



## Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	LLM in Banking and Finance Law with SQE Preparation
Name of interim award(s):	Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate
Duration of study / period of registration:	1 year full time, 2 years part time.
Queen Mary programme code(s):	PSBFL
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

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Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

BARBRI

### Programme outline

The LLM in Banking and Finance Law with SQE preparation offers students a thorough grounding in the fundamental principles and practices of international finance and financial services law, covering national, European and international developments from practical, regulatory and policy perspectives.

A wide range of regulatory and transactional areas are covered including international monetary law, banking law, financial regulation, central banking, corporate governance, securities law, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, sovereign debt restructuring, financial ethics, sustainable finance, financing of developing economies, and Islamic finance.

A distinctive feature of the programme lies in the diversity of its teaching team, which includes academics with a wide exposure to policy making, practitioners from different sectors of banking and finance, judges, general counsel and other guest speakers drawn from national and international financial regulatory and standard setters bodies.

SQE1 and SQE2 represent 60 credits (SQE1 = 45 credits, SQE2 = 15 credits) of the total 180 credits within this LLM. For those students who are only required to take SQE1 (\*experienced, qualified lawyers with work experience in another jurisdiction, may be exempt from taking SQE2 to qualify as a Solicitor in England and Wales), these students can take an additional 15-credit QMUL module on their chosen legal pathway specialism. SQE1 and SQE2 will prepare and enable students to take their next

step to qualifying as a solicitor in England & Wales.

The SQE modules are delivered by our collaborative partner BARBRI, who have experience of preparing more than 1.3m students for practitioner qualification examinations, and have highly developed technology platforms to prepare students effectively for the mandated regulatory examinations which include multiple-choice examination formats. BARBRI bring their experienced, expert faculty, learning coaches and teaching team as part of their delivery of these modules.

## Aims of the programme

The main purpose of the programme is to provide students with a solid and deep understanding of the laws and regulations, the legal developments and best practices in international law and financial services law through teaching and applying the law informed by cutting edge research and practical perspectives.

The programme meets the needs of students from developed and developing countries and prepares them for careers ranging from legal private practice to consulting, from banking and finance investors and advisers to work in central banks, supervisory agencies, government departments and international financial institutions.

The programme enables students to :

- a) enable graduate lawyers and other students with foundational legal expertise or experience to develop a detailed, critical and advanced knowledge of key areas in the specialism to prepare them for a career in the field of international finance and financial services law or to help them further their existing careers.
- b) broaden and deepen students' understanding of their own legal systems by giving them the opportunity and the tools with which to explore current commercial law issues from an international and comparative perspective in banking and finance law.
- c) better prepare contemporary lawyers for practising the legal profession in an increasingly globalised world.
- d) enable students to pursue independent legal research and develop their own critical thinking in international finance and banking law
- e) enhance the professional legal analytic, writing and oral communication, team working and other skills needed to practise law in this specialist area.
- f) enhance the students' learning experience through regular interaction with lecturers, practitioners, visiting academics and fellow students
- g) being exposed to legal problems from a national and international perspective
- h) understand international finance and banking law in context and from a legal, economic and policy point of view

The modules delivered by BARBRI will:

- Offer graduating students a practice-focused graduate programme
- Develop career/employment skills and provide students with knowledge required to take the SQE and qualify as a solicitor in England & Wales.

## What will you be expected to achieve?

As a student you can choose from a wide selection of modules to design a programme of study that best facilitates your interests.

In many of our modules, you will have the opportunity to learn from and discuss with prominent figures from leading institutions, including the Bank of England, the World Bank, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the European Central Bank, the Bank for International Settlements, the International Monetary Fund, as well as judges, policy makers and partners in law firms from across the world.

Upon completion of the programme you will be able to:

- Explain key legal principles, emerging issues and public policy debates in relevant subjects of International Finance and Financial Services law.
- Apply highly developed and complex level of legal knowledge in constructing in-depth, original, and justified responses to complicated (and sometimes unpredictable) legal problems in International Finance and Financial Services law.
- Compare relevant legal frameworks for their legal, commercial and social implications from comparative law and international law perspective.
- Consider the relationship of financial regulation with broader areas of law and policy (e.g., insolvency, competition and

company law) both for the short and long term from a commercial context.

- Apply critical, ethical, and reflective approaches, grounded in specialist knowledge of the field and its governing relevant frameworks, to support the responsibilities of a legal professional in making complex professional judgements in practice;
- Engage critically and ethically with current research in the specialism and use research techniques to design and develop your own research, including identifying the issue(s) which require researching and developing information from a broad range of appropriate and relevant primary and secondary legal research sources.
- Demonstrate self-direction and autonomy through the production of independent research (writing a dissertation / research assignment)
- Communicate clearly, effectively, and comfortably using the legal and technical terminology of international finance and the financial services sector and its legal frameworks.

