

Programme Title: Dual LLM in Commercial Law (London and Singapore)



## Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Singapore Management University and Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Singapore Management University and Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	LLM in Commercial Law (London and Singapore)
Name of interim award(s):	N/A
Duration of study / period of registration:	16 months
QMUL programme code(s):	PMLF-SQCCLS1
QAA Benchmark Group:	N/A
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	N/A
Date Programme Specification approved:	8 Jun 2022
Responsible School / Institute:	Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Institution(s) other than QMUL that will provide some teaching for the programme:

Singapore Management University (SMU)

### Programme outline

The programme will provide students with the opportunity to study in two major commercial hubs in the common law world, as well as to gain insights into the legal underpinnings of commerce in the East and the West. It will be very intensive and primarily targeted to a mature-student market where CCLS and SMU envisage that many students will have acquired prior professional experience and they will be used in intensive and demanding time management. With a January start, new graduates will also be able to apply to this programme given its flexible starting time and more adequate preparation time for the admissions process.

During a 16 month period, students will be doing 135 credits, starting in London from January and then progress to the Singapore leg of the programme, where they complete the rest of 135 credits. The total 270 credits of intensive teaching will consist of a mixture of condensed short courses, modules taught over a number of weeks, and a research project. The programme will also feature extra-curricular activities including professional networking events, career developments focused events and social events as applicable. As such, the programme will provide more variety and a greater breadth of experience to students undertaking it, in comparison with those who enroll on a regular one-year master's programme.

In terms of admissions, the programme will be capped at 40 students, depends on market feedback and capacity, review of

these numbers will be carried out as necessary.

## Aims of the programme

The Programme aims to provide students with a unique opportunity to read commercial law in two major commercial hubs, London and Singapore.

It also aims to give students the opportunity to experience both the British model of postgraduate education which places a major emphasis on independent study and development of critical analysis skills and research skills (in particular by writing a 15,000 word dissertation) and the American/Asian system which has a strong focus on the Socratic method of teaching and involves more face-time with teaching staff and a greater variety of assessment methods (such as presentations and short applied tasks). They will therefore develop a more varied range of skills than they would otherwise, and experience a greater range of learning processes.

## What will you be expected to achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will have gained an expert and in-depth understanding of the workings of commercial law as a distinct field of law, as well as of the application of the law to everyday practice. They will also have gained the ability critically to assess and comment upon the current state of the law from an international and transnational perspective as well as the ability to conduct advanced research in this area of law.

### Academic Content:

A 1	Students will acquire a thorough understanding of key aspects of commercial law from multiple perspectives, with a major focus on international and comparative issues, and of the importance of legal principles, rules and laws underlying business and commercial relationships.
A 2	Students will acquire an understanding of the realities underlying cross-border business and how these realities have affected and continue to affect legal development in this area.
A 3	Students will acquire an in-depth understanding of different regions' approaches to resolving commercial problems, and the ways in which these respective solutions achieve (or fail to achieve) their ends.

### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	By the end of the programme, students will have developed the ability to manage, analyse and evaluate various legal sources and material relating to commercial law generally as well as discrete specialisations within commercial law, including international instruments, domestic legislation, case law, contractual documents and industry-developed terms and conditions, and academic commentary. In this regard, students will not only be able to assess critically the importance of the various different legal concepts that derive from such sources, but also to formulate legal arguments and proposals in relation to various complex topics that will be examined.
B 2	Students will further develop their ability to demonstrate an understanding of and review a wide range of legal material and apply that knowledge to the solution of practical legal problems. This will involve them being able to identify complex legal principles and rules and apply them to various commercial circumstances that frequently arise, or can arise in the future. By the end of the programme, students will also have developed the ability to appraise the general state of the law and formulate legally sound commentary on potential future directions or solutions to current areas of uncertainty.
B 3	By the end of this programme, students will have acquired the knowledge and capacity to plan and implement research projects within the area of commercial law, particularly projects involving the use of comparative methods.

