

**CREDIT TRANSFER TOWARDS THE
Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (LLB)
Essential Information**

Please retain for the duration of your studies with
The Open University



IMPORTANT NOTE: You should read this document in conjunction with the University regulations for this qualification: <http://www3.open.ac.uk/our-student-policies/qualregs.htm>

You will need to complete at least 360 credits, as shown in the table below, in order to be eligible for this qualification. The right-hand column of this table shows the components of this qualification towards which credit transfer can be awarded in recognition of study you have undertaken elsewhere.

The structure of this degree is changing on 1st January 2017, as shown in the table below:

- **Route A:** the new degree structure if you complete the degree on or after 1st January 2017
- **Route B:** the degree structure if you complete the degree on or before 31st December 2016

If you complete this degree on or after 1st January 2017 (**Route A**):

- You will be able to count **only 60 credits** of free choice, rather than the current 120 credits
- Non-graduates (study other than completed degree study) will have to successfully complete OU module W100 unless you are awarded credit transfer towards it.

Degree component	Type and amount of credit transfer available towards this component, if any
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Route A: you need 300 credits from the 5 compulsory law modules, plus 60 credits of free choice	
Level 1 compulsory module (60 credits) W100	Non-graduates: module exemption towards W100 if your prior study is deemed appropriate to allow you exemption Graduates: general credit exemption towards W100. If you are a graduate in any subject, you will not have to study W100.
Level 2 compulsory modules (120 credits) W200 and W201	No credit transfer
Level 3 compulsory modules (120 credits) W300 and W301	No credit transfer
Free choice, from any approved module/s (60 credits)	60 credits of general credit exemption
Maximum credit transfer available towards Route A	60 credits towards the Level 1 compulsory module (W100) and 60 credits towards the free choice element

Route B: you need 240 credits from the 4 compulsory law modules, plus 120 credits of free choice <i>On this route you must complete your OU LLB degree on or before 31st December 2016</i>	
Level 2 compulsory modules (120 credits) W200 and W201	No credit transfer
Level 3 compulsory modules (120 credits) W300 and W301	No credit transfer
Free choice, from any approved module/s (120 credits)	120 credits of general credit exemption
Maximum credit transfer available towards Route B	120 credits towards the free choice element

What credit transfer will I be awarded ?

When we have completed the assessment of your application for credit transfer, we will send you an email to let you know that the outcome, your *Credit Transfer Award*, is showing on your Studenthome page: <http://www.open.ac.uk/students> . You will then be able to view and download this document.

Please note: credit transfer is awarded in the context of the particular qualification towards which you are claiming it. This means that you may be able to get credit transfer against a specific Open University (OU) module or component in some OU qualifications but not in others.

We award credit in units of 5 credits, up to the maximum shown in the table on Page 1. If your previous study amounts to more than this limit, we will select those credits that will give you the most beneficial award.

We can award credit for postgraduate study but you will only be allowed to count a maximum of 90 points of postgraduate study towards the degree whether from transferred credit, OU modules, or a combination of the two.

Credit towards the free choice element

You can be awarded credit transfer towards the free choice element for eligible study in any subject:

- up to 60 credits if you complete this degree from 2017 onwards (Route A)
- up to 120 credits if you complete the degree on or before 31st December 2016 (Route B)

However, if your study is in **Law**, you may only count it towards the free choice element if the content differs significantly from that of the compulsory Level 2 and 3 OU law modules (W200, W201, W300 and W301), which cover the following 8 specialist law subjects: the English Legal System, EU Law, Contract, Tort, Criminal Law, Public Law, Land Law, and Equity/Trusts

- **Graduates:** if you hold a *completed* LLB degree from another institution, it is likely that your studies will include enough content that is different from the Level 2 and 3 compulsory OU law modules (W200, W201, W300 and W301) to allow you to be awarded the maximum amount of credit transfer available. Graduates in any subject will be exempted from W100 and the free choice element.
- **Non-graduates:** if you have studied Law within an *incomplete* degree, your studies will probably not include enough content that is different from the Level 2 and 3 compulsory OU law modules (W200, W201, W300 and W301) to allow you to be awarded the maximum amount of credit transfer available. You may be awarded exemption from the Level 1 compulsory OU Law module, W100, if your previous study is deemed appropriate.

Your academic transcript and syllabus should describe exactly which subjects you have completed: from this we will be able to assess how much credit you can be awarded into the OU LLB.

