

## LLM in International Commercial Law (full-time) For students entering in 2017/8

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Programme length:	12 months
Date of specification:	15/Aug/2017
Programme Director:	Mr Adrian Aronsson-Storrier
Board of Studies:	Law (Postgraduate)
Accreditation:	None

### Summary of programme aims

The primary objectives of the programme are to

1. provide a structured postgraduate law degree which examines International Commercial Law and related issues and topics.
2. provide a flexible programme through core courses in Advanced Issues in International Commercial Law, combined with a range of pathway options, and the independent study of a project component.
3. 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.
4. develop an array of analytical skills in students, through independent study and working with others.
5. provide students with the knowledge and skills for professional life and further academic study.
6. allow students to claim a specialist pathway in Corporate Finance, Banking and Financial Regulation, Insolvency and Corporate Rescue, International Dispute Resolution, Competition Law and Regulation, Intellectual Property Law and Management, Information Technology Law, Oil and Gas law, Energy Law and Natural Resources, or Economic Law provided they take specified module(s) and write a project on a topic related to the pathway selected.

### 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 LLM programme consists of 180 credits. Within the LLM programme there are a taught element (140 credits) and a Project (40 credits).

Within the taught element there are three core modules: LWMTAI Advanced Issues in International Commercial Law (20 credits), LWMTPS Project Skills (10 credits), and LWMTPR Project (40 credits).

Students must take all the remaining credits (110) from the lists of *pathway* and *optional* modules.

Projects (LWMTPR) must be written on a topic related to the chosen pathway.

Students wishing to pursue an LLM in International Commercial Law without a specific pathway must also take: LWMTCF International Corporate Finance and the Law (20 credits). The remaining 90 credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law, and ICMA/Henley Business School.

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.

### LLM International Commercial Law Compulsory Modules - all modules from this group must be taken

Code	Title	(Credits)
LWMTPR	Project	40
LWMTPS	Project Skills	10
LWMTAI	Advanced Issues in International Commercial Law	20
<i>No pathway:</i>		
LWMTCF	International Corporate Finance and the Law	20

**PATHWAYS:**

*In addition to the Commercial Law modules above:*

*To qualify for LLM International Commercial Law with International Corporate Finance*

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 30 credits from the list of modules below:

LWMTCF	International Corporate Finance and the Law	20
LWMTGL	International Corporate Governance and the Law	20
ICM106	Financial Markets	20

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law and ICMA/Henley Business School.

*To qualify for LLM International Commercial Law with International Banking Law and Financial Regulation*

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 30 credits from the list of modules below:

LWMTFR	Legal Aspects of International Financial Regulation	20
LWMTBL	International Banking and Finance Law	20
ICM106	Financial Markets	20

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law and ICMA/Henley Business School.

*To qualify for LLM International Commercial Law with Insolvency and Corporate Rescue*

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 30 credits from the list of modules below:

LWMTRE	Legal Aspects of Corporate Rescue	10
LWMINS	Corporate Insolvency Law	20
LWMTMA	Legal Aspects of Mergers, Acquisition and Takeovers	20
ICM270	Corporate Governance and Accountability	20

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law and ICMA/Henley Business School.

*To qualify for LLM International Commercial Law with International Dispute Resolution (Arbitration)*

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 30 credits from the list of modules below:

LWMTAR	International Commercial Arbitration (CIArb Accredited)	20
LWMTTA	Investment Treaty Arbitration	10
LWMTWD	WTO Disputes	20
LWMTLE	International Economic Law	10

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law and ICMA/Henley Business School.

*To qualify for LLM International Commercial Law with Competition Law and Regulation*

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 30 credits from the list of modules below:

LWMTCM	Competition Law	20
LWMTMA	Legal Aspects of Mergers, Acquisition and Takeovers	20
LWMTCP	International and Comparative Competition Law and Policy	10
LWMELR	Energy Law and Regulation	20

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law and ICMA/Henley Business School.

*To qualify for LLM International Commercial Law with Intellectual Property Law and Management*

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 30 credits from the list of modules below:

LWMTCC	Copyright and Designs	10
LWMTTT	Patents and Trademarks	10
LWMTII	International and Comparative Intellectual Property Law	10
MMM087	Management in Creative and Cultural Organisations	20

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law, Arts and Communication Design, and ICMA/Henley Business School.

To qualify for *LLM International Commercial Law with Information Technology Law and Commerce*

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 30 credits from the list of modules below:

LWMTWB	Internet Law	10
LWMTDP	Data Protection	10
LWMTII	International and Comparative Intellectual Property Law	10
LWMTCM	Competition Law	20

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law, Arts and Communication Design, and ICMA/Henley Business School.

To qualify for *LLM International Commercial Law with Oil and Gas Law*

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 30 credits from the list of modules below:

LWMTOG	Legal Issues in Oil and Gas	20
LWMTGC	Oil and Gas Contract Law	20
LWMTCG	Comparative Oil and Gas Law	10

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law, **School Of Agriculture, Policy and Development**, School of Geography and Environmental Sciences, School of Economics and ICMA/Henley Business School.

