



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

An tIonad Dlí & Beartais Míchumais
Centre for Disability Law & Policy

School of Law

Postgraduate Student Guide

LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy

2025-2026

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Welcome

Dear LLM candidate,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Galway on behalf of the staff of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy and the Law School. The school greatly values the contribution of its postgraduate students to scholarship and to the life of the school and we hope that your time with us will be rewarding and enjoyable.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with general information on postgraduate studies at the Law School and specific information on the LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy.

If there is anything that you wish to know and that is not covered in these pages, feel free to ask.

We wish you all the best in your studies with us.

Dr János Fiala-Butora

Programme Director,
LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy.

School of Law

Welcome to the University of Galway, School of Law. Law has been taught at the University of Galway since the foundation of the University in 1845. Today, the Law School provides a vibrant intellectual environment for students and teachers alike. Its undergraduate programmes are among the most sought-after in the country, and graduates continue to enjoy tremendous professional success in Ireland and elsewhere.

Meanwhile the teaching staff of the School continue to produce research of the highest quality and to participate actively in law reform and policy formation projects at national and international level.

Academic Calendar

Further details are at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/registry/academic-term-dates/>

First Semester

Introductory session:

Teaching begins: Monday 8th September 2025

Teaching ends: Friday 28th November 2025

Submission of Semester 1 essays: Thursday 18th December 2024

Second Semester

Teaching begins: Monday 12th January 2026

Teaching ends: Friday 3rd April 2026

Submission of Semester 2 essays: Friday, 6th May 2026

Dissertation:

Submission of dissertation topic and form: Friday 20th February 2026

Submission of dissertation: Friday, 7th August 2026

Easter: Good Friday 3rd April to Easter Monday 6th April 2026

Bank holidays:

Monday 27th October 2025 / Monday, 2nd February 2026 / Monday, 17th March 2026

Monday 4th May 2026 / Monday 1st June 2026 / Monday 3rd August 2026

1. Course Content

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 and policy in the field of disability. This area of law is undergoing significant changes as a result of introduction of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This change in the legal landscape has informed the content and topics for study in the LLM.

The mandatory module provides students with an in-depth understanding of the core foundational themes in disability law and policy. The optional modules address law and policy at international, regional and national level, as well addressing topical subjects such as Legal Capacity, Inclusive Education, Mental Health Law, Independent Living, and Access to Justice and Advocacy.

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

1.1 Overview of Programme

The LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy is a one-year programme of full-time study, combining two semesters of course work and the preparation and submission of a dissertation/minor thesis. Full-time students will also sit five optional subjects across the two semesters. Generally, students will take two optional modules in semester one and three optional modules in semester two. All students are required to take a compulsory subject in semester one of year one, Foundational and Theoretical Framework for Disability Law and Policy.

The Part Time Mode is a two-year programme of part-time study. Students also sit two optional subjects during year one. For year two students take three optional subjects. In year two, part time students must complete their dissertation.

All student dissertations, or minor thesis are 15,000 words in length in any of the subjects covered during the LLM. Students will have a member of the teaching staff as supervisor.

Duration

The programme is divided into two semesters. The first semester commences in September and runs through to the end of November. The second semester begins in January and ends in April. The period April-August is devoted to the completion of essays and the writing up of the dissertation and terminates with the submission of the thesis in August. During the two semesters candidates are required to attend a full course of seminars in each subject, while the third period, April-August, is devoted entirely to research and writing.

Organisation of course modules

Semester 1:

Compulsory module

LW552 Foundational Theoretical Framework for Disability Law and Policy

Optional modules:

Semester 1:

- LW558 Legal Capacity Law and Policy
- LW5101 International Disability Human Rights Clinic (this module runs into Semester 2)
- LW483 Advanced Legal Research Methods

Optional modules:

Semester 2:

- LW550 Advocacy and Access to Justice
- LW561 Mental Health Law and Policy
- LW553 Inclusive Education Law and Policy
- LW551 Contemporary Challenges in Disability Law and Policy

Please note that not every subject will be offered in every year. Modules offered are subject to levels of student interest as a minimum of 4 students registered to take the module for credit (not auditing) is required for a module to run.

Module Descriptions

Compulsory module

LW552 Foundational Theoretical Framework for Disability Law and Policy (10 ECTS)

Module Co-ordinator: Prof. Eilíonóir Flynn

This course will take you through various theories which have underpinned the disability rights movement we see today. We cover concepts of equality, the medical, social and human rights models of disability, normalization, capabilities theories, post-structuralist and post-modern scholarship on disability, the philosophy of the independent living movement, and the development of the human rights approach to disability enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Optional Modules

Semester 1

LW558 Legal Capacity Law and Policy (10 ECTS)

Module Co-ordinator: Dr János Fiala-Butora

This course will begin by defining legal capacity and examining its evolution throughout legal history. We will then look at philosophical conceptions of personhood and explore how the law regulates personhood via legal capacity systems. Traditional approaches to legal capacity will be analyzed, with a focus on the purpose of the legislation as well as its effects on the persons it is applied to. Once we have a clear understanding of legal capacity from the legal and philosophical perspectives, we will examine the drafting of Article 12 of the CRPD, which guarantees the right to legal capacity on an equal basis for all. We will look at the article's meaning and the obligations it imposes on State Parties to the convention. Finally, we will examine legal capacity law reform around the globe, exploring both political advocacy methods as well as whether the substance of the reforms is in compliance with Article 12.

