



## 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 International Business 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):	PSIBL
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 Master of Laws is a programme of study that offers students holding professional entry law degrees the opportunity to develop further their academic and professional expertise across numerous areas of law. Students can choose their programme options from across the full range of available LLM modules. The Master of Laws comprises a mix of classroom based teaching assessed by examination or coursework for taught modules and a mandatory research dissertation.

The programme modules have been carefully selected to provide students with holistic and essential knowledge in the field of international business law. To ensure coherence of the programme, modules are labelled as compulsory electives, guided electives and core modules.

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 principal aims of the LLM in International Business Law are to:

- Support students to develop a detailed, critical and in-depth understanding of diverse areas of business law focusing on international and transnational perspectives.
- Provide students with the methodological tools with which to grasp and address legal challenges in the world of commerce, with a focus on comparative and international approach.
- Enhance the professional and analytical skills of students and their ability to apply legal knowledge relevant for a wide variety of careers including legal practice, entrepreneurship and working in innovative roles that require an understanding of both law and business.
- Promote autonomous learning by supporting students carrying out independent legal research.
- Interact and collaborate with a diverse body of lecturers, practitioners, visiting academics and fellow students which will enable them to develop their communication and leadership skills.

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:

- Understand key legal principles, issues and debates in select areas of law.
- Be capable of researching and analysing legal issues across different areas of law.
- Recognise the standard of research and analysis expected of a postgraduate law student and be capable of producing research to that standard.

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	Students will acquire a thorough understanding of legal principles as applied across different areas of law relevant to business and trade.
A 2	Students will understand the features of legal systems across major jurisdictions and of international legal systems as applicable to their chosen modules.
A 3	Students will understand whether and how their chosen areas of law intersect with other legal frameworks and gain an understanding of commercial realities and their impact on the 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.
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Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Students will develop the ability to assimilate and evaluate a range of primary and secondary legal materials, including legislation, regulations and administrative guidance and the academic and professional literature.
B 2	Propose innovative solutions to 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 3	Understand the interaction of commercial and corporate law with other areas of law as well as the importance of the market context to provide legal advice which is clear, concise and up-to-date with the latest developments in the world of commerce.
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	Students will harness the ability to critically evaluate a variety of primary and secondary sources and other materials, and apply them both in a national and international context.
C 2	Students will practice working collaboratively with a diverse team and learn how to make valuable contributions and offer support.
C 3	Students will work independently and gain an understanding of how to demonstrate autonomy and self direction when researching and solving complex or unfamiliar problems.
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
- Students can choose the optional Dissertation in International Business Law SOLM911.
- 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
Securities Regulation	SOLM001	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Mergers and Acquisitions	SOLM010	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Law and Ethics in Business and Finance	SOLM011	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Corporate Governance and Responsibility in Finance	SOLM012	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Corporate Rescue and Cross-border Insolvency	SOLM017	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Commercial Law	SOLM019	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Company Law: Foundational and Constitutional Issues	SOLM020	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

**Programme Title:** International Business Law with SQE Preparation (September)

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Company Law: Corporate Finance and Management Issues	SOLM021	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Corporate Governance: Foundational and Theoretical	SOLM022	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Corporate Governance: Operation and Practice	SOLM023	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Comparative Contract Law	SOLM024	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Transnational Law and Governance in Practice	SOLM027	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Transnational Law and Governance Applied	SOLM028	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Chinese Business Law	SOLM029	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Multinational Enterprises: Business and Legal Organisation	SOLM030	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Multinational Enterprises: Social Issues	SOLM031	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Transnational Problems in Commercial Contracts	SOLM036	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Commercial Litigation	SOLM045	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Commercial Conflict of Laws	SOLM046	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Merger Control: Special Topics	SOLM053	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
General Principles of Insurance Law	SOLM138	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Insurance Regulation	SOLM139	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Insurance Contracts	SOLM140	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International and Comparative Petroleum Law and Contracts	SOLM161	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Investment Law	SOLM189	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

**Programme Title:** International Business Law with SQE Preparation (September)

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
WTO Law: Fundamental Principles	SOLM192	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
IT Transactions	SOLM206	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Entrepreneurship Law Clinic	SOLM213	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Compliance Systems in Practice	SOLM224	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Reinsurance Law and International Risk Transfer	SOLM255	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Commercial Arbitration	SOLM256	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Dissertation in International Business Law	SOLM911	30	7	Elective	1	Semesters 2 & 3
Energy Law Principles	SOLM155	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Transfer Pricing	SOLM129	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Consumer law for the Digital Age	SOLM311	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Legal Aspects of Derivatives and Risk Management	SOLM324	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
European Union Corporate Tax Law	SOLM325	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Tax and Technology	SOLM327	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Theory of E-Commerce Regulation	SOLM332	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Sustainability and the Corporation	SOLM333	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Alternative Dispute Resolution	SOLM352	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International and Comparative Competition Law	SOLM348	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
E-Commerce Transactions	SOLM219	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
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 International Business Law LLM specialism.

### 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:

Mark Niyompatama, Christiana Panayi & Nigel Spencer

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

26 Feb 2025

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: