

**LLM/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in International Commercial Law
For students entering in October 2011/2**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	12 months
Date of specification:	28/Sep/2011
Programme Director:	Ioannis Kokkoris
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Law (Postgraduate)
Accreditation:	

Please note that all aspects of the degree programme may be subject to change where such change is educationally desirable or practically necessary.

Summary of programme aims

- To provide a structured postgraduate law degree which examines International Commercial Law.
- To provide a flexible programme through core courses in Advanced Issues in International Commercial Law, International Corporate Finance and the Law, Project Skills, combined with a range of options currently on offer, new options that will be offered, and the independent study of a project component.
- To enthuse students with the study of International Commercial Law through exposure both to a multidisciplinary learning environment and potentially to students from other disciplinary backgrounds.
- To develop an array of analytical skills in students, through independent study and working with others.
- To provide students with the knowledge and skills for professional life and further academic study.

Transferable skills

Students are encouraged to act independently in planning tasks and use feedback to reflect on their performance and assess the appropriateness of current levels of knowledge and skill. Students are expected to acquire an ability to think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between persuasive and unpersuasive arguments. In addition, a law graduate will be used to presenting arguments (both technical and general) orally and in writing and should be able to present such arguments clearly and concisely. Students will be able to research a variety of sources in libraries and on the internet, and, in particular, to research and assess academic literature. Particular elements of the programme expose students to the use of information technology and encourage the development of general professional capabilities, including recognition of deadlines and effective time management.

Programme content

The programme consists of 180 credits; a taught element (140 credits) and a project (40 credits). The project must be written on a topic that has a meaningful relationship to issues of international commercial law. The project must be written specifically on issues relevant to any of the modules offered on the programme (compulsory and relevant optional modules).

Within the taught element there are four core modules: LWMTAI Advanced Issues in International Commercial Law (20 credits), LWMTCF International Corporate Finance and the Law (20 credits), LWMTPS Project Skills (10 credits), and LWMTPR Project (40 credits). Students can take all the remaining credits (90) from the list below. Students must take a minimum of 60 credits from the International Commercial Law optional modules and the remaining 30 credits can be taken from any of:

- listed Law School Level 7 modules,
- listed modules offered by other Schools or Departments, or
- unlisted modules offered by any School or Department in the University, with permission from the Director of PGT Studies in Law. Permission to take unlisted modules will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. For example, where a student has work experience in a field, then permission may be granted to take a module relevant to that field. Note that, as with all modules, any pre-requisites or co-requisites will also need to be satisfied.
- All module selections are subject to timetabling requirements.

Of the 140 taught credits, students must normally be enrolled in a minimum of 40 credits in each of the Autumn and Spring terms. (For this purpose, a 30 credit module taught across two terms will count as 15 credits in each term.)

Compulsory modules - all modules from this group must be taken

Code	Title	Credits	Level
LWMTPR	Project	40	7
LWMTPS	Project Skills	10	7
LWMTAI	Advanced Issues in International Commercial Law	20	7
LWMTCF	International Corporate Finance and the Law	20	7

Law School International Commercial Law optional modules (subject to availability in any given year) - at least 60 credits from this group must be taken

Code	Title	Credits	Level
LWMTSM	The Single Market: Trade and Commerce in an Integrated Europe	30	7
LWMTIF	Legal Aspects of International Finance	20	7
LWMTFC	EU competition law	20	7
LWMTIP	Intellectual Property	30	7
LWMTIW	Legal Aspects of International Trade and WTO	20	7
LWMTBL	International Banking Law	20	7
LWMTFR	Legal Aspects of International Financial Regulation	20	7
LWMTMA	Legal Aspects of Mergers, Acquisitions and Takeovers	20	7
LWMTER	International Energy Law and Regulation	20	7
LWMTCO	Competition Law and Mergers and Acquisitions	20	7

Law School general optional modules (subject to availability in any given year)

Code	Title	Credits	Level
LWMTHR	International Human Rights Law	30	7
LWMTIL	International Law in Theory and Practice	20	7
LWMTCI	Contemporary Issues in International Law	10	7
LWMTLT	International Law and Terrorism	20	7
LWMTIC	Prosecuting International Crimes: Contemporary Issues and Problems	10	7
LWMTNE	International Law and Nuclear Energy	10	7
LWMTWL	War Law	20	7
LWMTSS	Surveillance, Security and the State	10	7
LWMTLK	Legal Knowledge and Legal Writing *	10	7
LW3ICR	International Children's Rights: Law and Politics *	20	6

* enrolment in this module requires permission of Director of PGT in Law

Optional modules from ICMA (subject to availability in any given year)

Code	Title	Credits	Level
ICM234	Regulation of Markets and Traders	20	7
ICM214	Financial Regulation and Regulatory Policy	10	7
ICM249	Corporate Governance	20	7
ICM106	Financial Markets	20	7
ICM235	Compliance-Theory and Practice	20	7

Lists of modules available in any given year and updates to the above lists can be found through the Postgraduate pages on Law School's web site: www.reading.ac.uk/law.

