

**Programme Specification**

**Programme title: LLM International Commercial Law**

Academic Year:	2018/19
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate):	
Final and interim award(s):	[Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7]  LLM Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate
Programme accredited by (if appropriate):	
Programme duration:	12 months Full time (September intake) 15 months Full time (January intake) 2 years Part time
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s):	N/A
Date of Senate Approval:	September 2018
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	August 2018

**Introduction**

The LLM in International Commercial Law is one of three new taught postgraduate programmes developed in line with the strategic vision for growth and development of the School of Law. This LLM together with the other two programmes provides the base for a vibrant postgraduate community as well as the framework for development of innovative interdisciplinary post graduate courses in the future. This LLM contributes towards enhancing the research-led teaching strategy of the School and the University, with a strong focus on internationalisation, and is geared towards ‘making knowledge work’. This new LLM retains and builds on the strengths of the current LLM in International Legal Studies. It adds innovative elements to the structure and delivery of the programme, engages with current global, regional and national challenges, with a strong focus on developing deep knowledge of the subject matter and employability skills for the varied sectors of work that graduates from the programme would aspire to.

The LLM in International Commercial Law will provide students with knowledge of the legal dimensions of commercial transactions, focussing in particular on the international context, and the developments at both national and global levels shaping regulation and practice in this area. It will enable the student to have a thorough understanding of traditional legal subjects in global international business, as well as emerging areas, brought about by technological advances, changes in the policy environment and international relations. Students will be able to consider critical questions surrounding these issues and develop and demonstrate knowledge and recognised competences essential to effective legal and ethically aware practice within international commercial transactions; enabling them to pursue careers in a wide variety of fields, ranging from private commercial practice; in-house lawyers in various organisations; as well as policy-oriented careers in government departments, intergovernmental organisations third sector organisations or academia.

The programme is taught by research active staff at Bradford University School of Law who have interests and expertise in the issues the student will study, therefore ensuring they have access to cutting edge research and thinking. Students will also be able to take a relevant elective module of their choice from the triple accredited School of Management. The LLM International Commercial Law is aimed at preparing the student for a range of professional paths in International Commercial Law by deepening their knowledge of the subject, developing their critical thinking, research, analytical and communication skills which will help them succeed in their chosen field. The programme is also designed to be accessible not only to Law graduates who want to pursue a career in legal practice, but also students from a range of academic backgrounds who intend to apply their knowledge of international commercial law in various exciting professional contexts such as within business organisations, government departments, intergovernmental organisations, third sector organisations or academia.

To ensure that all students have the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively engage with the programme, there is an intensive 20 hours introductory module taught over the first two weeks of the academic year which provides an introduction to legal concepts, institutions and sources as well as academic writing and research skills. The two core modules provide the student with knowledge of the broader regulatory context and sustainability dimension of international commercial law. A further four optional modules which the student can choose from a pool of specialist international commercial law modules will deepen their knowledge of this subject areas.

The programme will be delivered on campus with the intention of developing a 'distance learning' version in due course. There will be two enrolments each academic year in September and January. The September programme will run for 12 months whilst the January programme will run for 15 months. Students on the 15 month programme may have the opportunity to undertake an internship subject to their securing a place. A 24-month part time route is also available.

The capstone project is either a dissertation of 15,000 words or an advanced report pursuant to an internship. This will provide the student with the opportunity to research and prepare a substantial analysis of a specialist area of interest to them as well as demonstrate understanding of the complex policy and practical dimensions of the subject, thereby preparing them with the knowledge and skills for their chosen career.

## Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- Deliver a programme of study in international commercial law that is contemporary, of policy and practical relevance, and reflects the expertise of the School and Faculty.
- Ensure the accessibility of the programme to students from diverse backgrounds and various career trajectories.
- Develop subject knowledge and understanding and provide training in discipline skills to enable graduates to pursue varying careers in international commercial law or related fields.
- Encourage participative, independent and reflective learning and the development of personal and professional skills.
- Enable students to understand the complexities of international commercial law at an advanced level and in its ever-changing contexts.
- Equip students to have mastery of the subject, conduct effective research and to critically analyse and assess the specific areas of study undertaken and apply this learning in the relevant practical context.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- LO1 Have a systematic and critical knowledge of the substantive concepts, values, principles and rules in International Commercial Law and their theoretical underpinnings within the framework of the wider legal environment in its historical, socio-political and economic contexts, including the role of contemporary developments such as technology and sustainability principles in the conduct and regulation of modern international business transactions.
- LO2 Demonstrate critical knowledge of the institutions and procedures operating at the international, regional and local levels in international commercial law and their impact on the development of law and policy.
- LO3 Conduct independent research which demonstrates the ability to evaluate approaches to legal research in this subject, develop appropriate research designs and techniques to investigate propositions/hypotheses.
- LO4 An advanced understanding of the role of law in each sub-subject area covered and its shortcomings and limitations as well as the interrelationship between International Commercial Law and other related legal disciplines.
- LO5 Generate clear, concise and coherent communication orally and in writing in which style, scope and depth are appropriate to task, purpose and audience, whether working independently or as a group