Attributes:	
C 1	Students will develop the ability to exercise personal responsibility and initiative to manage a wide range of legal material and their learning.
C 2	Students will acquire the ability to assimilate information from a wide variety of material and to challenge such material through critical and comparative analysis and discussion. Students will be able to identify complex legal concepts and apply them in such ways as to resolve actual scenarios.
C 3	Students will develop expertise in a globally significant area of law through engagement with the content which the programme comprises.

### How will you learn?

The learning process will take place in a variety of ways to cater for the range of transferable skills useful for pursuing a professional career in the field.

QMUL: For each module taught in London, students will receive a minimum number of contact hours in seminars or lectures, or in the case of the dissertation, in one-to-one supervision. As for taught modules with large cohorts, lectures will be supplemented by a number of small group interactive seminars to allow more individual attention, and allowing students to test their understanding and to learn from both the seminar leader and their peers. In that framework, there will be opportunities for students to present arguments in oral and written form and to conduct independent research. For modules with smaller cohorts, all teaching will be conducted seminar-style. Both lectures and seminars will be supported by an online learning environment, provided via QMPlus. Students will conduct an independent research project (dissertation) under the guidance of a research supervisor. Research and writing skills sessions will be delivered to support the learning process and the preparation of the final dissertation.

SMU: Students will read a total of 6 courses/modules at SMU, selected annually by SMU, out of a total of the 13, all of which will be compulsory. Each module will consist of 30 hours of classes time, c.120 hours of preparation time for class and c.75 hours of assessment preparation time. Learning objectives are indicated in the module descriptions. All courses are exclusive to LLM students and will be taught in SMU's characteristic seminar style (where participants benefit from lively discussions and presentation in a highly interactive learning environment). As is the practice in the School of Law, prominent practitioners may, from time to time, be invited to participate in these sessions. Additionally, students are required to participate in a professional development workshop. This full-day workshop is specially organised by the SMU Office of Post-Graduate Professional Programmes (PGPP) for all postgraduate students.

### How will you be assessed?

QMUL: Mastery of the law and understanding of the context within which it has developed will be assessed by means of unseen examinations and/or essays and/or coursework together with a dissertation. Legal research and writing skills will be assessed by means of the dissertation. The precise methods of assessment for each module are recorded in the respective module specifications. QMUL will quality assure the 45 credits carried forward from SMU accordingly, as stated previously.

SMU: A holistic approach towards course assessment is adopted. Significant assessment weightage is allocated to class participation, term assignments, oral and written presentations, whilst the end of term written examination typically accounts for a maximum of 50% of the final grade in a course. The precise methods of assessment for each course are recorded in the respective course outlines. QMUL courses are recognised to the extent that students must meet all course requirements for graduation.

### How is the programme structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The proposed programme will be structured as follows, which will not affect the curriculum:

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### Year 1:

January: London Induction

January to March: Taught modules being delivered at CCLS (90 credits) (During this period, students will receive support from the Critical Thinking and Writing in Law (Extra-curricular Legal English Support course with no assessment), together with all other PGT students)

April: 1st dissertation supervision meeting

End of April/beginning of June: Examination period for taught modules

June: 2nd dissertation supervision meeting

Mid-July: Provisional results available to students

July to August: Students progress to SMU

August: Singapore Induction

August to December (SEM 1 in SMU): three taught modules chosen by and delivered at SMU (67.5 credits)

December: 3rd dissertation supervision meeting via Zoom or other channels.

### Year 2:

January: Dissertation submission to QMUL (45 credits)

January to April (SEM 2 in SMU): Three taught modules chosen by and delivered at SMU (67.5 credits)

Generally, students will be doing 135 credits in London and 135 credits in Singapore (270 credits in total) during a 16 months' period. They will start in January from London, will then be moving on to Singapore to complete this programme. Each institution will recognise 45 credits from each other, for the purpose of students' obtaining 180 credits in order to receive two LLM degrees from both institutions. The 45-credit dissertation taken at CCLS (CCLS905) is recognised by SMU as part of their award.

Two of the LLM core modules (45 credits) offered in SMU will be recognised by CCLS for the purposes of the awarding the QMUL degree. The contents of modules to be offered by each institution, have been thoroughly discussed and agreed in order to ensure that they are conducive to the delivery of a cohesive and coherent single programme of studies.

