

Part one: Programme Specification

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	LLM in International Commercial Law The LLM in International Commercial Law is a Masters degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Various University sites, primarily Little Titchfield Street, Riding House Street annex
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Course/programme leader:	Dr Simon Newman
Course URL:	
Mode and length of study:	FT one year or PT two years
University of Westminster course code:	
JACS code:	
UK PASS code:	
QAA subject benchmarking group:	
Professional body accreditation:	
Date of course validation/review:	1998 (revalidation 2003, 2010)
Date of programme specification:	2010

Admissions requirements

Entry criteria

Students are required, other than in exceptional circumstances, to have studied law or relevant field prior to admission onto the programme, and to have achieved the equivalent of an upper second class honours degree in the subject. There is an English language requirement for foreign students unless their first degree was taken

in English. Students are normally required to have at least an IELTS score of 6.5 in all elements of IELTS assessment, or equivalent English Proficiency..

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)/Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL)

The University operates a system of awarding credit for prior learning, either accredited (APL) or experiential (APEL). If students think their prior experiential (for example work experience) or certificated (for example other study they may have undertaken) learning may qualify them for accreditation and thereby exemption from one or more modules they should contact the Course Leader in the first instance.

In respect of prior certificated learning the student will be required to submit specific evidence (such as original transcripts and syllabuses) which will be considered by the Course Leader.

In respect of prior experiential learning the Course Leader will either allocate the student with a Mentor, or will perform this role himself. The Mentor will assist the student in making their claim and will then pass it, together with their assessment of it, to a second assessor who will be a member of the Course Team, for an independent assessment. Once the second assessment has been made, the assessors make a joint agreed report to the AP(E)L Assessment Board. The Board comprises the Course Leader, the Chair of the Subject Board and one other member of the Course Team drawn from within Westminster Law School. It is the Board which makes the final assessment of what credit, if any, should be awarded to the student in respect of prior experiential learning. "Pass" only is generally deemed appropriate for APEL credits, although in some cases percentage marks may be awarded and can contribute to Merit or Distinction calculations.

Any credit awarded for prior certificated or experiential learning will be notified to the Conferment Board. Until a student who has applied for APL/APEL has been formally advised of the outcome of their application for credit, they should register for and participate in their normal module load, including any modules for which they are seeking credit.

Aims of the course

The programme aim is to provide successful students with a deep, systematic and structured knowledge of the general framework within which international commercial law operates, and specific areas of international commercial law. Students will be introduced to a range of research methodologies, and be able to apply these appropriately to their specialist areas of study. The programme will promote awareness of the range of specialist resources available for the study and understanding of these specialist areas, and will promote the development of advanced research skills. The programme will also develop the analytical powers of students, and the ability to evaluate problems in the specialist area, synthesise the appropriate issues and apply them in an apposite fashion.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

The programme equips the student for the practice of law in a specialised area subject to any necessary professional requirements. Graduates are employed in specialist legal practice, the Bar, banking and finance, insurance, transport, shipping, management, in-house legal work, import and export, insolvency practice, dispute resolution, consultancy, the public sector, legal and professional training, the diplomatic service, international organisations, national governmental organisations, EU institutions (e.g., the European Central Bank) and academia.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion of each module, students should be able to demonstrate:

- (i) a deep and systematic knowledge and understanding of a specialised area of law
- (ii) systematic knowledge and understanding of the moral, social, economic, political and other relevant contexts of the specialised area of law

Specific skills

Core modules require the students to understand the framework of globalisation and legal responses which shape international commercial law. Optional subjects deepen knowledge of specific areas introduced in the core foundations of international commercial law module, and related subjects. Students will have the ability to undertake analysis of complex, and sometimes contradictory, arguments, and will be able, with critical awareness, to synthesise information in these areas in a manner which is informative and useful, making use of knowledge which is at the forefront of the discipline of international commercial law. The student will be able critically to evaluate research and advanced scholarship, and methodologies, and argue alternative approaches.

The development of the ability to self-direct is critical, and students will be able to demonstrate that they can act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at the appropriate level, and can demonstrate self-direction and originality in problem solving.

