



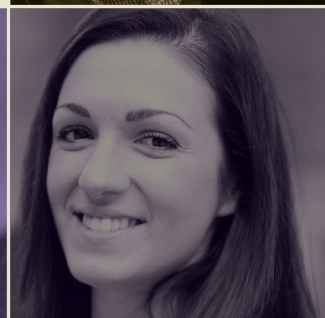
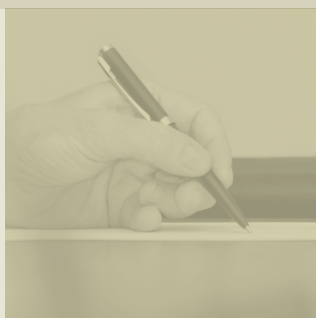
NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

School of Law

LL.M in Public Law

The LL.M in Public Law suite of programmes examines emerging and topical issues in public law from a critical and policy-driven perspective. The programmes will be of interest to students who have completed their primary law degree as well as legal practitioners, public servants and others seeking to develop or update their knowledge of public law and legal research skills. Our teaching methods - based on small-group seminars - encourage a critical approach to legal thinking and aim to enhance communication and research skills.

Students can now obtain an LL.M in Public Law or choose to specialise for an award of LL.M in Public Law & Criminal Justice, LL.M in Public Law & Social Justice or LL.M in Public Law & Administration. The programmes can be completed full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years).



LL.M in Public Law

LL.M in Public Law & Criminal Justice

LL.M in Public Law & Social Justice

LL.M in Public Law & Administration



www.nuigalway.ie/law

PUBLIC LAW (LL.M)

PAC CODE:
GYL04 / GYL05

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

In the full-time mode students must take the two mandatory modules detailed below and the dissertation, as well as choosing two optional modules in each semester.

In the part-time mode students take the two mandatory modules and one optional module per semester in the first year, and in the second year take one optional module each semester as well as writing a minor thesis.

Students may be awarded the degree of LL.M in Public Law or can opt for a specialised denomination by taking specific optional modules. The specialisations are LL.M in Public Law & Criminal Justice, LL.M in Public Law & Social Justice or LL.M in Public Law & Administration.

COURSE LEVEL: 9

DURATION:

**1 YEAR, FULL-TIME;
2 YEARS, PART-TIME**

PLACES AVAILABLE: 25

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Degree in law (Honours 2.1 or higher) or an interdisciplinary degree, which includes a substantial law component (Honours 2.1 or higher). In exceptional circumstances, applicants who hold a degree other than a law degree and who have relevant education and/or professional experience in law may be considered.

FEES: Current fees are €6,015 (full-time, EU); €3,120 (p.a., part-time, EU) €13,000 (full-time, non-EU)

APPLYING: www.pac.ie/nuigalway

CLOSING DATE: Further details on closing dates can be found on www.nuigalway.ie/postgrad/

MANDATORY MODULES

Advanced Legal Research and Methods:

This course will build on the research skills already acquired by students in their primary law degree programmes. It will be closely linked with and designed to facilitate the writing components of the minor thesis, which all students complete. The emphasis will be on practical exercises which will include elements of the following: textual analysis, database training, literature review, research presentation, abstract writing, report writing, research evaluation.

Law, Regulation and Policy:

This foundation course will examine the role of law in the formulation and implementation of regulation and policy in various fields of the law. A number of seminars examine the processes of policy making in Ireland and the challenges and opportunities to impact policy in the public interest. A number of seminars will examine law, regulation and policy in practice by way of case studies of different areas (guest speakers will deliver these seminars).

Minor Thesis (20,000 words):

The thesis allows students to conduct supervised research in a legal topic of their choosing. Students will receive support and guidance from their supervisor on how to identify a research topic, conducting the research and writing up the minor thesis.



Since places are limited, you are advised to apply early, which may result in an early offer.

OPTIONAL MODULES

Sentencing and Penal Policy:

This course begins with a detailed analysis of the moral justifications for punishment and their current relevance. This will be followed by a study of the historical development of selected penal practices and institutions, including imprisonment, probation and community based sanctions. The latter part of the course concentrates on judicial sentencing practices, with particular emphasis on the general principles of sentencing developed by courts in common law jurisdictions, and on the strategies more

political majority? In this light, we will discuss the conflict between democracy and individual rights – and the role of the judiciary in mediating this conflict. Engaging both with political and legal literature, students are invited to reflect on whether judicial activism is a necessary limitation on democratic self-government – or indeed, whether it positively supports and enhances democracy. In the later stages of the module, we will consider contemporary debates concerning the uses and the limits of judicial power in relation

various mechanisms available to identify and prioritise particular law reform challenges in the public law sphere. Its scope will be comparative in nature and will look particularly at the role and critical success factors of law reform commissions worldwide.