The students will experience both the British model of postgraduate education which places a major emphasis on independent study and development of critical analysis skills and research skills (in particular by writing a 12,000 word dissertation); as well as the American/Asian system which has a strong focus on the Socratic method of teaching and involves more face-time with teaching staff and a greater variety of assessment methods (such as presentations and short applied tasks). They will therefore develop a more varied range of skills than they would otherwise, and experience a greater range of learning processes. The programme is also featuring extra-curricular activities including professional networking events, career development focusing events and any other social events available.

## Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Securities Regulation (CCLS)	SOLM001	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
International Finance Law Applied (CCLS)	SOLM006	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
Banking and FinTech Law (CCLS)	SOLM008	30	7	Elective		Semester 2

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Corporate Governance and Responsibility in Finance (CCLS)	SOLM012	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
Islamic Finance and Commercial Law (CCLS)	SOLM016	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
Corporate Rescue and Cross-border Insolvency (CCLS)	SOLM017	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
Company Law: Corporate Finance and Management Issues (CCLS)	SOLM021	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
US State Law and Practice (CCLS)	SOLM034	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
Transnational Problems in Commercial Contracts (CCLS)	SOLM036	15	7	Compulsory		Semester 2
Commercial Conflict of Laws (CCLS)	SOLM046	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
International Law of Patents and Related Rights (CCLS)	SOLM077	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
The Law of Registered Trade Marks (CCLS)	SOLM083	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
Intellectual Property and the Creative Industries (CCLS)	SOLM090	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
Intellectual Property and the Life Sciences (CCLS)	SOLM093	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
Commercialisation of IP	SOLM092	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
Insurance Regulation (CCLS)	SOLM139	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
Legal Aspects of Paperless Trade (CCLS)	SOLM148	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
Private International & European Air Transport Law (CCLS)	SOLM152	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
International Arbitration and Energy (CCLS)	SOLM163	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
Law and Finance in Practice	SOLM237	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
International Trade and Investment Law of the EU (CCLS)	SOLM195	15	7	Elective		Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Information Security and the Law (CCLS)	SOLM210	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
Media Law: Reputation Management (CCLS)	SOLM216	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
E-Commerce Transactions (CCLS)	SOM219	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
E-commerce Regulations (CCLS)	SOLM220	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
AI, Robotics and the Law (CCLS)	SOLM221	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
International and Comparative Data Protection Law (CCLS)	SOLM222	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
Compliance in Global Markets (CCLS)	SOLM223	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
EU Financial and Monetary Law (CCLS)	SOLM245	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
Sustainability and the Corporation (CCLS)	SOLM269	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
Seminar on AI Regulation, Rights and Responsibilities (CCLS)	SOLM284	15	7	Elective		Semester 2
Corporate Governance: Operation and Practice (CCLS)	SOLM023	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
Comparative Contract Law (CCLS)	SOLM024	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
Cybercrime: Substantive Offences	SOLM207	30	7	Elective		Semester 2
Dissertation	CCLS905	45	7	Core		Semesters 1-3

**Academic Year of Study**

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Asian and Global Trends in Information Technology Law (SMU)	LAW641	22.5	7	Core		Semester 1

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Foreign Investment Law in Asia (SMU)	LAW631	22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 1
Beyond the Law: Regulatory Mechanisms in Cross-border Issues in the Asian Context (SMU)	LAW633	22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 1
Chinese Contract and Business Law (SMU)	LAW636	22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 1
Cross-Border Mediation: Professional Skills and Practice (SMU)	LAW643	22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 1
Blockchain and Governance (SMU)	LAW649	22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 1
Advanced Law of Obligations: A Study in Commercial Remedies (SMU)	LAW645	22.5	7	Core		Semester 2
Law of Real Estate Securitization (SMU)	LAW651	22.5	7	Core		Semester 2
Financial Regulation in Singapore, Hong Kong and Greater China (SMU)	LAW632	22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 2
Law of Mergers and Acquisitions (SMU)	LAW610	22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 2
Intellectual Property Law and Policy: International and Asian Perspectives (SMU)	LAW627	22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 2
International Business Law: An Asian Perspective (SMU)	LAW634	22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 2
Trusts and Wealth Management in Singapore and Hong Kong (SMU)	LAW635	22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 2