LW483 Advanced Legal Research Methods (10 ECTS)

Module Co-ordinator: Mr Lawrence Donnelly

This course will build on the research skills already acquired by students in their primary degree programmes. It will be closely linked with and designed to facilitate the writing components and the minor thesis requirement of all students on the programme. 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.

LW5101 International Disability Human Rights Clinic (10 ECTS)

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Cliona de Bhailís

This module focuses on the development of clinical legal skills and their application to national and international disability human rights work - such as the preparation of submissions on national policy, amicus briefs for regional and international courts, the development of shadow reports to UN treaty bodies and other inputs to UN agencies on issues of disability rights law. To achieve this, students will work on a practical assignment from a community partner and lead legal information clinics as part of the Disability Legal Information Clinic (DLIC) in the CDLP. Before completing the practical assignments, the module will explore key provisions of Irish law and the CRPD and core skills for clinical research practice.** **PLEASE NOTE: This module runs across both Semester 1 and Semester 2 ****

Semester 2

LW550 Advocacy and Access to Justice (10 ECTS)

Module Co-ordinator: Prof. Eilíonóir Flynn

This module will address the broad scope of access to justice for people with disabilities (including access to information, and to the systems and procedures used in the administration of justice). It will highlight how people with disabilities experience barriers in accessing justice, and how these barriers can be redressed, through statutory advocacy services and other innovative rights-enforcement mechanisms.

LW553 Inclusive Education Law and Policy (10 ECTS)

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Shivaun Quinlivan

The purpose of this course is to explore the key challenges facing the process of inclusive education reform that is underway worldwide as well as in Ireland. Effectively, this is a law reform process that seeks to accommodate human difference within the education system and is premised on the inherent equality of all persons and a rejection of the 'separate but equal' segregationist doctrine. This move towards mainstream education, to truly inclusive education is not without its critics, with some championing the necessity for separate provision in certain situations (e.g. deaf community, and parents of children with autism).

LW561 Mental Health Law and Policy (10 ECTS) □

Module Co-ordinator: Dr János Fiala-Butora

The purpose of this course is to explore the key challenges facing mental health law and policy at the international, regional and national levels. Mental health law will be examined against international human rights norms and the needs of adults and children with psychosocial disabilities. This course will examine the legitimacy of laws and policies that provide for the involuntary detention and forcible treatment of persons from a civil and criminal law perspective. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the European Convention on Human Rights and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as other human rights instruments, will provide the basis for this critical evaluation. The course is also intended to raise awareness of some specific issues, including the impact of the power imbalances within the mental health system and the interaction of mental health laws with denials of legal capacity. Alternative legal models that support the assertion of, and respect for, a person's own will and preferences will also be considered. National law will be analysed to provide a case study of some of these issues.

LW551 Contemporary Challenges in Disability Law and Policy (10 ECTS)

Module Co-ordinator: Dr. Janos Fiala-Butora

The main objective of this module is to explore how the human rights of persons with disabilities can be fully realised in different countries and contexts. The module is divided into three main parts. The first part will address how persons with disabilities' right to liberty can be violated in different contexts. Students will learn how persons with disabilities are over-represented in different detention settings; this includes mental health and residential aged care facilities as well as the practice of solitary confinement in the criminal justice system for persons with disabilities. The second part will consider voice and participation in various settings, including within institutional settings and civil society. We will examine how using voice and participation within different settings can contribute to social change. Effective means of participation will be discussed, as well as barriers and cases where participation was not facilitated or implemented effectively. Finally the module will consider the challenge of implementing the CRPD in domestic systems. The CRPD uniquely requires states to establish a Government focal point with responsibility for implementing the Convention and a separate independent mechanism with responsibility for monitoring implementation. This module will consider how these bodies interact with civil society in domesticating the provision of the CRPD.

Dissertation/Minor Thesis (30 ECTS)

The dissertation represents the concerted piece of work that is submitted by a candidate at the end of the programme. It will consist of a detailed analysis of a specific issue determined by the candidate in conjunction with his/her supervisor.

Note: The total ECTS credit requirement for the award of the LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy is 90. This is made up as follows:

Compulsory modules

	ECTS
1. Foundational Theoretical Framework for Disability Law and Policy	10

Total	10
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Optional modules

	ECTS
1. Advocacy and Access to Justice	10
2. Legal Capacity Law and Policy	10
3. International Disability Human Rights Clinic	10
4. Mental Health Law and Policy	10
5. Inclusive Education Law and Policy	10
6. Advanced Legal Research Methods	10
7. Contemporary Challenges in Disability Law and Policy	10

5 x optional modules	50
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Dissertation/minor thesis	30
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Total ECTS for LLM
90

What is expected of students

The LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy is a taught postgraduate degree consisting of seminars given on a weekly basis. However, students should note that the formats of these seminars differ considerably from undergraduate courses. At undergraduate level students might only take notes from the lecture given. At LLM level students will be given reading lists at the start of term and are expected to have familiarised themselves with the reading materials for each week in advance of the seminars. Lectures are delivered by Microsoft Teams or Zoom and are accessed through Canvas. All in-person sessions are live-streamed and recorded for any student unable to attend, including for accessibility reasons. ***Students must come to the seminars having read the materials assigned and having watched any assigned video material and must be prepared to participate in the discussion.*** The examining process in each course may include continuous assessment, oral presentations, written work (essays, reports), moot courts and other classroom exercises.

