



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Scoil an Dlí
School of Law

LLM International & Comparative Business Law

**Academic Booklet
2026/27**



Fáiltiú | *Welcome*

Dear Student,

As Programme Director for the LLM (International & Comparative Business Law) and on behalf of the staff of the School of Law, it is a pleasure to welcome you to the University of Galway.

The School greatly values the contribution of its postgraduate students to scholarship and to the life of the School and College and we hope that your time with us will be rewarding and enjoyable.

The LLM (International & Comparative Business Law) offers excellent opportunities to attend conferences, publish articles in student law journals, participate in internships, and to build your knowledge and understanding of the intersection between law and business. We very much hope that you take advantage of these opportunities.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide general information on postgraduate studies and specific information on the LLM (International and Comparative Business Law). If there is anything that you wish to know and that is not covered in this guide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If there is anything that you wish to know and that is not covered in this guide, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We wish you all the best in your studies for the forthcoming year.

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Csongor Istvan Nagy

Programme Director, LLM International
& Comparative Business Law



Prof. David Burn
President
University of Galway



Prof. Alma McCarthy
Executive Dean
College of Business,
Public Policy & Law



Prof. Martin Hogg
Dean
School of Law

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe | University of Galway

Your university, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe | University of Galway, was established in 1845 as Queen's College Galway. Today, University of Galway is one of Ireland's foremost centres of academic excellence. With over 18,000 students, it has a long-established reputation of teaching and research excellence. University of Galway is situated on a beautiful riverside campus right in the heart of Galway city and by now you will have witnessed for yourself the extent of the recent building and modernisation programme. Academically, University of Galway is structured around Colleges and Schools. As a Law student, you are a member of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law.

Scoil an Dlí | School of Law

Established in 1849, the School of Law at the University of Galway delivers innovative legal education in a dynamic school dedicated to impactful, high quality legal research.

With 800 undergraduate and postgraduate students and over 40 staff, the School emphasises student-focused, research-led teaching delivered in a supportive and intellectually challenging environment.

It hosts the internationally renowned Irish Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Disability Law & Policy; both centres with established reputations as world leaders in their fields. The School is passionate about research that meets the highest standards of scholarship, informs student learning and engages with current societal challenges, impacting public debate and informing government policy.





OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

COLLEGE OF ARTS,
SOCIAL SCIENCES &
CELTIC STUDIES

**COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS, PUBLIC
POLICY & LAW**

COLLEGE OF
MEDICINE, NURSING &
HEALTH SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF
SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING



J.E Cairnes' School
of Business &
Economics



School of Law



Shannon College
of Hotel
Management

*Irish Centre for
Human Rights*

*Centre for Disability
Law & Policy*

*Centre for Law,
Religion & Society*

Contents*

Click on links below for quick access to each section within this booklet



[*Programme Information*](#)



[*Getting Started*](#)

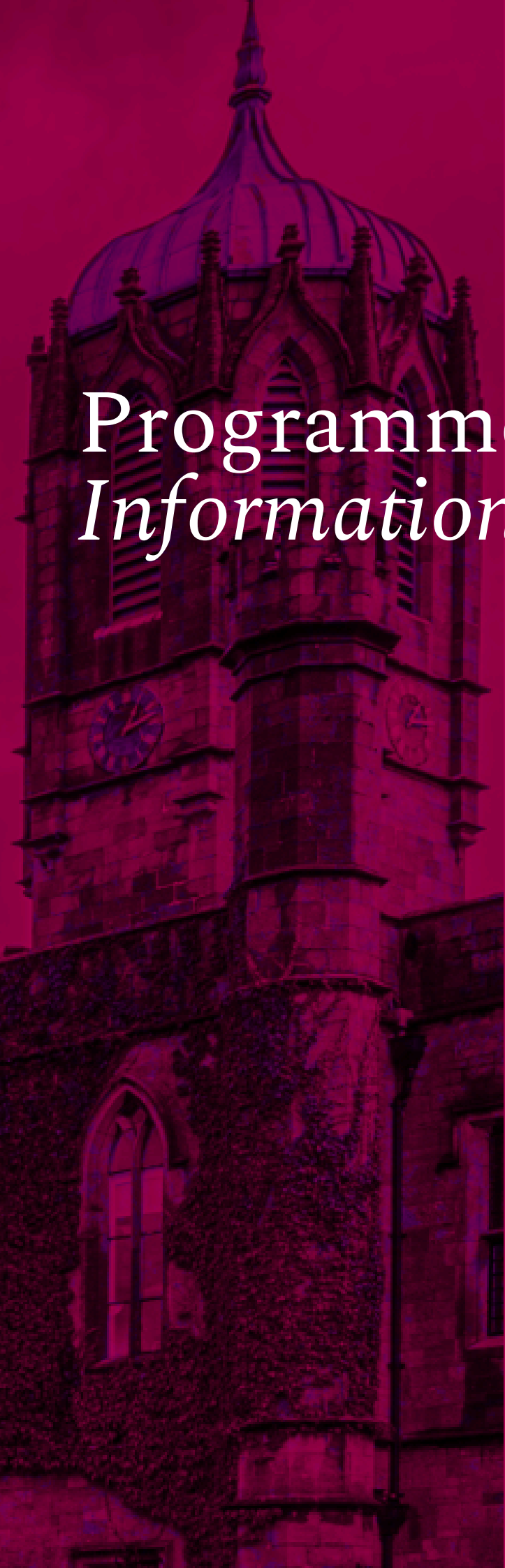


[*Academic Guidelines*](#)



[*Student Life & Supports*](#)

*Please note that the information contained in this document is subject to change.



Programme *Information*

- *Academic Staff & Key Contacts*
- *Programme Overview & Structure*
- *Modules*
- *Beyond the Seminar Room*

Academic Staff & Key Contacts



Programme Director

Prof. Csongor Istvan Nagy

 csongoristvan.nagy@universityofgalway.ie

Your programme director is your primary contact for general programme queries or concerns.

LLM Administrator

Michelle Lantry

 law@universityofgalway.ie

 michelle.lantry@universityofgalway.ie

 Rm 406, Tower 2, Floor 2, Arts Science Building

Supports: registration queries, thesis submission, student support queries, general queries

Keeping in Contact

Most direct communication with staff outside of the seminar room will take place by email. Please ensure that you are active in checking your University of Galway email account and notifications on Canvas, as this is how you will be contacted by the School.

Academic Queries

- Queries about the programme in general should be addressed to the programme director.
- Queries about individual modules should be addressed in the first instance to the lecturer concerned and if not sufficient to the programme director.

