



## 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 Competition 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):	PSCNL
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	Department of Law

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

Centre for Commercial Law Studies

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

BARBRI

### Programme outline

The LLM in Competition Law is designed to equip participants with expertise and skills in the field of competition law. The programme consists of a large selection of modules covering all aspects of competition law and policy. A number of these modules cover key and various competition law regimes around the world. The programme offers participants a flavour of the economic and market context within which the competition rules of these regimes are applied. It includes both theoretical and practical components and will aim to prepare participants for a career in the field, whether as practitioners dealing with real world scenarios or officials dealing policy matters.

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

1. Acquire important knowledge and analytical and practical skills;
2. Develop sound understanding of the operation of different competition law regimes;
3. Appreciate the interaction between law and economics, and law and politics in the field of competition law; as well as the intersection between the field and other fields of law and policy, such as intellectual property law and industrial policy.

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?

Upon successful completion of the LLM in Competition Law, participants should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of the competition rules of different competition law regimes.
2. Enjoy high analytical skills which will enable them to engage in critical assessment of the operation of competition law in practice.
3. Debate in an intellectual manner developments and trends in the field of competition law as well as issues such as reform and future directions for competition law and policy whether at domestic, regional or global levels.
4. Conduct good quality research into issues of competition law and policy and complement that with sound thinking and reflections.

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	Develop theoretical and practical skills which are critical when dealing with the application of competition law
A 2	Develop good understanding of the tools and methods used when competition law is enforced against different business phenomena
A 3	Develop indepth understanding of competition law and policy at national, regional and global levels
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	Enjoy independence in terms of thinking and an independent ability to research competition law issues
B 2	Develop high analytical skills and critical power in order to appreciate the sound operation of competition law in practice
B 3	Enjoy an ability to exercise good judgment through coherent reasoning when debating current and future changes in the field of competition law
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.

Attributes:

C 1	Communicate ideas and concepts clearly and concisely whether in oral or written forms.
C 2	Show independence to learn and reflect
C 3	Make suitable and competent use of relevant learning resources
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?

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.

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

• Full-time students have to take between 60 and 90 credits of taught modules in each semester.

• 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.

An additional dissertation (SOLM901) can be taken instead of taught modules by LLM students only with special permission from the LLM Programme Coordinator.

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
International Merger Control: Special Topics	SOLM053	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Competition and the State: EU State Aid Law	SOLM056	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Cartels, Collusion and Competition Law	SOLM057	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Economics of Competition Law	SOLM058	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
Competition Enforcement: From Investigation to Sanctions	SOLM059	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Competition Law, Intellectual Property and Innovation	SOLM094	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
International Merger Control: The Jurisdictions	SOLM249	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Competition Law in the Digital Era	SOLM297	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Competition Law and AI	SOLM336	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International and Comparative Competition Law	SOLM348	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Advanced EU Competition Law	SOLM357	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Dissertation in Competition Law	SOLM907	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 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 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 Competition Law LLM modules. If students elect not to do a dissertation, they can take up to 30-credits in Semester 3, from a range of PG Law modules available by special permission of the LLM Director.

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 Competition Law 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 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.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Leonie Dos Santos

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Eyad Maher Dabbah, Maria Ioannidou & Nigel Spencer

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

26 Feb 2025

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