Attendance

Attendance at seminars is compulsory. Students who do not attend will find it difficult to keep up and fulfil the course requirements. Attendance **will** be considered at the end of the year if a student is borderline for the award of any of the honours or pass grades.

Attendance at guest lectures/seminars/conferences

We intend to have regular guest speakers and a number of public webinars organised over the coming months. ***Students are expected to attend*** whether or not the lecture relates to the particular courses he/she is taking.

1.2 Programme Queries

Queries about the programme in general should be addressed to the Programme Director. *Queries about individual modules should be addressed in the first instance to the lecturer concerned* and if that is not sufficient to the co-ordinator of the particular module.

Programme Director: Dr János Fiala-Butora, Room G031

Email: janos.fiala-butora@universityofgalway.ie

Module Co-ordinators:

Prof Eilíonóir Flynn: E: eilionoir.flynn@universityofgalway.ie

Dr Clíona de Bhailís: E: cliona.debhailis@universityofgalway.ie

Dr János Fiala-Butora: E: janos.fiala-butora@universityofgalway.ie

Dr Shivaun Quinlivan: E: shivaun.quinlivan@universityofgalway.ie

Dr. Lawrence Donnelly: E: larry.donnelly@universityofgalway.ie

How to Contact Administrative Staff

CDLP Administrative Staff, ILAS building:

Sharon Hegarty and Mary Faherty

Email: info.cdlp@universityofgalway.ie

Law School - Administrative office

Administrative Staff:

Lorna Cormican

Email: lorna.cormican@universityofgalway.ie

1.3 Internship

We are delighted to announce that we have secured very prestigious internships exclusively available to students on this LLM programme. The internship is based in Geneva with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Students will meet previous interns (who worked for the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) in December/January, to hear about their experience.

The internships are awarded on a competitive basis. Students will be invited to apply to complete these prestigious internships and the successful candidates will be funded for the duration of the internships. It is intended to ensure that the internships coincide with the sitting of the UN CRPD committee, thus ensuring that the successful candidates will achieve unique access to the UN system.

2. Staff Biographies

Dr Clíona de Bhailís is a post-doctoral researcher at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP), and an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow. Her current research focuses on supported decision making for young people who use non-traditional communication and the Assisted Decision – Making (Capacity) Act 2015. She holds a Bachelor of Civil and an LL.M in Public Law from NUI Galway. She received an IRC Postgraduate Scholarship for her PhD research on decision making for young people with disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In her previous role with the CDLP she worked as a Research Assistant on the European Research Council funded Voices of Individuals: Collectively Exploring Self-determination (VOICES) project.

Larry Donnelly is a native of Boston, MA, USA who holds both American and Irish passports. He teaches legal skills modules at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and is the founder and director of the School of Law's highly regarded Clinical Legal Education programme. He presents conference papers and publishes law journal articles in Ireland and internationally on legal education and comparative law. An attorney with substantial experience of practice before the state and federal bars of Massachusetts, Larry was active in politics and government there and now contributes regularly to various media outlets on politics, current affairs and law in the United States and in Ireland. From 2010-2012, he was on leave of absence from the School of Law and worked as Manager of the Public Interest Law Alliance (PILA), a Dublin-based project of the Free Legal Advice Centres Ltd., which seeks to expand the use of law in the public interest and for the benefit of marginalised and disadvantaged people in Ireland. He remains a consultant to PILA. Larry is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA and of Suffolk University Law School in Boston, MA, where he was elected a Chief Editor of the Suffolk Transnational Law Review.

Dr János Fiala-Butora is a Lecturer in International Disability Law at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland Galway. He previously lectured at Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary. János received his law degree from Comenius University (Slovakia), and also holds a degree in International Relations from the University of Economics (Slovakia), an LL.M in International Human Rights Law (2004) from CEU, and an SJD from Harvard Law School (2016), where his doctoral research focused on international human rights standards relating to legal capacity of persons with disabilities. János is a human rights attorney with extensive experience in representing persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and persons deprived of their liberty before the European Court of Human Rights, the UN Committee on the Right of Persons with Disabilities and other international bodies, including some high profile judgments in the area of freedom from torture, legal capacity and access to education. He also actively consults with governments on their human rights laws and policies, and has advised a number of Council of Europe and UN bodies. From 2005 to 2008, he was the first legal officer of the Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC), developing the organization's litigation and advocacy work in Central and Eastern Europe. He later served as the Legal Director of the Disability Rights Center (DRC), Executive Director of Minority Rights Group Europe (MRGE), Director of the Central Europe Program of the Harvard Law School Project on Disability (HPOD), and Executive Director of Validity (former MDAC).

Professor Eilionóir Flynn is an Established Chair in Law and Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland Galway. Her research focuses on disability and social justice, with a particular emphasis on legal capacity, advocacy and LL.M

reproductive justice. Her first book, “From Rhetoric to Action: Implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” was published by Cambridge University Press in 2011) and since then she has gone on to publish extensively in the domain of disability rights. Eilionóir is the Scientific Co-ordinator of the Disability Advocacy Research in Europe (DARE) Marie Curie Training Network, made up of 15 PhD researchers across seven European countries. Her work has attracted significant research funding, including a Starting Grant from the European Research Council, and an Investigator Award from Wellcome Trust. She has acted as a board member and advisor in a range of local, national and international bodies working on the rights of disabled people, and regularly advises policy-makers at national and international levels, including providing support to the Secretariat of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in particular the working group which developed General Comment 1.

