

Students' Handbook - Pre-Masters in Law

2025/26

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Course Outline

Module	Credits
Term One	
English Legal System	15
Legal English	15
Study Skills for Postgraduate Study	15 (including Term 2)
Communication Skills	10 (including Term 2)
Academic English	-
Term Two	
Criminal Law	15
Law of Tort	15
Contract Law	15
Study Skills for Postgraduate Study	15 (including Term 1)
Communication Skills	15 (including Term 1)
Academic English	-

Grading Guide

- A** 70 – 100%
- B** 60 – 69%
- C** 50 – 59%
- Fail** 0 – 49%

Applying to University

During the first term of your course, we will introduce you to the application process for masters courses

In your application you will have to fill in information on the following:

- Your personal details - full name, postal address, email, telephone number, where you live
- Your nationality details
- How you will fund your studies
- Education - your course at IFG and your previous academic qualifications
- Employment
- Your personal statement
- Your university choices - you will receive extensive one to one help in choosing the right course and university for the next stage of your studies.

In the education section where you should fill in the Pre-Masters information, use the following details:

Awarding organization	International Foundation Group
Qualification name	Pre-Masters in Law
Start date (for September intake)	29th September 2025
Start date (for January intake)	5th January 2026
End date (for September intake)	June 2026
Start date (for January intake)	July 2026
Type of study	Full-time
Referee and/or Agent and/or Nominated access	Michael Addison Academic Director +44 (0)20 3633 0510 m.addison@intfoundationgroup.co.uk
Modules	English Legal System Legal English Study Skills for Postgraduate Study Communication Skills Criminal Law Law of Tort Contract Law
Qualification date	July 2026

Course Modules

English Legal System

Term One
15 credits

Introduction and Aims

The module introduces students to the English legal system, providing a foundation for the remainder of their studies. It examines the sources, structure and processes of English law and develops skills in applying legal rules and principles to specific cases. It also looks at ethical and moral considerations in making legal decisions, and the relationship between law and justice.

Objectives

1. Develop an understanding of the sources of English law.
2. Appreciate the relationship of the executive and judiciary in the legislative and interpretative processes.
3. Appreciate the importance of precedence and develop the ability to apply this knowledge to specific cases.
4. Develop an understanding of the court and jury systems in the UK.
5. Appreciate ethical considerations in legal decision making.
6. Be able to analyse specific cases and draw appropriate conclusions.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Frost T, Huxley-/Binns R et al (2025)	<i>Unlocking the English Legal System</i>	Routledge Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/4913260/0
Murphy R, Burton F (2020)	<i>New Perspectives on Microsoft Excel 2013</i>	Routledge Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/2194053

Assessment

- Coursework essays (75%)
- Presentations (25%)

Legal English

Term One
15 credits

Introduction and Aims

The module introduces students to key vocabulary and concepts relevant to several areas of law including Contract, Tort, Property, International Commercial law, Employment law and Criminal law. In addition to vocabulary and concepts, the course introduces students to significant legal Latin used in the English legal system, useful word collocations and prepositional phrases and provides opportunities to develop confidence with using legal English through practising and developing the following skills: listening, writing, reading, speaking and negotiating.

There is a strong emphasis on helping students gain confidence using legal English at work and in their future studies in a UK university. Therefore much of the course includes using legal English to practise writing emails, and role-plays involving communication with clients and colleagues.

To ensure that progress is identifiable at the end of the course and confidence is grown, each student is encouraged to identify a specific skill or skills they wish to focus on during the course. The tutor facilitates this development, ensuring that upon completion the student feels more confident about their legal English than they did when they started the programme.

Objectives

1. To learn vocabulary necessary for all areas of law studied on the module.
2. To develop and practise negotiation skills in legal English.
3. To develop the ability to explain the law plainly and accurately in English.
4. To gain confidence in writing emails in plain English.
5. To improve listening skills in legal English.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Haigh, R (2020)	<i>International Legal English</i>	Routledge Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/2194272

Assessment

Students complete two assessments for this module. Each assessment is worth 50 percent of the total mark for the assessment. One assessment requires the students to either read or listen to a source and explain the law and legal concepts to a client or colleague in plain and accurate English.

The second assessment requires students to engage in negotiation for settlement. The assessment comprises both written and spoken components.

The first assessment is issued in week 3 and submitted in week 5. The second assessment is issued in week 7 and submitted in week 10.

