

# EXTERNAL STUDIES WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

After completing their studies in the University of Malta, many students have sought to further their education by taking up graduate and/or post-graduate studies in universities overseas, especially in the United Kingdom and Italy. This is perhaps more common in faculties such as Medicine rather than Law, but interest in foreign degrees is steadily mounting. Acquiring a foreign degree often means further specialisation, prestige and a better chance of obtaining a good job in Malta and abroad. Many students however find it impossible to even contemplate studying abroad because of the financial difficulties involved. An excellent way of overcoming these difficulties is to take up external studies with a reputable foreign university, and in this short paper we are taking a look at the facilities for external students in an institution which has long found favour with the Maltese, the University of London. First and Higher degrees may there be taken in a variety of subjects, but we are here restricting ourselves to the field of Law.

Although the scope of this paper is limited to **External Studies**, (a review of **Internal Studies** in the same University may perhaps be featured in the **OUTLOOK** section of a forthcoming issue of ID-DRITT), we have thought it interesting to include the following brief rundown of the facilities available in the University of London's Faculty of Laws, together with some relevant information, applicable and useful to both Internal and External Students.

## FACULTY OF LAWS

### *Degrees*

Bachelor of Laws (LLB); Master of Laws (LLM); Master of Philosophy (MPhil); Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); Doctor of Laws (LLD).

### *Schools of the University*

King's College London, London School of Economics and Political Science, Queen Mary College, University College London, School of Oriental and African Studies.

Notes: 1. Information as to qualification as Solicitor should be sought from the Law Society, Chancery Lane, WC2A 1PL, London.

2. Information regarding examinations for the Bar should be sought from the Council of Legal Education, Gray's Inn Place, WC1 5DX, London.

3. Candidates may apply to register for the LLB Degree of the University in English and French Law. The course of study for this degree extends over four years full time, two years of which are spent at King's College London and two years at the University of Paris I. For details of the course candidates should write to the Registrar, King's College London.

4. The London School of Economics offers a Degree of Bachelor of Laws with French Law. The third year of the course is taken at the University of Strasbourg. Details of the course are available from the Registrar, the London School of Economics.

## **A. WHAT DO EXTERNAL STUDIES ENTAIL?**

Before making any commitment to a programme of study, the student should consider very carefully what is entailed. Those who have not appreciated in advance the time and effort involved often experience a sense of failure when they do not succeed in reaching the standards required. That success is possible is proved by the number of students whose names appear on the pass lists each year but it becomes possible only if a careful assessment is made of the implications of external study and if plans are related realistically to the assessment. The examinations taken by the External Student do not differ in standard from those taken by Internal Students, for most of whom study under the guidance of University teachers is their main commitment. The External Student may have to reconcile the demands of his course with those of his family and of his occupation; moreover he may have to go to several different sources to clarify a point which could be dealt with briefly by the Internal Student's teacher. Clearly the part-time student will expect to spend longer over his course but so much depends on the individual's power of assimilation, on the background knowledge which he already possesses and on his other commitments that it is impossible to suggest a time-scale for a part-time student working for a degree. Registration for a first degree or diploma is valid for a maximum period of eight years. Many students are able to complete the degree examinations well within this time but five years should be considered as a reasonable minimum period to devote to study and for most degrees this is prescribed as a minimum for the part-time student. Students are asked without final commitment to state in advance their plans for taking examinations and this is another area for realism. a premature attempt at an examination courts failure and resultant loss of confidence. Postponement within the eight year period is always possible and sometimes advisable.

### **A.1 THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY TO ITS EXTERNAL STUDENTS**

The University has two main classes of student – Internal and External. Both must satisfy the University requirements for registration and both must pass the examinations prescribed by the University in order to qualify for the award of a degree; but whereas an Internal Student must follow a regular course of study in one of the colleges of the University and under the guidance of its Teachers, the University does not provide courses of instruction for its External Students and generally speaking they are free to determine for themselves the way in which they prepare for its examinations.