Dr. Shivaun Quinlivan is a graduate of NUI, Galway, King’s College London and the Honourable Society of King’s Inns, and Trinity College Dublin. Her doctoral research addressed the efficacy of public interest litigation in the context of the right to education for children with disabilities. Shivaun’s research interests focus on the rights of people with disabilities, with a particular focus on education and employment. In that capacity Shivaun has worked with and for a range of statutory and other agencies in Ireland and Europe: including the Equality Authority, the National Council for Special Education, the Association of Higher Education Access and Disability, the Health Service Executive as well as working on a number of European Commission funded projects. Shivaun was the Irish Legal Expert on the EU Network of Legal Experts on Non-Discrimination from 2004 – 2007. This assessed measures taken by Ireland to comply with the Non-discrimination Directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC. She acted as a project consultant for the European Project on Disability Discrimination (www.euroddl.com) from 2004 to 2006. This project was designed to provide training on the disability aspects of the Framework Employment Directive on Equal Treatment at Work (Directive 2000/78/EC) to NGO’s representing people with disabilities. This training was provided in Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Hungary and Estonia from 2004-2006. Shivaun was appointed as the Irish Legal Expert to the European Union, Article 13 Network of Disability Discrimination Law Experts. This project ran from 2002-2004. More recently she provided training to members of the judiciary on EU Disability Law and the UNCRPD (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), this was provided through ERA-Academy of European Law, Trier, Germany.

Law School Research Seminar Series

The Law School organises Research Seminars throughout the Academic year. See the School’s website for details of past and future seminars. You will also receive information on these seminars via email. LLM students are warmly encouraged to attend and participate, as these seminars will enhance critical thinking and writing skills. Students are encouraged to read the texts under discussion ahead of seminar. Nevertheless, attendance is possible also without having read the texts under discussion ahead of time.

Law School and CDLP Website

The Law School website, <http://www.universityofgalway.ie/law/> is an important source of information for LLM students.

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) website, <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/cdlp/> is an important source of information for LLM students.

The Law School website contains a range of information about the teaching, research and other activities of the Law School. It also allows access for current students to course materials and all relevant documentation pertaining to their programme and provides links to other University and law-related sites. LLM students are encouraged to audit classes of their interest subject to instructor consent. The CDLP website contains a range of information about the projects and other activities of the Centre. It also contains resources to previous publications that may be of interest to students.

3. Dissertation Guidelines

In order to be eligible for the award of the LL.M degree, a candidate must present a dissertation of not more than 15,000 words (including footnotes, excluding bibliography).

3.1 Selection of topics

Topics must be selected in conjunction with and approved by lecturers from any of the core courses or options or related areas. The subject matter must come within the themes of the LL.M programme and expand on your understanding of disability law and policy. An information session will take place on your Dissertation during semester 1. **The deadline for submission of the dissertation topic and form will be on 20 February 2026.** By that date students must have completed the dissertation registration form by giving the title chosen, subject area and name of supervisor. The form is annexed to this guide or available from the school Office. The completed form must be returned to the school Office.

The structure of your Dissertation is up to you. You can refer to previous Dissertations submitted by students for guidance: <https://libguides.library.nuigalway.ie/findingtheses>. Please discuss the structure and methodology of your Dissertation individually with your supervisors.

3.2 Selection of Supervisor

When seeking a supervisor, students should first approach lecturers from any of the core courses or options or related areas, either in person during their office hours, or by phone or by email.

Supervisors will require candidates to submit a written outline of their proposal, together with a short review of the relevant literature before giving their support to a proposal. If, for some reason agreed with the programme director, your chosen supervisor is from outside the programme, a lecturer associated with the programme must be appointed as overall supervisor.

3.3 Relationship with supervisors

Once your supervisor has agreed to oversee your dissertation work and has approved the topic chosen, there must be agreement on a schedule of meetings to suit both parties.

The onus is on the student to confirm the date of the next meeting at the end of each supervisory session. Neither you nor your supervisor should cancel scheduled meetings without good reason, and if a meeting is cancelled you should re-arrange it as quickly as possible.

It should be noted by students that the supervisor's role in the researching and writing process is confined to offering guidance and supervision – the student alone must take on the work of compiling the substantive research needed and of writing the dissertation.

Contacting your supervisors between meetings

You should be able to contact your supervisors for advice and assistance at other reasonable times outside your planned schedule. You must ensure that you know your supervisor's telephone numbers and e-mail addresses in case you need to get in touch. The onus is on you to contact your supervisor quickly if you run into difficulty, without waiting for the next planned meeting. You are responsible for ensuring that your supervisor knows how to get in touch with you during normal working hours.

Maintaining contact during periods of absence from the University

If your supervisor plans to be away from the university, s/he will let you know in advance. If necessary, a temporary replacement supervisor will be arranged.

If you want to work away from the university (e.g. fieldwork, placement), you must obtain your supervisor's agreement and the school's permission. You must maintain effective contact with your supervisor - by telephone, e-mail, fax or visits while you are working away even if an external supervisor is appointed for you.

If you are unexpectedly absent, report any unintended absence or sick leave to your supervisor as soon as possible. This is particularly important if you are in receipt of a studentship, as you must comply with your funding body's rules about absence, including absence due to sickness.

Availability of supervisor during period April-August

Supervisors will normally be busy marking undergraduate examinations during the period from the end of April until early June. Contact during that period may be maintained by e-mail. Each student should aim to have the substantive research completed by the start of the summer vacation, leaving the holiday period free for refining and perfecting the dissertation.