Study Skills for Postgraduate Study

Term One and Term Two - 15 credits

Introduction and Aims

This module provides students with an opportunity to develop the skills required for studying at graduate level focusing on research methods for business. In undertaking this module, they will develop academic skills which will see them develop as critical thinkers and gain analytical skills which help in presenting complex arguments.

Objectives

- Show a full appreciation of academic rules and processes for postgraduate study.
- Critically appraise the literature pertaining to a problem domain.
- Communicate sophisticated arguments effectively using appropriate academic conventions.
- Identify, evaluate, select and apply relevant research techniques in both primary and secondary research as appropriate to the subject.
- Rigorously analyse the evidence gathered.
- Generate and justify appropriate conclusions based on the previous analyses, demonstrating awareness of the limitations of the research.
- Apply referencing skills as appropriate to the subject.
- Develop and deliver presentations appropriate for different audiences

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Cottrell, S. (2019)	<i>The Study Skills Handbook 5th Ed</i>	Macmillan
Burns, T & Sinfield, S (2022)	<i>Essential Study Skills 5th edition</i>	Sage Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/4336896/23?page_number=179

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
Essay Proposal	15%
Final Essay	85%

Communication Skills

Term One and Term Two
10 credits

Introduction and Aims

This module is taken in terms one and two of the programme. The course is divided into four units: non-verbal communication, verbal communication, IT related communication and presentations. Various transferable skills will be developed through active participation in different academic and professional assessed tasks (formative and summative) leading to the independent production of a fully individual presentation on a chosen subject in an academic and professional manner.

Objectives

- Employ an appropriate and effective use of non-verbal and verbal communication skills in various professional and academic contexts.
- Interact confidently with individuals, groups and large audiences.
- Make effective use of word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software.
- Present and summarise ideas in a coherent way in various professional and academic contexts.
- Prepare and deliver a presentation with clarity and confidence using visual aids.
- Engage in reflective practice.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Hargie, O (2018)	<i>The Handbook of Communication Skills. 4th ed</i>	East Sussex: Routledge Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/1570402/0
IFG Pharos - Presentations, Worksheets, Video and Audio Materials, Sample Assessments		

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
In Class Participation	10%
Interview and Reflective Essay	10%
Negotiation Meeting and Reflective Essay	15%
IT Related Communication Test	15%
Presentation and Reflective Essay	50%

Criminal Law

Term Two
15 credits

Introduction and Aims

This module examines the essential principles of criminal law including actus reus, mens rea and causation. It also includes introductory studies of substantive areas of criminal law such as non-fatal offences, murder, manslaughter and offences against property.

Attempts, defences and conspiracy are also introduced on the module.

Objectives

1. Develop a knowledge and understanding of concepts such as actus reus, mens rea and causation which underpin criminal law.
2. Develop a knowledge and understanding of the legal procedures applicable to criminal law under the English legal system.
3. Develop knowledge and understanding of core substantive areas of criminal law taught on the course.
4. Develop ability to apply knowledge of the criminal law to problem questions/scenarios.
5. Develop ability to evaluate arguments surrounding particular areas in criminal law and construct coherent arguments for the purposes of academic writing and presentations.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Hall D (2022)	<i>Fundamentals of Criminal Law</i>	Sage Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/4792585/0
Storey t, Wortley N, Martin J (2022)	<i>Unlocking Criminal Law</i>	Routledge Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/3723619/0

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
Essay	75%
Case Study Presentation	25%

Law of Tort

Term Two
15 credits

Introduction and Aims

The module examines the development, through cases, of laws intended to deal with the problems of losses attributable to human fault. It covers the main areas of tort law and also focuses on contentious issues and recent developments.

Objectives

1. Demonstrate critical understanding of the essential elements of the tort of negligence.
2. Appreciate general defences in tort and also of the rules relating to the assessment of damages.
3. Critically evaluate the availability of remedies in the law of tort.
4. Examine and evaluate circumstances where special duty of care arises.
5. Identify the legal issues arising from a particular situation and apply specific legal rules and advise on one or more possible solutions.
6. Carry out effective research on legal issues using both primary and secondary sources.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Dua S, Turner C (2019)	<i>Unlocking Torts</i>	Routledge Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/2193917
Weinrib E (2018)	<i>Tort Law</i>	Routledge Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/1492168/0

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
Written coursework	75%
Presentation	25%

Contract Law

Term Two
15 credits

Introduction and Aims

This module examines the essential principles of the formation, enforcement and termination of a contract. It covers the fundamental principles of contract law and provides a framework for tackling case studies and legal problem-solving.

