



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 Energy and Climate Change 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):	PSCCH
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:

--

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

BARBRI

Programme outline

The LLM in Energy and Climate Change Law offers graduate level students the opportunity to learn about the evolution of the principles, rules and practices related to energy law. The energy sector is the world's largest industry; it is dramatically developing legally and technologically (deep offshore extraction, floating LNG units, solar, wind and wave power, battery storage, etc.). The strength of this programme is that it blends theory and practice. Early in the academic year we provide a two day introduction programme to give students a common grounding in the terminology and market drivers of the energy sector. The specialism offers a variety of modules focusing on topics ranging from international and comparative petroleum law and contracts through to climate change, international arbitration, renewables law, nuclear law, mining, ESG and decommissioning. There are also a series of Friday lectures throughout the academic year given by policy makers, energy companies, regulators and NGOs so students hear different perspectives of the energy legal framework. Students are made aware of the various stages of the energy value chain and how states are trying to balance the energy trilemma: energy security, sustainability and affordability. The programme explains the energy transition from fossil fuels to cleaner more sustainable power generation and the impact that this will have on the future of the energy industry and more broadly.

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 the LLM in Energy and Climate Change Law is to provide students with a combination of legal, policy and practical insights into the energy sector. The energy specialism prepares students for a future career in the energy sector. The main objectives of the energy LLM include:-

- giving students the ability to understand the important policy considerations that arise for a government when deciding how to exploit their natural resources in particular with regard to international legal obligations to reduce greenhouse gases to mitigate climate change
- providing a comprehensive understanding of the key contractual provisions of granting instruments in the upstream petroleum sector
- giving an explanation of why energy is one of the most heavily regulated sectors and understand what such regulation is designed to achieve (eg EU Third Energy Package)
- enabling students to pursue independent, high quality legal research
- providing students with a detailed understanding of the energy market drivers and language so as to be able to pursue a career in energy if desired
- enhancing the students' learning experience through regular interaction with lecturers, leading practitioners and fellow students

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?

Students who successfully complete the Energy specialism will be able to:

- Understand key legal principles, issues and policy relating to the energy transition that will continue to take place over the coming decades
- Be capable of researching and analysing legal issues impacting the energy sector, national, regional (eg EU regulation) and international laws and standards
- Recognise the standard of research and analysis expected of a postgraduate law student and be capable of producing research to that standard
- Understand the academic and practical aspects of law and commercial practice relating to the energy sector

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	acquire a thorough understanding of the legal principles, rules and policies applicable in the energy sector
A 2	acquire an understanding of the market drivers including the impact of the energy transition on the petroleum industry
A 3	learn and be able to describe the main contractual provisions in upstream granting instruments and what function they serve including default, termination and dispute resolution clauses
A 4	learn about the way in which renewable power projects are structured and financed and how they differ from conventional thermal power plants
A 5	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	students will be able to critically analyse the evolution of energy law over the decades to understand the changes in contract terms and provisions
B 2	students will be able to review primary and second sources of law and policy in the energy sector and be able to clearly comment on the objective and aims of such sources
B 3	autonomously plan and successfully conduct research on a particular field of the energy industry eg LNG market development and incentives available to States to encourage renewable investment
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	understand the energy sector in the global context and policy concerns from the impact of the energy transition required by the Paris Agreement 2015, volatility of price to climate change mitigation and adaptation
C 2	being able to contribute to the debate on the future direction of the energy sector in the framework of the energy trilemma and being able to express clear views on the best options including whether climate change litigation and arbitration are appropriate to encourage policy changes
C 3	conduct independent research and critically analyse changes and developments in the energy sector
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 will need to carry out extensive research to complete the dissertation. 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, reflective learning portfolio and/or coursework for taught modules and dissertation.

You will be referred to the grading Criteria in the LLM Handbook. These set out clearly what is expected from students answering exam questions and drafting papers. The Dissertation marking criteria are also set out in the LLM Handbook. Your lecturers will also explain what they expect from your various assignments. The best preparation for exams is to review past papers. Once you submit an assignment you should receive some feedback. This will be useful for you to improve your performance for the next set of assignments. There is an assessment period at the end of each semester. The Dissertation is submitted usually in mid August each year.

You will be allocated an LLM Dissertation supervisor who will guide you through the process. Clear evidence of independent research is required in addition to an element of critical analysis or 'students voice'.

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:

- Compulsory Dissertation in Energy and Climate Change Law SOLM931 which can be replaced with taught modules by special permission from the LLM Director

- 60 credits compulsory taught modules

- 30 credits minimum from the 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 = GUIDED ELECTIVE

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Energy Law Principles	SOLM155	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
International Energy Law and Ethics	SOLM157	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
International and Comparative Petroleum Law and Contracts	SOLM161	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Arbitration and Energy	SOLM163	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Current Issues in International Energy Regulation	SOLM165	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Mining and Natural Resources Law	SOLM166	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Renewable Energy Law	SOLM167	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Nuclear Energy Law	SOLM168	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Energy and Climate Change	SOLM278	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Select Public International Law Issues in Energy	SOLM309	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Electricity Law and Regulation	SOLM310	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Dissertation in Energy and Climate Change Law	SOLM931	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.

The dissertation must fall within the Energy and Climate Change 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 Energy and Climate Change 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.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Leonie Dos Santos

Person responsible for management of programme:

Norah Gallagher & Nigel Spencer

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

26 Feb 2025

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: