

International Banking and Financial Technology Law (with Solicitors Practice) LLM Programme Specification

Academic Entry Year:	2026/2027
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Main Location:	City Campus
Delivery Support Partners:	BARBRI Global Limited
Subject Benchmarks:	Law (Quality Assurance Agency 2019)
Qualifications Framework:	Framework for HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: 2024)
Target Degree Award:	Master of Laws (LLM) in International Banking and Financial Technology Law with Solicitors Practice [FHEQ Level 7]
Intermediate/exit awards:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGD), or Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) [FHEQ Level 7]
Programme Admissions:	UK and international students
Programme Start Date(s):	September
Programme Modes of Study:	2 years full-time

The LLM with Solicitors Practice is a postgraduate course intended for those who wish to practice as a solicitor in England and Wales and is designed to meet the [Solicitors Regulation Authority \(SRA\) requirements](#). Students will require Qualifying Work Experience of 1-2 years (QWE) and to pass Stages 1 and 2 of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) in order to practice as a solicitor. Shorter [1-year LLM degree](#) programmes are also available without preparatory SQE support.

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 you accept an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford. [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. October 2025: Confirmed variance to academic regulations, reformatted document for improved accessibility.
2. June 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry, focussed curriculum, updated references and admissions

Introduction

The LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law with Solicitors Practice together with the other LLM programmes offered is part of the vibrant postgraduate community of the School of Law and Social Sciences. This LLM offers the unique opportunity to explore a specialist area of the law, whilst also providing a clearly defined career pathway to qualification as a solicitor in England and Wales. It contributes towards enhancing the research-led teaching strategy of the

School and the University, with a strong focus on internationalization, and is geared towards 'making knowledge work'. On graduation, students will be ready to complete the final mandatory Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) examinations, will possess an in-depth knowledge of the law, and will have gained practice experience via the Department's Law Clinic and the University's placement scheme.

SQE represents an entirely different way of testing students who wish to qualify as a solicitor in England and Wales, designed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and currently ([as of September 2025](#)) implemented independently by the commercial provider Kaplan Assessments. The University of Bradford LLM with Solicitors Practice programme addresses this shift and provides a distinctive route to prepare students for the SQE: a postgraduate degree programme that provides students with the necessary support and guidance to perform effectively in both SQE1 and SQE2.

The LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law with Solicitors Practice's 2-year model enables students to study the SQE1 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module provided by the Department of Law's partner, [BARBRI](#) in Year 1 which will focus on preparing students for Stage 1 of the SRA's external Solicitors Qualification Examination (SQE1). In addition, students will work in the dynamic, multicultural environment of our student law clinic, advising clients from the local community on a wide range of legal matters. This work experience may count towards the two years Qualifying Work Experience (QWE) required by the SRA for a student to qualify as a solicitor in England and Wales. The SRA website provides more information about [what counts as QWE](#). Students are also provided with the opportunity to choose from a range of options relating to their chosen area of specialism.

In Year 2 students will continue their studies by undertaking the SQE2 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module alongside a further opportunity to work in the Department's Law Clinic which may count towards a student's two years of QWE. In addition, students will undertake a Dissertation in their second year of study. Students may then choose from the Department's range of available Masters level modules relating to the law of contemporary international finance.

Alongside the rigorous academic and clinical training offered within the curriculum, students enjoy a rich variety of extra-curricular activities and opportunities. These include participation in mock trials and moots in our Lady Hale Court Room facility, opened by Baroness Hale of Richmond in January 2020. Students can also take advantage of volunteering opportunities with a variety of advice organisations and within the university, court visits, external speakers, and there is a wide range of social and law-related events organised by our thriving Student Law Society. Supported by our dedicated colleagues in the Careers Service, students will have the chance to obtain career mentoring and work experience through our links to our local legal, business, and not-for-profit communities.

The LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law with Solicitors Practice will equip graduates with knowledge of essential laws and regulations in their specialist area of the law. In many of these areas the legal responses are still emerging, and students will have the opportunity to engage with the current legal debates as well as the latest laws. The programme is taught by research active staff in the University Law Department who have interests and expertise in the

issues the student will study, therefore ensuring they have access to cutting edge research a thinking. This cutting-edge knowledge, which is secured through regular programme content updates, will equip students with knowledge and skills which will greatly improve their employability.