Personal Challenges

For personal challenges, such as physical or emotional health concerns, family issues, or any other personal matter, please reach out to Mary Cairns, our Student Support Officer. (see next page for contact details)

All other queries

If you are uncertain who to direct your query to, you can contact Michelle Lantry at michelle.lantry@universityofgalway.ie or the School Office at law@universityofgalway.ie

Student Support Officer

Mary Cairns



My name is Mary Cairns and I am the Student Support Officer for the School of Law. My role is to support students throughout their university journey, particularly at times when personal, wellbeing, or academic challenges may impact their experience or success. I provide a confidential, supportive, and non-judgmental space where students can discuss any concerns they may be facing.

Support may include guidance on study skills, exam preparation and accessing university supports and services. I also work with students who may be feeling overwhelmed, struggling to engage academically, or experiencing personal difficulties that are affecting their wellbeing or studies.

Students are encouraged to reach out for support as early as possible, before challenges begin to feel unmanageable or impact significantly on their wellbeing or academic progress. Seeking support early can often help you to explore options, access appropriate supports, and feel more confident in managing difficulties.

No issue is too big or too small, so please reach out at any stage for advice, support, or simply a conversation about the options available to you.

I work part-time Monday to Thursday and you can contact me via email at mary.t.cairns@universityofgalway.ie or feel free to book a chat with me [here](#)



<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/lawstudentsupport/>



[Rm 403 Floor 2, Tower 2, Arts Science Building.](#)



studentsupportlaw@universityofgalway.ie

mary.t.cairns@universityofgalway.ie

Programme Overview

The modules offered on this programme have a focus on the international and comparative aspects of business and law encompassing key areas including International Business Transactions and Taxation Law, Corporate Governance and EU Consumer Law and Policy. In addition, the programme offers modules on Legal Skills, thus providing students with key skills for a career in legal practice and valuable transferrable skills which will be of benefit to students for any role within the commercial sector. Armed with such knowledge and skills, graduates of the programme will have mastered the principles of commercial law and will be in a position to explore and contribute to current trends and debates in this important and growing field.

Course Structure

<i>LLM International & Comparative Business Law</i> 90 ECTs	Compulsory Module 10 ECTs <i>LW483 Advanced Legal Research & Methods</i>
	Optional Modules 50 ECTS
	Minor Thesis/ Dissertation OR Clinical Commercial Placement 30 ECTS

Full-Time Mode(1 Year - 1ML26)

Semester	Module	ECTs
Semester 1 <i>September – December</i>	LW483 Advanced Legal Research & Methods Compulsory	10
	Optional Modules	20
Semester 2 <i>January - April</i>	Optional Modules	30
Semester 3 <i>April – July / August</i>	LW450 Minor Thesis/ Dissertation OR LW5200 Clinical Commercial Placement	30

Part-Time Study (2 Years - 1ML27/2ML27)

Semester	Module	ECTs
Year 1 <i>September – April</i>	LW483 Advanced Legal Research & Methods Compulsory	10
	Optional Modules	20
Year 2 <i>September - August</i>	Optional Modules	30
	LW450 Minor Thesis/ Dissertation OR LW5200 Clinical Commercial Placement	30

ML26/27 Modules

COMPULSORY MODULES - 40 ECTS						
Subject Area	Status	Code	Module	Co-ordinator	Semester	Credit
	Core	LW450	Dissertation			30 ECTS
	<i>Available by Request *</i>	LW5232	Professional Legal Placement			30 ECTS
Legal Research	Core	LW483	Advanced Legal Research & Method	Larry Donnelly	1	10 ECTS
OPTIONAL MODULES - CHOOSE UP TO 50 ECTS						
Business, Commercial & Company Law	Optional	LW565	Comparative Corporate Governance	Peter O'Loughlin	1	10 ECTS
Business, Commercial & Company Law	Optional	LW5208	European Consumer Law and Policy	Geraint Howells	2	10 ECTS
Business, Commercial & Company Law	Optional	LW5210	Commercial Law in Context	Geraint Howells	2	10 ECTS
Business, Commercial & Company Law	Optional	LW5213	Law of International Business Transactions	Csongor Istvan Nagy	1	10 ECTS
Business, Commercial & Company Law	Optional	LW5218	Law and Economics of Corporate Transactions	Peter O'Loughlin	2	10 ECTS
Business, Commercial & Company Law	Optional	LW5227	International Tax Law and Policy	Maria O'Brien	1	10 ECTS
Business, Commercial & Company Law	Optional	LW5228	Private International Law	Csongor Istvan Nagy	2	10 ECTS
Accountancy & Finance	Optional	AY3103	Introduction for Financial Management	Sophie Sweeney	1	5 ECTS
Business Information Systems	Optional	MS5137	AI for Business	Lorraine Morgan/ Vamsi Vallurupalli	1	5 ECTS
Economics	Optional	EC5124	Economics and the Global Economy	TBC	2	10 ECTS

OTHER PROGRAMME MODULES - CHOOSE UP TO 10 ECTS*

Subject Area	Status	Code	Module	Co-ordinator	Semester	Credit
Technology & Digital Innovation	Optional	LW5220	The Future of Law	Rónán Kennedy	1	5 ECTS
Technology & Digital Innovation	Optional	LW5224	Digital Transformation & Access to Justice	Abigail Rekas	2	5 ECTS
Common Law	Optional	LW5231	Introduction to Common Law	Geraint Howells	1	10 ECTS
International Law	Optional	LW5225	International Environmental Law	Naporn Popattanachai	2	10 ECTS
Access to Justice	Optional	LW439	Advocacy, Activism and Public Interest Law	Donncha O'Connell	1	10 ECTS
Criminology & Criminal Justice	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5214	Imprisonment and Rights	Roisin Mulgrew	2	10 ECTS
Criminology & Criminal Justice	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5216	Policing, Security and Rights	Illan Wall	2	10 ECTS
Criminology & Criminal Justice	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5219	Minority Groups and the Criminal Justice System	Charles O'Mahony	1	10 ECTS
Criminology & Criminal Justice	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5226	Crimmigration	Ciara Smyth/Roisin Mulgrew	2	10 ECTS
Disability Law and Policy	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5101	International Disability Human Rights Clinic		1&2	10 ECTS
Disability Law and Policy	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW550	Advocacy and Access to Justice	Eilionóir Flynn	1	10 ECTS
Disability Law and Policy	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW551	Contemporary Challenges in Disability Law and Policy	Janos Fiala-Butora	2	10 ECTS
Disability Law and Policy	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW552	Foundational Theoretical Framework in Disability Law and Policy	Eilionóir Flynn	1	10 ECTS
Disability Law and Policy	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW553	Inclusive Education Law and Policy	Shivaun Quinlivan	2	10 ECTS
Disability Law and Policy	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW558	Legal Capacity Law and Policy	Janos Fiala-Butora	1	10 ECTS
Disability Law and Policy	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW561	Mental Health Law and Policy	Janos Fiala-Butora	2	10 ECTS
Disability Law and Policy	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW562	Regional Disability Law and Policy	Eilionóir Flynn	2	10 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW455	Minority Rights	Siobhán Mullally	2	5 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request *</i>	LW5103	Islam and Human Rights I	Roja Fazaeli	2	5 ECTS