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- LO6 Employ relevant competencies and strategies to engage constructively with international commercial law in various roles
- LO7 Identify and apply critical learning gained to current developments and debates in international commercial law
- LO8 Demonstrate initiative and independence in systematic academic inquiry, using relevant techniques to gather, evaluate and manage evidence, data and information from appropriate sources.
- LO9 Reflect critically on professional and career development needs and to take action to maintain the knowledge and skills required of a practitioner in international commercial law.
- LO10 Plan and execute a range of assignments, including essays and presentations in which style and, scope and depth are appropriate to the task

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Degree of Master at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- LO11 Design and carry out, with appropriate ethical approval, an original and self-directed capstone research project which draws upon a comprehensive and critical review of relevant literature.
- LO12 Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in completion of an advanced, original and self-directed capstone project using critical reflective communication to deepen understanding of the learning process, with appropriate documentation.
- LO13 Recognise and be able to critically reflect on own values, experiences and orientation in ones' own academic work.

## Curriculum

The LLM International Commercial Law comprises a taught component and a research element. The student will study 120 credits of taught modules and undertake a 60 credits independent research project which culminates in the writing of their dissertation or research report. Most students, it is expected, will enrol on the Programme with the intention of completing the entire LLM. However, there are various formal exit points should they decide that studying for the full LLM is no longer possible. Successful completion of 60 credits of taught modules will make them eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate while 120 credits of taught modules will qualify them for a Postgraduate Diploma.

There will be two cohorts of students in each academic year- a September and January intake. The two cohorts will run alongside each other, with students in January studying modules in a different order to the September intake. The January intake will commence the programme studying Semester 2 modules and complete the taught element of their programme alongside the September cohort. However, the January intake will have until March of the following year to complete their dissertation/advanced research report, thereby completing their studies in 15 months. The January cohort will have the opportunity to secure an internship in the summer whilst the September cohort are completing their dissertation.

At the beginning of the course, students will be required to complete a compulsory intensive 20 hours non-credit bearing module- Foundations of Law and Skills, which will provide them with the foundation necessary to study for the LLM. Students will

study two 20 credits of core modules (one in each of semester 1 and 2). These are Sustainable Development Law in Contemporary Business and Society (20 credits) and Regulatory Theory and Practice (20 credits). These modules will provide the student with knowledge of the broader regulatory context and the implications for human rights protection and development. Sustainable Development Law in Contemporary Business and Society explores the principle of sustainable development and its implementation, including the impacts and responsibilities of businesses in the modern context and their impacts on society and human rights. The Regulatory Theory and Practice module will introduce the student to a critical examination of the underlying theories and rationale for regulation and a critical discussion of the various approaches to and forms of regulation, with a focus on the business dimensions of this practice and the implications for human rights.

In addition to the core modules, students select a minimum of three optional 20 credits modules from the list of specialisms in international commercial law (these are detailed in the curriculum below). Students then select a further 20 credits from either the specialism list or broaden their subject knowledge by taking the additional 20 credits from the list of School of Law postgraduate taught modules or wider University electives that are available. This will bring the total of the taught modules studied to 120 credits. The list of modules available in any one year will be specified at the time of the programme being advertised for application each academic year.

The modules studied, in addition to a taught component of the dissertation module will provide the student with subject knowledge and skills necessary to complete the final research project- a dissertation or an advanced report following an internship. The taught component of the dissertation module will start in Semester 2, and will build on the introductory material in the non-credit bearing Foundations of Law and Skills, focussing on a variety research methods. While the student is not expected to carry out empirical research to underpin their dissertation, they are expected to be able to understand and evaluate empirical work undertaken by others. As such, a working knowledge of issues in social research and issues in research methodology is important. Students will be expected to commence the independent element of their dissertation in Semester 2b which starts in April for the September cohort and Semester 2 which starts in January for the January cohort.

Postgraduate Certificate for September cohort

Postgraduate Diploma for January cohort

<b>FHEQ Level</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Study Period</b>	<b>Module Code</b>
7	Foundations of Law and Skills		0	Start of programme	LAW7029-R
7	Sustainable development law in contemporary business and society	Core	20	1	LAW7030-B
7	International commercial contracts and e-commerce	Option	20	1	LAW7031-B
7	Trade and investment law	Option	20	1	LAW7045-B
7	International Intellectual property law	Option	20		LAW7008-B
7	Elective	Elective	20	1 or 2	

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate if they have successfully completed 60 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Postgraduate Certificate for January cohort

Postgraduate Diploma for September cohort

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credit	Study Period	Module Code
7	Regulatory theory and practice	Core	20	2	LAW7035-B
7	Commercial dispute resolution	Option	20	2	LAW7036-B
7	International Banking and Finance	Option	20	2	LAW7037-B
7	International Competition Law	Option	20	2	LAW7007-B
7	CyberLaw	Option	20	2	LAW7039-B
7	Elective	Elective	20	1 or 2	

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Please note that there will be reversal of the order of modules completed for either of these exit degrees for the January cohort. The January cohort will qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate upon completion of 60 credits in Semester 2 and Postgraduate Diploma upon completion of the 120 credits in Semester 1.

