



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 Comparative and International Dispute Resolution 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):	PSCID
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:

Department of Law

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

BARBRI

Programme outline

The LLM in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution aims to inspire a new generation of lawyers to rethink traditional approaches to conflict and conflict resolution. Grounded in dispute resolution theory, this Master of Law programme combines solid theoretical grounding, broad interdisciplinary training from a comparative law perspective and opportunities for individual study and skills development. The LLM in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution comprises a mix of classroom based teaching assessed by tutorials and examination or coursework and a mandatory research dissertation in a dispute resolution topic.

Modules in this programme include: Alternative Dispute Resolution, International and Comparative Commercial Arbitration, International Commercial Law International Commercial Litigation, Commercial Conflict of Laws, International Construction Contracts and Arbitration International Trade and Investment Dispute Settlement, Strategic Decision Making for Lawyers, Negotiation Theory and Practice, International Arbitration and Energy.

A particular strong focus is on international arbitration. QMUL was the first university in the world to offer specialist post-graduate courses in international arbitration since 1983 and continues to be considered amongst the top three programmes in the world.

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 aim of this programme is to establish students' knowledge and critical understanding as well as provide an insight into the practice of international dispute resolution in a comparative context. The subject is examined both theoretically and with reference to national laws, soft laws and other international instruments.

The approach in teaching is comparative looking into a range of national legislation and understandings of dispute resolution. We consider both theoretical and ethical issues as well as more practical approaches to disputes resolution.

In particular, the aims and objectives of the programme are:

- To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of a range of methods which are used for the settlement of international business disputes;
- To highlight legal and practical questions in relation to the theory, ethics and practice of international dispute resolution and assist students to develop their responses to such questions;
- To stimulate a thorough understanding of the international character of international dispute resolution field and provide an understanding of related choices on law and procedure;
- To enable students to reason, and draft opinions in respect of matters relating to international dispute resolution
- To enable student to understand the design of dispute resolution methods as well as the role of dispute prevention

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?

It is expected that, upon completion of the programme, students are expected to

- Be familiar with a range of dispute resolution methods to resolve international business disputes
- Have an understanding of dispute resolution theory, design of dispute resolution methods
- Have knowledge of a wide range of national laws, soft law and international instruments related to international dispute resolution
- Have knowledge of effective practices to apply in resolving international business disputes
- Have an appreciation of related ethical issues

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	Knowledge and understanding of legal issues relating to international dispute resolution
A 2	Apply legal theories to legal issues both from an international and a comparative perspective
A 3	Knowledge and understanding of comparative law implications relating to international dispute resolution
A 4	Understand ethical issues associated with dispute resolution for adjudicators and counsel to parties
A 5	Appreciate the history and evolution of dispute resolution in an international and comparative context
A 6	Knowledge and understanding of role of lawyers in various ADR processes
A 7	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	Advise companies and commercial parties on effective approaches to international business disputes
B 2	Apply national and international instruments on international dispute resolution
B 3	Apply best practices on international dispute resolution
B 4	Understand the role and interest of states and state owned enterprises in international dispute resolution
B 5	Assess the role of lawyers in international dispute resolution and acquire fundamental skills
B 6	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.

Attributes:

C 1	Capacity to develop coherent and solid legal arguments and communicate them effectively
C 2	Capacity to engage with key legal and ethical issues
C 3	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?

Students will learn through direct interaction with lecturers using a variety of teaching, learning and assessment strategies, including traditional and interactive lectures, seminar sessions, tutorials and e-learning. Students will also be 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.

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

In addition to instructed learning and self-learning, the students will be afforded the opportunity to interact with practitioners in the area.

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.

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
Strategic Decision Making for Lawyers	SOLM038	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Negotiation Theory and Practice	SOLM039	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Construction Contracts and Dispute Resolution	SOLM042	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
International Arbitration Law and Practice: Theory and Context	SOLM043	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
International Commercial Litigation	SOLM045	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Commercial Conflict of Laws	SOLM046	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Investment Treaty Arbitration: Foundations, Jurisdiction and Procedure	SOLM047	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Ethics in International Arbitration	SOLM049	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Maritime Arbitration	SOLM145	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Arbitration and Energy	SOLM163	30	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
Art Disputes and their Resolutions	SOLM228	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Advocacy in Commercial Disputes	SOLM276	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
International Sports Arbitration	SOLM295	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
International Arbitration: Skills and Advocacy	SOLM300	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
Dispute Resolution and Artificial Intelligence	SOLM334	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Alternative Dispute Resolution	SOLM352	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Investment Treaty Arbitration: Investor Claims and State Defences	SOLM353	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
International Arbitration Law and Practice: Advanced Procedural Issues	SOLM354	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Advanced Research Seminar in International Dispute Resolution	SOLM355	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Mediation	SOLM356	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Dissertation in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution	SOLM906	30	7	Compulsory	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 schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Student Voice Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates an Education Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Education on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board and the Directorate of Governance and Legal Services (DGLS). Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operates Programme Reviews of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The Programme Review 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 PTES and Module Experience surveys.

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 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.

If students elect to do a dissertation, the dissertation must also fall within the Comparative and International Dispute Resolution law LLM specialism.

Students who do not meet the requirements for the LLM will be considered for an exit award. A student will be awarded the highest applicable award for which they meet all requirements as per the Academic Regulations:

- i. Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution with SQE Preparation
- ii. Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in 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 differences 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.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Leonie Dos Santos

Person responsible for management of programme:

Maria Fanou, Loukas Mistelis & Nigel Spencer

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

26 Feb 2025

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught
Programmes Board:**