Upon completion of SQE1 and SQE2 students will develop skills, knowledge and behaviours to prepare them for employment and a career as a solicitor, including:

- commercial awareness;
- oral and written communication skills;
- developing career goals;
- engaging critically and reflectively with knowledge;
- building practical workplace skills (assessments will be practical skills ones as well as written 'knowledge' assessments);
- problem solving;
- understanding societal issues and challenges;
- collaboration skills;
- developing digital fluency (the course will include use of digital platforms); and
- developing flexibility and resilience.

#### Academic Content:

A 1	Gain a thorough knowledge of banking and financial law and regulation from a national, european and international perspective
A 2	Explain and apply legal principles, current issues and debates arising out of the law, practice and policy in international finance and financial services law.
A 3	Apply comparative and international approaches to legal issues within this specialist area and understand the cross disciplinary aspects of banking and financial law.
A 4	Develop a thorough understanding of The Legal System of England and Wales, and be able to evaluate, synthesise, and apply its complex, constituent elements in practical scenarios of legal practice, across the mandated curriculum of knowledge, skills and behaviours required to become a solicitor in England and Wales.

#### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Solve complicated legal problems and construct justified, in-depth, analytical and original responses applying the complex specialist legal principles and rules in a way that shows a practical awareness of current issues as expected by legal employers at the global level of professional practice.
B 2	Design, develop and write organized, well constructed and referenced legal research papers that clearly and critically analyse selected, specialist legal issues with conclusions supported by relevant legal authorities that flow logically from the analysis.
B 3	Use appropriate research techniques to find, evaluate and engage with primary and secondary legal research resources in the specialism in order to construct and support original analyses on issues regarding international finance and financial services law and public policy.

B 4	To clearly show a full understanding of, and have the ability to synthesise and evaluate, the key principles of law and practice relating to the mandated SQE areas of Functioning Legal Knowledge, and to develop and critically reflect on, the legal practice skills required to satisfy the mandated skills assessment specification of the SQE.
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Attributes:	
C 1	Acquire in depth specialist knowledge and critically and confidently apply this knowledge in a rigorous way from both a national and international perspective.
C 2	Demonstrate autonomy and self direction researching and solving complex or unfamiliar problems
C 3	Evidence the ability to work collaboratively as well as independently in developing approaches to legal problem solving.
C 4	Demonstrate the critical reasoning (and practical thinking) skills for evaluating and making judgements on the different options for legal service provision, clearly showing their ability to analyse complex client situations, synthesising large amounts of legal knowledge to find the best approach for clients.

### How will you learn?

As a student you will be exposed to a variety of different teaching methods which include traditional and interactive lectures, seminars, tutorials and problem solving sessions. There are also seminars and conferences to which students are invited and that complement the scheduled classes.

Students are also expected to invest a significant amount of time in independent learning, including reading materials in advance of lectures/seminars, preparing class presentations, completing assignments and preparing for examinations.

Depending on the modules, students are encouraged to work in group and to present their findings to their fellow classmates.

In addition, students who choose the dissertation will need to carry out extensive research to complete same. Students will be provided with a variety of legal resources and receive training on how to use them.

Students will use the market-leading BARBRI digital learning platform, combined with a series of live workshops, case studies, and interactive exercises to prepare for some of the practical mandated assessments in SQE1 and SQE2 preparation modules.

### How will you be assessed?

Assessment is by examination, essays, FAEs, reflective learning portfolio and/or coursework for taught modules and optional dissertation.

### How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

#### Master of Laws (LLM)

- Students on the LLM have to complete 180 credits comprising of:

- 90 credits from compulsory elective modules
- 30 credits from guided elective modules
- 60 credits core modules: SQEP001 & SQE002

- Part-time students are normally expected to take 90 credits each year of their programme but this may be varied by special permission.

- Part-time students are normally expected to take 45 credits in each semester of their programme but this may be varied by special permission.

- Students can take the elective dissertation in Banking and Finance Law SOLM904.

