



**OPEN UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS**  
Taught Postgraduate Programme specification  
Full-Time

**Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)**

1. PROGRAMME INFORMATION	
<b>Title of the final award</b>	<b>Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)</b>
<b>Code</b>	OUpd002
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Open University of Mauritius
<b>Disciplinary Division</b>	Law
<b>Programme Duration</b>	Minimum 1 year   Maximum 2 years
<b>Mode of Delivery</b>	Face to face/Online sessions
<b>Frequency of contact hours</b>	Face to face/Online sessions on a weekly basis (Normally Saturday and One Weekday after office hours).
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>120 credits</b>
<b>MQA NQF level</b>	Level 9
<b>EHEA level</b>	Level 7
<b>External Accreditors</b>	TBC
<b>Collaborative Partners</b>	N/A
<b>Programme approval date</b>	TBC
<b>Last revision</b>	Not applicable
<b>Last update</b>	October 2021

## 2. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

<b>General:</b>	<p>General Entry Requirements under Direct Entry to Taught Postgraduate Programmes:</p> <p><b>A person will be admitted as a student for a Postgraduate Programme if he/she</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) holds a law degree from a recognised institution and has obtained a result, not below second-class second-division</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>b) holds an undergraduate degree in any field from a recognised institution and has obtained a result, not below second-class first-division</li></ul>
<b>Programme specific:</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Credit in English at Ordinary Level (O-Level)</b></p>

<b>3. PROGRAMME OVERVIEW</b>	
<b>Aim and objectives of the programme:</b>	<p>The <b>Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)</b> is a 1-year programme that will give learners with or without a prior legal background an opportunity to pursue a career in law by enhancing their ongoing skills and knowledge within the various areas of law.</p> <p>Offered on a full-time basis at the Open University of Mauritius, the GDL course will ensure that learners achieve a sound understanding of English law covered in the seven foundation subjects. Thus, providing the foundation stone of the structure and operation of the English legal system. Learners will also be given the opportunity to showcase their legal skills by submitting an Independent Legal Research by the end of the GDL.</p> <p>After completing this programme, learners will have deeper exposure to contract law, tort law, EU law and evaluate business-related legal situations, deal effectively with legal problems faced by business, conduct research and provide recommendations on the improvement of the business environment.</p> <p>Finally, the GDL will help students to acquire a foundation knowledge and might help them to pursue the Bar Professional Course.</p>
<b>Intended Learning outcomes: After completing this programme students will be able to:</b>	
<b>Knowledge and understanding</b>	<p><b>K1:</b> Demonstrate an advanced understanding of aspects of law</p> <p><b>K2:</b> Explore and study legal theory, philosophy and history for professional outcomes;</p> <p><b>K3:</b> Undertake independent enquiry, applying qualitative and quantitative data to enhance their academic and professional capacities by contributing to the wider, global and national community;</p> <p><b>K4:</b> Articulating pertinent evaluation of complex legal, economic and political issues surrounding an organisation;</p> <p><b>K5:</b> Assess the application of the legal system applicable in Wales and England and evaluate its relationship with the EU.</p>
<b>Cognitive Skills</b>	<p><b>C1:</b> Analyse and apply legal reasoning in various business context issues;</p> <p><b>C2:</b> Mind mapping rules and policies to devise critical solutions;</p> <p><b>C3:</b> Evaluate and critically analyse primary and secondary data;</p> <p><b>C4:</b> Assess the reliability and effectiveness of national, regional and international enforcement agencies;</p> <p><b>C5:</b> Argue the application of legal principles and policies and make critical judgements by engaging in critical evaluation and reflection;</p> <p><b>C6:</b> Evaluate and critically analyse governance strategies and adapt to a wide range of real-life problems.</p>

<p><b>Practical/ Professional Skills</b></p>	<p><b>P1:</b> Apply legal knowledge to conduct effective legal research and produce a synthesis using established and innovative legal principles;  <b>P2:</b> Demonstrate an ability to apply concepts, principles and policies and make critical judgements;  <b>P3:</b> Demonstrate a critical approach to research and enquiry leading to reasoned choices.</p>
<p><b>Transferable Skills</b></p>	<p><b>T1:</b> Effectively communicate ideas and arguments in writing and orally;  <b>T2:</b> Collaborate with others and contribute effectively to branch out into different areas of legal theory and practice;  <b>T3:</b> Work independently demonstrating initiative and self-management preparing yourself for professional practice;  <b>T4:</b> Adapting different technological tools for learning and teaching.</p>

**4. PROFESSIONAL, STATUTORY AND REGULATORY BODIES  
(where applicable)**

TBC

**5. LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY**

**Learning and teaching methods**

Learners will be provided with opportunities to engage in a diverse range of learning environments to maximise their learning. For this programme, students will interact with their tutor and their fellow students mostly through the e-platform.