The University of London awards its degrees to External Students solely on their performance in examinations, and many thousands of men and women throughout the world have thus been enabled to qualify. They have prepared themselves by attendance full-time or part-time at institutions, by a correspondence course, or by private study. For 128 years, from 1836 when the University was founded to the founding of the Council for National Academic Awards in 1964, the University of London offered the only opportunity of obtaining a degree without attending a university.

While the University does not offer courses of instruction to External Students it does provide an Advisory Service, (See D4).

## **A.2 ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Qualifications for entry to degrees and diplomas of the University of London are normally stated in terms of passes and grades at ordinary and advanced level at a General Certificate of Education examination. There are however other ways of qualifying. These are detailed in a pamphlet entitled 'University Entrance Requirements' but the student can best obtain a ruling on his individual position by writing to the Secretary for Entrance Requirements giving full details of his present educational and professional qualifications and stating the course for which he hopes to study. If his qualifications prove satisfactory after checking he will be issued with a Statement of Eligibility.

Every Student has to hold a Statement of Eligibility. The University Entrance Requirements Division is always under pressure and at particular times considerable delays occur. If the student does not wish to be delayed he should make these enquiries as early as possible and should reply promptly to requests for documentary evidence. With his Statement of Eligibility a student will receive a registration form. A student should not begin any course until he has completed and returned that form, and been registered.

## **A.3 COST**

The cost of obtaining a degree as an External Student falls under three heads:

- (1) fees payable to the University for registration and entry to examinations;
- (2) tuition fees, if any;
- (3) purchase of books and incidentals.

It is difficult to be precise about what is involved under any but the first heading. Tuition fees depend on the kind of tuition arranged. In making enquiries about the alternatives available to him the student should not forget to explore the cost, especially the expense involved in travel, since all examinations must be taken in London.

## **B. FIRST DEGREES – BACHELOR OF LAWS (LL.B)**

Although it is not a professional qualification, (Obtaining the LL.B degree does **not** automatically enable the graduate to practice as a Solicitor or as a Barrister in the U.K.), the LL.B's importance is enhanced when seen as a stepping stone to students who wish to take higher degrees **on an external basis**. (See note to section on Higher Degrees).

### **B.1 ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

#### ***General Entrance***

It is possible to satisfy the general entrance requirements for a degree in any one of three different ways:

1. By holding G.C.E. passes in approved subjects to fit either Scheme A or Scheme B.

*Scheme A.* 2 Advanced level passes and 3 Ordinary level passes.

*Scheme B.* 3 Advanced level passes and 1 Ordinary level pass.

**Note:** G.C.E. Ordinary level qualifications obtained in Examinations in and after June 1975 must be of Grade A, B or C. Grades below C will not be accepted in satisfaction of entrance requirements. The same subject may not be counted at both levels. Passes need not have been obtained at the same examination or on the syllabus of the same examining board.

2. By holding a degree of an approved university.

3. By holding an approved professional qualification obtained by examination.

### **LL.B. REQUIREMENTS**

A candidate must satisfy the general entrance requirements under Scheme A or Scheme B, in approved subjects, and these must include either a pass at grade C or above in one of the 'A' level subjects or passes at not less than grade D in two 'A' level subjects.

'A' level subjects which provide a useful background for degree studies in Law are History, Government and Political Studies/British Constitution or Constitutional Law, and General Principles of English Law. Law subjects are set only by the AEB and the Oxford Board in the G.C.E. examinations.

**Note:** Government and Political Studies/British Constitution and Constitutional Law are counted only as one 'A' level pass for degree entrance, so only one of these subjects should be offered.

## **B.2 EXAMINATION**

To be taken in three parts. Intermediate Laws must be completed before Final Part I, and Final Part I before Final Part II.

The normal minimum period of study (registration period) for external part-time students is four years, and students are normally required to spend a minimum of two years preparing for the Intermediate Examination in Laws, and one year each for the Final Part I and Part II examinations.

Examinations are held in June each year.

