COIU Legal Careers Bulletin

Mark Potkewitz and Jane Hollway, Directors of Ulster University's Legal Innovation Centre.

Corporate Law, Computing and Innovation

Ulster University has launched a new Masters programme that spans the School of Law and the School of Computing, Engineering and Intelligent Systems, called Corporate Law, Computing and Innovation. Students can complete the programme with either a Masters in Law or a Masters in Science, depending on whether they choose to do a dissertation or computing project. Mark Potkewitz and Jane Hollway, Directors of Ulster University's Legal Innovation Centre, explain why the University has launched this new course, and what kinds of careers opportunities it can lead to.
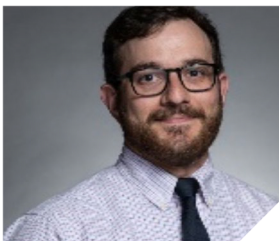
MSc/LLM in Corporate Law, Computing and Innovation – bridging the gap between law and technology

Because technology continues to push change in the legal profession and because laws and regulation continue to push change in the technology sector, we kept hearing from our stakeholders that they needed graduates who could bridge the widening chasm between legal and compliance professionals and technology professionals.

As directors of the Legal Innovation Centre, we recognised the need for a new programme that gave students the skillset and knowledge that our stakeholders demanded. Firms like Citi, Allen & Overy, Baker McKenzie, Allstate, FinTrU, PwC, Deloitte and others all emphasised to us their need for talented individuals who could not only identify areas where technology could make them more efficient but also how to appropriately apply or develop the necessary technological solutions.

As two lawyers, we thought about the kinds of modules we would be interested in taking if each of us was to pursue a Masters degree now. We looked at what was available, reached across to our colleagues in Computing and designed a programme that contains the crucial elements necessary to be a contemporary legal technologist, technology lawyer, technologist working in professional services, or contemporary policy professional.

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What do students on this new course study?

Students on our programme study Corporate Law, Derivatives and Financial Markets and Technology and Internet Law. These law models are all taught by practitioners who are either currently licensed lawyers or lawyers who no longer practise law. On the computing side, students will study Professional Software Development, Data Science Foundations, and Business Intelligence. We have organised the progression of models to maximise the interconnected nature of the programme.

What kinds of careers opportunities can the LLM/MSc in Corporate Law, Computing and Innovation lead to?

All of our students have the opportunity to pursue competitive placements with industry partners to apply skills they develop on our programme. Students will even have the opportunity to incorporate their placement into either their dissertation or their computer project. We have designed this programme to respond to industry demand to make our students more attractive to a range of employers across various industries.

Whether somebody is looking to prepare to begin their legal or technology-focused career on stronger footing, or to upskill in the areas of the law and technology, the Corporate Law and Computing Masters programme will improve the career prospects of our graduates and prepare them to work in the most innovative legal practices, professional service firms, and technology companies.