Students should not expect supervisors to be readily available during this time as School members will have research commitments and responsibilities during the summer months. Do not wait until the last minute before handing in a draft to your supervisor. S/he must be given adequate time to read through it.

Note: Supervisors may be asked to report to the School of Law on the progress of a student. The Law School will not accept an essay or dissertation which the School staff have not had the opportunity to supervise adequately. The approval of the relevant staff member acting as supervisor is very important in this process.

3.4 Plagiarism

The Code on Plagiarism can be found at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/registrar/policies-forms/#tab2>

Plagiarism is the act of copying, including or directly quoting from, the work of another without adequate acknowledgement. The submission of plagiarised materials for assessment purposes is fraudulent and all suspected cases will be investigated and dealt with appropriately by the University following the procedures outlined here and with reference to the Disciplinary Code.

All work submitted by students for assessment purposes is accepted on the understanding that it is their own work and written in their own words except where explicitly referenced using the accepted norms and formats of the appropriate academic discipline.

Any copying of material from work by others, including by directly or indirectly quoting without acknowledging the source, is likely to be deemed an act of plagiarism. In other words, when you use someone else's work and present it as your own, it is plagiarism. There have in the past been cases where allegations of plagiarism have been raised with regard to LLM essays. Essays are monitored (including with the use of special plagiarism identifying software programmes) and lecturers will spot cases in which you submit work that is not your own. **The penalty for plagiarism can be failing the course for which the essay was submitted, or even expulsion from the programme.** Please take measures to ensure that you are careful to properly use citations. Please note the following:

1. Where you have quoted from a source, **you must use quotation marks** to indicate the sections of the text that you are citing. It is **NOT** enough to just place a footnote at the end of the quote or paragraph. If the quote is verbatim (that is lifted directly from the text), then **you must place the text inside quotation marks**. This tells the reader not just that you derived the information from another source

but that the words you are providing are the author's and not your own summary. After each end quote, you must place a footnote.

2. If you have paraphrased a statement or argument from another author (that is you are taking information from an article, book or data analysis from another author but are not quoting word for word, but rather summarizing the arguments in your own words) you do not need to place this text within quotes (as it is not a direct quotation) but you still must provide a footnote to signal that the argument or data is not yours, but from another author.

It is much better to over cite, than under cite, so use footnotes appropriately. Again, if the material is derived from a source other than your own thoughts, analysis or data, then you must so indicate.

Style of referencing

In addition, make sure you structure your essays clearly, and use correct styling when referencing. The School of Law has adopted the OSCOLA method of citation, available at: http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/published/OSCOLA_4th_edn_Hart_2012.pdf

3.5 Submission Requirements

The deadline for submission of the dissertation is 31 July 2026. Requirements for submission are posted on the website of the Examinations Office. Approval of late submission shall be determined on a case-by-case basis in exceptional circumstances, e.g. illness, death of a relative, summer placement connected with aspects of the course.

Penalties for late submission of essays and/or dissertation

Up to and including 7 days late:

Where course work, essay(s) or dissertation are submitted up to and including 7 days late, 5% will be automatically deducted from the mark achieved.

Up to and including 14 days late:

Where the work is submitted up to and including 14 days late, 10% will be automatically deducted from the mark achieved.

More than 14 Days late:

Work submitted more than 14 days late will not be accepted.

Penalty Calculation:

The percentages are specified by reference to the total marks available. For example, if a student submitted work worth 60% five days late, he or she would only be credited with 55%.

Extensions

In exceptional circumstances (usually a serious medical condition around the time of submission) an extension to the submission date may be sought in advance. This extension may only be given by the Programme Director and cannot be given by your supervisor. You should inform your supervisor if you intend to seek an extension. Please note that if an extension is being requested for medical reasons, a medical certificate giving full details of the relevant circumstances must be provided and a standard form, supplied upon

request by the School Office, must be completed.

Examinations Office - dissertation submission requirements

You must email a copy of your **FINAL** dissertation to your supervisor. Your dissertation must also be electronically uploaded to Blackboard.

Master's Thesis Layout

1. Your thesis must be submitted in the name you registered in, i.e. the name of the student's ID card, which reflects the name on the student's birth certificate. Theses will not be accepted by the Examinations Office unless the name on the thesis is exactly as registered.

2. The front cover should contain the following information:

Title of thesis

Name of Candidate

Course Title e.g. (LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy)

Year

3. There must be a title page which will have the following information:

- a) The full title of the thesis and the subtitle, if any
- b) The full name of the author, followed, if desired, by any qualifications and distinctions
- c) The qualification for which the thesis is submitted
- d) The name of the institution and department to which the thesis is submitted
- e) The month of the year of Submission
- f) The word count for the thesis.
- g) Name of the Head of the Department concerned
- h) Names of the Supervisor

4. The title should describe the content of the thesis accurately and concisely.

5. The table of contents shall immediately follow the title page.

6. **YOU MUST ALSO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION IN YOUR THESIS.**

"I , _____, do hereby declare that this work that is submitted for assessment is my own and that due credit has been given to all sources of information contained herein according to the rules of the School of Law. I acknowledge that I have read and understood the Academic Integrity Policy and the University of Galway Student Code of Conduct and that I am bound by them.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

4. Student Facilities and Services

4.1 James Hardiman Library

<http://www.library.universityofgalway.ie/>

library@universityofgalway.ie

Mon. – Fri 8.30am – 10.00 pm.

