

**LLM International Corporate Law by Distance Learning (full-time)**  
**For students entering in 2016/7**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	1 years
Date of specification:	13/Oct/2016
Programme Director:	
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Law (Postgraduate)
Accreditation:	None

**Summary of programme aims**

The primary objectives of the programme are to:

1. train a critical pool of professionals so as to develop their knowledge of the key issues in commercial and corporate law;
2. increase the analytical and research skills of students in terms of their ability to collect and analyse information relating to legal issues in relation to commercial and corporate law;
3. expose students to a multidisciplinary learning environment.
4. help students develop an array of both analytical and critical skills, through independent study.
5. 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. Students will be able to research a variety of online 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 LLM programme consists of 180 credits. Within the programme there is 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 commercial and corporate law.

*Content of the Distance Learning LLM International Corporate Law:*

The Distance Learning LLM International Corporate Law will be completed in Distance Learning (DL) mode. Students will spend the Autumn and Spring terms studying both compulsory and optional taught modules. There are 3 taught compulsory modules totalling 50 credits: Project Skills (LWMTPSD), Legal Aspects of Mergers, Acquisitions and Takeovers (LWMTMAD) International Banking Law (LWMTBLD). Students will also choose a further 90 credits from the optional modules list below. Students will write their Project (LWMTPR, 40 credits) off-campus between May-September.

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.

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, when a module is taught across two terms, half of its credits will be allocated to the first term and half to the second).

Distance Learning LLM International Corporate Law

Compulsory Modules - all modules from this group must be taken:

Code	Title	Credits
LWMTPR	Project	40
LWMTPSD	Project Skills	10
LWMTMAD	Legal Aspects of Mergers, Acquisitions and Takeovers	20
LWMTBLD	International Banking Law	20

A full list of the optional modules is available from the programme director

**Part-time or modular arrangements**

The Distance Learning LLM International Corporate Law can only be taken full-time.

**Progression requirements**

This course must be completed over 1 full year.

**Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

Students will take all their modules online during the Autumn and Spring terms.

Teaching methods may vary from module to module, but online delivery of these modules will involve a mix of recorded lectures, online tutorials and asynchronous guided study online. In the context of these modules, DL students will access relevant sources using online databases and/or may be required to purchase textbooks, and/or will be able to access scanned individual book chapters on Blackboard. They will submit their coursework electronically.

All modules other than the Project will be assessed by one or a combination of: assessed written work; a presentation; and other forms of assessment.

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

Mark	Interpretation:
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70 - 100%	Distinction
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60 - 69%	Merit
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50 - 59%	Good standard (Pass)
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Failing categories:

40 - 49%	Work below threshold standard
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0 - 39%	Unsatisfactory Work
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Further information on the classification conventions, including borderline criteria, are available at:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/exams/PGclassification-post-2008.pdf>.

**For Masters Degree**

To qualify for Distinction, students must gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation, and must not have any mark below 40. To qualify for Merit, students must gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation, and must not have any mark below 40. To qualify for Passed, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits and a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

**For PG Diploma**

To qualify for Distinction, students must gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits and must not have any mark below 40. To qualify for Merit, students must gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits and must not have any mark below 40. To qualify for Passed, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits and students must not have any mark below 40.

**For PG Certificate**

To qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate, students must gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits and must not have any mark below 40.

**Admission requirements**

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained a degree in law or economics or business or finance or a related area with a first or upper second class honours (or an equivalent classification if they graduated overseas). Applicants who do not reach these requirements may be considered if they have other qualifications or appropriate work experience. All applicants are considered on their individual merits, and the School may vary these requirements if it sees fit.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Stavroula Karapapa, [s.karapapa@reading.ac.uk](mailto:s.karapapa@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 Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), 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, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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](http://www.reading.ac.uk/student)

Within the School of Law, personal and academic tutors will 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, individual programme directors for each taught postgraduate programme, a Senior Tutor for students on taught postgraduate programmes, a student support officer and a postgraduate administrative officer 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 very 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, as the skills gained by undertaking a postgraduate law degree are in great demand from both legal and non-legal employers. While not disqualifying students from any career open to non-specialist graduates, a postgraduate law degree will open many doors in more specialised areas of employment such as legal practice in fields related to the corporate law industry, European, 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

### Knowledge and Understanding

#### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. Key issues in commercial and corporate law and how they interrelate;
2. A range of research methodologies sufficient to formulate appropriate and relevant research questions and conduct independent research in law;
3. A select range of options to broaden understanding of the operation of law at an advanced level;
4. Appropriate contextual background to understand the substantive law.

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The basic knowledge in all modules is provided through recorded lectures and/or online tutorials and/or asynchronous guided study. These allow a student to gauge his/her progress in that module 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.

#### Assessment

Modules adopt a variety of assessment methods. All modules include either or both of summative assessed work and an unseen, timed exam.

### Skills and other attributes

#### B. Intellectual skills - *able to*:

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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

### **C. Practical skills - able to:**

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

### **D. Transferable skills - able to:**

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

Logic, analytical and critical skills and the ability to apply relevant knowledge are inherent in the study of law and these skills are encouraged and developed in online tutorial.

#### *Assessment*

Both formal examinations and summative assessed work assess all these skills either directly or indirectly.

### **Teaching/learning methods and strategies**

All the practical skills are present in each module and are developed through online tutorials. 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. The encouragement of these faculties is inherent in all parts of the degree. All modules seek to develop powers of critical analysis and judgment.

#### *Assessment*

The written element of 3 is directly assessed through summative assessed work and/or formal examinations. Examinations indirectly assess 1 and 2, while summative assessed work does so directly. The dissertation requires elements of 1, 2 and 3.

### **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 online discussions. 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 these skills other than 5 and 6. Tutorials 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.**