The knowledge offered will start from the introduction of the students to the international legal standards in the subject areas, which will offer them the shared legal knowledge of the fundamentals of law in the areas of study. Students will then be able to compare and contrast legal frameworks and principles from jurisdictions of their choice through the adoption of a flexible approach to the study of the subjects. This type of study will offer students an appreciation of the links and connections between the various national and regional legal frameworks and equip them with tools which will enable them to navigate the complex national and international legal landscape.

This LLM 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 qualification as a solicitor in England and Wales that graduates from the programme aspire to.

The costs of SQE1 or SQE2 SRA External Exams are not covered by the course tuition fee. The SRA publish additional information relating to the [SQE costs and fees](#) on their website.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- A1. Deliver a clearly defined and supported career pathway to qualification as a solicitor in England and Wales.
- A2. Connect with the local and regional community through the provision of a range of student-led legal services.
- A3. Develop subject knowledge and understanding of legal frameworks in traditional legal practice and specialist areas such as corporate law, human rights, banking or environment and energy law.
- A4. Encourage participative, independent and reflective learning and the development of personal and professional skills including clinical legal practice.
- A5. Enable students to understand the complexities of an advanced level and in its ever-changing contexts.
- A6. 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.
- A7. Ensure the accessibility of the programme to students from diverse backgrounds and various career trajectories.

Programme Learning Outcomes

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

1. Have a systematic and critical knowledge of the substantive concepts, values, principles and rules in traditional legal practice or specialist areas, 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 operation of modern corporations.
2. Demonstrate critical knowledge of the institutions and procedures operating at the international, regional and local levels in traditional legal practice or specialist areas, 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 and its shortcomings and limitations as well as the interrelationship between law 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 in traditional legal practice or specialist areas in various roles.
7. Identify and apply critical learning gained to current developments, disputes and debates in traditional legal practice or specialist areas.
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 traditional legal practice or specialist areas.
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 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 two years of study and to develop their research, critical thinking and writing skills. The overriding objective of the programme is to offer a clearly defined and supported career pathway to qualification as a solicitor in England & Wales whilst also developing a specialism in law.

Students will also work in the Department's law clinic, advising clients from the local community on a wide range of legal matters. This provides students with the opportunity to undertake work in a clinical environment which will contribute to the two-years of Qualifying Work Experience (QWE) required by the SRA for a student to qualify as a solicitor in England & Wales. Students are provided with the opportunity to choose from a range of options relating to their chosen area of specialism such as corporate law, human rights, banking or environment and energy law. This is the same in the second year: students will continue to work in the Department's law clinic and also undertake the core Dissertation module along with choosing from a range of options relating to their chosen area of specialism.

Teaching on the subject specialist modules will typically involve a combination of formal workshop styled seminars, group discussions, directed reading and personal research. Each 20 credits module represents approximately 200 hours of study time broken down into formal tutor led contact hours in class 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. Students also work in small groups which encourage participative learning and help develop organisational skills.

All taught modules have a two-hour teaching slot every week throughout the Semester in which they are taught, and we expect students to attend all scheduled classes. In the early part of the programme, most of these slots will be used as class time with lecturer input, individual and group work activities. A module manual is provided with each module to provide clear instructions, guidance and details of the preparatory work required. The programme team also uses the VLE, in order to make additional material available to the student (e.g. session handouts, power point slides, sample questions, model answers), host discussions and provide programme related information and links. Students will be set research and writing tasks, be expected to contribute to discussions online, engage with other activities supported through the VLE or meet with their tutors to discuss a particular task or their progress generally.

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and engage with the materials and ideas provided. Students must therefore prepare for all teaching sessions and take all opportunities offered to develop their skills and knowledge.

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, thereby 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 the LLM with Solicitors Practice employs a variety of assessment methods - both formative and summative. The assessments are structured in such a way as to help students demonstrate that they meet the learning outcomes of each module and the programme overall. The only timed, closed book examinations for this programme are on the SQE modules. 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 tasks to ensure that students are supported effectively in their learning and are able to produce their best work for the summative assessment.

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 students 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.

SQE is comprised of mixed subject questions (e.g. contract with civil litigation) in multiple-choice formats. The LLM's SQE1 and SQE2 preparation course modules are designed to provide students with sufficient test preparation to sit the SRA's centralised examinations. Students will receive continuous feedback throughout Terms 1 and 2 before sitting a final summative assessment.

SQE is a difficult examination. In year 1 students will undertake the SQE1 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module which is delivered in partnership with BARBRI which is the sector's leading provider of legal examination preparation for the SRA's Stage 1 examination at the end of year 1. Students will access module materials throughout Terms 1 and 2 online and will be guided by a Personal Study Plan (PSP) which guides every assignment and activity during their SQE1 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module. Pre-recorded video lectures, soft and hard copy

workbooks and thousands of practice questions will build knowledge over time and deliver the right combination of substance and skills on a flexible schedule.