Objectives

1. Develop a knowledge and understanding of the principles governing contract formation and enforcement.
2. Develop a knowledge and understanding of the process by which statements become terms of contracts and the consequences of breach.
3. Appreciate factors which can undermine the validity of contracts.
4. Develop knowledge and understanding of the ways in which contracts may be discharged and the relevant financial repercussions.
5. Be able to analyse data relating to a contract and use appropriate techniques to draw practical conclusions.
6. Evaluate doctrinal arguments surrounding particular areas in contract law and construct coherent arguments from relevant data.
7. Evaluate complex and contradictory data and make a reasoned choice between alternative positions and solutions.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
Vi-Ming Kok A, Turner C (2024)	<i>Unlocking Contract Law</i>	Routledge Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/4539030/0
McKendrick E (2024)	<i>Contract Law</i>	Red Globe Press Perlego: https://ereader.perlego.com/1/book/2306473/0

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
Case Study	50%
Coursework	50%

Academic English

Term One and Term Two
0% of overall grade

Introduction and Aims

This course is designed for prospective students seeking to raise the proficiency of their productive and receptive academic language skills.

The primary study focus is on delivering the course content in a manner that prepares students for the style of teaching and learning at universities in the United Kingdom. The lesson input and participation aim to enhance overall academic expression, encourage critical thinking and promote private study.

IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is a supplementary scope of scholastic development which offers theoretical and practical insight into IELTS Academic and is of particular benefit to students who wish to build on their test techniques and improve the IELTS band score.

Objectives

Writing

- Increase range of vocabulary for academic purposes.
- Use punctuation effectively and correctly.
- Learn about British English conventions for academic writing.
- Develop skills in describing and interpreting diagrams and tables.
- Select and organise ideas.
- Develop and link supporting examples.
- Use synonyms to avoid repetition.
- Develop strategies for correcting errors and proofreading.
- Understand English syntax and use this understanding to produce syntactically correct text.
- Identify and avoid contractions, tautology, split infinitives, the passive tense, double negatives and malapropisms.

Reading

- Develop the ability to understand the general meaning and main ideas of a text within a limited amount of time.
- Understand how to interpret the inferences and applied meanings of a text.
- Increase range of vocabulary.
- Understand a writer's opinions, views and claims.
- Develop exam skills including tactics on how to answer multiple choice, short answer, yes/no/not given and true or false questions.

Listening

- Comprehend main ideas and identify factual information.
- Recognise the opinions, attitudes and purpose of a speaker.
- Pay attention to tone, cadence and interpreting the meaning of silence.
- Follow the development of an argument.
- Demonstrate an understanding of detail by matching a list of items.
- Develop skills in labelling a diagram or plan.

- Develop skills in completing graphs, forms or tables.
- Show an ability to summarise, locate and remember key words and ideas.

Speaking

- Develop fluency and coherence.
- Use a wide range of appropriate vocabulary How to answer a question, and develop an argument or theme logically.
- Use a wide range of pronunciation features.
- Express attitudes, likes and dislikes effectively.

Recommended Reading

Author	Title	Publisher
British Council	<i>British Council: LearnEnglish Teens</i> https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/	British Council
Sam McCarter	<i>Ready for IELTS 2nd Ed</i>	Macmillan
Sue O'Connell	<i>Focus on IELTS</i>	Pearson
Raymond Murphy	<i>English Grammar in Use 5th Ed</i>	Cambridge UP
IFG Pharos - Presentations, Worksheets, Video and Audio Materials, Sample Assessments		

Assessment

Assessment title	% of module grade
Academic Listening Comprehension - 30 minutes, 40 questions	25%
Academic Reading Interpretation - 60 minutes, 40 questions	25%
Academic Spoken Communication - 15 minutes, 3 tasks	25%
Academic Writing - Visual Data Report - 30 minutes, 150-200 words	10%
Academic Writing - Discursive essay - 45 minutes 250-300 words	15%

* Assessment for this module is independent of the Pre-Masters course and does not therefore contribute towards the overall grade.

Disclaimer

This handbook does not replace IFG's regulations. All students will be required, as a condition of enrolment, to abide by and submit to the procedures of IFG which are amended from time to time.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this handbook, but it is subject to alteration without notice. IFG will use all reasonable endeavours to deliver programmes in accordance with the descriptions set out in this handbook. However, IFG reserves the right to make variations to the contents or methods of delivery of programmes.