To qualify for *LLM International Commercial Law with Energy Law and Natural Resources*

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 30 credits from the list of modules below:

LWMEPP	Energy Law and Policy in Power and Renewable Fuels	10
LWMECC	Environmental and Climate Law for Commerce	10
LWMELR	Energy Law and Regulation	20
LWMENV	Contemporary Issues in Environmental Law	10
LWMTEN	EU Energy Law and Regulation	20

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Law, **School Of Agriculture, Policy and Development**, School of Geography and Environmental Sciences, School of Economics and ICMA/Henley Business School.

To qualify for *LLM International Commercial Law with International Economic Law*

In addition to the modules listed above students must take at least 30 credits from the list of modules below:

LWMTLE	International Economic Law	10
LWMTAR	International Commercial Arbitration (CIArb Accredited)	20
LWMTTA	Investment Treaty Arbitration	10
LWMTIT	International Investment Law	20
LWMTCM	Competition Law	20
LWMT**	Energy Law and Regulation	20
LWMTWT	WTO and the Law	20
LWMTWD	WTO Disputes	20

The remaining credits will be taken from a list of optional modules from the School of Law, the School of Economics and ICMA/Henley Business School.

Students taking a pathway should apply for the pathway at the point of entry. However it will be possible for students to join a pathway at a later stage if they have fulfilled all of the requirements.

*The full optional modules lists for all pathways listed above are available from the Programme Director.*

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)

All module selections are subject to availability in any given year and to timetabling constraints.

### **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 module LWMTAI Advanced Issues in International Commercial Law and any designated pathway modules, 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 any remaining optional modules and the core module LWMTPS Project Skills 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 at least 50% in a minimum of 30 credits 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 if he or she gains an average mark of 50 or more in modules worth 60 credits and has no mark below 40.

### **Summary of Teaching and Assessment**

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. Lectures can also be provided online.

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).

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

#### **Mark Interpretation**

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

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 project. 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.

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 project. 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.

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 project. 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. 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.

To qualify for Merit, students must gain an overall average of 60 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.

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, economics, business or finance or an area related to their chosen pathway, 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.

There are no specific entry requirements for the different pathways.

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Stavroula Karapapa

#### **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, In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support teams and IT Services. 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 the Support Centres. If a student has a general enquiry and is unsure where to seek help, they should visit their Support Centre. There are five Support Centres across the University, including one based at the London Road Campus. The Support Centre will be able to advise on matters such as extenuating circumstances, module selection, suspensions, withdrawals, timetable queries and transferring programme. The Support Centre will also be able to signpost students to Carrington building where other University services related to disability, financial support, counselling and wellbeing, accommodation and careers can be found. More information on what student services are available can be found here: <http://student.reading.ac.uk/essentials>.

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.

A course on Academic Writing for LLM students' that we run in collaboration with ISLI will be made available to all students taking this programme. This will help them enhance their skills in essay writing and will also offer to an extent language support for international students. International students will also receive support through our International Support tutor.

A dedicated support for International Students is also available. GOALLS : Global Outlook Activities and Learning for Legal Seagulls was started in October 2015 as an experimental/pioneer effort for providing our international students with a regular, structured and customised support to help take them an extra step ahead in making the best use of their University days. Further details are available here:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/FILES/law/lis-goalls.pdf> & <http://www.reading.ac.uk/law/legalseagulls/law-is-support-new.aspx>

#### **Career prospects**

A postgraduate law degree provides evidence of your deeper legal knowledge, and Masters-level research skills to potential employers such as in 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. Graduates from our programmes have gone on to work in various capacities, as lawyers for leading commercial law firms, in-house legal counsel for large multinationals, and in international organisations in the UK and abroad. In addition to the skills and knowledge gained from the International Commercial Law programme, our specialist pathways will help students to build their brand as a specialist in their chosen area of Law.

Graduates who do not wish to take professional exams in law and go on to practice law either in the UK or abroad, have the option of pursuing careers in any of a wide range of sectors, or taking further academic study in pursuit of an academic career. A postgraduate law degree does not disqualify students from any career option and the skills it engenders, such as the ability to conduct independent research and engage in critical legal thinking, time management skills, effective verbal and written communication, presenting and planning, are in great demand from non-legal employers.

The School of Law works with the University's Careers team to provide our students with the information and skills they will need to gain employment both within and outside the Legal sector.

### **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 International Commercial 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 by seminars, although some modules may include lectures. All seminars 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*:**

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.

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

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 seminars.

##### *Assessment*

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

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

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

##### **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. Examinations indirectly

assess 1 and 2, while summative assessed work does so directly. The project requires elements of 1, 2 and 3. Some modules assess oral communication (formatively or summatively).

#### **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;
6. Consider career development.

#### **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 other than 5 and 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.**