OPTIONAL MODULES - CHOOSE UP TO 10 ECTS (contd.)*						
Subject Area	Status	Code	Module	Co-ordinator	Semester	Credit Weighting
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5105	Contemporary Issues in International Migration Law	Siobhán Mullally	1	10 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5107	International Child Rights	Siobhán Mullally	2	5 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5113	The Common European Asylum System	Ciara Smyth	2	5 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5114	International Refugee Law	Ciara Smyth	2	10 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5116	Gender and Human Rights	Ekaterina Yahyaoui	2	10 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5118	Public International Law	Ekaterina Yahyaoui	1	10 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5120	European Convention on Human Rights: Law and Politics	Edel Hughes	1	10 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5121	Transnational Lawyering	TSS	2	5 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5123	International Peace Operations	Mais Qandeel/Anita Ferrara	2	10 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5124	Climate Justice	TSS	2	5 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW525	Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights	Paul Bradfield	2	5 ECTS
Human Rights Law	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW530	Procedure Before International Criminal Courts	Paul Bradfield	2	5 ECTS
Technology & Digital Innovation	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5221	Design Thinking for Lawyers I	Abigail Rekas	1	5 ECTS
Technology & Digital Innovation	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5222	Design Thinking for Lawyers II	Abigail Rekas	2	5 ECTS
Technology & Digital Innovation	<i>Available by Request **</i>	LW5223	Computation and Law	Marianne Walsh Fryer	2	10 ECTS

*** If there is a module on one of our other masters programmes that you wish to take, this can be agreed with the programme director, provided the total number of credits taken are no more than 90 ECTS.**

****Not available to select via online registration portal. Please contact LLM administrator, Michelle Lantry, for support to register to this module**

New Modules for 2026/27

LW5208 European Consumer Law and Policy

Consumer law and policy is a significant and rapidly developing area of EU regulation. This module aims to provide a critical understanding of the development of EU Consumer policy including its legal basis in the EU treaties. It will explore the various theories of regulation that underlie EU legislative measures and will examine and discuss methods of regulation.

The module will then focus on specific areas of consumer protection regulation such as unfair terms, unfair commercial practices, and consumer rights in the digital environment.

The module will examine the activity of the European Community legislature, the case law of the European Court of Justice and the relationship between the European Community system and domestic legal regimes. The module will also examine the theory and practice of enforcement of consumer rights and consumer redress.

LW5210 Commercial Law in Context

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to the operation of commercial law in the real world. The module involves a number of interactive seminars delivered by leading commercial law practitioners. This module allows students to explore a range of topical and emerging issues in commercial legal practice from local, national, regional and international perspectives. The seminars delivered on the module will vary from year to year to allow students to engage with topical and important issues in commercial law.

LW5227 Private International Law

This module offers a comprehensive exploration of the legal challenges in civil cases with international elements. Students explore the intriguing aspects of international jurisdiction, including topics like extrajurisdiction and extraterritorial jurisdiction, choice-of-court agreements, parallel litigation, and forum shopping. Next, they tackle the complexities of applicable law, covering essential themes such as characterisation, public policy, and renvoi, along with specific choice-of-law rules. Finally, the students learn about the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgements, including the necessary preconditions, available defenses (like public policy), and procedural aspects. This module is perfect for students eager to understand the intricacies of international civil law and its practical applications.

LW5228 International Tax Law and Policy

International tax issues are of increasing significance globally, and the role of law in shaping the field of international taxation is central. In this module you will explore international law issues in the field of taxation and the implications for nation states and society. This will include critical engagement with principles of national and international dimensions of tax law, including the OECD and UN model treaties and the work of the global actors such as the European Union on tax. You will consider the impact of trends in tax law and policy across a number of selected jurisdictions. You will develop a conceptual and practical understanding of the rationale of different states and international institutions adopting different approaches to taxation and the international implications thereof. You will also explore a number of contemporary and topical issues in international and European tax law as part of this module.

Beyond the Seminar Room

From the outset, our aim is to provide students with a rounded and meaningful experience. That goes well beyond the classroom. Alongside our teaching, we place a strong emphasis on engagement with practice, research activity, and a range of extracurricular opportunities that allow students to explore the issues we study in a more applied and reflective way.

From guest lectures and field visits, to commercial legal placement and public events, students are encouraged to engage critically with international business law in all its complexity, while also developing their own interests and perspectives.

Engaging with Experts

Students have had the opportunity to engage with experts and leaders in their field including:

- Catherine Pierse, Director of Public Prosecutions
- Dr Daniel Szabo, Chief Counsel for Denmark and Norway at Hewlett Packard Enterprise
- Hon. Frank J. Bailey, United States Bankruptcy Judge (retired)
- Hon. Robert E. Gerber, United States Bankruptcy Judge (retired)

Planned speakers in the 2026/27 academic year include:

- Prof. Tibor Tajti, Professor of Law at Central European University
- Dr Virág Blazsek, Associate Professor of Law; Deputy Director, Centre for Business Law and Practice, University of Leeds
- Hon. Frank J. Bailey, United States Bankruptcy Judge (retired)
- Lena Goldberg, senior lecturer, Harvard Law School (retired)

Commercial Legal Placement

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to 'law in action'. Interested candidate applications are sent to the participating law firms. The law firms select the candidates they wish to interview and advise as to the candidate chosen for placement. It is the final decision of the firm on successful selection of students. Being selected for these placements will give students an opportunity to utilise their legal training in a suitable work environment for ten weeks over the summer months. Commercial clients need to balance costs, risk, practicality and a number of other factors on a daily basis in order to decide which legal solution is the best way to proceed. These placements provide students with an insight into how business clients engage in decision-making and to see the implications of law in practice. The module will open with an introductory seminar, in which students will be informed generically as to the nature and scope of their responsibilities, and close with an interactive seminar during which students will share their individual experiences. This reflection is very important in a student's development. Assessments will be predicated on a final reflection paper. Also, satisfactory written evaluations from host supervisors are a prerequisite to successfully completing the module.



