



## **The UCD Law Taught Programmes Board**

### **Terms of Reference**

*Revisions approved Academic Council Executive  
Committee on 28 May 2025*

#### **1. Purpose and Function of the Board**

- 1.1 The Law Taught Programmes Board is responsible to the Academic Council, or its relevant Committee, for the design, development, regulation and quality, and for overseeing the delivery of the programmes within its remit.
- 1.2 The Board is also responsible for monitoring the overall performance of students registered to these programmes, including Erasmus, Exchange and Occasional Fee- Paying students, monitoring their progression and ensuring their academic welfare.
- 1.3 The Board will recommend the structure and content of these programmes, and any regulations or policy which govern them, and make decisions or recommendations regarding the admission, progression, continuation and graduation of students registered to these programmes
- 1.4 The Board bears responsibility for all taught and graduate taught programmes within the School, ensuring the effective delivery of undergraduate and graduate taught programmes and the best possible experience for students of taught programmes.

#### **2. Terms of Reference**

- 2.1 The Board, subject to review by the Academic Council or its relevant committee shall for each programme within its remit:
  - i. Promote excellence in education by articulating the aims and outcomes for each programme and agree a strategy and academic plan for all programmes.
  - ii. Approve proposals regarding the structure and content of the programme and any special regulations relating to the programme, seeking University-level endorsement as appropriate and reporting annually to Academic Council or its relevant Committee on such approvals.
  - iii. Ensure that the modules contributing to programmes support the academic coherence of each programme and the quality of the graduate output.
  - iv. Oversee and enhance the academic quality of programmes and the student learning experience.
  - v. Establish, where appropriate and subject to the University's regulations and policies, programme-wide norms and guidelines regarding teaching and learning approaches, student workloads and assessment and grading practice.
  - vi. Admit students to programmes in accordance with the University's regulations and policies.
  - vii. Adjudicate on student applications for leave of absence from and transfer between programmes, in accordance with the University's regulations and policies.

- viii. Make decisions in line with the University's approved policies and procedures in relation to Continuation and Readmission, Fitness to Continue in Study and Student Fitness to Practice.
  - ix. Establish in accordance with University policy, mechanisms to assure and enhance the quality of educational and related activities, and participate fully in the quality assurance/quality enhancement processes of the University.
  - x. Ensure implementation of University strategy, policies and procedures in teaching, learning, assessment and widening participation.
  - xi. Monitor progression and completion rates of students.
  - xii. The Board shall support the development of strategic and operational plans for education within the College. These plans shall be prepared within the overall planning framework for University, Colleges and Schools.
- 2.2 The Board shall prepare annual academic operational programme plans, identifying resource implications of any proposed change in activity. The plans shall be developed in consultation with the College Principal and College Executive. Agreed plans will be subject to review /approval at the University level for their alignment to the programme and University strategic plan. The Board will also be required to prepare strategic academic programme plans, at such intervals as the University may require.
- 2.3 Where the Board proposes changes to programmes that have significant resource implications, these should be planned as part of the formal academic and operational planning process. Where the Board (or the Dean acting on the delegated authority of the Programme Board) proposes a change to programme/s that have significant resource implications outside this formal planning process, they must consult with and seek the approval of the Principal of the College of Social Sciences and Law.
- 2.4 The Board shall, with the resources made available by the University and the College, ensure that appropriate supports are in place to meet the welfare, pastoral, academic and administrative needs of students registered to programmes.
- 2.5 The Board shall work with the University and the College of Social Sciences and Law to promote the programmes both internally and externally.
- 2.6 The Board shall support the Chair in fostering fruitful relationships with external and professional bodies, other stakeholders and alumni relevant to programmes.
- 2.7 The Board may form such and so many sub-committees as it deems necessary to perform its functions, and may delegate any of its functions to a sub-committee. The Chair shall be entitled to chair, or nominate the chair, of any sub-committee established by the Board.
- 2.8 The Board shall establish so many Programme Examination Boards, as subcommittees of the Board, as are required for the programmes it governs. The responsibilities of the Programme Examination Board shall be as per the Academic Regulations.
- 2.9 The Board shall hold a Programme Forum, at least once per trimester. The Programme Forum should include all academic staff involved in the delivery of the programmes. The major strategic and operational decisions facing the Board during the trimester should be presented to the Forum, and the input and advice of the Forum sought and taken into consideration by the Board.
- 2.10 The Board can nominate as many Programme Directors as necessary.

