International Banking and Financial Technology Law LLM Distance Learning Programme Specification

Academic Year:	2026/2027
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Main Location:	Distance Learning
Qualifications Framework:	HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ, QAA 2024)
Target Degree Award:	Master of Laws (LLM) International Banking and Financial Technology Law [Level 7]
Intermediate/exit awards:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) or Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) [FHEQ Level 7]
Programme Admissions:	UK and international students
Programme start dates:	September, January
Programme Modes of Study:	12 months full-time (September start) 15 months full-time (January start) 24-48 months part-time

Please note: The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford is accepted. **View our Student Contract for further details**. Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

Changes schedule

1. August 2025: Annual changes for the 2025 academic year, including changes to academic regulations.
2. June 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry, focused curriculum, updated references and admissions.

Programme overview

The Distance Learning LLM in International Banking and Financial Technology Law together with the other LLM programmes is part of the vibrant postgraduate community of Bradford's School of Law and Social Sciences. This LLM offers knowledge of traditional international banking law doctrines and principles along with knowledge of cutting-edge financial technology (FinTech) topics. Students have the freedom to prioritise traditional banking law subjects, FinTech-related law subjects or a mix of both. The Master of Laws programme engages with current global, regional and national challenges, with a strong focus on developing deep knowledge of the subject matter and employability skills for the varied sectors of work that graduates from the programme aspire to.

The LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law will provide students with knowledge of the legal dimensions of banking operations and financial transactions, focussing in particular on the international context, and the developments at both national and global levels shaping regulation and practice in this area. It will enable the student to have a thorough understanding of traditional legal subjects in international banking, as well as emerging areas, brought about by technological advances, such as automation, artificial intelligence, blockchain technology and virtual currencies. Interdisciplinary knowledge aims at introducing students to various legal disciplines related to banking and technology law (such as regulatory theory, contract and commercial law, technology and banking operations) and will integrate them into a coherent field of knowledge which is needed to address complex real world issues such as those related to the operation of financial and technology markets. Graduates will be able to consider critical questions surrounding international real-world issues and develop and demonstrate knowledge and recognised competences essential to effective legal and ethically aware practice within international banking and financial transactions.

The Master of Laws programme engages with current global, regional and national challenges, with a strong focus on developing deep knowledge of the subject matter and employability skills for the varied sectors of work that graduates from the programme aspire to. The DL programme delivery utilises a range of distance learning technologies, which ensure universal accessibility of the programme's online resources while allowing students to learn at a time, place and pace that suit their individual needs. These online resources are accompanied by collaborative and participative methodologies. For each module studied, in addition to pre-recorded lectures and other asynchronous leaning there is the opportunity to attend synchronous (live) online sessions and engage in further online debates and discussions with fellow students and tutors using carefully selected technologies. To ensure that all students have the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively engage with the programme and its distance learning nature, there is an intensive 20 hours introductory module taught online over the first two weeks of the academic year which provides an introduction to distance learning education and learning technologies, legal concepts, institutions and sources as well as academic writing and research skills.

Banking law and technology law are significant legal practice areas. As such, graduates of the LLM could pursue careers in legal practice in these areas within their own countries or internationally. Additional career destinations include regulatory bodies, legal offices and regulatory compliance departments in the industry. Jobs in businesses which require some legal knowledge (e.g. dealing with consumer contracts and complaints, data protection etc) are also potential career destinations. For those seeking non-legal careers, options include the technology sector, regulatory bodies and organisations, and NGOs. Students can pursue careers locally or in international markets. This Distance Learning LLM has been designed to maximise career potential by focusing on up-to-date, market-ready, transferable skills such as independent research, problem-solving, analysis and communication, interdisciplinarity and internationalisation. It also possesses significant future-proof value, which is ensured via research on and study during the course of emerging issues and legal responses to them which will occupy central role in society in the decades to come such as the regulations of artificial intelligence, automation blockchain and climate change.

