



## Programme Specification (PG)

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| Awarding body / institution:                | Queen Mary University of London                       |
| Teaching institution:                       | Queen Mary University of London                       |
| Name of final award and title:              | LLM in Intellectual Property 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):               | PSIPL   |
| 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 Intellectual Property Law offers students the chance to specialise in IP law from a national, regional and international perspective, both at theoretical and practical levels. Students are free to choose their options from one of the largest IP property programmes in the UK, with over 20 IP-specialist modules. The modules are taught by both research academics and practitioners from legal and business spheres. The modules comprise a mix of classroom based teaching assessed by examination or coursework or presentations. Some of the modules are devoted to the main Intellectual Property categories and are usually international and comparative by nature: e.g. Global IP Law, Comparative Copyright Law, EU and US Patent Law, Registered Trade Marks, EU and US Design Law. Other modules offer students perspectives on specialist industry and theoretical areas: e.g. Environment, Trade and IP, Digital IP, Fashion Law, Film Law, Animal Law, and Interactive Entertainment Law.

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 LLM in Intellectual Property Law programme is designed for students who wish to take full advantage of the diverse research interests and industry know-how of our IP faculty, the largest academic IP faculty in the UK. Students have the opportunity to pick the modules which inform them on intellectual property law and policy as well as the necessary tools to develop their skills and expertise ex-post the LLM degree (whether as practitioners in law firms; in-house counsels; academic researchers; Government or policy advisors; trade organisations; the judiciary; and UN-based international organisations). The programme's wide module platter (which includes the interaction of IP law with economics, socio-legal and comparative perspectives) attracts a wide range of students from different backgrounds and jurisdictions including China, Japan, India, Singapore, Australia, Canada, Brazil, Kenya, Jamaica, Russia, Ukraine, USA and the EU Member States. The ultimate aim is to produce the best postgraduate students in the field of IP law and policy who will make an international impact on the theoretical and practical formulation, research and enforcement of IP law.

The modules delivered by BARBRI will:

- Offer graduating students a practice-focused graduate programme
- Develop career/employment skills required to qualify as a solicitor in England & Wales.

## What will you be expected to achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to:

- \* Demonstrate a solid understanding of IP law and policy
- \* Analyse complex situations from factual and legal perspectives
- \* Be capable of researching and analysing IP issues across different areas of law
- \* Understand how IP law is enforced in key jurisdictions
- \* Demonstrate an understanding of the role IP law and policy within national, regional and international contexts
- \* Appreciate the importance of economic analysis when applying IP law
- \* Debate the relationship between IP law and other fields, notably human rights law, art law, media law and competition law from both theoretical and practical perspectives

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:

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| A 1 | Demonstrate a systematic understanding and critical awareness of IP law and policy   |
| A 2 | Deal with complex situations and issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements therefrom, and communicate their conclusions clearly from factual and legal perspectives |

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| A 3 | 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. |
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Disciplinary Skills - able to:

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| B 1 | Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of established legal research and enquiry, and the conceptual understanding required to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline   |
| B 2 | Demonstrate a conceptual and comprehensive understanding of intellectual property as it is approached in different legal jurisdictions   |
| B 3 | 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:

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| C 1 | Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the role IP law and policy within national, regional and international contexts and an ability to evaluate critically this material   |
| C 2 | Deal with the complex issues arising from the relationship between IP law and other fields of law and socio-legal studies, from both theoretical and practical perspectives and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist, non-specialist and interdisciplinary audiences  |
| 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.

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

• Students can take the Dissertation in Intellectual Property Law SOLM910 as part of the compulsory electives.

• 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

| Module Title  | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester   |
|---|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Animal Law, Welfare and Trade                           | SOLM025     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Animal Law, Media and Culture                           | SOLM026     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Licensing Intellectual Property                         | SOLM078     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Design and Intellectual Property: EU and United States  | SOLM081     | 15      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| International and Comparative Law of Unfair Competition | SOLM082     | 15      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| The Law of Registered Trade Marks                       | SOLM083     | 30      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Global Intellectual Property Law                        | SOLM084     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Music Industry Contracts                                | SOLM089     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3 |

| Module Title  | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester   |
|---|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Intellectual Property and the Life Sciences                     | SOLM093     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Competition Law, Intellectual Property and Innovation           | SOLM094     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3 |
| Law and Practice of the Unified Patent Court                    | SOLM098     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Art and Intellectual Property                                   | SOLM229     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Esports Law   | SOLM238     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| International Law of Patents                                    | SOLM291     | 30      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Economics of Intellectual Property                              | SOLM293     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3 |
| Advanced Topics in European Trade Mark Law                      | SOLM294     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3 |
| Advanced US Trademark Law                                       | SOLM301     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3 |
| IP Protection in the Software Sector                            | SOLM302     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| EU Digital Copyright Law  | SOLM303     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3 |
| The Law of Theatre and the Performing Arts                      | SOLM304     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Intellectual Property and Fashion: Culture and Art              | SOLM315     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Intellectual Property and Fashion: Innovation and Technology    | SOLM316     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Fashion Transactions and Licensing                              | SOLM321     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3 |
| Intellectual Property Law in the Era of Artificial Intelligence | SOLM338     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| The Law of Geographical Indications (GIs)                       | SOLM359     | 15      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Principles of Intellectual Property Law                         | SOLM360     | 30      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semester 1 |

| Module Title                              | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester        |
|---|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Dissertation in Intellectual Property Law | SOLM910     | 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 Intellectual Property 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 Intellectual Property 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:**

Gaetano Dimita & Nigel Spencer

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

26 Feb 2025

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