Getting Started

- [2026/27 Academic Calendar](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [Timetable](#)
- [Key Locations](#)

Academic Term Dates

Academic Term Dates 2026-27

Important Dates

Academic Year 2026/2027 - Important Dates	
Semester 1	
Orientation / Start of teaching	Monday, 7th September 2026
End of teaching	Friday, 27th November 2026
Submission of Semester 1 Essays	Thursday, 17th December 2026
Release of Semester 1 Provisional Results	TBC - start of February 2027
Semester 2	
Start of teaching	Monday, 11th January 2027
End of Teaching	Friday, 2nd April 2027
Submission of Semester 2 Essays	Wednesday, 5th May 2027
Release of First Sitting Results	TBC - expected in mid-June 2027
Minor Thesis	
Submission of Minor Thesis Title	Friday, 19th February 2027
Submission of Minor Thesis	Friday 6th August 2027
Release of Overall Results	TBC - expected in late August/early September 2027

Registration

- Online registration opens on **18th August 2026**
- New students must first [activate their University of Galway campus account](#) in order to gain access to the registration portal.
- If you experience any difficulty in registering for your programme or modules, please contact Registration at registration@universityofgalway.ie or the LLM administrator, Michelle Lantry for support: michelle.lantry@universityofgalway.ie

Please note that in the interest of managing class sizes and venues for Semester 2, we advise that you register your modules for both semester 1 and 2 online at the start of the academic year in September. The choices should be as final as possible.

If you do need to change your choice of Semester 2 modules in January, you will need to request permission from the lecturer of the module you wish to transfer into, who will need to see if there is capacity for additional students. Further guidance will be provided later in Semester 1.

A list of modules offered in the current academic year will be available on the School of Law website.

Useful Links

- [Registration Information](#)
- [Registration Office Contact and Location](#)
- [Postgraduate Student ID Card Distribution](#)
- [International Offer Holders](#)
- [Registration FAQs](#)
- [Important Contacts in Registry](#)

Timetables

Timetables are available on the School of Law website: [Timetables - University of Galway](#).

Please ensure that you review your programme timetables for any changes in venues or scheduling. Updates are and will be noted in the timetables published on the School of Law website, so it is important to check regularly.

While we endeavour to ensure there are no timetabling clashes, it is important for students to ensure that it is possible to take their chosen modules and that they have registered for the required number of ECTS (a total number of 90 ECTS). Some modules may not run if there are not sufficient numbers of students as this would not allow for in-class discussion and critical engagement. Also, on occasions, module leaders may not be available if they are on sabbatical or other research leave.

Key Locations



The [interactive campus map](#) is a searchable map of the complete Galway Campus, complete with indoor maps, services, facilities, and points of interest.

Key locations

[School of Law and Centres](#)

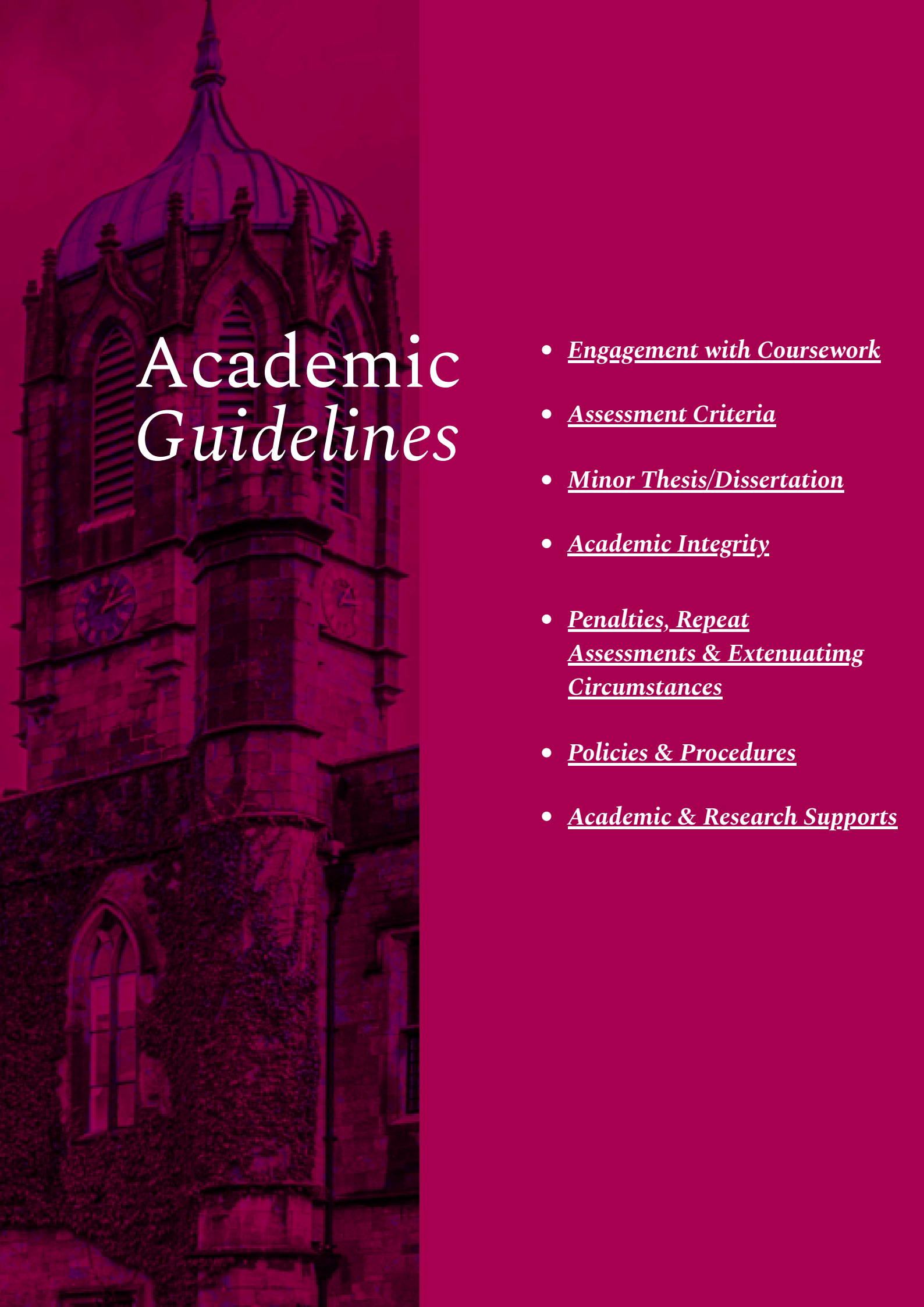
- School of Law Office, Rm 406, Tower 2, Arts Science Building (Concourse)
- School of Law Boardroom. TB410, Tower 2, Arts Science Building (Concourse)
- Irish Centre for Human Rights, Earls Ireland
- Centre for Disability Law and Policy, Institute for Lifecourse and Society (ILAS)
- Moot Court Room, CA107, Cairnes Building
- 9 Distillery Road (staff offices)

[Registry Offices - Áras Uí Cháthail](#)

- Registration Helpdesk
- Student Registry Helpdesk
- Fees Office

[Student Supports](#)

- Hardiman Library
- Students' Union
- Student Health Unit (Eircode: H91 R6T6)
- Áras na Mac Léinn



Academic *Guidelines*

- *Engagement with Coursework*
- *Assessment Criteria*
- *Minor Thesis/Dissertation*
- *Academic Integrity*
- *Penalties, Repeat Assessments & Extenuating Circumstances*
- *Policies & Procedures*
- *Academic & Research Supports*

Engagement with Coursework

The LLM International & Comparative Business Law is a taught postgraduate degree consisting of seminars given on a weekly or twice weekly basis. However, students should note that the formats of these seminars differ considerably from undergraduate courses. At undergraduate level students merely take notes from the lecture given.