**The e-platform will use the following tools:**

- **Online activities:** For every unit covered in each module students will be given opportunities to complete interactive learning activities including discussion forums, quizzes, webinars and problem-solving activities. Students will be encouraged to work independently but also to engage in collaborative work.
- **Independent study:** Independent study forms an essential part of the development of your knowledge and understanding. We will guide you, via the e-platform, on the reading and reflection of primary and secondary texts. Students should use this independent study time to link knowledge with e-class and face-to-face activities and develop their understanding and critical perspective on the topics they are studying.

**We also offer optional face-to-face sessions.**

The face-to-face sessions are an opportunity to untangle complex concepts and provide students with an opportunity to apply the knowledge acquired in the preceding weeks.

During the **face-to-face sessions**, students can be expected to:

- Extensively use IT tools;
- Engage in problem-solving activities;
- Engage with reading material to engage in class discussions;
- Review core/complex concepts through applied work.

### **Independent Legal Research supervision:**

Learners will have to undertake an Independent Legal Research, supervised by one of our tutors with expertise in the area of the project topic. Learners will have the opportunity to meet with the supervisor to explore the topic, receive guidance on the conception and development and receive feedback on the work as it progresses.

### **Overall Workload**

The overall workload for the learner will consist of independent learning, e-learning activities and if you choose to, face-to-face sessions. The following gives you an indication of how much time you will need to spend on the different components of your programme at each level. Each ECTS credit taken equates to 25-30 hours of study time.

The expected study time for this programme will be as follow:

**Year 1 Semester 1: 1,500 hours for 60 ECTS credits.**

**Year 1 Semester 2: 1,500 hours for 60 ECTS credits.**

Typically, for each year of your study, you will spend 0-10% of your time in face-to-face sessions, 30-40% of your time engaging with e-learning activities and 60% of your time in independent study time.

A typical study week for a student will involve some optional face to face sessions, required engagement in an online discussion forum, the completion of online activities and independent study time to review attached readings, textbooks and relevant sections of the module documentation. Students should expect to devote 8 to 12 hours of study time per week per module.

These are indicative and may vary from student to student.

## **6. ASSESSMENT STRATEGY**

### **Assessment Methods**

A range of formative and summative assessment exercises are designed to enable the demonstration and application of knowledge and understanding.

Some modules will consist of a Tutor-Marked Assessment component and an examination. TMAs include:

- Tests/presentation
- Online activities
- Exercises and problems set
- Coursework
- Exams

### **Academic Feedback**

Throughout your studies, tutors will provide informal feedback on your coursework, online activities and class contributions. Feedback may be individual or provided to the class as a whole.

Each summative assessment will be accompanied by detailed marking criteria and a marking scheme detailing the expectation of the assessment at each grade classification level.

Feedback on assessment will be provided along with the marking criteria. Marking criteria will be made available to the student at the same time as the coursework/assessment details.

Students will receive written individual feedback on all TMA components.

The university policy on assessment feedback and guidance on provisional marks can be found in General Rules.

#### **Late submission, Extension and Re-sit Policy**

The university policy on late submission, Extension and re-sits can be found in the General Rules.

#### **Special Circumstances**

The university policy on special circumstances can be found in the General Rules.

#### **Continuous assessment and Exam Regulations**

The university regulations on continuous assessment and examination can be found in the General Rules.

### **7. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

As a safeguard to the quality and standard of Open University's qualifications and awards, the university takes any incidence of academic misconduct seriously and will investigate any reported case.