### What are the entry requirements?

For Law graduates, the usual qualification for entry to the LLM programme is a degree in law or a degree with a substantial law content, normally of at least upper-second class honours (or equivalent). For non-law graduates, they may be considered on the basis of exceptional professional experience that directly relates to the subject area. Non-law graduates with good honours, that have also obtained the equivalent of good honours in CPE and Bar Finals/Legal Practice examinations, or passed the solicitors' qualifying examination, may qualify. Law graduates with high 2.2 honours and at least five years professional legal experience may also qualify. Students from outside the United Kingdom must give evidence of their English language ability by producing an English language test score: IELTS 7.0 (minimum Writing: 7.0 and R, L, S: 5.5). Other English test results may also be considered in accordance with the QMUL admissions regulations. Due to the start-dates and the nature of the programme, it is not possible for students to take the pre-sessional English classes.

Applicants will apply directly to QMUL and, if they satisfy QMUL's admissions criteria and are shortlisted, will go through SMU's admissions process which involves passing a selection interview with a selector from SMU.

### How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate

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representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Student Experience Action Plan (SEAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the PTES and module evaluations.

### What academic support is available?

In London, students will receive a comprehensive induction. Early on in their studies, students will receive targeted support with the preliminary stages of their dissertation module, including selecting a research topic, drafting a research proposal, considering their methodology and developing the skills needed to identify and use relevant materials. Lecturers on modules offered to the students will monitor students' progress and ensure that they integrate well with the London cohort taking the same modules (if applicable). A welcome event will be organised to introduce Dual LLM students to the designated student representatives of the specialisations they have selected for their taught modules. The programme director shall be available to discuss any concerns students might have. SMU staff will make themselves (virtually) available to students on the programme while the students are in London.

At SMU, all students will be academically supported throughout the programme, including out-of-class consultation with their professors. At the start of the Singapore portion of the programme, all students will go through the LLM Orientation Programme which includes training on the use of library resources for research, as well as a preparatory 2-day Common Law Workshop and a 2-day Legal Writing Workshop for students from a civil law background and those without a law background at all. Students will also attend the SMU Postgraduate Immersion Programme organised by the Office of Postgraduate Professional Programmes (PGPP), which gives them the opportunity to meet students from other postgraduate programmes and to immerse in the SMU postgraduate life. Additionally, all postgraduate students are required to attend a Leadership Development Series Workshop organised by PGPP mid-way through the programme. The topics for this workshop could range from career planning, resume writing and interviewing skills, to employment negotiations, wardrobe management and networking. While students are in Singapore, they will be kept connected with London via designated QMPlus pages and by being given prospective lecturers' office contact details.

### Programme-specific rules and facts

This programme has specific programme regulations. Please see the "Special Regulations for Collaborative Programmes" within the University's Academic Regulations <https://arcs.qmul.ac.uk/policy>.

### Specific support for disabled students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)



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- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

In January 2015 SMU became the first tertiary institution in Singapore to form a committee to study ways to support students with disabilities. SMU has about 70 students – 1 per cent of its total – with disabilities, including dyslexia, hearing and visual impairments, and physical disabilities such as paralysis of their limbs. In February 2015, SMU signed a Memorandum with the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) with a view to developing further its support for disabled students. The plans include reviewing the way students with disabilities are tested in class, and how they take part in co-curricular activities and overseas programmes. As a result SMU is developing state-of-the art support for its disabled students.

### **Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills**

Several potential employers in London, some of them with offices in Singapore, have already endorsed the programme. We are also discussing with them the potential for programme-specific internship opportunities. Depending on the size of the cohort and their specific interests, designated career events will be organised for them.

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## **Programme Specification Approval**

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**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Angeliki Polatou and Christine Zhou

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Dr Guan H Tang and Programme Administrative Team

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:**

22 Mar 2022

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:**

8 Jun 2022