At LLM level students will be given reading lists at the start of term and are expected to have familiarised themselves with the reading materials for each week in advance of the seminars. Details regarding core texts and learning materials will be published via Canvas, the university's virtual learning environment (VLE). Prior preparation is essential in order for students to get full personal benefit from the seminar. Seminars are conducted in an interactive/ participative/ discursive style between students and lecturers. Students must come to the seminars having read the materials assigned and must be prepared to participate in the discussion.

Enrolment on a full-time programme means a commitment to 40-50 hours of total student effort per week throughout all the weeks of each semester. The scheduled classes are only one component of the total effort that is required in order to succeed. Assessments and assigned coursework are designed on the basis that students are undertaking the full effort required and are not just based on material covered in scheduled class time alone.

Canvas

[Canvas](#) is the VLE in use at University of Galway. It is accessible 24/7 and allows registered students to download lecture notes, reading lists, assessment information and other course-related material.

Canvas is where all students are expected to submit their assignments throughout the year, including essays, presentations and Minor Thesis/Dissertation. Individual modules leaders will advise on the submission links and deadlines.

Students log in to Canvas using their [Campus Account credentials](#)

Links for help and support with Canvas are built-in to the VLE. University staff and students have access to online help and a 24/7 support helpline for any issue with the Canvas VLE (what is known as 'Tier 1' type queries). To access Canvas support, please click on the "Help" navigation button in the VLE.

Please also note the requirement to submit their Academic Integrity Training certification with all assignments – information on this can be found under the 'Academic Integrity' section. Questions related to a particular module on Canvas should be directed to the lecturer delivering the module.

- [Students - University of Galway](#)
- [F.A.Q. - University of Galway](#)
- <https://community.instructure.com/en/categories/canvas-lms>

Assessment Criteria

For most modules, assessment is based primarily on written submissions, or portfolios of completed work. Some lecturers may include a percentage given for class participation and presentations. The assessment guidelines for each module should be consulted, and any queries on assessment should be directed to the individual lecturer responsible for the module.

Note:

- All essays must be submitted via **Canvas**.
- You can download a receipt for submission.
- There is no need to email a copy to staff, unless instructed to do so.
- Check with Canvas help for questions concerning submission, and follow instructions provided by your lecturer. .

Criteria for Assessment of Essays

Marking Scale

Please also refer to rubrics in Canvas module pages for more assignment-specific marking.

Citation Style

If your lecturer has asked you to use a particular style, then you must use what they have requested. If the lecturer is not requesting a specific style, then make sure you use a recognised style and that you use it correctly and consistently.

The most commonly used style for citation of legal research is OSCOLA (Oxford University standard). The OSCOLA guide to citation is available at:

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/oscola>

OSCOLA Ireland is available at: <http://legalcitation.ie>

See also the guide available from the University of Galway Hardiman Library:

[OSCOLA Basic Guide for Law Students](#)

Please note the following

If the quote is verbatim (that is, lifted directly from the text), then **you must place the text inside quotation marks**. This tells the reader not just that you derived the information from another source but that the words you are providing are the author's and not your own summary. After each end quote, you must place a footnote.

If you have paraphrased a statement or argument from another author, you do not need to place this text within quotes (as it is not a direct quotation) but you still must provide a footnote to signal that the argument or data is not yours, but from another author.

Essay Layout

1. Your essay must be submitted in the name you registered in, i.e. the name of the student's ID card, which reflects the name on the student's birth certificate.
2. The first page should contain the following information, in the following order:
 - **Title of essay**
 - **Name of Candidate**
 - **Programme Title (e.g. LLM in Peace Operations, Humanitarian Law and Conflict)**
 - **Year and course (e.g. Minority Rights)**
 - **Name of Module instructor**
 - **Total word count of essay**
3. The table of contents shall immediately follow the title page.
4. An easily readable layout is recommended for the body text. More compact formats with smaller font sizes are usually appropriate for certain sections such as reference lists, bibliographies and some kinds of appendices. Diagrams, graphs, photographs and tables should be properly located in relation to the text.
5. The assignment should be accompanied by a bibliography of the works consulted in its composition. Please refer to the guidance given for each module by the instructor.
6. Word limits for all coursework will be set by the individual lecture and guidelines provided for module assessments must be strictly observed. Again, please follow the guidance given by your module instructor, and refer any questions to her/ him.
7. Declaration:

You must also include the following declaration with all coursework submitted.

I, [STUDENT NAME], do hereby declare that this work that is submitted for assessment is my own and that due credit has been given to all sources of information contained herein according to the rules that govern the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the School of Law. I acknowledge that I have read and understood the Academic Integrity Policy and the University of Galway Student Code of Conduct and that I am bound by them

Signature:----- Date: -----

Minor Thesis & Dissertation

In order to be eligible for the award of the LLM degree, a candidate must submit a minor thesis of not more than 15,000 words excluding footnotes and bibliography. Students are required to submit their minor thesis topic title by **Friday 19th February 2027** and the submission date for the thesis is **Friday 6th August 2027**.

Selection of Topics

Topics must be selected in conjunction with and approved by lecturers from any of the core courses or options or related areas. It is advisable to begin thinking about your topic of interest for your thesis as you progress through semester 1.

An information session will take place during orientation. The session will introduce students to the programme content. During this session, lecturers who will be teaching courses in Semesters 1 and 2 will present an introduction to their subjects. Not only will this provide students with an understanding of the themes of the LLM programme, it will also give you a good indication of the content of the Semester 2 courses to aid you in your choice of minor thesis topic.

An advisory session relating to minor theses will be scheduled for Semester 2. In previous years the advisory session involved presentations to students on selecting the topic of your minor thesis; how to write a minor thesis; how to identify your research questions, etc.

Selection of A Supervisor

When seeking a supervisor, students should first approach lecturers from any of the core courses or options or related areas by email.