The programme is taught by research active staff at Bradford University School of Law and Social Sciences who have interests and expertise in the issues the student will study, therefore ensuring they have access to cutting edge research and thinking. The programme is also designed to be accessible not only to Law graduates who want to pursue a career in legal practice, but also to graduates from a range of academic backgrounds who intend to apply their knowledge of technology and artificial intelligence law in various exciting professional contexts such as within business organisations, government departments, intergovernmental organisations, third sector organisations or academia.

The DL LLM programme will be delivered exclusively online and there will be two enrolments each academic year in September and January. Within the programme students will receive training on distance learning methods and on the software of the University of Bradford, which they will have to use. The two intakes will study alongside each other, with students in January taking modules in a different order to the September intake.

There is a “standard” (Part-time) programme and an “accelerated” (Full-time) version. In the accelerated version, the September intake will run for 12 months while the January intake will run for 15 months. Both intakes of the part-time programme will have to be completed within 48 months. Standard route students will have the option to select between 20 and 60 credits per semester and they have 1-3 years to complete the taught modules of the programme before starting their dissertation.

The January intake will commence the programme studying Semester 2 modules and complete (in the accelerated full-time version of the programme) the taught element of their programme alongside the September cohort. However, in the full-time version, the January intake will have until March of the following year to complete their dissertation/advanced research report, thereby completing their studies in 15 months. The January cohort will have the opportunity to attend the summer school. They could also secure an internship in the summer whilst the September cohort are completing their dissertation. The summer school is also available to the September intake students.

The capstone project is either a dissertation of 15,000 words or an advanced report pursuant to an internship. This will provide the student with the opportunity to research and prepare a substantial analysis of a specialist area of interest to them as well as demonstrate understanding of the complex policy and practical dimensions of the subject, thereby preparing them with the knowledge and skills for their chosen career.

Programme aims

The programme is intended to:

A1. Deliver a programme of study in International Banking and Financial Technology Law that is contemporary, of policy and practical relevance, and reflects the expertise of the School and Faculty.

A2. Ensure the accessibility of the programme to students from diverse backgrounds and various career trajectories.

A3. Develop knowledge and understanding of legal frameworks in essential subject areas related to banking and fintech such as the foundations of international banking law, the law of financial crime, the regulation of fintech and virtual currencies, data protection and privacy associated with financial technology applications, regulation of financial markets and securities, insolvency law and other legal technologies.

A4. Provide training in discipline skills to enable graduates to pursue careers in diverse areas including traditional legal practice, banking/technology industries, public sector, civil society or other related areas.

A5. Encourage participative, independent and reflective learning and the development of personal and professional skills.

A6. Enable students to understand the complexities of International Banking and Financial Technology Law at an advanced level and in its ever-changing contexts.

A7. Equip students to have mastery of the subject, conduct effective research and to critically analyse and assess the specific areas of study undertaken and apply this learning in the relevant practical context.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Degree of Master award will be able to:

1. Have a systematic and critical knowledge of the substantive concepts, values, principles and rules in International Banking and Financial Technology Law and their theoretical and ethical underpinnings within the framework of the wider legal environment in its historical, socio-political and economic contexts, including the role of contemporary developments in shaping technology and sustainability principles and influencing the regulation of existing and emerging technologies.

2. Demonstrate critical knowledge of the institutions and procedures operating at the international, regional and local levels in the area of international banking and financial technology and their impact on the development of law and policy.

3. Conduct independent research which demonstrates the ability to evaluate approaches to legal research in this subject, develop appropriate research designs and techniques to investigate propositions/hypotheses.

4. Develop an advanced understanding of the role of law in each sub-subject area covered and its shortcomings and limitations as well as the interrelationship between international banking, financial technology and other related legal disciplines.

5. Generate clear, concise and coherent communication orally and in writing in which style, scope and depth are appropriate to task, purpose and audience, whether working independently or as a group.

6. Employ relevant competencies and strategies to engage constructively with international banking and financial technology law in various roles.

7. Identify and apply critical learning gained to current developments, disputes and debates in the areas of international banking and financial technology law.

8. Demonstrate initiative and independence in systematic academic inquiry, using relevant techniques to gather, evaluate and manage evidence, data and information from appropriate sources.

9. Reflect critically on professional and career development needs and to take action to maintain the knowledge and skills required of a practitioner in international banking and financial technology law.

