

# UNIVERSITY OF KENT

## Research Programmes of Study

**1** Proposals for new programmes should contain:

**1.1 Award and Title**

MPhil and PhD in Law, to be delivered at the Brussels School of International Studies (BSIS), University of Kent at Brussels (UKB)

**1.2 Length and Mode of Registration**

MPhil - Full-Time (two years) and Part-Time (three years).

PhD - Full-Time (three to four years) and Part-Time (five to six years).

**1.3 Entry Requirements**

- a. First or Upper-Second Class Honours degree in Law or equivalent;
- b. 1,500 word research proposal;
- c. Two academic references;
- d. Evidence of competence in the English language, if applicable.

A taught LLM in the specialist subject area is also encouraged. Applications for admission to postgraduate research will be considered by the School Directors of Graduate Studies with responsibility for research programmes (hereinafter referred to as the 'School Directors') and, potential supervisors. Where practicable an interview will take place. The School Directors will give careful consideration to the suitability and qualifications of applicants and will be satisfied that there are available appropriately qualified supervisors and adequate resources for the proper conduct of the research.

Where the applicant's first language is not English, evidence will be required of proficiency in written and spoken English in line with the IELTS, Cambridge Certificate in Proficiency in English or Cambridge Advanced Certificate in English standards required by the University at the time of admission and published in its prospectus. Where further English language training is required the School Directors will ensure that appropriate arrangements are made.

KLS offers a very limited number of scholarships for research students at BSIS in the form of partial or complete waivers of tuition fees, and a maintenance grant. Applications for these scholarships will be considered by a panel of KLS staff only from those students who have already been accepted on the programme.

**1.4 Campus**

Brussels

**1.5 Anticipated Total Student Registrations**

Approximately 8 annually (part time and full time).

**1.6 Programme Management**

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KLS is responsible for the programmes. The management of the programme will be overseen by the School Directors and the School Graduate Studies Committee.

The management of the programme will also be reviewed at Faculty and Institutional levels by the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee and the Graduate School Board as outlined in the University's Code of Practice for the Quality Assurance for Research Programmes of Study (see:

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html?tab=research-programmes>).

### 1.7 Proposed Start Date

Generally in September and January of each academic year, although students may commence registration at the beginning of any month.

### 1.8 Opportunity and Need

KLS is offering three LLM degrees at Brussels within the framework of the Brussels School of International Studies. Given the limited number of permanent KLS staff and the nature of one-year taught degrees, the operation would benefit enormously from attracting high-level PhD candidates for the establishment of a research environment. BSIS currently has 7-10 PhD students within the Politics and International Relations (Pol/IR) department who make important contributions to the School in various ways; they also provide an already established research community within which research students on Law could integrate.

Potential candidates for the programme fall into two broad categories. On the one hand, there is scope for recruitment from the generally excellent student body on the LLM programme at BSIS. On the other hand, a strong PhD programme, especially in its part time version, could be attractive to the wider community of diplomats, officials and young graduates drawn to Brussels because of its international and European institutional position.

### 1.9 Aims and Objectives (including assessment criteria)

The programme's aim:

- To attract high-calibre students from home and overseas;
- To offer focused and supportive research training;
- To produce high-quality doctoral graduates with the skills necessary for pure and applied research within their chosen areas of employment, including higher education, public bodies and the private sector.

On successful completion of the MPhil programme, students will have:

- acquired a good grounding in research skills;
- developed a broad knowledge of their subject area;
- acquired specialist knowledge in relation to their chosen area of research to a standard sufficient to conduct an original investigation;
- carried out a research project using appropriate research methods;
- produced a thesis displaying and applying a broad knowledge of the subject at an advanced level.

On successful completion of the PhD programme, students will have:

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- acquired a good grounding in research skills;
- developed a broad knowledge of their subject area;
- acquired specialist knowledge in relation to their chosen area of research to a standard sufficient to make an original contribution to knowledge;
- carried out a research project using appropriate research methods;
- produced a thesis displaying and applying a broad knowledge of the subject at an advanced level.

Assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the University's Assessment Criteria for research programmes of study which is outlined in Section 8.4 of the Regulations for Research Programmes of Study at:

[http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/research/regs\\_research.html#examination](http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/research/regs_research.html#examination)

### 1.10 Programme Outline

1.10a Details of the research training that the student will be expected to complete:

#### School level

For newly registered research students, the research training programme involves several components. Students will be advised by their supervisor(s) about which aspects of the programme are most important to their research project, but are strongly advised to engage with as many of the components as possible. The components are:

- i. The module Dissertation and Fundamentals of Research covers research skills and methods across the social sciences. The module is assessed as part of the MA and LLM dissertations (SO917, PO997, LW988) at BSIS, and is highly recommended for those research students who have not passed through the taught programs at BSIS.
- ii. The Research Seminar, a weekly meeting of all staff and research students at BSIS.

#### Institutional level

All new PhD students are required to undertake a researcher development assessment, including at a researcher development assessment workshop (part of the Graduate School's Researcher Development Programme). The completion of the assessment is a requirement for successful completion of the probation review.

New MPhil students are able to undertake a researcher development assessment, including at a researcher development assessment workshop (part of the Graduate School's Researcher Development Programme). Completion of the assessment is not a requirement; however, students are encouraged to participate.