Local Government Law: This course will explore key areas of legal and institutional change within local government in Ireland. It will examine the theoretical, constitutional and legal background of local government and its role as an organ of the State in contemporary society.

Contemporary Issues in Law & Society:

This module examines contemporary issues of law and society at national and international level. The focus is on the role of public law and public interest law in addressing problems and effecting change in society. As the emphasis is on contemporary issues, precise themes addressed may vary from year to year. The theme for the past year was children and the role of the State.

The Criminal Jury: The purpose of this module is to consider differing methods of criminal adjudication in the common law. The primary focus of the module will be on the criminal jury - its role, development and its strengths and weaknesses.

The module will consider historical, contemporary and comparative materials. There will also be a critical examination of the jury reform in a number of common law jurisdictions including Ireland. Students will consider why in an age when jury trial is apparently in decline, there is a redoubling of efforts to reform it.

Advocacy, Activism and Public Interest

Law: This module examines the role of advocacy and the dynamics of activism in advancing diverse forms and aspects of “the public interest”. In particular it will look at the advancement of the public interest through public interest law and litigation. Selected themes will be used to examine how the public interest, as

“I was keen to further my academic career but thought it would be impossible due to my position as a partner in a busy solicitor’s office. The two-year (part-time) LL.M programme offered by NUI Galway was the answer to my prayers. I enjoyed the course hugely and have found that my experience of life and my life as a solicitor provided me with a greater understanding and appreciation for the course.”

Sandra Murphy

Ph.D Candidate, School of Law, NUI Galway



recently adopted by governments and courts in other Western countries to structure sentencing discretion.

Theories of Judicial Activism:

This module offers a critical perspective on the role of the judiciary in a democracy. Specifically, we will consider whether an “activist” judicial approach, used to further human rights and social change, is compatible with democratic norms and ideas. Should judges be empowered to overrule the will of the “people”, or of the

to issues of social justice in particular. At a more practical level, we will also consider whether or not judicial review offers an effective mechanism for protecting individual rights and democratic principles.

Processes of Law Reform: This course examines the process of democratic law reform. It will look at how effective arguments for law reform can be made and the various interests that must be balanced in order to achieve sustainable and legitimate change. It will explore the

understood broadly or by sectional interests, is advanced by recourse to public interest law. Practical concerns in the area of public interest litigation - such as locus standi, class and derivative actions and protective costs orders - will be discussed with a view to exploring the unrealised potential of public interest litigation in Ireland drawing on comparative experience in other jurisdictions.

Minors, Minority Groups and the Criminal Justice System:

This course explores the experiences of children; members of the Traveller / Roma community; persons with mental health problems, persons with intellectual disabilities and learning disabilities; non-Irish citizens; women and older persons, who come into contact with the criminal justice system. There is a significant comparative element to this course with consideration of relevant law and policy across a number of different common law jurisdictions.

Immigration Law: Between

Sovereignty and Equality: This course examines the burgeoning area of immigration law and policy. Immigration law has a multi-level structure, covering domestic law, EU law and public international law (notably human rights and refugee law). The course explores how these levels interact. In particular, it investigates how the concept of State sovereignty, whereby States are free to control immigration, has been curtailed by the ceding of sovereignty to the EU as the latter has developed competence in the areas of immigration and asylum.

Disability Law: Contemporary Law Reform Challenges in the National and International Sphere:

The purpose of this course is to explore the key challenges facing the process of disability law reform that is underway worldwide as well as in Ireland. Effectively, this is a law reform process that seeks to accommodate

“I applied for the Masters in Public Law as it offered a variety of subjects offered by no other University. I highly recommend the LL.M in Public law, as it really is an interesting, relevant course and very much a unique qualification.”

Elaine Keane

Trainee Solicitor, Mullany Walsh Solicitors, Dublin



In August 2014, Yvonne Francis, a LL.M in Public Law student, carried out research for the Court of Appeal in the Seychelles. Yvonne spent two weeks in the Seychelles attending court and a session of the committee revising the Seychellois Civil Code. Pictured from left to right is Justice Mathilda Twomey, Yvonne Francis and President of the Court of Appeal Justice, Francis McGregor.

human difference and is premised on the inherent equality of all persons and a rejection of the ‘separate but equal’ segregationist doctrine. It is taking place in fields as diverse as mental health, civil commitment, incapacity law, education law, employment law, housing law, etc.

