

## Online LLB – Frequently Asked Questions

### When do the academic semesters each year take place?

Students will be invited to enrol in September each year and the two annual semesters run as follows:

- Semester 1 - end September – late December (exams in January – this will be subject to change from 2018-2019 when first semester exams will be in December each year )
- Semester 2 - early February – late April (exams in May)

Please see full details of term dates and assessment periods (latter for exams only) on the academic calendars (available up to 2017-2018) published by the University:

<http://www.rgu.ac.uk/areas-of-study/academic-calendar/academic-calendar/>

### Is the course challenging?

Yes. The course requires regular interaction in both online asynchronous activities and in live tutorials, as well as a lot of reading. The challenging nature of the course adds value to the qualification as a career enhancement tool.

### I am worried about being able to dedicate a regular amount of time each week to my studies – will this be a problem on the Online LLB?

No. The course is designed to be flexible. Most of the work on the course will be able to be carried out over a period of a few weeks for each task, sometimes longer, and at any time of the day or night. There are two exceptions: live tutorials (4 per module minimum) and closed book examinations (which will require attendance at a particular time and place – exams can be taken locally, see below on this).

### If I meet the eligibility criteria for the course, will I be offered a place?

Not necessarily. Your application will be carefully considered alongside the others and offers will be made to the best applicants. Entry to the course is competitive since we have a limited number of places available and each year we expect to have more applications than places.

### I notice there are different study modes – how do these operate?

There are three modes available for completing the fifteen ( with effect from September 2017) modules on the course:

- **Part time** – the course is taken over **four academic years**, three modules in year 1 then 4 per year, two per semester in years 2, 3 and 4;
- **Accelerated part-time** – the course is taken over **three academic years**, 3 modules in year 1 and six modules per year in years 2 and 3 (three per semester);
- **Full time** - the course is taken over **two academic years**, seven modules in year 1 and 8 in year 2

All students will start out on either part-time or full time mode, and may apply to switch modes (accelerate or decelerate studies) at the end of each academic year.

More information on the modules taken at each stage of the course can be found on the course web pages at: [www.rgu.ac.uk/onlinellb](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/onlinellb)

### **How will I access the course materials?**

All course materials will be available in one of two places: (1) on our online learning environment CampusMoodle, accessible via the internet and (2) our e-library resources, accessible again via the internet. The exception to this is that some books may have to be bought (see What does the course fee include?, below).

The course materials will consist of lectures in audio format accompanied by slides. All of the content will be downloadable/printable, making it portable. The audio will be available in mp3 format, allowing it to be downloaded onto any compatible portable device.

We subscribe to a wide range of e-databases, e-journals and e-books, all of which are available free of charge at any time to all of our students. Two main databases which we use are Westlaw and LexisNexis (for legislation, cases, books and journals). Taking these e-resources alongside any recommended books, you will have access to more material than you will need for the degree. In fact, since we offer a number of online Masters law courses as well as our on-campus and Online LLB plus BA Law and Management provision, we have accumulated a very significant collection of online legal resources.

### **What equipment will I need to be able to participate in the course?**

The minimum technical requirements for the course are outlined on the course web pages at: [www.rgu.ac.uk/onlinellb](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/onlinellb)

### **Who will be my tutors?**

The Law School consists of around 27 academics from a wide range of legal disciplines and backgrounds, including a number of former practicing lawyers. Many of them will be tutoring on the Online LLB. As a general rule, the academics in the school teach in their areas of expertise. Our academic staff are often researching and publishing in their specialist areas and this expertise enriches the tuition you will benefit from. Please see the profiles of our academic staff at - [www.rgu.ac.uk/law-school](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/law-school)

### **What does the course fee include?**

The fee includes all module materials, tuition and assessment. Students will be expected to buy books for some modules. The average estimated cost of books per module is £50. In addition, if you are taking an examination in an off-site venue an administration fee may be payable by you – that fee will vary depending on the invigilating venue. Most modules carry an examination component. See the question below on offsite exams.

### **I want to practice law in Scotland - will this degree allow me to do this?**

Yes, in combination with what is currently the Diploma in Legal Professional Practice. The Online LLB is a fully accredited Scottish LLB and therefore holds the same status as any other Scottish LLB. If you are considering taking the Online LLB with a view to practicing law in Scotland, you should first read about the process of becoming a solicitor on the website of the Law Society of Scotland at - <http://www.laws Scot.org.uk/becomingasolicitor>

### **I want to practice law in a jurisdiction other than Scotland – will this degree allow me to do this?**

Possibly. Each jurisdiction has its own rules on whether a qualification from another jurisdiction can be accepted part of the process to qualification to practice law. Anyone wishing to use the Online LLB for this purpose should carefully check the position with the relevant professional body in the jurisdiction in which they would like to practice law. This check should be carried out before any offer of a place on the course is accepted.

In the case of England and Wales, the Online LLB is **not** a Qualifying Law Degree (QLD).

