LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy

This is a unique and original LLM. One of a kind in the world.

Who should do this LLM?
This programme will be of interest to students who have completed their primary law degree, legal practitioners, public servants, disability rights activists and people working in the disability services.

LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law & Policy
The LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy offers students an innovative and internationally focused programme dealing with the process of law reform in the field of disability.
Programme Aims & Objectives

This programme will provide a solid grounding for future practitioners, policy-makers and academics in the field of disability reform. The main objective is to give students a keen understanding of the developments internationally, regionally and nationally with a view to understanding best practice in this field of study.

Led by a dynamic team of experts with national, European and international teaching and research profiles, the programme is further enhanced by international experts who participate in the course throughout the year. Students will acquire expertise in their chosen subjects along with an ability to critically appraise the problems that arise for law and policy-makers in this rapidly changing area.

“I found the lecturers to be very knowledgeable, enthusiastic and approachable. For me, as a solicitor, I particularly liked the emphasis on applying law and policy to practice in order to positively impact on the lives of disabled people.”

Aisling Glynn (Class of 2012)

“The course is taught by highly motivated lecturers who are world-leading experts in the field of disability law themselves. Furthermore some classes were held by very interesting guest speakers from all over the world.”

Thomas Bernhard (Class of 2013)

Programme Outline

Students undertake a combination of compulsory and optional subjects over the course of the year. The optional subjects include courses like: Advocacy and Access to Justice; Inclusive Education Law and Policy; Law and Policy on Independent Living; Legal Capacity Law and Policy; Mental Health Law and Policy and Universal Design Law and Policy.

For more information on courses see

Entry Requirements

Applicants must hold a Second Class Honours Grade 1 degree either in law or an interdisciplinary degree. In exceptional circumstances, applicants holding a degree in another discipline or a degree of less than a Second Class Honours Grade 1 standard may be considered where they have relevant professional experience in law or disability rights.

Duration

This programme is available full-time over twelve months, starting in September, and part-time over two years.

Application Procedure

Applications to this programme are made online via the Postgraduate Applications Centre (PAC): www.pac.ie, PAC Code: GYL11 (full-time), GYL12 (part-time).
About the Centre for Disability Law and Policy

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy is a research centre of excellence at the School of Law, National University of Ireland, Galway. The Centre is dedicated to producing research that informs the debate on national and international disability law reform. This is a relatively new field of law and the Centre has been present at its birth and instrumental in its development.

Dr Eilionóir Flynn is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Law and Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland Galway. Her research focuses on legal capacity, advocacy, access to justice, and the intersectionality of disability, gender and ageing. She holds a European Research Council Starting Grant for the VOICES project, to document the narratives of people with lived experience of legal capacity denial. At a national level she is actively engaged in the process of legal capacity reform, and co-ordinates a working group of over 15 civil society organizations in the fields of disability, mental health and older people on this issue. Internationally, she has supported the Secretariat of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in particular the working group which developed General Comment 1 on Article 12 (legal capacity).

For Further Information

Please contact the programme director:
Email: info.cdlp@nuigalway.ie
Career Opportunities

As a result of countries world-wide ratifying the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there is now a real demand for skilled knowledge workers to help States implement the Convention.

Graduates of the LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy have gone on to great success. Likando Kalaluka graduate from the first year of the programme was appointed as the Attorney General of Zambia in 2015.

In addition graduates of the programme have gone on to work for the United Nations, Disability NGOs both national and international, private practice and for a range of other employers. Graduates of the programme have also secured funding to pursue PhD studies in Ireland and internationally: including the Netherlands, Germany and South Africa.

Likando Kalaluka (on the right) takes the seal of office as Attorney General of Zambia.

Likando on the LLM: “It's a wonderful course which provides relevant contemporary knowledge in a relaxing atmosphere.”

Internships

The LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy has secured two very prestigious internships which are exclusively available to students on this programme. The internships are based are based in Geneva with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities: Ms Catalina Devandas Aguilar. The internships commence on the completion of the programme.

“I have always been intrigued by the UN treaty body mechanisms. The CDLP internship programme made my dream a reality... Thank you CDLP for not only modelling me to a world class disability rights advocate but also granting me an opportunity to apply the knowledge.”

Miriam Nthenge

Alexandra Hillen-Moore (Class of 2015 and intern), Dr Eilionóir Flynn (CDLP Galway), Miriam Nthenge (Class of 2015 and intern) and Alberto Vázquez Encalada (Class 2013 now working as Research coordinator of the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.)