

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Awarding body/institution:	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching institution (if different from above):	Centre for Commercial Law Studies
Name of the final award and Programme title:	Postgraduate Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration M3DF (distance learning)
Duration of Study/Period of Registration	2 years part time
UCAS code:	n/a
QAA Benchmark Group	n/a
Academic Department/s involved in programme delivery	Centre for Commercial Law Studies

If accredited by a professional/statutory body, please give the name, date of last accreditation visit, approximate date of next visit and details of exemptions that will be given to QMUL graduates.	The Diploma is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators that provides full academic exemption from Fellowship exams. Components of the programme are accredited by the American Bar Association and the Law Society (for CPD hours). The last accreditation was in October 2002. Further applications for accreditation will be made in due course.
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Criteria for admission to the programme

An upper second class (2.1) honours degree in law (or with law as a major element) at a British University. Equivalent professional qualifications and experience will also be considered, e.g. degree with substantial law content, normally of at least Upper

Second Class Honours (or equivalent). The following also qualify for entry to the Postgraduate Diploma: a non-law graduate with good Honours who has obtained the equivalent of First Class or Second Class Honours in CPE and Bar Finals/Legal Practice examinations, or passed the solicitors' qualifying examination. In exceptional cases persons not meeting the normal entry requirement may be considered if they have sufficient relevant experience. Evidence of English language proficiency will also be required. In order to judge the ability of applicants, emphasis is placed on references. Applicants are also required to provide a transcript of their marks from their former college or university.

Clear evidence (may be written or may be identified from an interview) must be provided that the applicant has the potential to succeed on the programme of study.

Aims of the programme

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- To assist students to develop a detailed, critical and advanced knowledge of key areas of arbitration practice & regulation, not typically covered (or not adequately covered) by an undergraduate syllabus.
- To respond to the needs of students who wish to enter into practice in this specialist area – the modules will assist students to acquire essential theoretical and practical skills in their subjects; this relates to students who are located locally, regionally and internationally.
- To provide students with first-class and comprehensive teaching materials.
- To provide students with an in-depth understanding of key issues in these advanced law subjects.
- To broaden and deepen students' understanding of their own systems of law by giving them the opportunity and the tools with which to explore the international and comparative law context.
- To enhance the students' learning experience through regular interaction with module teachers, practitioners, visiting academics and fellow students.
- To ensure a balance of theoretical rigour and practical application and relevance in the examination of the law.

Learning outcomes for the programme

On completing the Postgraduate Diploma, a student should:

- Understand the key legal principles, issues and debates arising out of the law and practice of international and domestic arbitration.
- Recognise the standard of materials expected from a post-graduate law student and be capable of producing that standard.
- Be capable of analysing legal problems and drafting detailed responses addressing the key issues.
- Be capable of producing papers through self-study that examine particular legal issues with the intellectual rigour appropriate to post-graduate legal students.

- Demonstrate knowledge of arbitration at an advanced level by successfully dealing with issues in both a practical and a scholarly manner.
- Acquire practical and transferable skills, such as the capacity to make presentations and work in a team.

Teaching, learning and assessment strategies

Teaching will be delivered using distance learning methods

- Traditional (recorded) lectures
- Online Seminar session
- Class workshops
- Residential weekend

Learning will be ensured using a selection of the following

- Production of teaching materials and reading lists
- Mock assignments with feedback during the year
- Class presentations
- Use of WebCT

Assessment strategies will include a selection (and occasionally a combination) of the following

- Unseen written examinations
- 15,000 word dissertations
- Take home assignments

Programme structure(s) and requirements, levels and modules

A Postgraduate Diploma will be awarded to students who complete successfully modules to the value of 120 credits. All modules are at postgraduate level (level 7).

- International and Comparative Commercial Arbitration (45 credits – compulsory module)
- *International Award Writing* (30 credits – compulsory module)
- One 45 credit option module from the following:
 - International Commercial Law (45 credits)
 - International Commercial Litigation (45 credits)
 - International Construction: Contracts and Arbitration (45 credits)
 - International Trade and Investment Dispute Settlement (45 credits)
 - 15,000 word research paper on a topic not covered by the taught elements and to be agreed with the supervisor (45 credits)

Quality assurance mechanism (please include details of: SSLC meetings, student feedback mechanisms, personal tutor arrangements, programme

induction, programme review and monitoring.)

Throughout the programme, students will have the opportunity to raise academic concerns with the relevant module leaders and lecturers. Emphasis will be placed upon the use of email and WebCT as communication platforms. Further, Postgraduate Diploma students are to be assigned a personal tutor from within the School of Law academic staff as a first port of call in the event of any problem which may impinge upon their academic career at QMUL. They will also have access to the Programme Director.

The views of students on the programme, including both content and delivery, will be sought at regular intervals, and the responses used in order to evaluate the Postgraduate Diploma with a view to year on year improvement in order to better meet the needs of our student clientele.

Employers Links

Please provide details of any links with employers e.g.

- **Details of advisory panels that include current or potential employers;**
- **Organisations that regularly employ graduates from this programme and the roles that graduates undertake.**
- **Student prizes donated by organisations that may offer employment to graduates from this programme.**

If there are no links with employers consider the learning outcomes and transferable skills and explain how these might be used to inform employers about the qualities and skills a graduate from this programme might be expected to have.

Students who pass the Postgraduate Diploma examinations are fully exempt from the academic requirements for Fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Person Completing Programme Specification	Professor Loukas Mistelis CCLS
Person responsible for management of programme	Professor Loukas Mistelis CCLS
Date programme specification agreed by Department or teaching and learning committee	17 May 2009
Date of approval by Faculty Board/SMD Education Board	2 June 2009

Date of update/amendment	