Equality Law: Principles and

Thematic Application: This course will examine the theoretical foundations of non-discrimination and equality law, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of particular paradigms. It will trace the evolution of equality principles in international human rights law, European

law and comparative national laws, focusing on the practical application of equality principles in particular contexts. The first half of the course provides a detailed examination of equality theory, including the historical origins and development of equality principles; discrimination concepts; the strengths and limitations of equality approaches; and the intersection between equality and human rights. In the second half of the course students will focus on the historical evolution and practical application of equality principles in different contexts.

“There was a lot of variety throughout the programme in terms of the subject matter of the classes and the modes of learning. While it may sound clichéd, both independent initiative and ability to work as part of a team are crucial in my line of work. Other skills in which I gained further experience include public speaking; drafting and legal research and these have continued to assist me throughout my career.”

John Colleran

Associate at Bonn Steichen & Partners, Luxembourg



TEACHING AND LEARNING

The School of Law has a strong commitment to working closely with students on the LL.M in Public Law and forging friendly and open working relationships. You will be supported to develop a range of skills and knowledge. Teaching is exclusively through small group seminars. Seminars are designed to facilitate informed discussion of the different readings assigned in advance. Examination of the modules is through essay and there are no written examinations. Modules are also assessed using oral presentation, written submissions to public bodies and by moot court exercises, etc.

In addition to seminars, the Law School will encourage you to learn by attending legal conferences and seminars and by engaging with public law through participating in the NUI Galway Free Legal Advice Society.

The School of Law has strong connections with civil society, public interest groups and the different institutions of government, meaning that students of the LL.M in Public Law benefit from a programme of guest seminars where leading experts share their knowledge on topical and emerging issues in public law.

ACADEMIC STAFF

Lecturers on the LL.M in Public Law are national and international experts on the different areas of public law offered as modules. Many of the lecturers have been appointed to public bodies and are advisers to regulatory authorities, NGOs and governments.

INTERNSHIPS

One of the unique aspects of the LL.M in Public Law is that students on the programme have the opportunity to take up funded international internships during the summer. The scholarships are open to all students enrolled on the LL.M in Public Law and are awarded on the basis of an application and interview. Students have completed internships with the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre in Budapest, JUSTICE in London and the Court of Appeal in the Seychelles.

In addition, students of the LL.M in Public Law have been successful in securing national internships with the Courts Service, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, PILA, FLAC and solicitors' firms.

LL.M MODULES

The different modules on the LL.M in Public Law have a significant element of comparative law and examine different sources of international law. Given this focus this programme has been attractive for Irish, EU and international students. The LL.M in Public Law has attracted students from the US who were the recipients of the prestigious Mitchell scholarships. The recipients of the Mitchell scholarships Joseph Graziano, from Georgetown University and Tom Tipps, from Oklahoma University, both chose to use their funding to undertake the LL.M in Public Law.



Pictured is the Ombudsman Peter Tyndall who delivered his first public lecture since talking up office at an LL.M in Public Law event at NUI Galway in February 2014.



NUI Galway
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“The decision to do the LL.M in Public Law was one of the best I have ever made. The programme was extraordinarily fulfilling, enjoyable and challenging. The course is tremendous and brilliantly put together. In my view, this course provides an ideal foundation for students and practitioners interested in the theory, substance and application of public law.”

Thomas Mahon
Compliance Analyst, Paypal

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The LL.M in Public Law favourably situates students to pursue careers as solicitors or barristers or to pursue a variety of other job opportunities. Graduates go on to work in private practice in large commercial law firms or working in the public sector. The programme provides excellent opportunities for students not wishing to practice law or to pursue alternative careers in law. Graduates of the LL.M in Public Law have secured positions as legal researchers with the Law Reform Commission, Attorney General's Office, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Court Service. Graduates also secure positions with leading national and international law firms and a range of other employers.

The LL.M in Public Law is equally useful for students interested in a career in academia. Graduates of the programme have secured funding to pursue Ph.D research in Ireland, the UK, Europe and the US and are now working in universities around the world. Students on the LL.M in Public Law use the programme to identify topics for doctoral research. Students have been successful in securing funding for Ph.D research from the Irish Research Council, the NUI Travelling Scholarship and from international funders in Europe and the United States.



LL.M in Public Law Fifth Anniversary conference 2011: “Executive Accountability and Parliamentary Democracy” Left to right: Emily O'Reilly (European Ombudsman); Dr Jim Browne (President of NUI Galway); Ms. Justice Catherine McGuinness (Adjunct Professor, School of Law, NUI Galway); Prof. Donncha O'Connell (Head of School of Law), Catherine Allen (Partner, Mason, Hayes & Curran).



For further information, please contact the Programme Director:

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