For further information on qualification routes in England, please see the following web pages:

- Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme operated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority:  
<http://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/qlts/apply.page>

- Becoming a solicitor leaflet:

<http://juniorlawyers.lawsociety.org.uk/files/becoming%20a%20solicitor.pdf>

- A career in law, guidance from the Law Society of England and Wales:

<http://juniorlawyers.lawsociety.org.uk/career>

### **I want to undertake an LLB and use it for my career but I don't want to practice as a lawyer – is this feasible?**

Yes. An LLB is one of the most widely respected qualifications around. It is useful in a number of sectors (in addition to the legal professional sector) such as: business, energy, journalism, government, academia, human resources, media, marketing, and many more. The law is important in all professional pursuits. If you wish to find out more about the careers available, or have a chat with one of our career advisers, please visit our Careers Centre (under 'Prospective Students') at - [www.rgu.ac.uk/careers](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/careers)

### **Is the degree an Honours degree?**

No. It is an Ordinary LLB (Bachelor of Law) degree. This is the norm for many of the part time/online LLB programmes in the UK.

### **How are the modules on the Online LLB assessed?**

There are a number of different assessment models, but a typical module will be assessed by a mixture of coursework and closed book examination. For some of the later modules, there is, in addition, an assessed oral presentation element (which is carried out online). To see the assessment details for the modules (as well as the curriculum to be taught in each one), please look at the module descriptors for the course which can be found at:

[www.rgu.ac.uk/onlinellb](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/onlinellb)

### **When do the assessments take place?**

Coursework submissions are usually due as follows:

- Semester 1 (which runs from September-January) - November/December
- Semester 2 (which runs from February-May) - April/May

Examinations take place in designated weeks each year in January (semester 1 modules) or May (semester 2 modules). From 2018 first semester exams will run in December each year.

### **I cannot travel to RGU to sit examinations – will I be able to take them at another venue?**

Yes. We already have a system for students taking offsite exams for certain other courses, and any arrangements with other venues in the UK or in any other country are dealt with via our examinations office. The venue will have to be approved in advance and is usually on another university campus or in the offices of the British Council. Certain invigilation standards must be met and the student has to pay any administration fee – see above under What does the course fee include?

## **How much time should I expect to spend on studying each week on the Online LLB?**

The notional time allocation for each module is 150 hours in total. This means that during each 15 week semester, assuming you are on the part time (4 year) route (and therefore taking two modules each semester) you should be spending around 300 hours on the course. The following points should be noted:

- This is a rough estimate and will vary from student to student;
- This total includes all work on reading, activities and preparing and completing assessments;
- This estimate averages out at 20 hours per week over 15 weeks (assuming part-time mode) but this workload is an average figure and will be unevenly distributed; for instance, you will be doing less work during some weeks, reading and listening to materials and completing activities; in other weeks you will, in addition, be preparing coursework answers or revising for exams.

If you are on the accelerated part-time route or full time route, you will be taking three/four modules respectively per semester. The estimated time-commitment for each module will still be 150 hours in total.

## **What will happen if I fail an assessment or cannot complete it due to illness?**

For all assessments there will be a resit opportunity, usually during the summer after the end of the academic year in which you are taking the module.

## **Will I have to participate in live online tutorials?**

Yes, at least 4 per module (there are 5/6 in total for each module). If you don't do this, you will fail the module and may have to resit it in the summer period. We regard regular interaction as a key part of the learning process, so we have made it compulsory.

## **Will I have to complete regular asynchronous online activities?**

Yes, a few per module. You will have a window of a few weeks to complete any particular activity. If you don't do this, you will fail the module and may have to resit it in the summer period. We regard regular interaction as a key part of the learning process, so we have made it compulsory.

## **When will the live tutorials take place?**

Students will be split into groups and tutorials will, if necessary and where possible, be run at different times to suit the convenience of the students. Also, where students are based in different time zones, every effort will be made to cater for this.

## **I have taken and passed law modules in a previous course – will I be able to claim exemption from taking any modules on the Online LLB?**

Possibly. If the module(s) passed covers the same or very similar curriculum to one of the modules on the Online LLB, and was taken recently, you may be able to obtain an exemption from the equivalent Online LLB module. You would not then need to take that module and your course fee would be reduced on a pro-rata basis. Usually, where you have passed the module earlier than two years before you would be due to start the Online LLB, an exemption will not be possible. This is to ensure that any knowledge gained as part of the Online LLB is current (and the law moves on very fast in most areas).

## **Do I have to come to RGU at any point during the course?**

Yes, but only at the induction session in mid-late September of the first year of your course. This session is a one-day session. In exceptional circumstances a student may be able to seek permission not to attend this session.

The other on-campus sessions run each semester (in November and March) and there is a half-day session for each module being taken. These sessions are optional but are recommended.

**I have not been in a formal educational environment for some time – how can I improve my study skills?**

We currently deliver online education to a very wide range of students, young and mature from a range of professional and cultural backgrounds. We understand the value of assistance in some of the basic study skills such as: how to write an essay, how to manage time, how to revise for exams, how to do well in exams. Our Study skills and Access Unit can provide you with specialist guidance on any study skills issue. This is a service we provide free to all students. Please see their web pages for further information - [www.rgu.ac.uk/studysupport](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/studysupport)

**I have not taken an online course before – will I be able to manage the technology?**

Almost certainly. We currently deliver online education to a very wide range of students, young and mature from a range of professional and cultural backgrounds. Many of our students are mature students coming back into education after a long time and who have never learned in an online environment. We provide detailed guidance to all students on how to operate the technology required. Part of this is on paper and part is in person at the induction session. Just as importantly, we have dedicated IT staff who can be called or e-mailed in the event of a technical problem.

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Course Web Page: [www.rgu.ac.uk/onlinellb](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/onlinellb)