

## York Law School

### Programme change proposals:

#### LLB in Law

#### LLB in Law Senior Status

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our tutors are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are proposed.

Programme(s)	<p>LLB in Law</p> <p>See programme specification:  <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hIBa-jV_TST54L7YTotO-8sUEFlfP-9knIP5mJ3f31s/edit#gid=804033750">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hIBa-jV_TST54L7YTotO-8sUEFlfP-9knIP5mJ3f31s/edit#gid=804033750</a></p> <p>LLB in Law (Senior Status)</p> <p>See programme specification:  <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cv_4y97kXGwmR8cUY-DXvvk7mWSO8re69OmBEBIXDCY/edit#gid=482478979">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cv_4y97kXGwmR8cUY-DXvvk7mWSO8re69OmBEBIXDCY/edit#gid=482478979</a></p>
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#### Summary of Overall Plans

##### **Introduction**

Our overall plans are based around achieving a balance between four main considerations :

- Ensuring that, so far as practicable, students on campus will be able to engage in regular, rewarding and stimulating learning activities with other students and tutors in classroom environments [“face-to-face” or “face-to-face” learning]

- Recognising the core role of problem-based learning (PBL) in underpinning interactive, student-led learning of the qualifying law degree subjects across all years of LLB programmes at York, and its similar role in underpinning the majority of programme learning outcomes.
- Government and university guidance on health and safety, including social distancing, means that teaching rooms have reduced capacity and overall available space for teaching - both large and small groups - is significantly lower. This means we shall have to provide some learning activities on an online basis for students on campus. Space and resource limitations have also meant we have had to make the decision to withdraw a small number of final year option modules (see Programme Structures box below). Online learning activities will include: all large group lecture and plenary sessions, which will be recorded and available in the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE); and also a number of subject modules. Where a subject module will be tutored on an online basis for students on campus, we have considered our capability to facilitate suitable student learning activities to enable the module learning outcomes to be achieved. That is, activities are such that they can be replicated or substituted online to provide an engaging and consistent student learning experience.
- We need to be able to offer online alternative versions of modules for any students unable to attend campus because of Covid-19 related issues.

Our plans and proposals for next year are based on the above considerations, which in turn are based on the best information we have available at the moment on health and safety issues, teaching space availability, student numbers and tutor availability. Our plans for face-to-face teaching for students on campus are therefore premised on what we hope to be able to offer, subject to final confirmation of the amount of available teaching space before the start of term: wherever we cannot provide planned face-to-face teaching on a specific module, we shall provide online, virtual learning (see below).

You will appreciate, given recent months, that local, national and international events could bring about changes in circumstances. Our hope, of course, is that these will result in changes for the better. In that event, we shall, of course, review all relevant factors to assess our ability to provide more face-to-face workshops for students on campus on some or all options, whilst continuing online workshops for students who cannot attend campus. In addition, within individual modules, circumstances may vary such that the module leader may vary the proposals below. Wherever possible, this would be to ensure the quality of learning experience we can provide you.

### ***Online, virtual learning***

From initial planning at programme level of core modules, and feedback from option module leaders, where learning takes place on an online, virtual basis, you will be enabled to meet module and programme learning outcomes through a combination of some or all of:

- Recorded lectures/plenaries (some will have options for online student engagement alongside the recordings)
- Live workshops or seminars facilitated by your tutor via Zoom (which will also be recorded for students who, for whatever reason, are unable to engage synchronously)

- Discussion boards or chat rooms
- Supplemental text and/or media resources
- Directed individual/small group preparatory activities
- Submission of student work with formative feedback

***Plans for each Year Group***

Our proposed plans are set out below for each Year Group on each programme (and see also Programme Structures below), with each Year Group/programme proposals starting on a new page.

## LLB Year 1

All lectures for all modules will be recorded and made available in the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). You will be given clear guidance as to when these become available and should be viewed. There may be follow-up online activities, e.g., posting and reviewing a discussion forum on topics from the plenaries.

### ***Foundations modules***

All PBL workshops in Foundations modules will be face-to-face in a student workshop group, with a PBL tutor, for students on campus. This will mean that the majority of your workshop learning should be face-to-face.

For students who cannot attend campus, there will be live virtual PBL workshops in a student law firm, with a PBL tutor.

All students - whether or not on campus - will follow the same structured series of learning activities on the same problem scenarios week by week basis, to enable them to meet required module learning outcomes.

### ***Legal Skills***

Workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus. The module will run in Term 1. The module is based on simulated cases and transactions, with students acting for clients, as would be the case in practice.

### ***Introduction to Law & Society***

Workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus. The module will run in Term 2.

### ***Legal Concepts***

Workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus. The module will run in Term 2.

### ***Assessments***

There are very few supervised examinations on the LLB. In Year 1, there are two, which would usually take place in Term 3 in the Foundations 2 module. Our plan is that these will be revised so that they can be taken on an online basis. The specific format of the papers will be similar but additional time will be provided to complete them.

