to the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses). The topic of your dissertation must be relevant to the subject matter of the taught module you have studied for this qualification and approved by your tutor. The dissertation must be between 15,000 and 18,000 words, including footnotes and excluding a bibliography. You may be required to attend a viva voce (oral) examination on your dissertation.

The dissertation will be submitted to examiners appointed by the Senate. It may be found to be:

(a) acceptable

(b) acceptable subject to satisfactory amendment within a specified timescale (only one re-submission allowed)

(c) unacceptable but with permission for you to re-submit (only one re-submission allowed)

Progress rules
Modules do not need to be studied consecutively.

Additional rules
None