



## Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	LLM in International Business Law (Sorbonne-QMUL Double LLM)
Name of interim award(s):	Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate
Duration of study / period of registration:	18 months
Queen Mary programme code(s):	
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	Centre for Commercial Law Studies

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

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Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne

### Programme outline

The QMUL-Sorbonne double LL.M. is a bilingual degree offered in French and English, in Paris, over 18 months.

The programme offers students the opportunity to study with two renowned institutions, and to develop their skills in international business law, European Law as well as French and English law.

Since its establishment more than 30 years ago, the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS) within the School of Law, has grown to become one of the world's leading institutions for the study of commercial law. The Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne School of Law is one of the most prominent and well-known French Law Schools.

Building upon the successes of the existing QMUL School of Law London-based LLM programme, and the more recent and innovative CCLS LLM in Paris programme; and the Sorbonne School of Law's LLM, this double-LLM programme brings a unique opportunity for combining study across the two legal systems of Civil and Common Law.

The programme runs full-time, with the 18 months broken down into three semesters:

- a first semester of modules taught in English at Queen Mary University of London, in Paris, from the beginning of January to the end of July. Students would be expected to take 6 taught modules offered by Queen Mary in Paris during the January – July

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period. They would further undertake a dissertation of 7,500 words;

- a second semester of classes conducted in French at Paris 1 from the beginning of September to the end of March (involving 6 courses offered within the French and European Law curriculum);
- a third and final semester from the beginning of April until the end of June, which involves an internship\*, overseen by the Sorbonne Law School.

There will be additional non-credit bearing offerings, including an Introduction to Common Law & the English Legal System; Critical Thinking and Writing in Law (English); legal French; and cultural visits to local legal institutions such as the Supreme Court, Parliament etc.

The programme is co-directed by Dr. Garry Gabison of Queen Mary University of London, and Professor Pierre Brunet of the Sorbonne Law School. It is fully integrated, meaning that students will be connected to both universities throughout the 18 months. Students receive inductions with QMUL and the Sorbonne Law School. Lecturers from both universities are available to students throughout the study period.

\* please note that Paris 1 and Queen Mary will make their best endeavours to assist students in securing internship placements for these 3 months. Should it occur that a student does not secure a position, then s/he will be required to submit a research dissertation, in French, on a topic of French or European law.

### **Aims of the programme**

The Programme aims to provide students with a unique opportunity to study in French, English, international and comparative business law; in two languages, with two renowned Institutions.

The 18 month double LLM pathway combines the existing LL.M. programmes in Paris of: (i) an LL.M. in International Business Law at QMUL, and (ii) an LL.M. in French and European Law at the Sorbonne Law School.

The Programme aims to give students the opportunity to study within both the British and French models of postgraduate education, as well as undertake tangible work experience, through which they will develop a varied range of skills and knowledge, and experience a range of learning processes.

The intense mode of study aims further to enhance students' competencies in time management, prioritising, and adapting to pressure – all of which are skills anticipated by employers in the legal sector.

The aim is then for students to be able to take with them this range of knowledge, skills, competencies and experience in their chosen career path within an increasingly international legal profession.

### **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, including European Law and French 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.
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<b>Disciplinary Skills - able to:</b>	
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.

<b>Attributes:</b>	
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.
C 3	Students will be able to identify complex legal concepts and apply them in such ways as to resolve actual scenarios.
C 4	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 to the range of transferable skills useful for pursuing a professional career in law.

QMUL: Students receive academic support and advice at induction to help choose a coherent combination of modules which best meets their study, time and career plans. The small cohort size allows students to test their understanding and to learn from both the module Convenor and their peers. In this framework, there will be opportunities for students to present arguments in oral and written form and to conduct independent research. Students will also benefit from classes which include students from the Paris LLM programme, thereby increasing the scope for peer-to-peer exchange and understanding. All classroom teaching is supported by an online learning environment, provided via QMPlus, which further facilitates students' management of personal study time across the semester.

Students will conduct an independent research project under the guidance of a research supervisor allocated from within CCLS, producing a 10000 word dissertation. Research and writing skills support is provided in person and online to ensure that students make the most of the opportunity to engage successfully in a piece of personal research interest within the postgraduate academic context.

Sorbonne: Students receive academic support and advice at induction to meet the academics, choose their modules, and get to

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know each other. Small class sizes encourage interactive teaching and learning with student presentations and group work. Classroom teaching is generally supported by an online learning environment, which further facilitates students' management of personal study time across the semester.