## **B.3 STATUTES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS IN THE EXAMINATION ROOM**

London University do not provide statutes or other documents in the examination room. However, candidates for the Final LL.B. Examination are permitted to bring into the examination room:

1. A Queen's Printer copy of any statute which the Regulations for the time being state that a candidate may bring into the examination room and of any statute, amending the permitted statutes, passed since 1980 or such later date as may be stated in the Regulations;

2. A copy of any other material which the Regulations for the time being state that a candidate may take into the examination room.

Personal annotation on statutes and other materials permitted to be taken into the examination is forbidden. This includes underlining, the circling of key words, the use of coloured highlight markers and any other form of marking.

For the Intermediate Examination in Laws no statutes or other documents are permitted in the examination room.

## **B.4 INTERMEDIATE LAWS (ALL FOUR SUBJECTS TO BE TAKEN)**

No exemptions are given by London University from the whole or from any subject of the Intermediate Laws examination except in the cases set out below:

- (1) Candidates who have obtained the London University B.A. General degree or B.Sc. Economics degree or the B.Sc. Estate Management degree having taken certain Law subjects for these degrees;

- (2) Candidates who have obtained degrees of London University other than the B.A. General degree, the B.Sc. Economics degree or the B.Sc. Estate Management degree which have included the study of Law with syllabuses similar to those prescribed for the Intermediate Laws examination (each application of this kind is considered individually on its merits);

- (3) Graduates of other Universities or holders of CNA A degrees whose studies for their degrees have included Law, with subjects corresponding to the subjects of the Intermediate Examination in Laws (each application will be considered individually on its merits).

(4) Candidates who have passed an Intermediate or equivalent examination in Laws at a University in the British Isles or under the CNAA (each application will be considered individually on its merits).

(5) Candidates who have passed the Examination for Call to the Bar of England and Wales as conducted by the Council of Legal Education of London or the Qualifying Examinations of the Law Society of England may apply for exemption from the whole of the Intermediate Examination in Laws. Applicants will be required to submit official evidence of their qualification.

(6) Candidates who are qualified to practise as barristers or solicitors outside England may apply for exemption from the whole or part of the Intermediate Examination in Laws. Applicants will be required to submit official evidence of the qualification they hold and of their examination syllabus. Each application will be considered individually on its merits.

## **B.5**

The following is a breakdown of many of the subjects set for the LL.B examinations. Also included are a list of recommended text-books, in order that Maltese law-students may obtain an idea of the material already covered in the LL.D course of the University of Malta.

### **B.5a Intermediate Laws**

#### **1. CRIMINAL LAW**

Smith & Hogan: Criminal Law.....Butterworth.

Smith & Hogan: Criminal Law.....Cases & Materials.....Butterworth.

Smith: The Law of Theft.....Butterworth.

or

Griew: The Theft Acts 1968 & 1978.....Sweet & Maxwells.

#### **2. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**

S.A. de Smith: Constitutional and Administrative Law.....Penguin.

or Hood Phillips: Constitutional and Administrative Law.....Sweet & Maxwell.

or Wade & Phillips: Constitutional Law & Admin. Law.....Longmans.

#### **3. CONTRACT**

Cheshire & Fifoot: Law of Contract.....(Limp,) Butterworth.

Cheshire & Fifoot: Cases on the Law of Contract.....Butterworth.

#### **4. ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM**

Kiralfy: English Legal System.....(paperback) Sweet & Maxwell.

Radcliffe & Cross: English Legal System.....Butterworth.

Maitland: Forms of Action at Common Law.....C.U.P., paperback.

**B.5b LL.B. FINAL PART I  
(FOUR SUBJECTS TO BE TAKEN)**

**(1) LAW OF TORT**

Street: Law of Torts.....(paperbacks), Butterworth.

Weir: Casebook on Tort.....Sweet & Maxwell.

**(2) LAW OF TRUSTS**

either Snell: Principles of Equity.....Sweet & Maxwell.

or Hanbury: Modern Equity.....(paperback) Stevens.

Parker & Mellows: the Modern Law of Trusts.....Sweet & Maxwell.

**(3) ENGLISH LAND LAW**

Cheshire: Modern Law of Real Property.....Butterworth.

or Megarry: Manual of the Law of Real Property.....Stevens.

