



**QQI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

# AWARDS STANDARDS - FOR HONOURS BACHELOR OF LAWS AND MASTER OF LAWS

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### **IMPLICIT AWARDS STANDARDS FOR HONOURS BACHELOR OF LAWS AND MASTER OF LAWS**

In 2012 the Higher Education and Training Awards Council established two new named award stems for qualifications in law:

- Honours Bachelor of Laws, Baitsiléir le Dlí (Onór), Legum Baccalaureus (LLB)
- Master of Laws, Máistir le Dlí, Legum Magister (LLM)

Latin forms have been established in recognition of conventional practice in this field in Ireland. Honours Bachelor of Laws award holders may use LLB abbreviations and Master of Laws awards holders the LLM abbreviation. This entitlement to use abbreviations is contrary to precedent, but without regulatory force for consistency.

Practice in recent years has been to establish standards for newly introduced named award stems. This practice would require the establishment of awards standards for LLB and LLM prior to their introduction. In light of the amalgamation project and the Legal Services Bill and anticipated reforms to the regulation of legal education now is not considered an opportune time for developing standards for law qualifications.

Accordingly, implicit standards were determined, to enable the introduction of the two new awards pending the development of explicit awards standards and/or subject guidelines.

#### **Standard for the Honours Bachelor of Laws Degree**

Candidates for this award shall:

- demonstrate attainment of all of the learning outcomes contained in the NFQ award-type descriptor for the Honours Bachelor's Degree
- successfully complete a programme of education and training
  - whose minimum intended learning outcomes are demonstrably comparable to those typically necessary to qualify for an undergraduate LLB degree from an Irish university
  - that has been professionally accredited by a body recognised by QQI for this purpose (see Annexe)
  - that has been validated by QQI or a provider to whom, under section 53 of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012, authority to make an award has been delegated against the award standard implied by the three preceding requirements.

Professional accreditation must demonstrate that the programme leading to the award establishes the academic foundation necessary to prepare for entry to the legal professions (e.g. Solicitor or Barrister). It is essential that professional accreditation reach its decision independently of academic validation.

### **Standard for the Master of Laws Degree**

Candidates for this award shall:

- demonstrate attainment of all of the learning outcomes contained in the NFQ award-type descriptor for the Master's Degree
- successfully complete a programme of education and training
  - whose minimum intended learning outcomes are demonstrably equivalent to those typically necessary to qualify for an LLM degree from an Irish university
  - that has been validated by QQI or a provider to whom, under section 53 of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012, authority to make an award has been delegated against the award standard implied by the two preceding requirements.

### **Annexe**

#### **LLB programme professional accreditation bodies currently recognised by QQI**

The Honorable Society of Kings Inns

#### **LLM programme professional accreditation bodies currently recognised by QQI**

A competent authority may apply to QQI for inclusion in this Annexe.

These standards were originally determined by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council in July 2012 and reissued QQI in July 2014, and corrected in February 2015. Certain minor changes have been made on account of the dissolution of HETAC. They are QQI awards standards under section 84 (10) of the Qualifications (Education and Training) Act 2012.



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