



LLM International Commercial Law

Programme specification document

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Bath Business School
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	LLM International Commercial Law
Qualification (final award)	LLM
Intermediate awards available	PgCert
Routes available	Single/Joint
Duration of award	1-year full time, 2 years part-time
Sandwich period	Optional
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme ¹	Taught Postgraduate Framework
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	
UCAS code	N/A
Route code (SITS)	N/A
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Law (08 th March 2023) QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree (08 th March 2023) QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Master's Degree in Business & Management (08 th March 2023)
Date of most recent approval	September 2024
Date specification last updated	July 2024

¹ This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

Programme Overview

The LLM International Commercial Law equips students with advanced knowledge and a systematic understanding of the complex legal frameworks governing international business and trade. This programme provides an in-depth examination of the laws, rules, and regulations that control a range of international commercial activities, enhancing students' expertise in this specialised area of law.

Students will develop core legal knowledge and an understanding of fundamental legal principles, gaining skills crucial for careers in legal practice, public sector organisations, non-governmental organisations, multinational corporations, and other entities, both in the United Kingdom and internationally. The programme's curriculum emphasises practical application through practice-led exercises, some of which are conducted in collaboration with external organisations, ensuring students gain real-world experience.

A key feature of the programme is its focus on contemporary issues such as corporate accountability, sustainability, climate change, and responses to environmental crises. Students will analyse domestic and international regulations addressing these challenges, equipping them with the ability to tackle pressing global issues through a legal lens.

Throughout the programme, students will engage in high-level abstract thinking, developing critical responses and proposing innovative concepts or approaches within international business and law. This analytical capability is essential for legal professionals who aim to influence policy and drive change in the global commercial landscape.

The LLM International Commercial Law adopts a holistic and individualised approach, fostering both academic and practical skill development alongside personal and professional growth. By tailoring the learning experience to each student's journey, the programme ensures graduates are well-prepared to excel in various professional settings. This comprehensive programme enhances employability and positions graduates as leaders capable of navigating and shaping the evolving field of international commercial law.

Programme Aims

1. Enable students to acquire a deep and systematic understanding of commercial law's theoretical foundations and practical applications, encompassing key areas such as international trade, maritime law, international contracts, global governance and sustainability, and world trade organisation law.
2. Enhance students' capabilities to critically analyse and evaluate complex legal issues, policies, and practices within commercial law, fostering independent and innovative thinking in line with advanced scholarly and professional standards.
3. Cultivate the ability to conduct rigorous and substantial independent research, contributing original insights to the field of commercial law and advancing both academic scholarship and practical application.
4. Equip students with the advanced knowledge and skills required for professional legal practice, ensuring they can effectively navigate and influence the commercial legal landscape with competence and confidence.
5. Instil a global perspective by emphasising the understanding of diverse international legal systems, cross-border transactions, and the far-reaching impacts of globalisation on commercial law.
6. Promote a strong sense of ethical responsibility and professional integrity, preparing graduates to address and resolve ethical dilemmas they may encounter in the practice of commercial law.
7. Encourage a commitment to lifelong learning and continuous professional development, enabling graduates to remain adaptive and maintain their expertise amidst the evolving demands of the legal environment.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) **(NB These ILOs are at level 7 of the FHEQ)**

A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

A1 Systematic Problem-Solving: Systematically and creatively solve complex legal issues and make sound judgements regarding debates about the interrelationship between various international legal regimes and the relationship between global business and commercial law;

A2 Critical Evaluation: Critically evaluate the legal relations between global business, commercial law, and domestic, regional, and international institutions;

A3 Application of Norms: Apply global business and commercial law norms to specific cases through practical exercises.

A4 Self-Reflection and Creativity: Engage in self-reflection and use creative approaches to solve complex legal problems.

A5 Research Methodologies: Evaluate diverse legal research methodologies in global business and commercial law;

A6 Independent Learning and Communication: Develop skills for independent learning to support ongoing professional development and communicate effectively with others in diverse contexts, both orally and in writing.

A7 Diversity and Ethics: Value and respect diversity of experience and the perspectives of others, and demonstrate an understanding of the principles and values of social justice and ethics.

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

B1. Plan and execute a range of law and/or business-related activities and tasks in a logical, intelligent, and professional manner, while analysing and evaluating performance and development.

B2. Reflect systematically and constructively at a professional level on diverse and complex legal, business, economic, ethical, social, and political dilemmas at local, national, and global levels.

B3. Analyse and synthesise relevant and potentially complex information and evidence; evaluate quality and identify gaps appropriately; and create and apply sound decision-making, recommendations, and artefacts in a legal and/or business context.