Professional Recognition

You may wish to have your LLB recognised (Senior Status Law Degree/Qualifying Law degree) as completing the academic stage of training towards becoming a solicitor or barrister. There are two routes to achieving this recognition, depending on the nature of the previous study for which you wish to claim credit (**Graduates:** Senior Status Law degree; **Non-graduates:** Qualifying Law Degree)

1) Graduates can achieve an LLB which is recognised as a Senior Status Law degree subject to the following conditions:

- i) 120 credits of transferred credit can be awarded for completed undergraduate degrees from UK or Republic of Ireland degree awarding bodies

- ii) 120 credits of transferred credit can be awarded for completed undergraduate degrees from overseas if
 - (a) the study has been undertaken at a recognised degree awarding body as listed on the Open University credit transfer website
 - and**
 - (b) the study is considered comparable to a UK Bachelor degree and is listed on the Open University list of approved study. If you are claiming credit transfer for a completed overseas degree that does not meet the criteria above then in order to gain professional recognition you will need to meet the conditions listed below for Non-graduates.

90 credits of transferred credit can be awarded for completed taught Master's degrees from UK or Republic of Ireland degree awarding bodies.

This credit transfer will show on your OU record as “a completed degree (graduate route)”.

There is no time restriction placed on the date of the previous degree for which credit is awarded (other than the pre-1971 restriction) but there is a time restriction on the completion of the Level 2 and 3 OU Law modules (and, for those claiming for Master's degrees, the additional 30 credits). The Level 2 and 3 compulsory OU Law modules (W200, W201, W300 and W301), and, if required, the additional 30 modules, **must be completed within five years of beginning the Law modules**. If you take longer than five years to complete this study you will still be awarded an OU LLB but it will not be recognised by the professional bodies as a Senior Status Law Degree.

The General Council of the Bar (but not the Law Society) requires that students achieve an LLB at class 2.2 (lower second) or above if you wish to become a barrister.

2) Non-graduates (all those with study other than completed degree study) can achieve an LLB which is recognised as a Qualifying Law Degree (QLD), subject to the following conditions:

- i) Up to 120 credits can be awarded for any study which is shown on the Credit Transfer website.
Before 1st January 2017, all 120 credits will be awarded towards the free choice element
From 1st January 2017, up to 60 credits will be awarded towards the free choice element and you can be awarded a further 60 credits (exemption from W100) if your previous study is deemed appropriate.
- ii) All study, including any previous study for which transferred credit is awarded plus all of the compulsory OU Law modules, **must be completed within six years**. If you take longer than six years you will still be awarded an OU LLB but it will not be recognised as a Qualifying Law Degree. This six years starts from the “study commenced in...” date shown on your *Credit Transfer Award* document, or the date you started the first of the compulsory OU Law modules, whichever is earlier.
- iii) Please note: credit transfer which is categorised as either “**HNC/HND study**” or “**non-HNC/HND study**” (ie Edexcel Professional Awards, Certificates, Diplomas) can be used towards an OU LLB degree, but your OU LLB will not be recognised by the professional bodies as a Qualifying Law Degree (QLD).

Non-graduate study will show on your OU record as “HNC/D study”; “non-HNC/HND study” (if your study is an Edexcel Professional Award, Certificate, or Diploma); or “study other than a completed degree” if your study is neither an HNC/D nor an Edexcel Professional qualification.

Types of credit transfer

There are two types of credit transfer: **module exemption** and **general credit exemption**. The table on page 1 shows which type/s can count towards this qualification and the outcome of your credit transfer application will be displayed on your *Credit Transfer Award* document.

Module exemption: means that you have been exempted from a particular OU module in recognition of your previous study. Your prior study must be at, or equivalent to, the UK academic level of the OU module/s you are being exempted from, and considered to be broadly in-line with the learning outcomes of your chosen OU qualification. Your *Credit Transfer Award* will specify which OU module/s you have been exempted from studying towards your chosen OU qualification.

General credit exemption: means that you have been exempted from studying the specified amount of credit at the given academic level towards this OU qualification. This type of credit transfer is awarded if your previous study is at, or equivalent to, the UK academic level of the OU module/s concerned and is considered relevant to this OU qualification in terms of subject and/or skills development. This type of credit transfer differs from module exemption in that it does not exempt you from any particular OU module/s. Your *Credit Transfer Award* will indicate the number of credits you have been exempted from, and at what level/s, towards specific components of the qualification.

1971 rule

The University now awards credit only for study undertaken from 1971 onwards. If you already have an award of credit for pre-1971 study it will not be taken away. If you seek a reassessment of your award, either because you have undertaken additional study or if you want to take advantage of subsequent policy changes, you may not be able to gain any additional credit but your award will not be reduced.

Please note: there are time limits associated with study towards a Senior Status Law Degree and a Qualifying Law Degree. These are detailed in the paragraph above which deals with professional recognition matters, and will take precedence over the 1971 rule.

The Unique Study rule

For each OU qualification, you must include an amount of OU study that is unique to that particular qualification (OU credit which has not previously been counted towards another OU qualification). The proportion of unique study required is normally one-third: for details of the unique study required for this specific qualification, please refer to the qualification regulations <http://www3.open.ac.uk/our-student-policies/qualregs.htm>

If you require a version of these notes in an alternative format, such as large print, please contact us

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