



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 Public International 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):	PSPIL
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:

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

BARBRI

Programme outline

The aim of this programme is to provide students with a comprehensive and advanced training in international law; Specifically it is designed to help students develop a critical perspective on the role of law in the international community. The focus is on both traditional public international law courses as well courses broadly falling within the rubric of transnational law or global public law. Although students will be equipped to have a sound understanding of the substantive law in the areas chosen for study, the programme goes beyond mastery of technical detail. It aims to equip students for the practical challenges posed by an increasingly globalised 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

To provide a comprehensive and practical training in international law
To provide students with the professional skills necessary for a career in international law
To allow students to tailor their studies to reflect their specific interests

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 Programme will be able to:

- understand and explain in detail a wide range of aspects of the legal framework relating to Public International Law;
- advance sophisticated arguments relating to public international law in a manner that is supported by evidence and demonstrates knowledge of a wide range of relevant sources and of the social and cultural context of legal rules.

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 and accurate knowledge of public international law.
A 2	develop an understanding of the specificity of the legal methods and processes used in public international law.
A 3	situate international legal developments in their economic, social and political context.
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	handle and analyse a range of legal materials including read and study primary and secondary sources of public international law, including international treaties and the academic and professional literature.
B 2	adopt a critical and contextual perspective on international legal issues and put forward an informed, reasoned opinion making appropriate use of legal argumentation.
B 3	autonomously plan and successfully conduct a research project in an area of public international 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 clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
C 2	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, 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:

Programme Title: Public International Law with SQE Preparation

- 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
Investment Treaty Arbitration: Foundations, Jurisdiction and Procedure	SOLM047	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International and Comparative Social Rights	SOLM065	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Human Rights Law: History, Theory and Politics	SOLM069	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Human Rights Law: Law, Practice and Institutions	SOLM070	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Use of Force in International Law	SOLM112	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Conduct of Hostilities in International Law	SOLM113	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Principles of International Criminal Law	SOLM114	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Enforcement of International Criminal Law	SOLM115	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Law of the Sea	SOLM131	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
International Environmental Law	SOLM134	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Climate Change Law	SOLM136	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Water Law	SOLM137	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Public International & European Air Transport Law	SOLM151	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Energy Law and Ethics	SOLM157	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Refugee Law	SOLM171	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Terrorism, Migration and Human Rights	SOLM175	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Migration and Asylum Law through Practice	SOLM177	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Investment Law	SOLM189	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Foreign Investments and Public Policy	SOLM190	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Economic Law	SOLM194	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Cyberspace: Jurisdiction and Dispute Resolution	SOLM211	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Natural Resources Law	SOLM254	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
State Crime	SOLM261	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Migration Law	SOLM264	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Child Law	SOLM270	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Minority and Group Rights: International and Comparative Perspectives	SOLM283	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Outer Space Law	SOLM296	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Select Public International Law Issues in Energy	SOLM309	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Fashion, Sustainability and Law	SOLM318	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Fundamentals of Public International Law	SOLM329	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Contemporary Genocide	SOLM342	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Palestine, Israel, and International Law	SOLM343	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Investment Treaty Arbitration: Investor claims and State Defences	SOLM353	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Children's Rights	SOLM358	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Dissertation in Public International Law	SOLM913	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 Public International 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 Public International 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

Person completing Programme Specification:

Leonie Dos Santos

Person responsible for management of programme:

Andrew Pitt & Nigel Spencer

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

26 Feb 2025

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

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