Academic Misconduct refers to any activity where a student, through unpermitted means, seeks to gain an advantage in the completion of an assessment. Any unpermitted action will be considered as academic misconduct when occurring during a formal examination, a TMA, or any other form of assessment considered by the Board of Examiners and undertaken in pursuit of a University qualification or award.

**Plagiarism** (*using, intentionally or unintentionally another person work and presenting it as own*) will be systematically checked through plagiarism detection software.

**Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported and investigated. Academic misconduct offences may lead to suspension or expulsion from the University.**

**The university regulations on Academic Misconduct can be found in the General Rules.**

<b>8. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE</b>	
<b>C</b>	Core i.e., modules that must be taken to be eligible for the award
<b>S1</b>	Semester 1
<b>S2</b>	Semester 2

<b>Year 1 Semester 1– Level 9 (NQ-MQA)</b>				
<b>1st Cycle Advanced (NQ-EHEA)</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
OUpd002111	Constitutional and Administrative Law	C	S1	15
OUpd002112	Contract Law	C	S1	15
OUpd002113	European Union Law	C	S1	15
OUpd002114	Law of Tort	C	S1	15
<b>Credit Total</b>				<b>60</b>

<b>Year 1 Semester 2 – Level 9 (NQ-MQA)</b>				
<b>2nd Cycle Advanced (NQ-EHEA)</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
OUpd002121	Criminal Law	C	S2	15
OUpd002122	Land Law	C	S2	15
OUpd002123	Law of Equity and Trusts	C	S2	15
OUpd002124	Independent Legal Research	C	S2	15
<b>Credit Total</b>				<b>60</b>

<b>Overall Programme Credit Total</b>				<b>120</b>
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## 9. GRADING

### Grading system:

Assessments are graded in percentage and correspond to a letter grade and a grade point.

To pass a module, Students need an **overall 40% weighted average** of their:

a) **combined continuous assessment (TMA) and examination.**

Or

b) **combined course works and presentations.**

Marks (x) %	Description	Letter Grade	Grade point
$X \geq 70$	Excellent	A	5
$60 \leq X < 70$	Very Good	B	4
$50 \leq X < 60$	Good	C	3
$40 \leq X < 50$	Satisfactory	D	2
$X < 40$	Ungraded	U	0
Non-graded/Pending	See section 17.1.1 in assessment rules and regulation for pending grades letter codes		

Students will normally not be allowed to postpone more than one module for the following semester.

If a student obtains a grade "U" in three or more modules in the same semesters, and the CPA is below 40 for that semester, the student will be requested to repeat the semester unless decided otherwise by the Academic Council upon the recommendation of the Board of Examiners. When repeating a semester, a student may or may not take the modules for which Grade C or above have been obtained.

If after completing a level the student's CPA < 40, the student will have to repeat the entire academic year and retake the modules as and when offered. However, s/he will not be required, if s/he wishes, to retake 3 module(s) for which Grade C or above has been obtained.

Students will not be allowed to repeat more than two semesters during the entire duration of the programme.

University general marking criteria for undergraduate exams and undergraduate dissertations can be found in the General Rules.

## Cumulative Point Average (CPA)

Total CPA for Undergraduate degrees is calculated by:

- a) multiplying the module credit by the % marks for the module and then summed up and divided by the total credits attempted over the cumulative period at each level (1 semester or 1 year).  
AND
- b) Taking the weighted average of the obtained CPAs at each level. The respective weights being set as follow: the CPA of level 5 modules (year 1) will be weighted at 15% (0.15), the CPA of level 6 modules (year 2) will be weighted at 35% (0.35) and the CPA of level 7/8 modules (year 3 and/or 4) will be weighted at 50% (0.5).

**Example calculation of the CPA at level 9 for taught postgraduate programmes:**

Course Level 9	% Scores	ECTS Credit unit	Module Credit x % Score
OUpd002111	64	15	64*15 = 960
OUpd002112	71	15	71*15 = 1065
OUpd002113	44	15	44*15 = 660
OUpd002114	59	15	59* 15 = 885
OUpd002121	57	15	57*15 = 855
OUpd002122	49	15	49*15 = 735
OUpd002123	62	15	62*15 = 930
OUpd002124	51	15	51*15 = 765
<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>6855</b>
<b>CPA: 6855/120 = 57.13</b>			

## 10. PROGRESSION, EXIT POINTS AND AWARD

### Classification of Awards

For the award of the Master's Degree, all modules of the programme must be completed.