Wontner: Guide to Land Registry Practice.....Oyez Publishing Ltd.

**(4) ONE of the following:**

**(a) ENGLISH ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

Garner: Administrative Law.....Butterworth.

or H.W.R. Wade: Administrative Law.....O.U.P.

**(b) LAW OF EVIDENCE**

Cross on Evidence.....Butterworth.

**(c) MERCANTILE LAW**

Atiyah: The Sale of Goods.....Pitman.

Fridman's Law of Agency.....Butterworth.

Markesinis and Munday: an Outline of the Law of Agency.

The Consumer Credit Act 1974.....H.M.S.O.

**(5) ROMAN LAW**

**(6) AFRICAN LAW**

**(7) MUHAMMEDAN LAW**

**(8) HINDU LAW**

**B.5c LL.B. FINAL PART II  
(FOUR SUBJECTS TO BE TAKEN: (5) JURISPRUDENCE AND  
ANY THREE OF (7) to (23))**

**(5) JURISPRUDENCE AND LEGAL THEORY**

Lloyd: Introduction to Jusiprudence.....Stevens.

Dias: Jurisprudence.....Butterworth.

**Note:** Both books are essential.

**(7) (R) LAW OF EVIDENCE**

If not already taken for  
PART I – see Part I above.

**(8) ENGLISH ADMINISTRATIVE LAW****(12) HISTORY OF ENGLISH LAW**

Baker: Introduction to English Legal History.....Butterworth.

Potter: Historical Introduction to English Law.....(paperback), Sweet & Maxwell.

Maitland: Forms of Action.....(paperback) C.U.P.

**(13) PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW**

Schwarzenberger: A Manual of International Law (6th ed. 1976).....Professional Bks.

Harris: Cases and Materials on International Law.....Sweet & Maxwell.

**(14) CONFLICT OF LAWS**

**either** Graveson: Conflict of Laws.....Sweet & Maxwell.

**or** Cheshire: Private International Law.....Butterworth.

**(16) (R) SUCCESSION**

Parry & Clark: The Law of Succession.....Sweet & Maxwell.

**(17) MERCANTILE LAW** (if not already taken at Part I)

Atiyah: The Sale of Goods.....Pitman.

Fridman's Law of Agency.....Butterworth.

Markesinis and Munday: An Outline of the Law of Agency.

The Consumer Credit Act 1974.....H.M.S.O.

**(19) (R) FAMILY LAW**

Bromley: Family Law.....Butterworth.

**(21) (R) COMPANY LAW**

Charlesworth and Cain: Company Law.....Stevens.

**C. HIGHER DEGREES**

*For more detailed information reference should be made to the pamphlet 'Higher Degrees for External Students' which may be obtained on request from the Secretary of External Students.*

Graduates of the University of London\* may apply for registration as External Students for some Master's degrees, and the degrees of Master and Doctor of Philosophy.

Master's degrees may be examined by written papers or thesis or by a combination of these. The M.Phil. degree requires the submission of a thesis, and in some subjects written papers are also included. For the Ph.D. degree, a thesis is required. For all higher degrees (other than LL.M.) an oral examination is required, which will be conducted only in London.

While acceptance for registration for a first degree is in most cases automatic, provided the candidate satisfies the entrance and course requirements, further conditions must be satisfied by a candidate for a higher degree and each case is considered individually by the Board of Studies concerned.

The University does not appoint supervisors for External Higher Degree students. It does, however, insist on initial consultation with an Adviser as a condition of registration. The Adviser is normally a Teacher of the University who is appointed to discuss the candidate's proposals in detail, to assist in their precise formulation, and to advise the Board on their acceptability. Subsequent consultations with an Adviser can be sought as required, but a consultation is normally mandatory when the thesis title is to be approved.

The registration fee for a higher degree is at present £115, including the fee for initial consultation with an Adviser. Separate fees are charged for subsequent consultations with an Adviser. Entry to the Examination costs £120 for M.Phil. and Master's degrees, or £150 for Ph.D. in 1982 – 83.

