

International Commercial Law LLM Programme Specification

Academic Year:	2026/2027
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Main Location:	City Campus
Qualifications Framework:	HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ:QAA 2024)
Target Degree Award:	Master of Laws (LLM) International Commercial Law [FHEQ Level 7]
Intermediate/exit awards:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) or Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) [Level 7]
Programme admissions:	UK and international students
Programme start month:	September, January
Course Modes of Study:	12 months full-time (September start) 15 months full-time (January start)

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.

Minor Modifications Schedule

1. May 2023: Annual Changes for 2023/4 academic year.
2. July 2025: Annual Changes for the 2025 academic year, including changes to academic regulation.
3. June 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry, updated references and admissions

Programme overview

The LLM in International Commercial Law contributes towards enhancing the research-led teaching strategy of the School of Law and Social Sciences and the University of Bradford. It provides students with knowledge of the legal dimensions of commercial 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 global international business, as well as emerging areas, brought about by technological advances, changes in the policy environment and international relations. Students will be able to consider critical questions surrounding these issues and develop and demonstrate knowledge and recognised competences essential to effective legal

and ethically aware practice within international commercial transactions; enabling them to pursue careers in a wide variety of fields, ranging from private commercial practice; in-house lawyers in various organisations; as well as policy-oriented careers in government departments, intergovernmental organisations third sector organisations or academia.

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 LLM International Commercial Law is aimed at preparing the student for a range of professional paths in International Commercial Law by deepening their knowledge of the subject, developing their critical thinking, research, analytical and communication skills which will help them succeed in their chosen field. The programme is also designed to be accessible not only to Law graduates who want to pursue a career in legal practice, but also students from a range of academic backgrounds who intend to apply their knowledge of international commercial law in various exciting professional contexts such as within business organisations, government departments, intergovernmental organisations, third sector organisations or academia.

To ensure that all students have the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively engage with the programme, there is a foundational module at the beginning of the academic year which introduces legal concepts, institutions and sources as well as academic writing and research skills. The two core modules provide the student with knowledge of the broader regulatory context and sustainability dimension of international commercial law. A further four optional modules which the student can choose from a pool of specialist international commercial law modules will deepen their knowledge of these subject areas.

This programme is delivered on campus and there is a distance learning version with content which mirrors the content of this programme. The distance learning version is available to those who prefer online learning.

There will be two enrolments each academic year in September and January. The September programme will run for 12 months whilst the January programme will run for 15 months. Students on the 15-month programme may have the opportunity to undertake an internship subject to their securing a place.

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 commercial 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 subject knowledge and understanding and provide training in discipline skills to enable graduates to pursue varying careers in international commercial law or related fields.
- A4. Encourage participative, independent and reflective learning and the development of personal and professional skills.
- A5. Enable students to understand the complexities of international commercial law at 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.

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- 0. Have a systematic and critical knowledge of the substantive concepts, values, principles and rules in International Commercial Law and their theoretical underpinnings within the framework of the wider legal environment in its historical, socio-political and economic contexts, including the role of contemporary developments such as technology and sustainability principles in the conduct and regulation of modern international business transactions.
- 1. Demonstrate critical knowledge of the institutions and procedures operating at the international, regional and local levels in international commercial law and their impact on the development of law and policy.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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 Commercial Law and other related legal disciplines.
- 4. 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

Additionally, to be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Diploma award, students will be able to:

- 5. Employ relevant competencies and strategies to engage constructively with international commercial law in various roles

6. Identify and apply critical learning gained to current developments and debates in international commercial law
7. Demonstrate initiative and independence in systematic academic inquiry, using relevant techniques to gather, evaluate and manage evidence, data and information from appropriate sources.
8. Reflect critically on professional and career development needs and to take action to maintain the knowledge and skills required of a practitioner in international commercial law.
9. Plan and execute a range of assignments, including essays and presentations in which style and, scope and depth are appropriate to the task

Additionally, to be eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Degree award of Master, students will be able to:

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Recognise and be able to critically reflect on own values, experiences and orientation in ones' own academic work.

Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategy on this programme is robust, adopting a range of assessment methods, 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 the LLM International Commercial Law 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.

To effectively assess whether a student has achieved a module's learning outcomes, a combination of assessment approaches is typically applied. 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 students 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.

The LLM International Commercial Law aims to support the students learning in a number of ways. Firstly, there is the scheduled class time, and we expect them to attend all scheduled classes. Classes all 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. In addition, all module leaders provide a detailed module handbook which includes a list of relevant reading material.

The programme team also uses the VLE, in order to make additional material available to the student, host discussions and provide programme related information and links. 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.