Sat. 9.00am – 1.00pm

Librarian's Office, Deputy Librarian, Information Desk, Issue Desk

2540 poilin.nicchonaonaigh@universityofgalway.ie

3712 john.cox@universityofgalway.ie

3005 mary.a.oleary@universityofgalway.ie

3399 ann.mitchell@universityofgalway.ie

Inter-Library Loans	2541 ill@universityofgalway.ie
Orders	3765 monica.crump@universityofgalway.ie
Bibliographic Services	3338 seamus.scanlon@universityofgalway.ie
Information Services	3915 niall.mcsweeney@universityofgalway.ie
Readers Services	2738 ann.mitchell@universityofgalway.ie
Library Systems	2497 peter.corrigan@universityofgalway.ie

4.2 Online Legal Research

LLM students should be aware of the following online sources of law which are available to registered students through the university homepage, www.universityofgalway.ie. Law students at the University of Galway can simply turn on any computer at the university, or off-campus via a password, click on "Library" and access an alphabetical list of databases appearing on the right side of the screen. The following are just some of the databases students can benefit from utilising:

Celex: This is the official database of the European Union, available to the library due to its status as a European Documentation Centre.

Current Legal Information: This database includes a current law index, weekly case updates, an index to legal journals and articles appearing therein, as well as a financial journals index.

Curia: InfoCuria – is the database that holds information on all of the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

EuroLaw: This database contains the full text of many European treaties, legislation and case law.

GPO: This database contains the full text of a vast array of United States Government publications.

Hein-Online: This database contains the full text of over 700 North American law journals and is somewhat searchable.

Index to Legal Periodicals: This user-friendly, searchable database allows its users to obtain the full citations for journal articles in over 1,000 academic law journals.

Lexis-Nexis Professional: This very user-friendly, completely searchable and incredibly comprehensive database contains the full text of tens of millions of cases, statutes and journal articles from across the globe.

Murdoch's Irish Legal Companion: This user-friendly database is an online dictionary of thousands of legal terms, ranging from the very basic to the highly complex.

Westlaw.IE: This is a very user-friendly and completely searchable database of Irish primary and secondary legal sources. Of particular utility is the online access to the full text of the Irish Law Times, especially because other Irish legal journals remain accessible in bound volume only.

Students who undertake the Advanced Legal Research Methods module in the LLM Programme will receive extensive, and ongoing, formal and informal training in computerised legal research. In the process, they will become fluent in the usage of the above databases and of the ever increasing and incredibly powerful internet sites devoted to legal research, www.irlii.org (Irish law), www.bailii.org (British and Irish law), www.europa.eu.int (European law) and www.findlaw.com (North American law) perhaps foremost among them.

5. Student Services

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-services/>

The University experience is exciting, enjoyable and fulfilling, but it is also a challenging time for students. At the University of Galway, we aim to provide our students with a platform of security from which they can meaningfully engage with university life. While the day-to-day life of a student is, to a large extent, focussed on academic work, there are many complimentary opportunities for personal development, for example through Sports Clubs and Student Societies. It is our experience that the student-to-student support provided through the network of student clubs and societies is a very useful resource in dealing with the challenges of university life.

5.1 Computer Services

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/information-solutions-and-services/>

Information Solutions and Services' (ISS) aim is to use our technical and people skills to develop, provide and manage an efficient and effective service, which supports the computing needs of the staff and students of the University

User support centre:

The user support centre is a service provided for all staff and students, both undergraduate and postgraduate. It offers a 'one-stop shop' for all your computing related problems/queries. The following is a list of typical reasons why a user would contact the ISS:

- You need to register a node on the campus network i.e. you have a PC and you wish to have it connected to the network in order to use the Internet and e-mail
- Password problems - you are unable to log onto the PCs in the Public Access suites
- You are a new member of staff and wish to register for an e-mail account
- You require a user ID for the Unix suites
- You are experiencing problems with an application e.g. sending and receiving e-mail attachments, formatting MS Word documents
- You require access to a software package not currently available
- You wish to report a broken PC
- You wish to inquire about training courses

You can contact the user support centre by dialling extension 3325 or by using the online Contact form.

If you require information concerning your email address log on to:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/students/#onlineservices>

ISS manages a number of PC suites throughout the Campus.

Most of these suites are bookable by Academic staff for class purposes. All public access suites have a minimum number of open access hours where no classes are booked.

5.2 Admissions Office

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/admissions/>

The admissions office web page provides, among others, information concerning term dates, fees and funding and the university map.

5.3 Accommodation Office

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-life/accommodation/>

The staff of the accommodation office can help students find appropriate accommodation in Student Residences, flats, apartments or houses. They can also help if problems arise with property owners. The office is located in the Áras Uí Chathail building next to Aras na Mac Léinn.

The accommodation office works in conjunction with several groups to assist students with their accommodation problems including Galway Threshold and www.findahome.ie.

Contact:

Teresa Kelly

Accommodation Officer

Áras Uí Chathail

Tel: 091. 492760

Tel: +353 91 750405 (International)

Email: agnes.ofarrell@nuigalway.ie

The ***Galway Advertiser*** is the free, local newspaper which comes out every Thursday. The weekly accommodation list is available from the Galway Advertiser Office (Eyre Square) every Wednesday afternoon from 2pm - this list is the same as the one that appears in Thursday's paper – you can get a head start on your hunt this way!