\* Those who are not already graduates of the University of London are debarred by the Statutes of the University from registration as External Students for higher degrees. This means that it is not within the power of the Senate to make special exceptions, and applications from graduates of other universities cannot be considered (unless, of course, they also possess a degree of the University of London).

## **D. SOME PRACTICAL TIPS**

### **D.1 HOW TO START**

If you wish to read for a London University external degree you should:

1. Make sure that you have the right qualifications to satisfy London University entrance requirements for the degree of your choice.
2. Obtain from London University the full regulations and syllabus for your degree.
3. Register at London University as an external student.

Obtain, from the Secretary for External Students, University of London, Senate House, London WC1E 7HU, three publications (the first two of which are provided free of charge). They are:

1. The General Information Pamphlet for External Students, which explains the external examination system, the advisory service for external students and the university library facilities.
2. The regulations relating to entrance requirements.
3. The regulations and syllabus for your chosen external degree or diploma, which gives details of examination entry fees and dates as well as a detailed subject syllabus.

New issues of degree regulations and syllabuses are published each year in September. Amendments to them are issued from time to time and are sent to registered students automatically. Copies of past examination papers are obtainable from the University of London Publications Office, 52 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PJ. Be careful to ask for EXTERNAL examination papers. Copies of past papers are not expensive. A price list is available from the Publications Office.

## **REGISTERING AT LONDON UNIVERSITY**

Registering at London University means placing your name on the list of members of London University and paying a registration fee.

For all degrees and diplomas the procedure is as follows:

1. Write to the Secretary for Entrance Requirements, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU for the University entrance requirements and regulations (if you have not already obtained a copy) and for Form M.

2. Complete Form M, stating the external degree or diploma you wish to take, and return it to London University. If you have the necessary qualifications you will be sent a Statement of Eligibility and a Registration Form R.

3. Complete Form R and send it by registered post or recorded delivery to the Secretary for External Students, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU together with the registration fee. If your registration is approved a copy of Form R will be returned to you together with a special card for applying later for an examination entry form. You will not need to make a separate application for approval of candidature to take your examination in a particular year.

In general, registration by external part-time students must normally be effected five academic years before entry to a degree final examination (exceptionally, the LL.B degree requires only four years registration period). This registration is then valid over a period of eight years. Five years is considered a reasonable period for external part-time students to devote to their studies for a degree, and for some degrees (e.g. B.Sc. Economics) this is prescribed as an absolute minimum by London University. Postponement of the examinations for any reason is always possible and sometimes advisable.

To all intents and purposes, an academic year is the same as a calendar year. London University will consider, individually on their merits, applications for reductions in this five-year period, but such reductions are generally given only to graduates of approved universities or holders of approved professional qualifications obtained by examination.

## **D.2 LONDON UNIVERSITY STUDY NOTES**

Candidates are strongly recommended to make use of the London University Advisory Service for External Students and to obtain

the London University study notes and reading lists for the LL.B. which are available free of charge from the External Department of London University.

### **D.3 VACATION AND OTHER SHORT COURSES**

A number of vacation and other courses are provided annually for registered External Students by the University of London and by some other Universities. Nearly all these courses are specially designed for External Students and they are strongly recommended for students studying privately. A list of vacation courses is included in the Regulations for those degrees for which they are available, or a separate list can be obtained from the Secretary for External Students.

### **D.4 THE ADVISORY SERVICE AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR EXTERNAL STUDENTS**

The University does not provide courses of study by correspondence for private External Students. It provides lists of correspondence courses provided by other institutions but does not advise on their relative merits. Its Advisory Service has been established primarily to assist the private student in the following ways:

- (a) by giving advice about the most appropriate qualification to work for, facilities for study which may be available, the content of University syllabuses, library facilities and other facilities for any special preparation which may be required, e.g. oral tuition for language studies, field work, etc.;
- (b) by providing in many subjects reading lists or notes which have been prepared by the academic staff of the University outlining the nature and content of the course of reading and other preparation which is required for the particular examinations;
- (c) by giving advice in special cases to the student on matters such as the standard of his performance in any University examination which he may have taken during the progress of his studies;
- (d) by making arrangements for short courses in some subjects where it is difficult for the External Student to obtain access to the necessary facilities.