10. Plan and execute a range of assignments, including essays and presentations in which style and, scope and depth are appropriate to the task

11. Design and carry out, with appropriate ethical approval, an original and self-directed capstone research project which draws upon a comprehensive and critical review of relevant literature.

12. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in completion of an advanced, original and self-directed capstone project using critical reflective communication to deepen understanding of the learning process, with appropriate documentation.

13. Recognise and be able to critically reflect on own values, experiences and orientation in ones' own academic work.

Learning and teaching strategy

This DL LLM programme aims to integrate applied and theoretical knowledge with assessment processes that test knowledge, application and analysis of the subject. To this end, the learning, teaching and assessment strategy for this programme has been developed to help the student build their knowledge incrementally over the period of study and to develop their research, critical thinking and writing skills.

Due to the distance learning nature of the programme, all sessions are delivered online using online legal resources and appropriate learning technologies. The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for each module is the hub of knowledge through which all module materials are accessed and where a big part of student work takes place.

Students are able to find links there to the live sessions, pre-recorded lectures, weblinks, audio and video files and other digital forms. A module manual is provided with each module to provide an outline of the module structure, content, learning and teaching strategy and assessment format. The manual is complemented by more detailed study guides which provide guidance on the topic of the weekly study and contain the learning materials (pre-recorded lectures, slides, tutorial tasks, self-study tasks) the reading lists, and other useful information for each week.

The programme aims to support the students learning in a number of ways. Firstly, there is the scheduled online ("live") class time, and we expect them to attend all scheduled classes as the interaction with the tutors and the other students will be beneficial to their learning. All live sessions will be recorded and the text will be made available to cover primarily those who miss the live sessions and those who wish to revisit them. Online classes contain a variety of activities from traditional lecture style input by the tutor to explain often complex ideas and principles, to individual and group tasks to allow them to practice the skills and knowledge they have been developing.

Learning is asynchronous (at the student's own time) and synchronous (live). The number of synchronous sessions per module varies depending on the module content and learning needs. A typical LLM module offers 4 synchronous (“live”) sessions focusing on delivering content, clarifying issues on the law topics, and discussing answers to student tasks. Two additional 2-hour synchronous sessions focus on module revisions, the design of and preparation for the summative assessments and the collection of student feedback which will be used to improve module delivery.

The remaining period of the module is used for asynchronous learning. This allows students more flexibility and control of their learning as they will be able to study the module at their own time and pace. Each 20 credits module represents approximately 200 hours of study time broken down into formal tutor-led live online sessions as well as engagement via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and independent study. Case study analysis and discussion is used to contextualise learning and the application of techniques.

As a distance learning programme, the DL LLM is based on the expectation that students will work independently in the biggest part of their study. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and engage with the materials and ideas provided. Students must therefore prepare for all live sessions and take all opportunities offered to develop their skills and knowledge, while they have to use the period of self-study to progress on the target of achieving the learning outcomes.

Opportunities for collaborative learning will also be made available. A key element of the DL LLM involves the development of interpersonal skills and the provision of opportunities to work and learn collaboratively with fellow students and/or academics. These opportunities are available through the participation in the live sessions; various discussion forums and the provision of written feedback from module tutors on a series of formative tasks. The nature of the collaborative activities varies, though typically students may be required to engage as a group, develop and discuss a case(s)/scenario and provide solutions based on sound analysis and logical arguments using information from varying sources. Constructive feedback is provided by peers and the module leader/tutor.

Face-to-face interaction and engagement is also made possible through the opportunity to attend the Law Department Summer School in Bradford or to attend (by arrangement with the School in advance) up to 40 credits of the programme in Bradford.

We therefore cater for a variety of learning styles and preferences and aim to create an inclusive and inspiring learning environment where the student can engage with the material studied in the ways most suitable to them. However, we also want them to push themselves out of their comfort zone, learn new things and develop intellectually and personally and we therefore hope they will engage in as many of the activities as possible to give the best possible chance of achieving the learning outcomes and demonstrating this through various assessments.

Assessment strategy

To effectively assess whether a student has achieved a module's learning outcomes, a combination of assessment approaches is typically applied. The assessment strategy on this programme is robust, adopting a range of assessment methods, all submitted online, thereby and aiming to be inclusive, and giving students the opportunity to play to their strengths while also developing areas of weakness. Assessment is based on the skills and knowledge developed throughout the programme and this DL LLM employs a variety of assessment methods- both formative and summative. The assessments are structured in such a way as to help them demonstrate that they meet the learning outcomes of each module and the programme overall. There are no timed, closed book examinations for this programme. Instead, we use a variety of programme work assignments to develop and test their research, critical thinking, problem solving and writing skills. The student might therefore be asked to write a traditional academic essay, to create a portfolio of activities, to write a book review or develop a research plan. The type of assessment for each module will be specified in the module descriptor with more detail being available in the module handbook.

There is a balance of formative and summative assessments, including feedback during individual and group task to ensure that students are supported effectively in their learning and are able to produce their best work for the summative assessment. Formative assessment is built into specific modules but not all, the expectation being that the student develop as independent learners, they will need to rely less on this form of support and can transfer the skills learned from one module to another.

Curriculum

A Master of Laws degree is made up of 180 credits. LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law at Bradford is made up of two distinct parts. First, students will study six taught modules which run over Semesters 1 and 2. They will subsequently undertake a research project which culminates in the writing of their dissertation.

At the beginning of the course (usually September or January), students will be required to complete a compulsory non-credit bearing pre-Masters module Foundations of Law and Skills, which will provide them with the foundation necessary to study for the LLM. Students will then study two core modules (one in each of semester 1 and 2). These modules will provide the student with knowledge of the broader regulatory context and the implications for human rights protection and development.

- Sustainable Development Law in Contemporary Business and Society explores the principle of sustainable development and its implementation, including the impacts and responsibilities of businesses in the modern context and their impacts on society and human rights.

- The Regulatory Theory and Practice module will introduce the student to a critical examination of the underlying theories and rational for regulation and a critical discussion of the various approaches to and forms of regulation, with a focus on the business dimensions of this practice and the implications for human rights.

Throughout the course, September entry students will study the "Semester 1" modules first, January entry students will study the "Semester 2" modules first.

The September accelerated intake will complete the programme within a year studying in sequence. The January intake will commence the programme studying Semester 2 modules and complete the taught element of their programme alongside the next September cohort. However, the January intake will have (if studying full-time/accelerated) until March of the following year to submit their dissertation/advanced research report, thereby completing their studies in 15 months.

The part-time journey is similar: part-time students can select between 20 and 60 credits per semester compared to 60-credits per semester in the full-time programme. There is a lot of flexibility available, and the programme can be completed in up to 4 years should you choose to study at a lower intensity due to time constraints or other commitments.

Table 1: LLM Core Distance Learning Cores Modules: Study all of

Mod. Code	Module Title and Level	Credit	Study in
LAW6029-Z	Foundations of Law and Skills [FHEQ Level 6]	0	Induction
LAW7054-B	Sustainable development law in contemporary business and society [FHEQ Level 7]	20	Semester 1
LAW7058-B	Regulatory Theory and Practice [FHEQ Level 7]	20	Semester 2

In addition to core modules, students **select two or more specialism modules** required for the award of LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law, of which there must be at least one taken of the two available per semester:

- LAW7060-B International Banking and Finance Law (Semester 1)
- LAW7090-B Law of Financial Crime (Semester 1)
- LAW7075-B Regulation of Capital Markets and Securities (Semester 2)
- LAW7077-B Regulation of Financial Technologies and Virtual Assets (Semester 2)

Students may study all four of the specialism modules to complete the LLM degree taught component or select one or two different module options from the wider Law Department distance learning catalogue in international commercial law. In total, students select 80 credits from the below lists over the course of the programme. Full time students should expect to choose two options per semester (60 credits including the cores). The addition of four option modules will bring the total of the taught modules studied to 120 credits.