The postgraduate certificate or diploma are awarded as possible exit points in the programme as indicated in the table below:

Award	Title	Level NQ-MQA	Total required Credits	Classification
Graduate Diploma	in Law	9	120	<b>Distinction: CPA ≥ 70</b> <b>Merit: 60 ≤ CPA &lt; 70</b> <b>Pass: 40 ≤ CPA &lt; 60</b> <b>No Award: CPA &lt; 40</b>
Graduate Certificate	in Law	9	60	

## 11. STUDENT SUPPORT

Support available through [studentsupport@open.ac.mu](mailto:studentsupport@open.ac.mu)

## 12. HAVE YOUR SAY

Open University values student feedback and students will be given opportunities to have their say on their learning experience in the following way:

- Student programme and module evaluation surveys;
- Acting as a student representative and participate in a range of committees such as the staff-student consultative committee;
- Participate in programme validation processes.

The University will respond to student feedback through the following channels:

- Response and action taken following the module evaluation survey will be posted on the e-platform;
- Action from minutes will be monitored by the chair of the relevant committees;
- An annual programme monitoring process will take into account student feedback;
- Programme review process (every five years).

## 13. Module Outlines and Assessment Structure

Year 1 / Semester 1			
<b>1   Constitutional and Administrative Law- OUpd002111</b>			
<b>Aims</b>	This module aims at analysing the concepts and principles of public law and develop an understanding of its application in England.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the key components of sovereignty and the application of the separation of powers.</li> <li>• Develop critical appraisal of the legal relationship between citizens and the state.</li> <li>• Critically analyse the concept of accountability regarding judicial review.</li> <li>• Apply appropriate legal reasoning to develop critical assessment and problem-solving aptitudes.</li> </ul>		
<b>Assessment Structure</b>	<b>10 % Online Activities</b>	<b>40% Coursework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem-based assignment – 20%</li> <li>• Class test– 20%</li> </ul>	<b>50% Exams</b>
<b>2   Contract Law - OUpd002112</b>			
<b>Aims</b>	This module will enable students to develop an understanding of the legal rules applicable to the law of contract. Students will be able to describe and analyse principles pertaining to the formation of the contract, the discharge or responsibilities and breach of contract among others.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an understanding of the basic conception of a contract.</li> <li>• Analyse the principles of a valid contract.</li> <li>• Evaluate and critically analyse legal rules applicable to contracts and available remedies.</li> <li>• Apply reasoning to develop critical and problem-solving skills.</li> </ul>		
<b>Assessment Structure</b>	<b>10 % Online Activities</b>	<b>40% Coursework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem-based assignment – 20%</li> <li>• Class test– 20%</li> </ul>	<b>50% Exams</b>

<b>3 European Union Law - OUpd002113</b>			
<b>Aims</b>	This module will develop the student's understanding of the European Union (EU) by analysing the sources of the EU law and EU institutions. This module will also evaluate the relationship between the EU and domestic law.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an understanding of the sources of EU law and the function of EU institutions.</li> <li>• Assess the impact of EU law on the Member States.</li> <li>• Demonstrate knowledge of the European Union and its legal order.</li> <li>• Discuss the application of EU laws and evaluate their impact on domestic law.</li> </ul>		
<b>Assessment Structure</b>	<b>10 % Online Activities</b>	<b>40% Coursework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem-based assignment – 20%</li> <li>• Class test– 20%</li> </ul>	<b>50% Exams</b>
<b>4 Law of Tort - OUpd002114</b>			
<b>Aims</b>	This module examines tortious liability in several different circumstances. This module is aimed at developing an understanding of the application of tort law to complex problems using appropriate techniques. Tortious liability, as well as trespass to the person, nuisance, trespass to land, trespass to goods, and defamation, will also be analysed.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an understanding of the principles of Tort law.</li> <li>• Apply legal reasoning to solve the complex situation.</li> <li>• Use acquired legal skills to provide realistic argumentation.</li> <li>• Analyse the impact of Tort to evaluate the application of remedies and defences.</li> </ul>		
<b>Assessment Structure</b>	<b>10 % Online Activities</b>	<b>40% Coursework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem-based assignment – 20%</li> <li>• Class test– 20%</li> </ul>	<b>50% Exams</b>