Lecturers are only required to supervise a specified number of minor theses. The limit for each member of staff will be decided when the total numbers of students registered for the degree is confirmed. In the case of the LLM, the maximum for any member of the teaching staff will normally be five. **Students are advised to approach staff members with regard to supervision of their minor thesis in good time.**

Supervisors will advise candidates in relation to the submission of their minor thesis title, research questions and the final version of the minor thesis. Please bear in mind that lecturers have busy schedules, and that they supervise other LLM and PhD students, and undergraduate students. Staff also have University administration and research commitments. Do not be unreasonable in your expectations as to the time it takes them to review written proposals, bibliographies, and outlines. In addition, much of this work is done during the summer months, when lecturers may be taking their annual leave. It is prudent to bear all of this in mind and to discuss a schedule for writing, reviews and meetings with your supervisor as early as possible.

If, for some reason agreed with the programme director, your chosen supervisor is from outside the programme, a lecturer associated with the programme must be appointed as overall supervisor.

Relationship with Supervisor

Once your supervisor has agreed to oversee your minor thesis work and has approved the topic chosen there must be agreement on a schedule of meetings to suit both parties.

Please note the following:

- The onus is on the student to confirm the date of the next meeting at the end of each supervisory session. Neither you nor your supervisor should cancel scheduled meetings without good reason, and if a meeting is cancelled you should re-arrange the meeting as quickly as possible.
- Regular meetings with your supervisor are recommended in the second semester with a record kept of the time and date of each meeting.
- These meetings can take place on campus or online.
- Keeping a record of the meeting is to benefit both student and supervisors and to ensure that time spent at each meeting is productive and concentrated on a specific issue.
- It should be noted by students that the supervisor's role in the researching and writing process is confined to offering guidance and supervision - the student alone must take on the work of compiling the substantive research needed and of writing the minor thesis.

If contacting your supervisor outside of meetings:

- You should be able to contact your supervisor for advice and assistance at other reasonable times outside your planned schedule. You must ensure that you know your supervisor's work e-mail address in case you need to get in touch.
- ***The onus is on you to contact your supervisor quickly if you run into difficulty, without waiting for the next planned meeting.***
- Supervisors will normally be busy marking undergraduate examinations during the period from the middle of May until early July. Contact during that period may be maintained by email.
- Students should not expect supervisors to be readily available during summer months, as the School of Law members will have research commitments and responsibilities during the summer months.

Maintaining contact during periods of absence from the university:

- If your supervisor plans to be away from the university, they will let you know in advance. If necessary, a temporary replacement supervisor will be arranged.
- If you want to work away from the university (e.g., fieldwork, placement), you must obtain your supervisor's agreement and the School of Law's permission. You must maintain effective contact with your supervisor by either e-mail or online communication while you are working away, even if an external supervisor is appointed for you.
- If you are unexpectedly absent, report any unintended absence or sick leave to your supervisor as soon as possible. This is particularly important if you are in receipt of a studentship, as you must comply with your funding bodies' rules about absence, including absence due to sickness.

A good working relationship with your supervisor is essential. If you are dissatisfied or uneasy about any aspect of the relationship, discuss the matter with, in this order:

- your supervisor
- the relevant module co-ordinator
- the programme director

In extreme cases, where the relationship with your supervisor breaks down completely, it may be necessary to consider changing supervisors. Note, however, that a change of supervisor can be unsettling and disruptive and should be considered as a solution of last resort.

Note also that a change of supervisor is conditional upon the availability of suitable alternative supervisors within the School of Law. Any change must be agreed in advance with the programme director and then notified to Michelle Lantry (michelle.lantry@universityofgalway.ie) School of Law administration, for our records.

Supervisors will advise you right up to the time you and they feel confident that you are ready to go it alone. *While the supervisor may agree to read short sections for you in the early stages to ensure that your approach and writing style are appropriate, supervisors are **NOT** expected to read full or substantial drafts of the thesis in the later stages*

Note: Supervisors may be asked to report to the School of Law on the progress of a student. The School of Law will not accept an essay or minor thesis which a staff member has not had the opportunity to supervise adequately. The approval of the relevant staff member acting as supervisor is very important in this process.

Submission Requirements

Submission of minor thesis title: 5pm on Friday 19th February 2027.

Please email your thesis title to lawthesis@universityofgalway.ie. The purpose of this deadline is to ensure that you begin the process of identifying a minor thesis topic and give consideration to which member of staff you will ask to supervise your research over the summer period. Failure to submit a minor thesis title by the deadline may result in failure to obtain supervision from your preferred supervisor in your preferred area of research.

Final Minor Thesis: (100%); to be submitted by 5pm on Friday 6th August 2027.

Please email the final thesis to lawthesis@universityofgalway.ie and also upload a copy to LW450 Dissertation on CANVAS.

If you wish to submit your thesis electronically to the library this can be done via the Library website under 'About our Collections' & 'Theses'; however, this is optional.

<https://library.universityofgalway.ie/collections/theses/#>

Please note that your minor thesis supervisor has to approve your minor thesis to be made available online. You may be required to make changes to your thesis before it is accepted for submission online. Your supervisor will communicate any required changes to you.

Please note also that any student whose thesis has not been submitted by the University's final deadline will have to re-register and pay fees for a further year.

Minor Thesis Layout

1. A thesis must be submitted in the registered name, i.e., the name on the student's ID card, which reflects the name on the student's birth certificate. The thesis will not be accepted by the Examining Discipline unless the name on the thesis is exactly as registered. (i.e., shortened versions of names or names translated into other languages will not be accepted).
2. There must be a title page to include the following information:
 - The full title of the thesis and the subtitle, if any.
 - The total number of volumes, if more than one, and the number of the particular volume.
 - The full name of the author, followed, if desired, by any qualifications and distinctions.
 - The qualification for which the thesis is submitted (LLM (General)).
 - The name of the institution to which the thesis is submitted.
 - The College, school, discipline or organisation in which research was conducted.
 - The month of the year of Submission.
 - Name Head of the school/discipline.
 - Names of the Supervisor of the research.
3. The title should describe the content of the thesis accurately and concisely.
4. The table of contents shall immediately follow the title page
5. The work shall be accompanied by an abstract (a short summary of the contents) and a bibliography of the works consulted in its composition.
6. **All copies of works so presented shall remain the property of the University.**
7. The Senate has decided that work on which a Degree in the University, or elsewhere, has already been obtained should not be accepted as the main work for a subsequent Degree. It may, however, be accepted as supplementary work.
8. You must also include the following declaration with all coursework submitted:

I, [STUDENT NAME], do hereby declare that this work that is submitted for assessment is my own and that due credit has been given to all sources of information contained herein according to the rules that govern the Irish Centre for Human Rights and the School of Law. I acknowledge that I have read and understood the Academic Integrity Policy and the University of Galway Student Code of Conduct and that I am bound by them

Signature:----- Date: -----

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a fundamental value of any university community. As a principle, it assumes that all student interactions with the academic institution are entered into in the spirit of honesty. In particular, this value gives the student responsibility for ensuring that all assignments that they submit for academic purposes are their own work.