The University of London Careers Advisory Service (ULCAS) provides a comprehensive careers guidance and employment service for students and graduates of the University.

All the careers advisers on the staff of ULCAS are graduates who have had considerable work experience outside universities. They may be consulted by appointment, both during term and in the vacations, at the Central Office, 50 Gordon Square. In addition, during term-time, the advisers pay regular visits to the following Schools of the University to see and advise students: Bedford, Chelsea, Imperial, King's, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mary, Royal Holloway, University, Westfield and Wye Colleges, the

London School of Economics and the School of Oriental and African Studies. The advisers also visit Goldsmiths' College.

ULCAS maintains close links with a very large number of employers in all fields, including the Civil Service, commerce, private and nationalised industries, teaching and other professions, local government, the Police Service, social services, HM Services, research and cultural organisations. Thus whatever career interests are expressed, all necessary information about vacancies, application procedures, training and prospects can readily be provided. Further, the advisers can be of positive help when decisions about careers have to be taken, and are able to give sound advice on the suitability of choices. The careers advisers are backed up in their work by an experienced support services staff and, in this context, particular attention should be drawn to the Information Room and Reference Library facilities available at the Central Office.

Students reading for first degrees are strongly advised to seek careers advice during the latter half of their second year at the University and again at the beginning of their third year. ULCAS is always available to students undertaking postgraduate courses or research and to those graduates already in employment who want independent advice on their progress and likely future prospects or wish to discuss alternative possibilities.

**Address:** University of London Careers Advisory Service, Central Office, 50 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PQ. *Telephone:* 01-387 8221.

## **D.5 SCHOLARSHIPS, STUDENTSHIPS AND OTHER AWARDS**

The University offers certain exhibitions and scholarships for award to undergraduate students and a number of studentships and fellowships are available for postgraduate study and research. A small number of prizes for both undergraduate and postgraduate work are also available. Many of these awards are, by the conditions of benefactions under which they were instituted, restricted to particular fields of study. Full details may be obtained on request from the Secretary, Scholarships Committee, Senate House, WC1E 7HU.

Particulars of entrance or other scholarships awarded by Schools of the University and by Institutions having Recognised Teachers may be obtained from the Secretary of the School or Institution in question.

(Students who intend to enter into articles of clerkship with a solicitor are advised to apply for a copy of the Regulations for the award of the Scholarship of the Law Society. Address: The Principal and Director of Legal Studies, Law Society's Hall, 113 Chancery Lane, WC2A 1PL).

## D.6 USEFUL PERIODICALS

### *General*

New Law Journal.....Butterworths (published weekly).

Modern Law Review.....Sweet & Maxwell/Stevens (Six parts a year).

Law Quarterly Review.....Sweet & Maxwell/Stevens.

Sweet & Maxwell's Students Law Reporter.....Sweet & Maxwell/Stevens  
(Published three times a year).

Cambridge Law Journal.....C.U.P. (One volume of 2 parts each year).

### *Specialist*

The Criminal Law Review.....Sweet & Maxwell/Stevens (published monthly).

Public Law.....Sweet & Maxwell/Stevens (published quarterly).

Information about Periodicals can be obtained direct from the  
Publishers. Addresses to which to write are as follows:

Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd.,  
Borough Green,  
Sevenoaks, Kent,  
Sweet & Maxwell/Stevens,  
North Way,  
Andover,  
Hants. SP10 5BE.  
Cambridge University Press,  
Bentley House,  
200, Euston Road,  
London, N.W.1.

## CONCLUSION

While we trust that the information reproduced above will prove to be both interesting and useful to law students, prospective external students are advised to obtain more detailed information directly from the University of London with the help of the various addresses indicated throughout this review.

(Condensed from various publications and guidelines prepared by the University of London and Wolsey Hall Correspondence College, Oxford).