Year 1 / Semester 2			
<b>1   Criminal Law - OUpd002121</b>			
<b>Aims</b>	In this module, students will be introduced to theories and principles of criminal law through the analysis of offences and defences. This module will also develop the student's ability to analyse and evaluate problems in Criminal law from a reflective and independent perspective.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and understand the criminal offences under English criminal Law</li> <li>• State and analyse the substantive elements of major offences.</li> <li>• Demonstrate an understanding of the different methods used in analysing and arguing about criminal law.</li> <li>• Evaluate doctrine of criminal law in its social, economic, political and moral context.</li> </ul>		
<b>Assessment Structure</b>	<b>10 % Online Activities</b>	<b>40% Coursework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem-based assignment – 20%</li> <li>• Class test– 20%</li> </ul>	<b>50% Exams</b>
<b>2   Land Law - OUpd002122</b>			
<b>Aims</b>	This module aims at assessing the relationship between the land and the rights which can exist in or over it, the relationship between the various persons who own an estate or interest over the land or want to defeat the competing interests in or over the land.		
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the foundations of the concepts of Land law.</li> <li>• Develop and understand the relative priorities enjoyed by two or more interests concerning the same piece of land.</li> <li>• Assess rules and formalities as to how the owner of an interest in land can acquire, transfer or extinguish that interest in land.</li> <li>• Analyse how interest is recognised and how these interests must be protected to ensure enforceability against third parties.</li> </ul>		
<b>Assessment Structure</b>	<b>10 % Online Activities</b>	<b>40% Coursework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem-based assignment – 20%</li> <li>• Class test– 20%</li> </ul>	<b>50% Exams</b>

<b>3</b>		<b>Law of Equity and Trust - OUpd002123</b>		
<b>Aims</b>	The module aims at providing an assessment of the equitable and common law principles relating to the Law of Trusts, and its application for the public as well as private trusts. Statutory provisions relevant to these areas will also be evaluated.			
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appraise the principles of Equity which are vital in the administration of justice.</li> <li>• Develop an understanding of the relationship between the principles of Equity and Common Law.</li> <li>• Analyse trust mechanisms in the context of private trusts and public charitable trusts and an analysis of the operation of different types of trust.</li> <li>• Evaluate the powers and duties of trustees, liability for breach of trust, variation of trust and the scope of equitable remedies concerning breach of trust.</li> </ul>			
<b>Assessment Structure</b>	<b>10 % Online Activities</b>	<b>40% Coursework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem-based assignment – 20%</li> <li>• Class test– 20%</li> </ul>		<b>50% Exams</b>
<b>4</b>		<b>Independent Legal Research- OUpd002124</b>		
<b>Aims</b>	Students are required to write a supervised legal research on an approved topic. The coursework will be written and assessed as per procedures approved by the awarding institution.			
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse the foundational principles of the chosen thesis topic in law, and.</li> <li>• Undertake legal research with primary and secondary materials</li> <li>• evaluate legal information and sustain concise and cohesive written arguments for a legal audience.</li> </ul> <p>Reflect on their abilities to effectively undertake individual work.</p>			
<b>Assessment Structure</b>	<b>100% Coursework</b>			

Module Unit and Code				Knowledge and Understanding					Cognitive Skills						Practical Skills			Transferable Skills			
Module Title	Code	Type	Mode	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	P1	P2	P3	T1	T2	T3	T4
<b>Year 1 Semester 1: – Level 9 (NQ-MQA) – 1st cycle Advanced (NQ-EHEA)</b>																					
Constitutional and Administrative Law	OUpd002111	C	FT	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Contract Law	OUpd002112	C	FT			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
European Union Law	OUpd002113	C	FT	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Law of Tort	OUpd002114	C	FT			✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Year 1 Semester 2: – Level 9 (NQ-MQA) – 2nd cycle Advanced (NQ-EHEA)</b>																					
Criminal Law	OUpd002121	C	FT	✓				✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Land Law	OUpd002122	C	FT			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Law of Equity and Trust	OUpd002123	C	FT	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Independent Legal Research	OUpd002124	C	FT	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