B4. Conduct sustained independent research in a specific area of legal practice or substantive law, combining originality in applying knowledge with a practical understanding of how established research techniques are used to create and interpret knowledge in the legal discipline.

C Skills for Life and Work

C1 Autonomous learning (including time management) that demonstrates the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

- C2 Team working skills necessary to succeed in the global workplace, with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively, as well as the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- C3 Communication skills that show the ability to communicate clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences' knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, and the conclusions drawn from dealing with complex issues systematically
- C4 IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the ability to develop new skills to a high level and to approach complex issues systematically and creatively

PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes

- A. Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge
A1-4
- B. Cognitive and Intellectual Skills
B1-3
- C. Skills for Life and Work
C1-4

PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes

- A. Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge
A1-4
- B. Cognitive and Intellectual Skills
B1-3
- C. Skills for Life and Work
C1-4

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules.

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single and/or joint programme

LLM International Commercial Law				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
Core Modules					
7	LAW7X XX-30	International Commercial Law and International Contract	30	C	
7	LAW7X XX-30	Maritime Law	30	C	
7	LAW720 6-15	Competition Law	15	O	
7	LAW720 5-15	Entertainment, Media and Intellectual Property Law	15	O	
7	LAW 7107- 15	Business Law and Practice	15	O	
7	LAW7X XX-15	International Trade and Economic Law	15	O	
7	LAW720 4-15	Cyber Space Law	15	O	
7	LAW720 8	Artificial Intelligence Law	15	O	
7	LAW711 0-60	Legal Research Project Trimester 3	60	R*	
7	LAW710 9-60	Law Clinic Module Trimester 3	60	R*	

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities.

The LLM programme in International Commercial Law is designed to enhance student employability and ensure a student-centric focus. In addition to the comprehensive curriculum, students will have the option to participate in work experience and portfolio development. These components are integral to the programme and aim to provide practical skills and real-world experience.

Through the Legal Clinic and Legal Research Project modules, students will have opportunities for practical work experience and engagement with regional businesses. These modules are specifically designed to offer hands-on experience in legal and business practice, allowing students to apply their academic knowledge in real-world settings. This engagement will help students build professional networks, gain valuable insights into the legal and business industry, and develop skills that are highly sought after by employers.

Students will have numerous opportunities to engage with relevant stakeholders during curricular and co-curricular activities. Activities such as debating and contract drafting will be available, offering students the chance to enhance their advocacy, problem-solving, communication, teamwork, writing and public speaking skills. These activities enrich the learning experience and play a crucial role in preparing students for successful careers in law and related fields.

This programme is committed to providing a well-rounded education that balances academic rigour with practical experience. This, in turn, fosters employability and ensures that students are well-equipped for their future careers.

Table of Additional Course Costs

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In the LLM Commercial law, we enable this...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	by providing students with opportunities for work-related experience and the development of transferable skills essential for future legal, professional, and business practice. This programme is designed to equip students with practical knowledge and hands-on experience, fostering skills that are highly valued in the legal and business sectors. Through internships, simulations, and industry collaborations, students gain real-world insights and competencies, preparing them for successful careers in a variety of professional settings.
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	by providing students with a strong emphasis on fostering an international focus and an interdisciplinary approach, we enhance their employability skills. Integrating global perspectives and drawing from various disciplines equips students with a well-rounded skill set essential for thriving in today's interconnected world. Through collaboration in multicultural teams tackling diverse and complex problems, students learn to navigate differing viewpoints and cultures, honing their abilities to identify, plan, and implement effective solutions, decisions, and judgments. This immersive learning experience prepares students for the complexities of the legal and business landscapes and cultivates the adaptability and

		cross-cultural competencies needed for success in a diverse and dynamic professional environment.
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	by integrating legal, business, and management disciplines, students gain exposure to diverse knowledge and perspectives. For example, they might analyse a case study involving an international merger, requiring an understanding of both legal frameworks and business strategies. Through such projects, students cultivate critical and creative thinking abilities, applying their varied skill sets to solve complex problems and implement effective solutions across different scenarios. This hands-on, interdisciplinary learning approach prepares students with practical skills and adaptability crucial for success in the dynamic field of commercial law.
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	by integrating diverse digital resources throughout the programme, we facilitate students' interaction with immersive skills simulations, dynamic online assessments, and multimedia tools, enriching their learning experience. These resources enable students to actively develop and refine their digital skill set, which is essential in today's technology-driven professional landscape. Moreover, this approach provides practical, hands-on experience with digital platforms commonly used in legal practice, preparing students effectively for the demands of the modern workplace.
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	by providing students with opportunities to operate in a scholarly setting that embraces multiculturalism, they will hone their intercultural awareness. Collaborating with students from diverse countries and cultures enriches this experience. For example, discussing a project with a teammate from Ghana might reveal

