Diploma in Legal Studies

Academic year: 2022-2023

1. PROGRAMME INFORMATION	
Title of the final award	Diploma in Legal Studies
Code	OUad006
Awarding Body	Open University of Mauritius
Department	Law
Programme duration	Minimum 2 years | Maximum 4 years
Total Credits	120
Credits per year (LCCS)	*Normally 60 credits per academic year* *Number of credits per semester 30 (LCCS)*
MQA NQF level	Level 8
EHEA level	Level 6
External Accreditors	N/A
Collaborative Partners	N/A
Programme approval date	October 2021
Last revision	October 2021
Last update	October 2021

2. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	
General:	General Entry Requirements under Direct Entry to Undergraduate Programmes Applicants should fulfil the following conditions: **OPTION 1:** A School Certificate (O-Level) with at least five credits or equivalent **and** Having cleared at least two subjects at Advanced Level (A-Level) and two subjects at the subsidiary level at Higher School Certificate **or** An appropriate equivalent Foundation/Certificate/Diploma programme approved by the Open University of Mauritius (OU). **OPTION 2:** Learners who do not qualify under option 1 may register for Foundation Courses offered by OU. Learners must complete eight modules

	at the foundation level to be eligible to apply for undergraduate programmes.
	OPTION 3: holds an undergraduate degree in any field from a recognised institution.
	OPTION 4: Submission of a comprehensive portfolio for possible recognition of prior learning/experience (RPL/RPE) as an alternative to above along with evidence for the language/numeracy/ICT skills required for the programme of study with a minimum of University Cambridge SC with at least three credits or equivalent at the level of foundation to be eligible to apply for undergraduate programmes.
Programme specific:	Credit in English and French subjects at Ordinary Level (O-Level).

3. PROGRAMME OVERVIEW	
Aim and objectives of the programme**:**	The aim of this programme is to offer learners the opportunity to develop an advanced interdisciplinary understanding of the fundamentals of law.
	This programme aims at allowing learners to better understand legal aspects pertaining to the hybrid nature of Mauritian law. Learners will also have the opportunity to develop an understanding of public and private international laws and how they interact with the domestic legal system.
	Finally, this diploma will also contribute to the development of necessary communication, analytical and practical skills in relation to legal issues.
Intended Learning Outcomes: After completing this programme students will be able to:	
Knowledge and understanding (K)	K1: Explain the principles and values of law, questions of justice and ethics; K2: Develop an understanding of the fundamental legal principles in their job environment; K3: Enhance critical thinking to appraise ambiguity and uncertainty in law; K4: Evaluate the interrelationship between different branches of law;
Cognitive skills(C)	C1: Ask and answer cogent questions about law and legal systems, identify gaps in legal knowledge and acquire new knowledge by engaging in critical analysis and reflection; C2: Study in-depth and in context substantive areas of law; C3: Synthesise relevant doctrinal and policy issues to present a reasoned choice between alternative solutions and assess the merits of particulars legal arguments; C4: Evaluate the concepts, principles and policies and make critical judgements/reasoned choices between alternative solutions and/or merits of particulars arguments;

Practical/ Professional Skills (P)	P1: Apply the different principles of law in solving a range of complex business problems; P2: Acquire and develop a legal approach in the analysis of a situation and advocate reasoning at the workplace; P3: Recognise and resolve business issues from an ethical perspective; P4: Assess legal issues from the Mauritian hybrid reality; P5: Apply knowledge and understanding to offer conclusions addressing complex or actual, or hypothetical problems.
Transferable skills (T)	T1: Effectively communicate ideas and arguments in writing and orally; T2: Demonstrate skills of self-management with an ability to reflect on own work; T3: Work effectively either individually or collaboratively and engage with own personal and professional development and academic integrity; T4: Conduct self-directed research leading to an essay or dissertation.

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

N/A

5. LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY

Learning and teaching methods:

Students 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 during face-to-face sessions as well as through the e-platform.

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:

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

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.

Dissertation supervision:

Students will have to undertake a dissertation, supervised by one of our tutors with expertise in the area of the project topic. Students 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:

Your overall workload as a student consists 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 hours of study time.

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

Year 1: 1,500 hours for 60 ECTS credits.
Year 2: 1,500 hours for 60 ECTS credits.
Year 3: 1,500 hours for 60 ECTS credits.