We assess student contribution in PBL workshops in Year 1, and also in Legal Skills, Introduction to Law & Society and Legal Concepts. For next year, we are proposing to maintain this form of assessment for PBL only.

We are also reviewing module assessment formats which might cause issues around social distancing, e.g. presentations, and, should we be unable to carry out a suitable assessment within guidelines, will either vary the format or cancel that element of a module assessment and re-weight the remaining elements.

## LLB Year 2

All plenary sessions (held for the whole cohort on a module) for all modules will be recorded and made available in the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). You will be given clear guidance as to when these become available and should be viewed. There may be follow-up online activities, e.g., posting and reviewing a discussion forum on topics from the plenaries.

### ***Foundations modules***

All PBL workshops in Foundations modules will be face-to-face in a student law firm, with a PBL tutor, for students on campus. This will mean that the majority of your workshop learning should be face-to-face.

For students who cannot attend campus, there will be live virtual PBL workshops in a student law firm, with a PBL tutor.

All students - whether or not on campus - will follow the same PBL processes on the same problem scenarios on a week by week basis, to enable them to meet required module learning outcomes.

### ***Advanced Legal Skills***

Workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus, in Term 1.

In Term 2, workshops for students on campus will be face-to-face in a student law firm, and will continue to be online for students away from campus.

The module is based on simulated cases and transactions, with students acting for clients, as would be the case in practice. The cases and transactions, and required student activities, will be the same in both terms for all students, whether or not on campus.

### ***Professionalism & Ethics***

Workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus. The module will run in Terms 1 & 2 as usual.

### ***Options***

Because of reduced available teaching space resulting from social distancing measures that needed to be implemented, it is likely that Year 2 options workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus. These are:

- Law, Commerce & Finance
- Healthcare
- History of Law
- Law & the Business Environment
- Philosophy of Law
- Human Rights

Should circumstances change, then we shall review the learning activities and outcomes for individual options, student numbers, workshop availability to assess our ability to provide some face-to-face workshops for students on campus on some or all options, whilst continuing online workshops for students who cannot attend campus.

***Assessments***

As you know, there are very few supervised examinations on the LLB. In Year 2, there are two, which would usually take place in Term 3 in the Foundations 3 module. Our plan is that these will be revised so that they can be taken on an online basis. The specific format of the papers will be similar but additional time will be provided to complete them.

We assess student contribution in PBL workshops in Year 2, and also in Advanced Legal Skills. For next year, we are proposing to maintain this form of assessment for PBL but not in Advanced Legal Skills.

We are also reviewing module assessment formats which might cause issues around social distancing, e.g. presentations, and, should we be unable to carry out a suitable assessment within guidelines, will either vary the format or cancel that element of a module assessment and re-weight the remaining elements.

## LLB Year 3

All plenary sessions (held for the whole cohort on a specific module) for all modules will be recorded and made available in the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). You will be given clear guidance as to when these become available and should be viewed. There may be follow-up online activities, e.g., posting and reviewing a discussion forum on topics from the plenaries.

### ***Case study modules***

The PBL based workshop elements of these modules, which take place in weeks 2-6, will be face-to-face for students on campus and online for students away from campus. The latter part of the module, which involves each student attending two workshop “surgery” sessions on their two individually chosen assessment outputs, will be delivered by virtual, online workshops for all students, whether or not on campus.

### ***Dissertation***

Dissertation supervisions will be face-to-face for students on campus and online for students away from campus.

### ***Options***

Because of reduced available teaching space resulting from social distancing measures that needed to be implemented, it is likely that Year 3 options workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus. These are:

- Company Law
- Art Law
- Mental Health and Mental Capacity
- Principles of Financial Regulation
- Intellectual Property
- Law, Gender & Sexuality
- ADR
- Criminal Trial
- Law in the Welfare State
- Personal Property Law
- Legal Practice, Technology & Computer Science
- Crime & Punishment
- Law Clinic (client interactions may be either socially distanced or virtual)
- Private International Law
- Environmental Law
- Family Law
- Law & History

Should circumstances change, then we shall review the learning activities and outcomes for individual options, student numbers, workshop availability to assess our ability to provide some face-to-face workshops for students on campus on some or all options, whilst continuing online workshops for students who cannot attend campus.

### ***Assessment***

We are reviewing module assessment formats which might cause issues around social distancing,

e.g. presentations, and, should we be unable to carry out a suitable assessment within guidelines, will either vary the format or cancel that element of a module assessment and re-weight the remaining elements.

## LLB Senior Status Year 1

All lecture sessions for all modules will be recorded and made available in the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). You will be given clear guidance as to when these become available and should be viewed. There may be follow-up online activities, e.g., posting and reviewing a discussion forum on topics from the plenaries.

### ***Foundations modules***

All PBL workshops in Foundations modules will be face-to-face in a student law firm, with a PBL tutor, for students on campus. This will mean that the majority of your workshop learning should be face-to-face.

For students who cannot attend campus, there will be live virtual PBL workshops in a student law firm, with a PBL tutor.