COMPULSORY = COMPULSORY ELECTIVE

ELECTIVE = GUIDED ELECTIVE

#### Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Securities Regulation	SOLM001	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Regulation of Financial Markets	SOLM003	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
International Finance Law	SOLM005	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
International Finance Law Applied	SOLM006	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Banking Law International	SOLM007	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Banking and FinTech Law	SOLM008	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Corporate Finance Law	SOLM009	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Mergers and Acquisitions	SOLM010	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Law and Ethics in Business and Finance	SOLM011	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

**Programme Title:** Banking and Finance Law with SQE Preparation

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Corporate Governance and Responsibility in Finance	SOLM012	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Bank Insolvency and Resolution	SOLM013	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Sovereign Debt Restructuring	SOLM014	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
International Economic Law	SOLM194	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Compliance in Global Markets	SOLM223	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Art and Money	SOLM230	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Financial Regulation	SOLM246	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Law of International Financial Institutions	SOLM306	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Legal Aspects of Investment Banking, Private Equity, and Venture Capital	SOLM323	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
Legal Aspects of Derivatives and Risk Management	SOLM324	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
AI & Financial Law	SOLM326	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Sustainable Finance and the Corporation	SOLM333	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Sustainable Finance, Technology and Development	SOLM339	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Dissertation in B&F Law	SOLM904	30	7	Elective	1	Semesters 2 & 3
SQE1 Preparation Module	SQEP001	45	7	Core	1	Semester 1
SQE2 Preparation Module	SQEP002	15	7	Core	1	Semesters 2 & 3

### What are the entry requirements?

The usual qualification for entry to the LLM programme is a degree in law, or a degree with a substantial law content, of at least 2.1 honours (or equivalent). Law graduates with 2.2 honours who also have other legal qualifications and/or substantial professional legal experience may also qualify.

Non-law graduates with a minimum second class honours degree, that have also obtained a Merit (or 60 per cent) in the Common Professional Examination (CPE) or Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) recognised by the UK professional bodies, may also qualify. Non-law graduates may also be considered on the basis of exceptional professional experience (of at least five years) in a legal area or an area directly related to their programme of study.

Applicants whose first language is not English must provide evidence of your English language proficiency. The usual English Language Requirements for Postgraduate Law Taught Programmes will apply. These may be accessed at <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/english-language-requirements/index.html#Postgraduatelawtaughtprogrammes>

### **How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?**

The Student Voice Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the Centre and its students. The Committee consists of student representatives from each programme in the Centre together with appropriate representation of academic and administrative staff. The Committee is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The Committee meets regularly throughout the year.

The Centre operates a Postgraduate Taught Law Education Committee that advises its Director of Education on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at the Centre, including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies. It also reviews proposals for new programmes and modules and proposed amendments to existing programmes and modules, before they are submitted to the Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the Committee's work in various ways, such as through consideration of module experience surveys.

The Centre regularly reviews its taught postgraduate taught provision. This is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey and module experience surveys. This information is provided to the Faculty as part of regular censuses of the Centre's activities.

In addition, an extensive, experienced team of senior tutors (and practitioners) are available to students at our partner organisation BARBRI throughout their study of the 1-2 BARBRI Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) preparation modules which the students take. Students will also be giving ongoing feedback to this tutor team at BARBRI which will be fed back into CCLS/the DoL.

### **What academic support is available?**

Students will receive a comprehensive induction. Students will be assisted with the preliminary stages of selecting a research topic, drafting a research proposal, considering their methodology and developing the skills needed to identify and use relevant materials. Lecturers on taught modules shall be available to discuss any concerns or issues students might have with regard to the particular module or its content.

Students will be supervised by BARBRI Faculty as they work their way through online course materials, managing their progress through the student dashboard, supported by the BARBRI faculty and team of learning coaches, specialising in different areas of legal practice.

### **Programme-specific rules and facts**

Students who are already practising lawyers with the required amount of work experience in their home jurisdiction, may be exempt from SQEP002 SQE2 Preparation Module. For students who are exempt, they will be permitted to take an additional 15-credits from the modules available within the specialism.

SQEP001 and SQEP002 will be Pass/Fail and the marks will not count towards the calculation of the overall classification. The classification will be calculated using 120 credits (135 credits for exemption students) delivered by PG Law.



### How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Examination Access Arrangements
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)

### Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

There is a mentoring programme that matches students with available mentors from the profession. An embedded Careers and professional development team provide guidance in identifying and obtaining relevant internships, valuable employment-related skills and other work-related opportunities. There is a programme of co-curricular activities designed to foster professional development and related skills.

There are also career events and other opportunities to meet with potential employers.

The skills and knowledge acquired through the program is greatly valued by law firms in the City of London and around the World, by national and international financial regulatory agencies, by consultancy firms and generally by the legal profession. We have a vibrant alumni community which also provides links and opportunities for employment and networking in their respective jurisdictions.

## Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Leonie Dos Santos

Person responsible for management of programme:

Rosa Lastra & Nigel Spencer

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:

26 Feb 2025

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:

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