Breaches in academic integrity are sometimes called academic misconduct. This often involves the student submitting work that is not their own, in whole or part. Breaches of this kind include: plagiarism, unauthorised use of generative artificial intelligence, contract cheating, collusion, reuse of previously assessed work, cheating in examinations, and aiding other students' cheating. Understanding different types of academic misconduct is crucial for students and instructors, so they can recognise when the standards of academic integrity have not been upheld.

Preserving academic integrity is vitally important within an academic community: it influences the reputation of the university and perceptions of the graduate's learning and their academic qualifications.

University of Galway has an Academic Integrity Policy that sets out the code of practice for dealing with instances where students breach academic integrity by engaging in academic misconduct. Please carefully review the University policy and procedures to be followed.

The Academic Integrity adviser for the School of Law is Ms Anna-Louise Hinds. If you have any queries about the University of Galway Research Ethics and Academic Integrity guidelines you should contact Ms Hinds for advice.

Compulsory Academic Integrity Training

Academic Integrity Training is compulsory for all students in the School of Law. You can complete this compulsory 'Academic Integrity: For Students, Second Edition' course on the Epigeum training website. Please follow these steps:

- Self-enrol in the 'Academic Integrity: For Students' Canvas course.
- Find the Epigeum token and all the instructions there
- Register on Epigeum with the token
- Complete all four parts of the compulsory 'Academic Integrity: For Students, Second Edition' training (approximately 2 hours in total to complete)
- Download the electronic master / overall 'programme certificate' from their website
- Save this for future use (you will be asked to submit it with all Law School assignments in the future)

Please note that you must complete all four parts of the training before you obtain the master certificate, and it is only the master certificate that will be accepted with assignments submitted to the Law School.

Further details

- [Academic Integrity Policies](#)

Penalties, Repeat Assessments & Extenuating Circumstances

Penalties for Late Submission of Essays and/or Minor Thesis

- **Up to and including 7 days late:** Where course work, essay(s) or the minor thesis are submitted up to and including 7 days late, 5% will be automatically deducted from the mark achieved.
- **Up to and including 14 days late:** Where work is submitted up to and including 14 days late, 10% will be automatically deducted from the mark achieved.
- **More than 14 Days Late:** Work submitted more than 14 days late will not be accepted.
- **Penalty Calculation:** The percentages are specified by reference to the total marks available. For example, if a student submitted work worth 60% five days late, he or she would only be credited with 55%.

Repeat Examinations, Assessments and Examination Appeals

If a fail mark is awarded for a module in Semester 1 or Semester 2, students will be required to resubmit during the second sitting. Second sitting results will be capped at 40%, they will also be liable for a repeat fee of approximately €295. Capping and payment of a repeat fee does not apply, where a deferral to the second sitting has been approved.

The deadline of submission of second sitting assessment will be communicated to you by your module leader and/or the School Office.

The Autumn Sitting is the final opportunity in which to pass the academic year. If a student does not submit and pass repeat assessments or fails to submit their minor thesis within the approved deadline, a fail or zero mark may be returned. Where this occurs, a student will be required to repeat the academic year in order to complete their programme and will be liable to pay the repeat year fees, as a result.

If a student receives a failing mark in a module and is required to complete a second sitting, the onus is on the student to contact the relevant module leader(s) to clarify the repeat assessment process.

If a student wishes to appeal an awarded mark, they must do within a certain timeframe following results. For details on examination appeals please see: **Appeals**

Extenuating Circumstances

In cases of "serious, unavoidable, unpredictable, and exceptional circumstances outside your control" that may negatively impact your performance in assessments, students may request additional support in the form of an extension or deferral of assessment, where appropriate. Such circumstances may include:

- Involvement in an accident or a serious incident.
- Suffering from an acute illness, injury, or trauma.
- A deterioration in an ongoing medical or health condition, or an adverse change in a fluctuating condition.
- Experiencing a life-threatening illness or the death of a person with whom you have a close relationship.
- Dealing with significant adverse personal or family circumstances.
- Facing a serious or abrupt upheaval, such as a house fire, burglary, or eviction; or upheaval related to geopolitical changes during periods of study abroad or international study trips.
- Becoming a victim of a crime or experiencing threatening behaviour.
- Other significant and relevant exceptional factors that have evidence of impairing your academic performance.

In such cases, where the value of any coursework affected amounts to 20% or more of your final module mark, please contact Mary Cairns as soon as possible. Mary will provide guidance; in some cases, this will involve applying to the College of Business Public Policy and Law for assistance under the Extenuating Circumstances Committee Policy.

For further information, you can refer to the [Extenuating Circumstances Policy](#).

If you are having trouble meeting an assignment deadline, it is important to contact your module leader(s) and/or the School Support Officer as early as possible in advance of the deadline. The School cannot guarantee that retrospective supports can be applied where difficulties are first communicated very close to or after deadlines have passed.

Procedures & Policies

Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Examinations Boards

In accordance with the Postgraduate Marks and Standards, there are two PGT Examination Boards.

First sitting

The PGT Summer Exam Board will consider results for Semesters 1 and 2. It's important to note that compensation cannot be applied at the first sitting. If a module mark is not returned for a student, the result will be recorded as zero (fail), and their second sitting result will be capped at 40%, (Students can carry forward the mark of any component of their assessment that was passed eg a mark awarded for class participation or presentation) they will also be liable for a repeat fee of approximately €295. Please contact the fees office for exact amount. In the case of deferrals, capping and fees do not apply.

Second sitting

The PGT Autumn Exam Board will consider repeat and deferred module results along with dissertation results. Overall awards will be considered, and compensation can be applied at this board. If all results for a student have not been returned and considered by the PGT Autumn Board, it will be necessary for the student to repeat the year, incurring repeat fees for the year.

Student Policies

- [QA236 Postgraduate Marks and Standards](#)
- [QA220 - Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [QA220 Appendix 1 - Outcomes for Student Breach of Academic Integrity](#)
- [QA209 - Extenuating Circumstances](#)
- [QA234 - Deferral of Exams: A Guide for Students](#)
- [QA235 Appeal of examination results](#)
- [QA288 - Recommended US Letter Grade & Point Equivalencies](#)

Academic & Research Supports

James Hardiman Library

Effective use of the library is a crucially important part of legal education. Students should take advantage of every opportunity to familiarise themselves with the library and the services it offers.