The Galway Accommodation Service is located on Forster Street

There are also a few websites which you could check:

www.daft.ie This is probably the most popular site for searching for vacant apartments /houses as well as individual rooms.

www.myhome2let.ie/

www.findahome.ie/

5.4 Counsellors

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/counsellors/>

If there are any issues that are troubling you, consult the counsellors as early as you can: they are skilled in the art of listening and have wide experience in dealing with the variety of situations and issues which students encounter.

They are caring and friendly professionals to whom, over the years, students have turned for help with every conceivable problem, ranging from work related stress to coping with personal loss and grief.

You can phone a Counsellor directly or you can make an appointment through the secretary at ext. 2484. You are welcome of course to just drop into the office Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (hrs: 2pm - 4pm); students can be seen immediately in an emergency situation.

5.5 Disability Support Services

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/disability/>

The above page offers advice and information on how to access the service and the kinds of supports available to students with disabilities. We hope this will answer some of your

queries about the service.

The University of Galway is committed to Equality of Opportunity and positively values the participation of students with disabilities in its educational and other programmes. The university welcomes applications from students with disabilities and makes provision, wherever possible to facilitate access and participation.

Contact:

Disability Support Services

Room AUC1004, Áras Uí Chathail

Tel: (091) 492813

Email: disability.service@universityofgalway.ie

5.6 International Students' Office

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/international-students/theinternationalstudentexperience/supportforinternationalstudents/>

Louise Kelly in the International Students' Office provides a variety of services to help incoming students from abroad settle down quickly in their new environment.

These include: Orientation programmes for newly arrived international students. Advice, information and support services for all international students. Social and cultural events.

Contact:

International Affairs Office

University of Galway

7 Distillery Road

Galway

Ireland.

Phone: +353 (0)91 495277

Fax: +353(0)91 495551

E-mail: international@universityofgalway.ie

5.7 Student Health Unit

https://www.universityofgalway.ie/health_unit/

The health unit in NUI Galway provides a totally confidential GP service. They operate a "triage" system where you get to see a nurse to start with. If required, the nurse will make an appointment for you to see Dr. Lysaght. The unit is open from 9:15am to 4:30pm (excluding lunch time) with emergency cover (see website for information).

In an emergency there is 24-hour cover by calling 087 2623997. The one bit of advice though is to come early in the morning and early in your illness.

Services include: Acne treatment, Meningitis vaccination, Vaccinations for travel, eating disorders and problems with obesity, psychological disorders (there is a psychiatrist), physiotherapy. Referral to consultants.

Contact:

Student Health Unit

Aras na Mac Leinn

Ext 2604

T 353 91 492604 or 091 493758

E healthunit@universityofgalway.ie

5.8 Sport and Recreation

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/sports/>

Now, more than ever, sport is a vital part of university life as it offers all its participants the opportunity to remain fit and healthy and enables students to balance the pressures of academic life.

Our intention in the University of Galway Sport and Recreation Department is to offer sport for all. A recreational and competitive programme exists for each student. Our students are our primary responsibility. There are regular classes where you can acquire new expertise, or improve existing skills, with professional tuition. If you are attracted by competitive activities, intervarsity sport may be of special interest.

The Kingfisher is a gym with a pool which is located on campus. Please check their website for more information: <https://universityofgalway.kingfisherclub.com/>

5.9 Societies Office

<https://socs.universityofgalway.ie/>

The societies' office provides a wide range of services and support for the university societies. With over 60 societies there is never a dull moment.

Riona Hughes, the Societies Officer, is available to advise on the wide range of activities available through the societies. If you are not already involved in a society there is no better way to make friends, learn new skills, go on exciting trips and have fun than joining a society or two. If you are one of the hard-working society committee members or are thinking of setting up a new society, you are welcome to call up to the societies office and find out what facilities we have available for you.

Contact:

Riona Hughes

University of Galway Societies Officer

Tel: +35391 492088

Email: riona.hughes@universityofgalway.ie

5.10 University of Galway Law Society

<https://socs.universityofgalway.ie/societies/lawsoc>

The Law Society is one of the largest and most active societies on campus. It provides a forum for debate on a wide range of engaging subjects, and not just from the sphere of law. Through inviting knowledgeable and entertaining speakers, we seek to provoke discussion in a relaxed atmosphere for students, and we welcome members from all faculties, in fact several of the members of this year's law society committee are from other faculties. The National Law Debates and the Law Ball are also established, successful events taking place each year.

The Disability Legal Information Clinic on campus

The Disability Legal Information Clinic was launched by the Attorney General in Autumn 2011 and is a joint venture between the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) and the NUI Galway Free Legal Advice Centre Society. The clinic has two main goals - to provide a drop-in information service on legal issues related to disability, and to serve as a research resource for practitioners and organisations on aspects of disability law. For information on the clinic see - <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/cdlp/dlic/index.html>

FLAC Clinic on campus

A FLAC clinic has been established on campus and is run by law students following training and with appropriate advice from qualified practitioners. Students interested in participating should contact the student Law Society.

5.11 Students' Union

Every student who registers at the University of Galway automatically becomes a member of the Students' Union. Members are entitled to numerous benefits including representation by the Students' Union officers, membership of the Students' Union Club ("College Bar") and access to a wide range of Students' Union services.

So if you need legal help, help with educational problems or direction or advice with your life at the University of Galway, just contact the Students' Union officers. You pay the wages of the four sabbatical officers, so make use of them.