		<p>their approach to teamwork, which emphasises harmony and consensus-building, contrasting with the more individualistic approach common in Western cultures.</p>
6	<p>Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers</p>	<p>by empowering students to harness their creativity, exercise sharp judgment, and address client-centric and business-related issues, we aim to develop their ability to identify and resolve legal challenges in the commercial sphere. This includes evaluating alternative approaches and assessing associated risks. For example, imagine being tasked with developing contractual agreements for a new business venture. Here, you would be encouraged to think innovatively, exploring diverse legal strategies to safeguard the client's interests. Additionally, you'd apply analytical skills to understand market dynamics and consumer trends, ensuring the proposed legal framework aligns with the client's commercial objectives. Through this process, you'd provide insightful counsel, recommending the most advantageous legal pathways to enhance the client's business outcomes.</p>
7	<p>Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy</p>	<p>by providing students with both theoretical expertise and practical acumen gained through the LLM in international commercial law, they will adeptly identify legal issues. They will apply relevant principles, rules, theories, and methodologies to devise solutions and provide counsel. For example, consider a complex case involving a breach of contract in a commercial real estate transaction. Drawing on their understanding of contract law, students would analyse the contractual terms, relevant statutes, and case precedents to ascertain liability and evaluate</p>

		potential remedies. They would then offer strategic advice to their client, outlining the most effective legal course of action to protect their interests and minimise damages.
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	by providing students with a broadened comprehension of how law and morality intersect, we acknowledge the fundamental significance of ethics across domains like business operations, legal structures, and professional behaviour. For instance, as a corporate lawyer, you may face a scenario where a client suggests a financially lucrative but ethically questionable business deal. Understanding the implications of such actions on both legal and moral grounds is essential for making informed decisions and upholding ethical standards in professional practice.

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
N/A	N/A	N/A

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – LLM International Commercial Law

Full-Time (One Year)		
Level 7		
Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
Core Modules		
LAW7XXX-30 International Commercial Law and International Contract	LAW7XXX-30 Maritime Law	
Required* Modules		
		LAW7109-60 Legal Clinic
		LAW7110-60 Legal Research Project
Optional Modules		
LAW7206-15 Competition Law	LAW7205-15 Entertainment, Media and Intellectual Property Law	
LAW7XXX-15 International Trade and Economic Law	LAW7107-15 Business Law and Practice	
LAW7204-15 Cyber Space Law	LAW7208-15 Artificial Intelligence	
<p>Rule Notes: Students must choose 1 x 60-credit R* module and 2 x 15-credit Optional modules.</p>		

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[4]	Intended Learning Outcomes															
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge							Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work				
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	
7	LAW7110-60	Legal Research Project	R*	X	X	X	X		X			X	X		X		X	X	
7	LAW7109-60	Legal Clinic	R*	X		X	X	X			X		X	X	X		X	X	X
7	LAW7XXX-30	International Commercial Law and International Contract	C	X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X
7	LAW7XXX-30	Maritime Law	C		X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X		X		X
7	LAW7206-15	Competition Law	O	X	X			X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	LAW7205-15	Entertainment, Media and Intellectual Property Law	O	X		X	X	X				X	X		X		X		X
7	LAW 7107-15	Business Law and Practice	O	X	X		X		X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X
7	LAW7XXX-15	International Trade and Economic Law	O	X		X	X	X			X		X	X	X		X	X	X

7	LAW7204-15	Cyber Space Law	O	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X		X		X
7	LAW7208-15	Artificial Intelligence Law	O		X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X		X	X

[4] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[5]	Assessment method										
				Coursework				Practical			Written Examination			
				Case Study	Dissertation	Essay	Report	Practical Project	Presentation	Portfolio	Time Constrained Assessment	Written Assessment		
7	LAW7110-60	Legal Research Project	R*		X				P					
7	LAW7109-60	Legal Clinic	R*								X			

7	LAW7XX X-30	International Commercial Law and International Contract	C	X								
7	LAW7XX X-30	Maritime Law	C						X			
7	LAW720 6-15	Competition Law	O			X						
7	LAW720 5-15	Entertainment, Media and Intellectual Property Law	O				X					
7	LAW 7107-15	Business Law and Practice	O	X								
7	LAW7XX X-15	International Trade and Economic Law	O						X			
7	LAW720 4-15	Cyber Space Law	O			X						
7	LAW720 8-15	Artificial Intelligence Law	O				X					

[5] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional