

**INFORMATION SHEET ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAWS  
PROGRAMME RELATING TO SKILLS  
2007/08**

The External Undergraduate Laws Programme has introduced new opportunities for students to demonstrate:

- Legal research skills
- Team working
- Oral communication skills
- IT skills
- Autonomy

These changes are relevant **only** to students with effective registration date 1 September 2007 onwards.

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**Common law reasoning and institutions  
LLB [2650031 NEW SYLLABUS]**

**Diploma in Law [2690031 NEW SYLLABUS]**

- The key difference is that, in addition to the subject content, students will now also be examined on **legal research skills**.
- Core chapters on legal research in the subject guide are  
**Chapter 4** Encountering law in a common law system: principles of legal research and reading the law  
**Chapter 5** Conducting legal research and use of the Online Library
- Students should also consult the 2007 *Learning skills for law* guide
- Students taking this course are required to use the online library and complete the online legal research exercises.

The **final examination** will consist of two parts:

**Part A** is a compulsory question on legal research that will involve (i) brief (possibly multiple choice) questions on the online legal research exercises, citation of legal information, and library use and (ii) questions about the *process* of legal research that students have engaged in (and their 'research trail') while researching one of the research questions specified in Chapter 5 of the CLRI subject guide.

**Part B** will follow the existing format (with one less question): 7 questions on CLRI subject content of which students should answer 3.

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**CLRI with the other codes [LLB 2650030 / Diploma in Law 2690030 ] is now the 'old' syllabus. Students registered May 2007 and earlier will be examined on the 'old' syllabus BUT only until the 2009 Autumn re-sit**

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**The first 5 chapters of the new syllabus CLRI subject guide are available at [www.londonexternal.ac.uk/current\\_students/programme\\_resources/laws/subject\\_guides/clri/clri.shtml](http://www.londonexternal.ac.uk/current_students/programme_resources/laws/subject_guides/clri/clri.shtml).**

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**The online legal research exercises can be found on the Laws VLE and also at [www.londonexternal.ac.uk/current\\_students/programme\\_resources/laws/research\\_exe/index.shtml](http://www.londonexternal.ac.uk/current_students/programme_resources/laws/research_exe/index.shtml).**

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## Skills portfolio

Students seeking an LLB that is also a Qualifying Law Degree must compile and submit a 'portfolio' in their final year of study that shows they have appropriate skills in:

- Legal research
- Team working
- Oral communication
- IT
- Autonomy

### *What is a portfolio?*

- Students submit evidence that they have the skills listed above.
- The evidence will centre around a piece of research that the student has conducted, including some interaction with others, and oral presentations. Conducting the research appropriately will also show the capacity for independent work and reflection (Autonomy). Oral skills may also be demonstrated by mooting or other oral presentations, if appropriately documented.
  
- The Skills portfolio is submitted online.
- It will be assessed on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis by specialised assessors appointed by the External Undergraduate Laws Programme.
- A Skills Portfolio Guide to assist students in completing their portfolios will be provided.

### *Two skills options*

There are two routes by which students may conduct the research:

**Skills option one:** Students register for the Laws Dissertation subject option that will be introduced in 2008/09. This entails conducting a large-scale piece of research that will be submitted and assessed in its own right as a substantive piece of work. (There will also be an associated short examination.)

*Then*, students also refer to that research to complete the Skills portfolio, here concentrating on the research process elements of their research and their 'research trail'.

**Skills option two:** Students conduct a small-scale research project and complete the Skills portfolio on that basis.

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**The first cohort of students eligible to submit a Skills portfolio will be students following Graduate Entry Route A, whose final year is 2008/09..**

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**The Dissertation option is thus one of the 12 subjects for students on LLB Schemes A and B and one of the 9 subjects on Graduate Entry Routes A and B.**

**Initially, the Dissertation option will have a limited entry: terms to be announced in early 2008.**