On completion of year 1, and on attempting Stage 1 of the SQE, students will progress into year 2 and undertake the SQE2 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module. This module will focus on development on the practical skills required by the SRA including advocacy, interviewing, legal research and drafting. At the end of year 2, students will be ready to sit the Stage 2 of the SQE.

Curriculum

The 2-year LLM programme consists of 280 credits, made up of core modules and optional modules. All modules on the curriculum are rated to FHEQ Level 7. Students take 120 credits in Stage 1 and 160 credits in Stage 2. Each 'Stage' or taught 'academic year' of the 2-year Masters programme consists of two semesters.

Students may choose four law module options that correspond to their chosen specialism. To sustain the thread of clinical and professional education that runs through the two SQE Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice modules, all our academic law options consider how the law operates in a practical 'real-world' context, besides the more purely academic and theoretical aspects.

Academic Stage 1

Students select 2 options from the list below for 40 credits - One option from Semester 1 and one option from Semester 2. Students also enrol on the BARBRI SQE1 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module and the Law Clinic 1 module (for 80 credits and 120 in total):

**Table 1: LLM with Solicitors Practice (International Banking and Financial Technology Law):
Stage 2 FHEQ Level 7 Modules**

Mod. Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period	Selection
LAW7097-D	Law Clinic 1	40	Academic Year	Core
LAW7099-D	SQE1 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice	40	Academic Year	Core
LAW7037-B	International Banking and Finance Law	20	Semester 1	Option
LAW7045-B	International Trade and Investment law	20	Semester 1	Option
LAW7085-B	Law of Financial Crime	20	Semester 1	Option
LAW7073-B	International Law of Taxation	20	Semester 2	Option
LAW7078-B	Regulation of Financial Technologies & Virtual Assets	20	Semester 2	Option
LAW7084-B	Legal Technology	20	Semester 2	Option

At the end of this academic stage students will sit the SRA SQE1 centralized examinations, which are currently assessed in two parts.

The costs of SQE1 or SQE2 SRA External Exams are not covered by the course tuition fee. The SRA publish additional information relating to the [SQE costs and fees](#) on their website.

Academic Stage 2

At Stage 2, students will undertake the BARBRI Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice for Stage 2 of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE2). This is also a core module together with the Law Clinic 2 module which, again, will count towards the students Qualifying Work Experience (QWE). In addition, students must study the Dissertation module which is a core module and select 2 more module options not completed in Academic Stage 1 - one from Semester 1 and one from Sem. 2:

Table 2: LLM with Solicitors Practice (International Banking and Financial Technology Law): Stage 2 FHEQ Level 7 Modules

Mod. Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period	Select
LAW7098-D	Law Clinic 2	40	Academic Year	Core
LAW7100-D	SQE2 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice	40	Academic Year	Core
LAW7101-D	Dissertation	40	Non-Standard	Core
LAW7037-B	International Banking and Finance Law	20	Semester 1	Option
LAW7045-B	International Trade and Investment law	20	Semester 1	Option
LAW7085-B	Law of Financial Crime	20	Semester 1	Option
LAW7073-B	International Law of Taxation	20	Semester 2	Option
LAW7078-B	Regulation of Financial Technologies & Virtual Assets	20	Semester 2	Option
LAW7084-B	Legal Technology	20	Semester 2	Option

At the end of this academic stage, students will be ready to sit the SRA SQE2 centralized examinations, currently assessed in a single part. Passing SQE1 and SQE2 along with completing QWE is required to register as a solicitor in England and Wales.

Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

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

The named award requires 280 credits completed including the dissertation and achievement of the award learning outcomes. Exit awards may be recognised in line with the regulations if students leave the programme without completing all modules. The LLM dissertation may not contribute towards credit achieved for the Certificate or Diploma exit awards.

The requirements set out by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) for SQE are published on the [SRA's assessment regulations website](#).

Completion of the LLM award does not confer the right to practice as a solicitor in England and Wales. This programme does not lead to a Qualifying Law Degree for the academic purposes of the Bar Standards Board training requirements.

Admissions

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.

Applicants to LLM Natural Resources and Environmental Law and Policy with Solicitors Practice will typically have an undergraduate degree in a social science discipline (which may or may not be in law) 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](#).

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 21 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.

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](#).

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-financial-technology-law-solicitors-practice/>