### **3. Chair of the Law Taught Programmes Board**

- 3.1 The Board shall be chaired by the Dean of the School of Law or the Associate Dean
- 3.2 The Dean / Associate Dean shall, in respect of each of the programmes within the remit of the Board
- i. Chair and ensure the proper, effective and efficient operation of the Board
  - ii. Offer academic leadership by promoting innovation and best practice in the design,

- development, delivery and quality enhancement of programmes
  - iii. Develop and maintain effective collaborative relationships with the Executive of the School of Law and the Principal and College Executive of the College of Social Sciences and Law.
  - iv. Lead the quality assurance/quality enhancement processes for programmes and participate where appropriate in the quality assurance/quality enhancement processes of the university
  - v. Lead the implementation of University strategy, policies and procedures in teaching, learning, assessment and widening participation
  - vi. Oversee the effective and efficient administration of programmes
  - vii. Support the development of a collaborative administrative network involving UCD Registry, the Law School Office and School administrators
  - viii. Build and develop the internal and external profile of programmes
  - ix. Liaise and build effective relationships with external and professional bodies, other stakeholders and alumni relevant to programmes
  - x. Perform ceremonial and representative roles in respect of programmes
  - xi. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Registrar
- 3.3 The Dean may make decisions in regard to the programmes within the remit of the Board, or the students applying to or registered to those programmes, on the delegated authority of the Board.
- 3.4 The Dean of Law is an *ex-officio* member of the College Executive of the College of Social Sciences and Law. Where there is a separate Chair of the Board, that individual shall be on the Executive of the School of Law.
- 3.5 The Dean will report and be accountable, via the Registrar and the Bursar, to the President.
- 3.6 The Dean will be supported by Associate Dean. The roles and responsibilities of Associate Dean shall be aligned to University level academic leadership role descriptors.

#### **4. Composition of the Law Taught Programmes Board**

- 4.1 The following shall be voting members of the Board:
- i. Dean of the School of Law
  - ii. Associate Dean for Taught Law Programmes
  - iii. School of Law Head of Teaching and Learning
  - iv. Programme Directors for each programme governed by the Board
  - v. Representatives of the following units: School of Business; School of Economics; School of Politics & International Relations; School of History; School of Philosophy; School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore; School of Languages, Cultures & Linguistics; School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice; Institute for Chinese Studies; and the School of Psychology
  - vi. One academic member nominated by the Principal, College of Social Sciences and Law
  - vii. The Chair of the Student Voice Committee, or their nominee
  - viii. Three student members nominated by the Students' Union
- 4.2 The following shall be non-voting members of the Board:
- i. The Director of the Law School Office

- ii. The Programme Managers associated with the Programmes governed by the Board
- iii. The School of Law Programmes and Operations Manager
- iv. The School of Law Teaching and Learning manager
- v. The Law School student adviser
- vi. A representative of the UCD Careers network

## **5. Conduct of Business**

- 5.1 The Board should meet at least 4 times per academic year, to include at least 2 meetings in the Autumn trimester and at least 2 meetings in the Spring trimester; meetings shall be aligned to the schedule of meetings of the appropriate University committees.
- 5.2 The meetings of the Board shall be convened by the Chair, with a minimum of seven days' notice of a meeting. Meeting documentation shall be circulated to members no later than five working days in advance of a meeting.
- 5.3 Where the Chair is unable to attend a meeting of the Board, the Chair may nominate a member of the Board to act as chairperson for that meeting.
- 5.4 Head of School, Programme (or Programme Option) Directors and Heads of Subject can in exceptional circumstances nominate an individual to attend and vote on their behalf, but cannot routinely delegate their responsibilities.
- 5.5 A meeting shall be considered quorate when one third of the members entitled to vote are present or represented.