All students - whether or not on campus - will follow the same PBL processes on the same problem scenarios on a week by week basis, to enable them to meet required module learning outcomes.

### ***Legal Skills***

Workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus. The module will run in Term 1. The module is based on simulated cases and transactions, with students acting for clients, as would be the case in practice.

### ***Professionalism & Ethics***

Workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus. The module will run in Term 2.

### ***Legal Concepts***

Workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus. The module will run in Term 2.

### ***Assessments***

There are very few supervised examinations on the LLB Senior Status. In Year 1, there are two, which would usually take place in Term 3 in the Foundations 2 module. Our plan is that these will be revised so that they can be taken on an online basis. The specific format of the papers will be similar but additional time will be provided to complete them.

We assess student contribution in PBL workshops in Year 1, and also in Legal Skills and Legal Concepts. We propose to maintain this assessment for PBL only: not in the other modules.

We are also reviewing module assessment formats which might cause issues around social distancing, e.g. presentations, and, should we be unable to carry out a suitable assessment within guidelines, will either vary the format or cancel that element of a module assessment and re-weight the remaining elements.

**Note**

See also the “Further changes or information of note” box below.

**LLB Senior Status Year 2**

All plenary sessions (held for the whole cohort on a module) for all modules will be recorded and made available in the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). You will be given clear guidance as to when these become available and should be viewed. There may be follow-up online activities, e.g., posting and reviewing a discussion forum on topics from the plenaries.

**Foundations modules**

All PBL workshops in Foundations modules will be face-to-face in a student law firm, with a PBL tutor, for students on campus. This will mean that the majority of your workshop learning should be face-to-face.

For students who cannot attend campus, there will be live virtual PBL workshops in a student law firm, with a PBL tutor.

All students - whether or not on campus - will follow the same PBL processes on the same problem scenarios on a week by week basis, to enable them to meet required module learning outcomes.

**Advanced Legal Skills**

Workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus, in Term 1.

In Term 2, workshops for students on campus will be face-to-face in a student law firm, and will continue to be online for students away from campus.

The module is based on simulated cases and transactions, with students acting for clients, as would be the case in practice. The cases and transactions, and required student activities, will be the same in both terms for all students, whether or not on campus.

**Options**

Because of reduced available teaching space resulting from social distancing measures that needed to be implemented, it is likely that options workshops will be live, in a virtual, online format for all students, whether or not on campus. These are:

- Company Law
- Art Law
- Mental Health and Mental Capacity
- Principles of Financial Regulation
- Intellectual Property
- Law, Gender & Sexuality
- ADR
- Criminal Trial
- Law in the Welfare State
- Personal Property Law

- Legal Practice, Technology & Computer Science
- Crime & Punishment
- Law Clinic (client interactions may be either socially distanced or virtual)
- Private International Law
- Environmental Law
- Family Law
- Law & History

Should circumstances change, then we shall review the learning activities and outcomes for individual options, student numbers, workshop availability to assess our ability to provide some face-to-face workshops for students on campus on some or all options, whilst continuing online workshops for students who cannot attend campus.

#### ***Case study modules chosen as options***

The PBL based workshop elements of these modules, which take place in weeks 2-6, will be face-to-face for students on campus and online for students away from campus. The latter part of the module, which involves each student attending two workshop “surgery” sessions on their two individually chosen assessment outputs, will be the subject of virtual, online workshops for all students, whether or not on campus.

#### ***Assessments***

As you know, there are very few supervised examinations on the LLB. In Year 2, there are two, which would usually take place in Term 3 in the Foundations 3 module. Our plan is that these will be revised so that they can be taken on an online basis. The specific format of the papers will be similar but additional time will be provided to complete them.

We assess student contribution in PBL workshops in Year 2, and also in Advanced Legal Skills. For next year, we are proposing to maintain this form of assessment for PBL but not in the other modules.

We are also reviewing module assessment formats which might cause issues around social distancing, e.g. presentations, and, should we be unable to carry out a suitable assessment within guidelines, will either vary the format or cancel that element of a module assessment and re-weight the remaining elements.

#### ***Note***

See also the “Further changes or information of note” box below.

#### **Programme Structures**

Year 3 LLB and Year 2 LLB Senior Status

The following option modules are being withdrawn for current students:

Ending Life LAW00072H

Law & Language LAW00063H

Courts, Disputes & Justice LAW00042I  
Public Interest Litigation Lab LAW00073H  
Legal History LAW00068H

The reasons for this are one or both of the following:

- The number of students who elected to take the option is low
- Reducing the number of option modules means that across both LLB programmes we are better able to provide the programmes as a whole in light of the need to respond to reductions in available teaching space, and to be able to offer online versions of both programmes to students unable to attend the campus.

Further changes or information of note

For Canadian LLB Senior Status Year 1 and 2 students whose regulator is reviewing its position in relation to online teaching, we will make whatever arrangements are necessary in order to meet its requirements. These may differ from arrangements for other LLB Senior Status students.