Degree of Master

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credit	Study Period	Module Code
7	Dissertation	Core	60	Diss	LAW7032-E

Students will be eligible for the award of Degree of Master if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

In addition to the assessed components of the programme, students will have access to a number of skills-based career booster courses as part of the Faculty of Management and Law career booster programme as well as other non-assessed courses available to students on programmes delivered in Bradford.

The curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring and review procedures.

### Learning and Teaching Strategy

This LLM programme aims to integrate applied and theoretical knowledge with assessment processes that test knowledge, application and analysis of the subject. To this end, the learning, teaching and assessment strategy for this programme has been developed to help the student build their knowledge incrementally over the

year of study and to develop their research, critical thinking and writing skills. Teaching on the programme will typically involve a combination of formal workshop styled seminars, group discussions, directed reading and personal research. Each 20 credits module represents approximately 200 hours of study time broken down into formal tutor led contact hours in class as well as engagement via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and independent study. Case study analysis and discussion is used to contextualise learning and the application of techniques. Students also work in small groups which encourage participative learning, provide experience of working with people from different cultures and help develop organisational skills.

All taught modules have a two-hour teaching slot every week throughout the Semester in which they are taught. In the early part of the programme, most of these slots will be used as class time with lecturer input, individual and group work activities. A module manual is provided with each module to provide clear instructions, guidance and details of the preparatory work required. Additional support materials – cases, video clips, audio recording, lecture notes/slides, etc. are also provided via the School's VLE. As their confidence with the material and research skills increase, they will be expected to work more independently and lead sessions either alone or within a group. Students will be set research and writing tasks, be expected to contribute to discussions online, engage with other activities supported through the VLE or meet with their tutors to discuss a particular task or their progress generally.

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and engage with the materials and ideas provided. Students must therefore prepare for all teaching sessions and take all opportunities offered to develop their skills and knowledge.

To effectively assess whether a student has achieved a module's learning outcomes, a combination of assessment approaches are typically applied.

### **Assessment Strategy**

The assessment strategy on this programme is robust, adopting a range of assessment methods, thereby aiming to be inclusive, and giving students the opportunity to play to their strengths while also developing areas of weakness. Assessment is based on the skills and knowledge developed throughout the programme and the LLM International Human Rights Law and Development employs a variety of assessment methods- both formative and summative. The assessments are structured in such a way as to help them demonstrate that they meet the learning outcomes of each module and the programme overall. There are no timed, closed book examinations for this programme. Instead, we use a variety of programme work assignments to develop and test their research, critical thinking, problem solving and writing skills. The Student might therefore be asked to write a traditional academic essay, to create a portfolio of activities, to write a book review or develop a research plan. The type of assessment for each module will be specified in the module descriptor with more detail being available in the module handbook.

There is a balance of formative and summative assessments, including feedback during individual and group task to ensure that students are supported effectively in their learning and are able to produce their best work for the summative assessment. Formative assessment is built into specific modules but not all, the expectation being that the student develop as independent learners, they will need

to rely less on this form of support and can transfer the skills learned from one module to another.

The LLM International Commercial Law aims to support the students learning in a number of ways. Firstly, there is the scheduled class time, and we expect them to attend all scheduled classes. Classes all contain a variety of activities from traditional lecture style input by the tutor to explain often complex ideas and principles, to individual and group tasks to allow them to practice the skills and knowledge they have been developing. In addition, all module leaders provide a detailed module handbook which includes a list of relevant reading material. The programme team also uses the VLE, in order to make additional material available to the student, host discussions and provide programme related information and links. We therefore cater for a variety of learning styles and preferences and aim to create an inclusive and inspiring learning environment where the student can engage with the material studied in the ways most suitable to them. However, we also want them to push themselves out of their comfort zone, learn new things and develop intellectually and personally and we therefore hope they will engage in as many of the activities as possible to give the best possible chance of achieving the learning outcomes and demonstrating this through various assessments.

### **Assessment Regulations**

This Programme conforms to the standard University Regulations which are available at the following link:

<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/aqpo/ordinances-and-regulations/>

### **Admission Requirements**

The University welcomes applications from all potential students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

The standard entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

For the LLM International Commercial Law, the student will usually have an undergraduate degree in Law or any other discipline at Lower Second Class or above.

If their first language is not English, they will be subject to the University's language requirements for entry which is currently:

IELTS requirements of 6.5 overall, with a minimum of 5.5 in each sub-test.

TOEFL requirement of 94 overall, with sub-tests of at least 18 in Reading, 17 in Writing, 17 in Listening and 20 in Speaking.

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

### Minor Modification Schedule

Version Number	Brief description of Modification	Date of Approval (Faculty Board)
1		