Contact:

University of Galway Students' Union

Tel: +353 91 524810

Email: studentsunion@universityofgalway.ie

5.12 Careers Service

The mission of the Careers Service team is to provide a quality careers guidance and information service focused on facilitating and empowering students at the University of Galway to manage their own career development.

Who do we help?

The full range of our services is available to the following clients:

- Current undergraduates
- Current postgraduates
- Graduates – up to 3 years after graduation
- Employers
- Members of University of Galway staff

Current students from Irish Universities or Institutes of Technology and UK Universities (some restrictions apply).

University of Galway Access students

The Careers Service is located at the back of the Arts/Science Building, to the left of the IT Building bridge.

Access to careers information is available without appointment from 10:00am - 1:00pm and 2:30pm – 5:00pm from Monday – Friday.

Alternatively, email your query to Careers Service E-mail and we will endeavour to reply within 5 working days.

5.13 EXPLORE Innovation Initiative

The University of Galway and the Students' Union joined forces in early 2012 to introduce the EXPLORE Innovation Initiative. The first scheme of its kind in the Irish third-level sector, EXPLORE invites students and university staff to work in equal partnership to deliver innovation on campus. Students and staff team up, devise an

innovative, sustainable project, apply for €1,000 funding and, where successful, deliver this project within a ten-month time frame. We welcome suggestions from students for future applications to EXPLORE.

See

<http://explore.su.nuigalway.ie/>

APPENDIX- 1 Assignment Feedback Sheet

Student Name:

Module Name:

Module Number:

Title:

Date Submitted

Name of Marker:

1	Knowledge Demonstration of knowledge about the content of the module	
2	Critical Discussion Ability to bring critical understanding to bear on the material; not accepting everything at face-value; exercise of reasonable judgement about what is important and what is not	
3	Use of Sources Evidence of reading, both from the set texts and beyond them, and appropriate appeal to relevant literature to support and refute arguments.	
4	Argument The overall construction of the argument of the essay, including the drawing of relevant conclusions	
5	Structure The essay as a piece of writing: its flow, style, and grammatical construction	

General Comments

Please note that the information provided in the assessment grid below is for your INFORMATION and GUIDANCE only. It is not intended to be prescriptive, and your grade may reflect issues that are NOT necessarily referred to below.

	Knowledge	Critical Discussion	Use of Sources	Argument	Structure
A	Evidence of Superior, comprehensive and deep knowledge of the relevant module Content	Evidence of thorough critical appreciation and evaluation of relevant theory and research and a systematic and creative attempt to relate it to the topic	Use of a wide range of appropriate sources, indicating personal research. and with full critical awareness of their status and relevance	Argument is sound and substantial, with points developed in A clear and cogent fashion. There is a significant element of originality.	An assignment whose clear structure and expression significantly enhances its argument
B	Evidence of extensive knowledge of the module content. without major Misapprehensions	Evidence of good critical appreciation and evaluation of relevant theory and research and a systematic attempt to relate it to the topic	Use of a wide range of appropriate sources with some critical awareness of their status and relevance	Argument is sound and substantial. although not entirely original.	A generally well-structured and expressed assignment, which communicates clearly
C	Evidence that relevant module content is adequately understood, but with some gaps or Misapprehensions	Evidence of a general critical stance, although some material not evaluated	Use of a range of appropriate sources. but without critical evaluation, or missing some significant items	Argument is let down by occasional confusion or flaws	While the assignment has some failings in structuring and/or clarity of written expression, these do not impair its capacity to communicate
D	Evidence that relevant module content is broadly understood, but with significant gaps or Misapprehensions	Evidence of limited critical evaluation in some areas, with some lost opportunities or misunderstandings	Limited and uncritical use of a restricted range of Sources	Argument is sometimes trivial. confused or flawed	The assignment has failings in structuring and/or clarity of written expression, which impair its capacity to communicate
E	Little or no evidence of familiarity with content of module	Little or no evidence of critical evaluation of material.	Sources not used to support substantive assertions or argument	Either no discernible, or seriously flawed academic argument	The assignment has unacceptable failings in structuring and/or clarity of written expression

APPENDIX 2 - Module Evaluation Form

LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy

Please circle one of the choices for each of the questions given below. Your comments are especially valuable in assisting us in deciding on the organisation of courses for future years.

Name of module:

1. Objectives - Did this module fulfil your objectives in taking it?

Very strongly Strongly Adequately Unsatisfactorily Not at all

Comments

2. Course organisation - Did you find this module well organised in terms of its structure and presentation?

Very well Quite well Adequately Unsatisfactorily Very unsatisfactorily

Comments

3. Course materials - Did you find the materials appropriate to achieving your objectives for the module?

Very appropriate Quite appropriate Unsatisfactory Very unsatisfactory

Comments

4. Teaching - Did you find the teaching provided on this module
Very good Good Satisfactory Unsatisfactory Poor

Comments

5. Recommendation - Would you recommend this module to someone else?
Strongly recommend Recommend Would not recommend

Comments

6. Overall comments - Please provide any overall comments you have about this course
and in particular how it might be improved

APPENDIX 3 - Dissertation Title and Supervisor Form

Dissertation Title and Supervisor Form

LLM IN INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE DISABILITY LAW AND
POLICY

Dissertation Plan Sheet

Name of Student:

Name of Supervisor:

Title of Dissertation:

Outline Plan of Dissertation:

Please return this form to janos.fiala-butora@universityofgalway.ie with
info.cdlp@universityofgalway.ie and lawthesis@universityofgalway.ie in cc by 20 February
2026.