1.10b Details of other courses students may benefit from:

#### School level

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Research students can benefit from the orientation programme organised by BSIS in September and January. This includes introductions to the University's IT research provisions, and guided tours of the libraries around Brussels and particularly those on the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) campus. Moreover, BSIS maintains and regularly updates a comprehensive Research guide.

### Institutional level

- Graduate School's Researcher Development Programme (including online training provision), [www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/skills/programmes/tstindex.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/skills/programmes/tstindex.html)
- Student Learning Advisory Service provision, <http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/about/slas.html>
- Information Services (Library and Computing Services), [www.kent.ac.uk/is/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/is/)

**1.10c** Details of progression milestones that the student will need to reach and successfully pass:

Students will be subject to the progression milestones as outlined in Annex K (Progression and Examination) of the Research Code of Practice, <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/research/annexknew.html>.

**1.10d** Details of the assessment method:

Students will be assessed on the basis of a thesis. The length of research degree theses are outlined in the Instructions to Candidates for the Examination of Research Degrees at: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/research/pgdipresc.html>.

### 1.11 Chairs of Supervisory Teams

All students will have a supervisory team as required by Annex H (Supervision) of the Code of Practice for Research Programmes of Study'.

### 1.12 Research Environment

- The Law School was rated 8<sup>th</sup> in the UK for 'Research Power' in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) and the majority of full-time teaching staff are research active.
- The Law School has a strong profile and ample staff working in international law, and a long and proud tradition of critical research on international affairs. Staff working in this area includes Dr Donatella Alessandrini, Professor Yutaka Arai, Dr Luis Eslava, Dr Emily Haslam, Dr Sara Kendall, Dr Gbenga Oduntan and Dr Nikolas Rajkovic.
- The Law School has many staff researching into EU law and comparative law and have been organised into a Research Centre on European and Comparative Law. Members of the Centre include Professor Anneli Albi, Dr Simone Glanert, Professor Geoffrey Samuel, Professor Harm Schepel, and Dr Sophie Vigneron.

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- The Brussels School of International Studies has a strong reputation for interdisciplinary research on international affairs.
- BSIS has a small but vibrant community of research students.
- Research students are also encouraged to attend the seminars of students wishing to upgrade to PhD.
- BSIS is located in new premises adjacent to the VUB and ULB campuses. The 740m<sup>2</sup> building includes generous facilities for MA and LLM students (JCR, computer room), and teaching and seminar rooms. Research students share the 200m<sup>2</sup> academic area with BSIS staff, an air-conditioned open space with 12 fully connected workstations for the exclusive use of research students, filing and storage space, telephone, printers, and WIFI internet access for use of laptop computers.
- Research students are also eligible for an annual photocopying, printing and conference allowance. There is access to the use of a fax machine.

### 1.13 Student Support and Guidance

#### School level support services

Research students at UKB/BSIS have full access to the student facilities on the VUB and ULB campuses, including two first rate libraries; social services (counselling, legal aid etc.), language courses, and excellent sports facilities.

#### Institutional level support services

- Student Support <http://www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport/>
- Student Wellbeing [www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/)
- Student Learning Advisory Service <http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/about/slas.html>
- Counselling Service [www.kent.ac.uk/counselling/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/counselling/)
- Kent Union [www.kentunion.co.uk/](http://www.kentunion.co.uk/)
- Graduate Student Association (GSA) [www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/community/woolf.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/community/woolf.html)
- Graduate School (Provision of (i) Researcher Development Programme (workshops and on-line courses) (ii) institutional level induction and (iii) student-led initiatives such as social events, conferences and workshops [www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/index.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/index.html))
- Information Services (computing and library services) [www.kent.ac.uk/is/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/is/)
- Postgraduate student representation at School, Faculty and Institutional levels
- Centre for English and World Languages [www.kent.ac.uk/cewl/index.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/cewl/index.html)
- Careers and Employability Services [www.kent.ac.uk/ces/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ces/)
- International Development Office [www.kent.ac.uk/international/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/international/)

### 1.14 School Quality Assurance and Enhancement

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- The programme will be overseen by the School Directors and the School Graduate Studies Committee.
- Student feedback will be obtained from Staff-Student Liaison Committees, Postgraduate Student Representation on school-level committees and the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey.
- The programme will be reviewed via the annual programme monitoring process and the periodic programme review process.

Each individual student's progress will be monitored by the supervisor(s) and the School Directors in accordance with the University regulations. The school's research programmes are also subject to periodic review.

### **1.15 School Resource Implications**

Each year KLS offers a number of scholarships for MPhil/PhD applicants.

Annual photocopying, printing and conference allowance. Also available, funding towards financing Canterbury-based training facilities and use of fax machine and photocopier.

### **1.16 Professional Accreditation**

Not relevant.

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### List of current taught law modules available to postgraduate research students:

LW814	Public International Law
LW815	EU Constitutional and Institutional Law
LW843	International Human Rights Law
LW846	International Criminal Law
LW859	International Economic Regulation
LW883	International Law of the Sea
LW898	International Economic Law
LW899	Corporate Governance
LW900	Critical International Migration Law
LW901	International Diplomatic Law

### List of current taught Politics and Social Policy modules available, where appropriate, to postgraduate research students:

PO809	The Politics of Globalisation
PO814	European Foreign and Security Policy in the 21st Century
PO824	International Relations Theory
PO828	Theories of Conflict and Violence
PO848	Negotiation and Mediation
PO860	Conflict Resolution in World Politics (BSIS)
PO881	State, Market and Society
PO904	The Politics of International Development

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