



Formal Progress Requirements for LLM candidates within the Faculty of Law – Full Time

An LLM is expected to take no less than 12 months full time study.

There are three stages of formal requirements for candidates enrolled in an LLM.

The first two stages are intended to ensure that the student is making satisfactory progress in the development of the research, that the work is of the necessary quality for an LLM, and that the methodology of the research is appropriate and practicable. The final stages reflect the completion requirement.

Stage 1: Continuation requirements

The first three months is a crucial time for confirming both the details of the research project and that the candidate has the appropriate skills to pursue the LLM to completion. The candidate must complete the following, to the satisfaction of the supervisor/s:

1) Written paper

The candidate must complete a paper of approximately 5,000 words by the end of the third month, demonstrating competence in the general topic; a level of analytical skill appropriate to the research; and an ability to write to the standard of an LLM thesis. The paper may be, for example, a detailed literature review or a draft of an important chapter of the thesis.

2) Thesis outline

A detailed thesis outline must be developed, which should include the specific research aims; an overview of the key or necessary arguments to be made; the research methods which will be used; and target dates for the various stages of the research. This outline must be completed and approved by the supervisor/s by the end of the third month.

If the paper and/or outline are deemed by the supervisors to be unsatisfactory the primary supervisor must inform the candidate in writing and outline what the candidate needs to do to improve his or her performance. For further information, refer to cl 23 of the LLM Student-Supervisor Agreement.

Stage 2: Seminar

The candidate must present their research to the Faculty and other postgraduate students. This should normally occur after 6-8 months of enrolment. Candidates may present an abstract of their work in progress or an important draft chapter. This requirement is intended to provide the candidate with experience in presenting research orally and to enable constructive feedback from a group larger than their supervisors.

Stage 3: Submission of final written thesis

Submission of the final thesis must comply with the relevant University regulations and should occur 12 months from the start date.

Key Dates:

3 months – Written Paper

3 months – Thesis outline

6-8 months – Seminar

12 months - Submission