A dedicated Law Library Guide is available to all Law students to assist with your research:

[Law Library Guide](#)

The dedicated databases for legal research available from the library can be found through the following links:

- [Finding Databases](#)
- [Law Databases](#)
- [Legislation](#)
- [Relevant databases](#)

Online Sources

Useful online databases include : [IRLII](#) (Irish Law), [BAILLI](#) (British and Irish law), [EUROPA](#) (European law), [FindLaw](#) (North American law)

Academic Writing Centre

The Academic Writing Centre is located in the Library, and provides workshops and support services to students at all levels. We would strongly encourage you to engage with their services, particularly if you have been away from formal education for some time. Many of our postgraduate students have benefited greatly from the guidance and training provided.

Further information at: <https://library.universityofgalway.ie/studying/awc/>

Research Development Centre

The RDC is an initiative of the offices of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies to support the continuing professional development of all our researchers, from Postgraduate to Senior Fellows, at University of Galway. Full information on the resources available can be found at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/rdc/>

The training opportunities provided by the RDC will be of particular interest to those of you planning to undertake a further research degree (LLM Research or PhD), or preparing for a career in research.

School of Law Research Seminar Series

The School of Law organises Research Seminars throughout the Academic year. See the Law School website for details of past and future Seminars. LLM students are encouraged to attend and participate.

Student Life & Supports

- [Extracurricular Activities](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Student Support Services](#)
- [Health & Wellbeing](#)
- [Societies & Clubs](#)



Extracurricular Events and Activities

The School of Law and the Centres within maintain a busy calendar of activities and events throughout the year that students are encouraged to attend and participate in.

From visits by distinguished guests, research seminars and workshops to hosting national and international conferences, there are always opportunities for students to get involved and be active in the legal space beyond the classroom.

To keep up with the available opportunities, please ensure that you are active in checking your University of Galway inbox and follow the School's [News](#) page and the School's social media channels:



University of Galway Law Society

Established in 1920, the Galway Law Society, now in its 106th year, stands as one of the most prominent academic and social societies at the University. Our mission revolves around supporting students in cultivating a diverse set of legal, clinical, and social proficiencies through tailored events in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

Their array of offerings includes guest speakers, mooting clinics, volunteer opportunities, workshops, and domestic and international trips. Members are equipped with a competitive edge as they embark on their career paths. Whether you're aiming to be a solicitor, barrister, or considering alternative avenues following a Law degree, LawSoc are dedicated to guiding you and forging connections with firms, organisations, and institutions.

<https://socs.universityofgalway.ie/societies/lawsoc>

University of Galway Law Review

The newly-reprised University of Galway Law Review is a student-led legal publication, created in collaboration with the University of Galway School of Law.

Our prestigious annual journal is reviewed by highly respected experts and attracts submissions from outstanding talent across various fields. The quality of our contributors, coupled with the rigorous editorial and review process, distinguishes the legal journal from its peers and is an insightful read for students, practitioners and academics alike.

[University of Law Review](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should I contact if.....

.....I have a registration query?

If you have a registration query during the open registration period at the start of each semester, please contact Registration in the first instance: registration@universityofgalway.ie. Outside of these periods, it is best to contact the School Office: law@universityofgalway.ie

....I have a query about fees?

All queries regarding fee payment should be directed to the Fees Office: fees@universityofgalway.ie. Details on fee payment processes and deadlines are available [here](#).

...I am experiencing issues accessing my campus account, Canvas or Microsoft 365 services?

The Information Solutions and Services (ISS) unit is the primary contact for any issues regarding your University of Galway Campus Account and related applications.

If you have any issue, you can contact the Library & IT Service desk for assistance.

For advice and support, contact the ISS Service Desk on 091 495777 or the Library & I.T. Service Desk on 091 495399 or online via [Services for Students](#)

...I am an International Student and require support and information?

[Global Galway](#) is the university's international office and can support those of you seeking information relating to fees, maps, immigration and fees information.

...I require a letter confirming registration or attendance?

The [Student Registry Helpdesk](#) provide registration statements on request. Please contact askregistry@universityofgalway.ie in the first instance.

If you require a letter confirming specific details, such as attendance, programme end dates or provisional results, please contact LLM administrator, Michelle Lantry, at michelle.lantry@universityofgalway.ie

...I need to update my name or address details on my Campus Account?

The [Student Registry Helpdesk](#) provide instructions on the process for updating your personal details on your Campus Account [here](#).

...if I don't know who to contact about my query?

The [Student Registry Helpdesk](#) provide instructions on the process for updating your personal details on your Campus Account [here](#).

Student Support Services

Student Services can help you make the most of your university experience. Our team of dedicated and experienced staff are here to support your wellbeing and development in every aspect of your academic, personal and professional life.

Please check our Student Services [Support Wheel](#) for guidance.

[Student Enquiry Centre](#)
sec@universityofgalway.ie,

Supports available:

- [Accommodation Advice](#)
- [Financial Supports](#)
- [Academic Support](#)
- [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [Chaplaincy](#)

Students' Union

The Students' Union provides a range of services aimed at assisting you throughout your journey in the University of Galway. Your Students' Union is located upstairs in Áras na Mac Léinn (beside Sult).



<https://su.universityofgalway.ie/>



Áras na Mac Léinn

- [Your SU Services](#)
- [Advices Resources](#)

Careers' Development Centre

We aim to provide students of the University with a quality career guidance and information service focused on facilitating and empowering you to manage your own career development and make effective career transitions.

- [Career Development Centre](#)
- [Careers Connect](#) - register for Careers' events and training

Health & Wellbeing

Student Health Unit

The Student Health Unit provides on-campus medical care to full-time registered students in a confidential, professional and courteous manner.

The Student Health Unit will operate on a strict 'BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT ONLY' basis, to ensure we can provide a clinically safe and efficient service, and with optimal infection prevention and control measures can be maintained at all times. Students must be registered for the current academic year in order to avail of this service.

Student Counselling Services

The Student Health Unit provides on-campus medical care to full-time registered students in a confidential, professional and courteous manner.

Seeking counselling is completely normal and encouraged - it's a sign of strength and resourcefulness, not weakness. Each year, we support around 10% of the student population, and we're here to help with any issue, large or small.

Other supports available:

- [Wellbeing Advice](#)
- [Sexual Health](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Uncertain about University?](#)

Societies & Clubs

There are over 60 societies and clubs at University of Galway for students to join and welcome new students throughout the year. An open day for societies & clubs is held each year in September. Students are welcome to sign up and explore all the options available.

Links:

- [Societies](#)
- [Sports and Recreation](#)
- [The Arts on Campus](#)
- [Student Media](#)



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ofGalway.ie