Table 2: LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law Distance Learning Module Options, Semester 1 (FHEQ Level 7): Select two to complete

Mod. Code	Module Title	Credit	Specialism
LAW7049-B	International Competition Law	20	
LAW7060-B	International Banking and Finance Law	20	Yes
LAW7067-B	International Trade and investment law	20	
LAW7079-B	Law and Ethics of Technology and Artificial Intelligence	20	
LAW7086-B	Data Protection and Privacy Law	20	
LAW7087-B	International Company and Corporate Governance Law	20	
LAW7090-B	Law of Financial Crime	20	Yes

Table 3: LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law
Distance Learning Module Options, Semester 2/3 (FHEQ Level 7): Select two to complete

Mod. Code	Module Title	Credit	Specialism
LAW7059-B	International Commercial Dispute Resolution	20	
LAW7062-B	Cyber Law	20	
LAW7064-B	Business, Human Rights and Environment	20	
LAW7072-B	International Law of Taxation	20	
LAW7074-B	Emerging Issues in Law (Summer School)	20	
LAW7075-B	Regulation of Capital Markets and Securities	20	Yes
LAW7077-B	Regulation of Financial Technologies and Virtual Assets	20	Yes
LAW7088-B	International Insolvency Law	20	
LAW7089-B	Legal Technology	20	

Module LAW7074-B starts later than other modules and is taught/studied between May and June. If student numbers and interest permit it the Summer School may be made available as an attendance-only extracurricular activity.

The taught modules studied provide the student with detailed subject knowledge and the skills they will need to successfully complete the final research project which is their dissertation. The taught component of the dissertation module will start in Semester 2 and will build on the introductory material in the non-credit bearing Foundations of Law and Skills, focussing on a variety of research methods. While the student is not expected to carry out empirical research to underpin their dissertation, they are expected to be able to understand and evaluate empirical work undertaken by others. As such, a working knowledge of issues in social research and issues in research methodology is important.

Full-time students will be expected to commence the independent element of their dissertation in Semester 2b which starts in April for the September cohort and Semester 2 which starts in January of the 2nd year for the January cohort. Part-time students will be expected to commence the independent element of their dissertation when they will have completed the modules and no later than 36 months after the start of their studies.

Table 4: LLM Dissertation Distance Learning Module (FHEQ Level 7): Assigned One

Module Code	Module Title	Module Credit	Study period	Selection
LAW7056-E	Dissertation (DL)	60	Ns Academic Year	Accelerated full-time
LAW7056-E	Dissertation (DL)	60	Full Year	Standard part-time

Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations for postgraduate taught courses published on the University's website (**Regulation 9**).

Admission requirements

We are proud to be **one of the most inclusive universities in the UK**. All our students have potential, and we believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to benefit from higher education, no matter what their background or circumstances.

We take the time to understand the background of our applicants, understand their journey to education, and make decisions based on an applicant's potential to thrive at university and beyond.

People thinking of studying with the University of Bradford don't need to wait for the start of the year to contact our Disability Service. The University can arrange for anyone to talk to this team about what support is on offer at Bradford including an invitation to our Get Set Day. To contact the Disability Service please complete the **request support form**.

The standard entry requirements for the Distance Learning LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law are as follows:

- Students will typically have an undergraduate degree in Law or any other discipline classified Lower Second (2:2 or 50%) or higher. Examples of other equivalent international qualifications are provided on the **University of Bradford page for a country or region**.
- For international students, the level of English required is listed on the **University of Bradford English language requirements website**. Exceptionally, holders of a UK degree awarded within 2 years prior to entry to the Bradford programme may be exempt from these English test requirements. International applicants who do not meet the IELTS requirement can take a **University of Bradford pre-sessional English course**.
- Due to the online nature of the programme, students must have access to a reliable internet connection and a laptop or a desktop computer. A limited number of laptops are available on loan from the University to students eligible for assistance or who are in need of specific support. Disabled students may be able to apply for a purchase funded by Disabled Students' Allowance.

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 25 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience. Applicants through this route can provide evidence of their interests and work experience and may be interviewed.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University of Bradford has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Find more information about **recognition of prior learning decisions** on the University website.

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page: **https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/international-banking-and-financial-technology-law-distance-learning/**