**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 10000 word 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. At least 50% (by weighting in the module) will be quality assured in some form. QMUL will recognise the credits generated by the internship element (or the French dissertation, if necessary) through mark equivalency of the grades attributed by the Sorbonne. In the case of the internship, both co-Directors will be on the jury of the viva.

Sorbonne: All Sorbonne modules are assessed consistently through unseen written and/or oral examination.

**How is the programme structured?**

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

This programme is offered full-time only, over 18 months, starting in January.

Semester 1 – with QMUL

January – June, with exams in July, SEB in October (in line with the LLM in Paris)

120 credits of taught modules chosen from the list of LLM in Paris modules offered in this semester.

Dissertation of 30 credits to be submitted in August (in line with the September intake of the LLM in Paris)

Semester 2 – with Sorbonne

September – March, with exams in February/March.

Introduction au Droit Français = compulsory

Minimum of 120 hours from the modules offered under the curriculum of the Sorbonne Law School's LLM de droit français et de droit européen.

Semester 3

Internship element, with written work submission and viva in June/July

Internship 3 months minimum in Paris either in-house or with a law firm. To be arranged in advance and confirmed through a Convention de Stage. QMUL recognises this as 30 credits.

Whilst Sorbonne and Queen Mary will make their best endeavours to assist students in securing internship placements for these 3 months, it is ultimately the student's responsibility. Should it occur that a student does not secure a position, then s/he will be required to submit a research dissertation, in French, on a topic of French or European law.

Non credit-bearing elements

With QMUL:

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Introduction to Common Law & the English Legal System  
 Critical Thinking and Writing in Law

With Paris 1:

Français langue étrangère et français juridique  
 Cultural visits to local legal institutions such as the Supreme Court, Parliament etc

**Academic Year of Study**

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Securities and Markets Regulation	CCLP001	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Mergers and Acquisitions	CCLP010	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Corporate Rescue and Cross-border Insolvency	CCLP013	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Arbitration: Regulation and Infrastructure	CCLP043	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Arbitration: Applicable Laws and Procedures	CCLP044	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Law of Patents and Related Rights	CCLP077	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Licensing IP	CCLP078	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
EU and US Design Law	CCLP081	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Energy & Climate Change	CCLP160	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
EU Data Protection Law	CCLP209	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
English Contract Law	CCLP601	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cloud Computing Law	CCLP604	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation in International Business Law	CCLM911	30	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1-3
French and European Law Independent Research	CCLM927	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1-3
Lawyer Negotiations	CCLP039	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Legal Tech?						
Sustainability?						
Wine GIs?						
International and Comparative Law of Unfair Competition	CCLP082	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

**What are the entry requirements?**

The usual qualification for entry to the LLM programme is a degree in law, or a degree with a substantial law content, of at least 2.1 honours (or equivalent). Law graduates with 2.2 honours who also have other legal qualifications and/or substantial professional legal experience may also qualify.

Non-law graduates with a minimum second class honours degree, that have also obtained a Merit (or 60 per cent) in the Common Professional Examination (CPE) or Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) recognised by the UK professional bodies, may also qualify. Non-law graduates may also be considered on the basis of exceptional professional experience (of at least five years) in a legal area or an area directly related to their programme of study.

Applicants whose first language is not English must provide evidence of your English language proficiency. The usual English Language Requirements for Postgraduate Law Taught Programmes will apply. These may be accessed at <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/english-language-requirements/index.html#Postgraduatelawtaughtprogrammes>

**How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? 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 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 Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) 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?**

Students will receive a comprehensive induction. Students will be assisted with the preliminary stages of selecting a research topic, drafting a research proposal, considering their methodology and developing the skills needed to identify and use relevant materials. Lecturers on taught modules shall be available to discuss any concerns students might have with regard to the particular module or its content.

### **Programme-specific rules and facts**

The Sorbonne-QMUL Double LLM is based on the LLM International Business Law offered by CCLS Paris. For the 'single' LLM, from September 2023, the title has changed to International Business and Commercial Law. The QM element of the Double LLM will continue to be offered as International Business Law as per the partnership contract with the University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne.

### **How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?**

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)
- 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)

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

There is a mentoring programme that matches students with available mentors from the profession. An embedded Careers and professional development team provide guidance in identifying and obtaining relevant internships, valuable employment-related skills and other work-related opportunities. There is a programme of co-curricular activities designed to foster professional development and related skills.

## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Samantha Heffernan

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Garry Gabison

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by  
School / Institute Education Committee:**

December 2022

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