Typically, for each year of your degree, 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 you to demonstrate and apply your knowledge and understanding. Excluding the law clinic and the dissertation, modules will consist of Tutor Marked Assessment components and/or an examination.

TMAs include:
- Class tests
- Essay type questions
- Online activities
- Case study

Assessment mapping: See Appendix page 11.

For the law clinic, learners will have to complete at least 60hrs of work placement followed by the submission of a report.

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 Resit 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's work and presenting it as its own) will be systematically checked through an automated plagiarism detection software: Turnitin.

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.

8. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

C= Core i.e. modules that must be taken to be eligible for the award
E = Electives i.e. module chosen by the student from a range of listed optional modules
S1 = Semester 1
S2 = Semester 2

Year 1 – Level 5 (NQ-MQA) – Short cycle Introductory (QF-EHEA)
All core modules are compulsory.

Code	Module Title	Type	Semester	Credits
OUad006111	Foundations of Law and Foundation of Mauritian Legal System	C	S1	5
OUad006112	*Droit des Contrats et Droit des Contrats Spéciaux*	C	S1	5
OUad006113	Constitutional and Administrative Law	C	S1	10
OUad006114	Accounting for Lawyers	C	S1	5
OUad006115	Civil Procedure	C	S1	5
OUad006121	Criminal Law	C	S2	10
OUad006122	Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	C	S2	5
OUad006123	*Le Droit de la Responsabilité civile délictuelle*	C	S2	5
OUad006124	Money Laundering and Anti-Corruption Law	C	S2	5
OUad006125	International Economic Law	C	S2	5
			Credit Total	**60**

Year 2 – Level 6 (NQ-MQA) – Short cycle Intermediate (QF-EHEA)
All core modules are compulsory. For Year 2 Semester 2, only one elective module must be taken.

Code	Module Title	Type	Semester	Credits
OUba029211	Company Law	C	S1	10
OUba029212	Human Rights	C	S1	5
OUba029213	Law of Equity and Trust	C	S1	5
OUba029214	*Droit International Privé*	C	S1	5
OUba029215	Legal Aspects of Finance	C	S1	5
OUba029221	Public International Law (PIL)	C	S2	5
OUba029222	International Banking and Commercial L	C	S2	5
OUba029223	Revenue Law and Tax	C	S2	5
OUba029224	*Droit des Affaires**	E	S2	5
OUba029225	*Droit des Biens**	E	S2	5
OUba029226	Labour Law and Industrial Relations Law	C	S2	10
			Credit Total	**60**
			Overall Programme Credit Total	**120**

Students are informed that for elective modules (E), a threshold of ten students will have to be registered for the module.

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 examination

Marks (x) %	Description	Letter Grade	Grade point
X ≥ 70	Excellent	A	5
60 ≤ X < 70	Very Good	B	4
50 ≤ X < 60	Good	C	3
40 ≤ 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 two modules for the following semester.

If a student obtains 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 5 for undergraduate programmes:

Course Level 5	% Scores	ECTS Credit unit	Module Credit x % Score
OUad006111	64	5	64*5 = 320
OUad006112	71	5	71*5 = 355
OUad006113	64	10	64*10= 640
OUad006114	65	5	65*5= 325
OUad006115	68	5	68*5=340
OUad006121	75	10	65*10=750
OUad006122	75	5	75*5=375
OUad006123	65	5	65*5=325
OUad006124	75	5	75*5=375
OUad006125	70	5	70*5=350
Total		60	4155
CPA = /60			**69.25**

Example Calculation Total CPA:

Level	Score	Weighted score
CPA level 5 (60 credits)	69.25	68.75***0.15** = 10.39
CPA level 6 (60 credits)	85.4	85.4***0.35** = 29.89
Total CPA (120 credits)		**40.28**

10. PROGRESSION, EXIT POINTS AND AWARD

Progression	If a student fails to achieve 60 credits at the end of a year level, the board of examiners will decide about the student's progression. At its discretion, the board of examiners may: - allow a student to carry forward up to 15 credits in the following year level to retake these units in attendance; - require the student to repeat the year; - award of an exit award once you've exhausted all the opportunities to retrieve failed assessment.
Classification of Awards	For the award of the Honours degree, all modules of the programme must be completed. The Certificate of Higher Education and the Diploma of Higher education are awarded as possible exit points in the programme as indicated in the table on the next page:

Award	Title	Level NQ-MQA	Total required Credits	Classification
Diploma in	Legal Studies	6	120	**Distinction:** CPA ≥ 70 **Pass:** 40 ≤ CPA < 69 **No Award:** CPA < 40
Certificate in	Legal Studies	5	60	**Distinction:** CPA ≥ 70 **Pass:** 40 ≤ CPA ≤ 69 **No Award:** CPA < 40

11. STUDENT SUPPORT
Support available through: 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. Curriculum Map of Programme modules against intended learning outcomes

Module title	Code	Type	Mode	Knowledge and understanding				Cognitive Skills				Practical Skills					Transferable Skills			
				K1	K2	K3	K4	C1	C2	C3	C4	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4
Year 1 NQ-MQA Level 5																				
Foundations of Law and Foundation of Mauritian Legal System	OUad006111	C	BL	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Droit des Contrats et Droit des Contrats spéciaux	OUad006112	C	BL	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓			✓		✓			✓
Constitutional and Administrative Law	OUad006113	C	BL		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓		✓			
Accounting for Lawyers	OUad006114	C	BL								✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Civil Procedure	OUad006115	C	BL								✓		✓			✓			✓	
Criminal Law	OUad006121	C	BL		✓			✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	OUad006122	C	BL							✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Le Droit de la Responsabilité civile délictuelle	OUad006123	C	BL	✓		✓		✓			✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Money Laundering and Anti-Corruption Law	OUad006124	C	BL		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	
International Economic Law	OUad006126	C	BL		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓							✓
Year 2 NQ-MQA level 6																				
Company Law	OUad006211	C	BL		✓				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓
Human Rights	OUad006212	C	BL	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓		✓					✓
Law of Equity and Trust	OUad006213	C	BL		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Droit International Privé	OUad006214	C	BL		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
Legal aspects of finance	OUad006215	C	BL			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	
Public International Law (PIL)	OUba029221	C	BL		✓		✓			✓					✓		✓			✓
International Banking and Commercial Law	OUba029222	C	BL		✓			✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			✓
Revenue Law and Tax	OUba029223	C	BL		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Droit des Affaires	OUba029224	C	BL		✓		✓		✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	✓	
Droit des Biens	OUba029225	C	BL					✓				✓	✓		✓		✓			✓

| Labour Law and Industrial Relations Law | OUba029226 | C | BL | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

C = Core; E = Elective; DL = Distance Learning; BL= Blended Learning; CD = Campus delivery

Appendix 1: Assessment mapping

Module code and Title	Assessment Method	Module code and Title	Assessment Method
Year 1 NQ-MQA Level 5		**Year 2 NQ-MQA level 6**	
Foundations of Law and the Mauritian Legal System (OUad006111)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**	Company Law (OUad006211)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 30% **50% Exams**
Droit des Contrats et Droit des Contrats Spéciaux (OUad006112)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**	Human Rights (OUad006212)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**
Constitutional and Administrative Law (OUad006113)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 30% **50% Exams**	Law of Equity and Trust (OUad006213)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**
Accounting for Lawyers (OUad006114)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 30% **50% Exams**	*Droit International Privé* (OUad006214)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**
Civil Procedure (OUad006114)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**	Legal Aspects of Finance (OUad006215)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**

Criminal Law (OUad006121)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 30% **50% Exams**	Public International Law (PIL) (OUba029221)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**
Alternative Dispute Resolution (OUad006122)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**	Intellectual Property Law (IPR) (OUad006222)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**
Le Droit de la Responsabilité civile délictuelle (OUad006123)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**	International Banking and Commercial Law (OUad006223)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**
Money-Laundering and Anti-Corruption Law (OUad006124)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**	Revenue Law and Tax (OUad006224)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**
International Economic Law (OUad006125)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**	*Droit des Affaires* (OUad006225)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10% **50% Exams**
		Droit des Biens (OUad006226)	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 20% Online activities – 10%

	50% Exams
Labour Law and Industrial Relations Law	**50% Coursework** Problem-based assignment – 20% Class test – 30% **50% Exams**