Part-time or modular arrangements

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the core modules LWMTAI Advanced International Commercial Law Issues, and

LWMTCF International Corporate Finance and the Law and further optional modules totalling not less than 20 credits and not more than 50 credits. In the second year of study a student will normally be required to complete the core module LWMTPS Project Skills, any remaining optional modules, and the LWMTPR Project module. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

Progression requirements

Part-time candidates

A part-time candidate may only proceed into his or her second year if he or she has achieved 2 marks of at least 50% in his or her first year. A part-time candidate who chooses not to proceed to his or her second year may be considered for the award of Certificate in Law if he or she gains an average mark of 50 or more in modules worth 60 credits and has no mark below 40.

Assessment and classification

Teaching methods will vary from module to module but teaching will primarily be by means of seminars.

Certain modules may be partially taught by means of lectures and tutorials.

All modules other than the Project will be assessed by one or a combination of: a timed, unseen examination; a timed, seen examination; assessed written work; and other forms of assessment (such as participation in class or an oral class presentation). Details of the methods of assessment in individual modules are given in the Module Description Forms.

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degree

To pass the LLM, students must gain an average mark of 50 or more overall, in modules worth 180 credits including a mark of 50 or more for the project, and have no mark below 40. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more overall, including a mark of 60 or more for the project, will be eligible for a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more overall, including a mark of 50 or more for the project, will be eligible for a Merit.

For PG Diploma

To pass the Postgraduate Diploma, students must gain an average mark of 50 or more in modules worth 120 credits and have no mark below 40. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits.

Students who gain an average mark of 70 or more will be eligible for the award of a Distinction. Those gaining an average mark of 60 or more will be eligible for a Merit.

For PG Certificate

To pass the Postgraduate Certificate, students must gain an average mark of 50 or more in modules worth 60 credits and have no mark below 40.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a degree in law or a degree with a substantial legal component with a first or upper second class honours. All applicants are considered on their individual merits, and the School may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

Admissions Tutor: Dr Ioannis Kokkoris (i.kokkoris@reading.ac.uk)

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SEEC), In-session English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

Within the School of Law, personal and academic tutors provide help and guidance on academic, and, where appropriate, other matters. A member of the academic staff of the School acts as Careers Advisor, and the School has a Director of Taught Postgraduate Studies, a student support officer, and a postgraduate admissions secretary to provide support and advice to postgraduate students. In addition, all students receive a detailed Handbook to help them study law successfully.

Career prospects

While many law graduates take professional exams in law and go on to practise law either in the UK or abroad, many others pursue alternative careers. This is particularly the case with those who have chosen to pursue a postgraduate qualification in law. A postgraduate law degree does not disqualify students from any career open to non-specialist graduates and the skills it engenders are in great demand from non-legal employers. Equally, a postgraduate law degree will open many doors in more specialised areas of employment, such as law firms, European and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, academia (with further postgraduate study), the media (journalism and broadcasting), the civil service, and other branches of public service.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

The programme does not involve study abroad.

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities, and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Key issues in International Commercial Law and how they interface with one another;
2. A select range of options to broaden understanding of the operation of law at an advanced level; and
3. Appropriate contextual background to understand the substantive law.
4. Ability to formulate appropriate and relevant research questions and conduct independent research in law

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The basic knowledge in all modules is provided by seminars, although some modules may include lectures. All seminars allow a student to gauge his or her progress in the module being taken and will require significant student input into the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. The critical input into learning is provided by a student's own reading and preparation for group discussions (particularly engagement with primary sources).

Assessment

Modules adopt a variety of assessment methods but all modules utilise summative assessed work.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

1. Think logically;

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Logic, analytical skills and the ability to apply

2. Analyse and identify problems and issues;
3. Distinguish between relevant and irrelevant material;
4. Understand technical material;
5. Apply relevant knowledge effectively; and
6. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgment.

C. Practical skills - able to:

1. Discover and use legal and contextual materials from a variety of sources; and
2. Evaluate legal contextual material both individually and as part of a team; and
3. Construct and present both orally and in writing defensible arguments and critical judgment.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. Work independently and diligently ;
2. Use different types of information sources;
3. Communicate technical material effectively, both orally and in writing;
4. Construct defensible arguments and exercise critical judgement;
5. Reflect critically on one's own learning; and
6. Consider career development.

relevant knowledge are inherent in the study of international commercial law and these skills are encouraged and developed in seminars.

Assessment

Summative assessed work tests these skills either directly or indirectly.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

All the practical skills are present in each module and are developed through seminars. The essence of legal study is to provide an answer to a practical legal problem having identified the legal issues, selected relevant facts, and used appropriate law to provide a solution. All parts of the degree encourage the exercise of these faculties. All modules seek to develop powers of critical analysis and judgement.

Assessment

The written element of 3 is directly assessed through summative assessed work. The project requires elements of 2 and 3. Some modules assess oral communication formatively or summatively.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Law is a subject of considerable complexity. Some material is difficult, and not all of it is of overpowering interest. A student must work hard to engage with such material. A student will be required regularly to participate in class discussions and make presentations. He or she will be required to engage with a considerable amount of academic and other literature and to assess and evaluate such literature critically and in the context of presenting advanced arguments both orally and in writing.

Assessment

Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all of these skills and oral skills are assessed in at least one module other than 5 & 6. Seminars encourage a student to reflect on his or her own learning. Guidance is given throughout the degree programme on career development.

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.