Key transferable skills

The student will be able to work effectively as part of a team analysing problems at a detailed level, formulating and presenting solutions. The student will be able independently to present complex arguments, both orally and in written analyses, engaging confidently in academic and professional communication with others. Students will be able to undertake complex research acting independently, making the best use of a range of available resources, and to present the results of this research in a useful and clear form. Students will also be equipped with the independent learning ability to enable them to continue professional study, making professional use of others where appropriate. The student will be able to operate in complex and specialised contexts and reflect on personal performance.

The Programme subscribes to the University's and the SEEC's list of HE transferable/employability skills, namely:

- group working
- learning resources
- self evaluation
- management of information
- autonomy
- communication
- problem solving

All modules, to some extent, teach or/and assess these skills. Additionally, most modules offer the student an opportunity to practise these skills (see detailed module descriptions below).

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

A wide range of appropriate teaching, learning and assessment methods are deployed throughout each LLM/MA programme. Each module pro forma indicates clearly the teaching and assessment strategy to be adopted. The dominant form of teaching is by way of small group seminar which encourages active participation and group discussion. Many sessions involve a range of team teaching activities. While each programme uses a variety of assessment methods, each programme is designed to ensure a satisfactory balance is achieved between written coursework, oral presentation and examination.

All formal assessment is independently judged and approved by external examiners who are experts in the area of international commercial law.

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year.

Full-time students

The recommended module sequence for the full-time course would be as follows:

Foundations of International Commercial Law (core)	20 credits
Option module 1	20 credits
Option Module 2	20 credits
Option Module 3	20 credits
Option Module 4	20 credits
Option Module 5	20 credits
Dissertation (core)*	60 credits

- * The dissertation runs over semester 1 and 2 and the 60 credits refer to the weighting over the whole academic year. Most of the work will take place in the second semester.

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Academic regulations

The LLM in International Commercial Law and its intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called Essential Westminster, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster. The following regulations should be read in conjunction with Section 18: Modular Framework for Postgraduate Courses and relevant sections of the current Handbook of Academic Regulations, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

Award

To qualify for the award of LLM in International Commercial Law, a student must have:

- i) obtained a minimum of 180 credits at Level 7 (this may include a maximum of 30 credits at Level 6 where validated as part of the award);
- ii) attempted modules worth no more than 240 credits; and

Note: A first attempt of any module will count as an attempt, and a re-attempt of any module that a student has failed will count as a further, separate attempt. Re-assessment following referral at the first sit will not count as a further separate attempt.

- iii) satisfied the requirements contained within any course specific regulations for the relevant Course Scheme.

The University may award:

- a Masters Degree with Merit to a student whose marks average at least 60% across modules at Level 7.
- a Masters Degree with Distinction to a student whose marks average at least 70% across the modules at Level 7.

Support for students

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the Faculty Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at their Faculty. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books).

Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

[Student Affairs](#) provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The Student Affairs Hub is located at 101 New Cavendish Street, Cavendish House (1st Floor), with an additional office located at the Harrow Campus.

<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/new-students/when-you-arrive>

The [University of Westminster Students' Union](#) also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University. <http://www.uwsu.com/>

Reference points for the course

Internally

In line with the university teaching and learning policy, all LLM/MA programmes place a strong emphasis on encouraging student's self-motivation and active in-depth learning. The university modular framework is strictly adhered to and programme design and delivery is in accordance with the university quality assurance handbook. These programmes are taught by staff engaged in high quality research and

scholarship in specialist areas of law evidenced by the School's Research Assessment Exercise rating and/or relevant professional practice.

Externally

All programmes are subject to the scrutiny of external examiners involved in similar programmes in other institutions and satisfy the SEEC level descriptors.

There is no professional or regulatory body requirement, and there are no QAA subject benchmarks for postgraduate degrees in Law.

Quality management and enhancement

Course management

The course is managed by a Course Leader within Westminster Law School. The Law School also offers MA and PhDs.

The Law School has one away-day per year to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of its courses. Staff in the Law School undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by their colleagues leading to staff development through course attendance or research activity. Staff in the Law School attend events organised by the Academic Standards and the Teaching and Learning Groups around current teaching, learning and assessment issues.

Full time teaching staff on the course are encouraged to research and publish their research. This is in line with the Faculty's strategic plan and commitment to the research excellence framework.

Course approval, monitoring and review

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 1998, and was revalidated in 2003 and 2010. The panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic course review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the Faculty action plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their

peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course committee.

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey, which elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with review panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course committees is part of the Faculty's quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course:

Dr Simon Newman, Course Leader

Please note: This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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