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 year of study and to develop their research, critical thinking and writing skills. Teaching on the programme 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, provide experience of working with people from different cultures and help develop organisational skills.

All taught modules have a two-hour teaching slot every week throughout the Semester in which they are taught. 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. Additional support materials – cases, video clips, audio recording, lecture notes/slides, etc. are also provided via the Canvas virtual learning environment VLE. As their confidence with the material and research skills increase, they will be expected to work more independently and lead sessions either alone or within a group. 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.

Study abroad opportunities

This programme is not recommended for opportunities to study abroad at another University for a semester due to how dissertation support and supervision is spread out.

Students can still explore opportunities for short international activities (1-6 weeks) that are held over the summer periods by speaking to the University International Opportunities team. Further information about short [internships and placements](#) and [study abroad opportunities](#) is published on the University's website.

Curriculum

LLM International Commercial Law is made up of two distinct parts. First, students will study six taught modules which cover 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 module Foundations of Law and Skills, which will provide them with the foundation necessary to study for the LLM. Students will study two 20 credits of core modules (one in each of semester 1 and 2). These are Sustainable Development Law in Contemporary Business and Society (20 credits) and Regulatory Theory and Practice (20 credits). These modules will provide the student with knowledge of the broader regulatory context and the implications for human rights protection and development.

Table A: LLM International Commercial Law Core Taught Modules (both routes)

Mod. Code	Module Title and Level	Credit	Study in
LAW6029-Z	Foundations of Law and Skills [FHEQ Level 6]	0	Induction
LAW7030-B	Sustainable development law in contemporary business and society [FHEQ Level 7]	20	Semester 1
LAW7035-B	Regulatory Theory and Practice [FHEQ Level 7]	20	Semester 2

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.

In addition to the core modules, students select four optional 20 credits modules from the list of specialisms in international commercial law.

September entry students will study the "Sem 1" modules first, January entry students will study the "Sem 2" modules first.

Table B: LLM International Commercial Law Module Options: Select Four

Mod. Code	Module Title	Credit	Period
LAW7080-B	Law and Ethics of Technology and Artificial Intelligence	20	Semester 1
LAW7008-B	International intellectual property law	20	Semester 1
LAW7031-B	International commercial contracts and e-commerce	20	Semester 1
LAW7037-B	International Banking and Finance Law	20	Semester 1
LAW7045-B	International Trade and investment law	20	Semester 1
LAW7007-B	International Competition Law	20	Semester 1
LAW7081-B	Data Protection and Privacy Law	20	Semester 1
LAW7082-B	International Company and Corporate Governance Law	20	Semester 1
LAW7085-B	Law of Financial Crime	20	Semester 1
LAW7047-B	International Commercial Dispute Resolution	20	Semester 2
LAW7041-B	Business, Human Rights and Environment	20	Semester 2
LAW7039-B	Cyber Law	20	Semester 2
LAW7073-B	International Law of Taxation	20	Semester 2
LAW7078-B	Regulation of Financial Technologies and Virtual Assets	20	Semester 2
LAW7083-B	International Insolvency Law	20	Semester 2
LAW7084-B	Legal technology	20	Semester 2
LAW7074-B	Emerging Issues in Law Summer School	20	Semester 2*

Module LAW7074-B starts later than other modules and is taught/studied between May and June. Modules run according to availability and demand and the list of modules available in any one year will be notified to the student at the beginning of the programme - students will be notified later and asked to reselect if an option is not going to run.

The modules studied, in addition to a taught component of the dissertation module will provide the student with subject knowledge and skills necessary to complete the final research project- a dissertation or an advanced report following an internship.

The taught component (8 hours) of the dissertation module will start in Semester 2 and will build on the introductory material in the non-credit bearing Foundation of law and Skills, focusing on a variety of empirical material and the methods used to gather empirical data.

The taught modules studied provide the student with detailed subject knowledge and the skills they will need to successfully complete the final part of the LLM programme which is their dissertation. The student will complete the dissertation or an advanced report following an internship.

Table C: LLM International Commercial Law Dissertation (FHEQ Level 7): Assigned One

Module Code	Module Title	Module Credit	Study period	Selection
LAW7032-E	Dissertation	60	Ns Academic Year	BDA : September entry
LAW7032-E	Dissertation	60	Ns Academic Year	BDB : January entry

In addition to the assessed components of the programme, students will have access to several skills-based professional courses as part of the Faculty of Management, Sciences & Engineering Career Booster programme as well as other non-assessed courses available to students on programmes delivered in Bradford.

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](#)).

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 International Commercial Law 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-commercial-law/>