

Credit Unit Statement for LLM in Medical Ethics and Law

The curriculum requires candidates to complete not fewer than 72 credits nor more than 78 credits with a total study load of not fewer than 1,710 learning hours nor more than 1,980 learning hours. All law courses in the curriculum are 9-credit in value. We use 225 hours of student learning activities (including 33 contact hours) as the norm for a 9-credit course, except for the experiential course which normally involves 180 to 225 hours of student learning activities. Each course is assessed by coursework and/ or examination, with the actual weighting of coursework ranging from 0% to 100% and the actual weighting of examinations ranging from 100% to 0%. The Head of Department, on this basis, will ensure a proper balance in the allocation of weight to different modes of assessment. The four categories of law courses are summarized as follows:

1. Foundation courses (9 credits, 225 hours of student learning activities)

The foundation courses emphasize foundational legal concepts and institutional framework and may cover cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as linguistic/technical skills. As introductory courses, they are taught in small or large seminar format and assessments are generally in the form of (where applicable) class presentation, class participation, periodical assignments, short research papers and/or examinations, with a total output of approximately 6000 to 7000 words (with coursework ranging between 20% - 80% and examinations 80%-20%).

2. Seminar courses (9 credits, 225 hours of student learning activities)

These courses offer specialized/advanced legal or cross-disciplinary knowledge. They are mainly taught in seminar format with heavy reliance on extensive reading before the seminars and active participation in class discussion. These courses aim to further enhance students' knowledge of legal concepts as well as analytical and evaluative skills. Generally, assessment for this category of courses is by way of a combination of (where applicable) class presentation, class participation, periodical assignments, examinations and/or research papers, with a total output of approximately 6000 to 7000 words.

3. Research course (9 credits, 225 hours of student learning activities)

This course aims to provide students with the theoretical insights and cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as an opportunity to pursue advanced and independent research. This course tries to help students develop original and critical thinking through independent research. A 9-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper on a legal topic likewise approved with required range from 8,000 to 10,000 words. The dissertation must provide evidence of original work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

4. Experiential course (9 credits, 180 - 225 hours of student learning activities)

The experiential course is the practicum project option. This course aims to offer opportunities for students to apply and test their medico-legal knowledge and critical and analytical legal skills they have learned in other courses in an appropriate medico-legal setting such as the setting of a healthcare or biomedical institution and a health ethics or law research institution. Students taking this course will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the social/medical environment in which law operates and the practical dimension of medico-legal studies or further develop their research skills in the setting of a research institution. Students in this category of courses are expected to log a minimum number of 120 hours or otherwise as approved by the Programme Director and are assessed by a written project of approximately 5000 words with intensive feedback from academic staff and/or practitioners.

Non-law electives

In addition to law courses, students will generally be required to select at least one non-law elective in order to broaden the scope of their studies. These non-law electives will be offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences and School of Public Health. Electives offered by the School of Public Health are 3-credit in value, whereas electives offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences are 6-credit in value. Candidates who choose a combination of law and non-law electives are allowed to take not fewer than 72 credits nor more than 78 credits in the case of a full-time study in one academic year, or not fewer than 36 credits nor more than 42 credits in the case of a part-time study in each of the two academic years of study (as long as the total study load does not exceed 78 credits). Each 6-credit non-law elective (Faculty of Social Sciences elective) has a total of 30-39 contact hours and 120-180 learning hours. Each 3-credit non-law elective (School of Public Health elective) has a total of 30-39 contact hours and 60 learning hours.

Faculty of Social Sciences electives:

Assessment for the Faculty of Social Sciences electives is 100% based on the continuous assessment of coursework. Assessment is by various methods including projects, presentations, quizzes and written assignments, totaling about 5,000 words.

School of Public Health electives:

Assessment for the School of Public Health electives comprises continuous assessment of coursework and examinations (with coursework ranging between 30%-100% and examinations 70%-0%). Outputs might include essays, case study reports, presentations and debates, numerical and other assignments, with the range of word requirements from 500-3000 words.

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