

Programme Specification 2019/20

3756 FT/3757 PT LLM Commercial and Corporate Law

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Full time
Duration in years	1 full year (12 months) following standard progression for a FT student. 2 full years (24 months) following standard progression for PT student.
Accreditation details	N/A
Final Award	Masters of Law
Name of award	LLM (Commercial and Corporate Law)
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate
FHEQ level of final award	7
UCAS code	n/a
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	n/a
Programme Lead	Professor Uta Kohl
Date specification was written	18 June 2014
Date Programme was validated	17/09/2014
Date Specification last updated	20/04/2018

Programme overview

Brief outline of the programme

Studying law at postgraduate level is an extremely valuable currency in the legal job market, as it demonstrates that you have commitment and capability. The LLM Commercial and Corporate law programme is designed to give you practical insights as well as theoretical knowledge of specific areas of law, in order to help you progress in your legal career. Upon completion of the programme, you will be available to tackle complex legal issues arising from practical scenarios, to provide legal advice to clients accordingly, and to critically think about the underpinning principles of the areas of law you have chosen to study. The programme will also develop your practical transferable skills, including the ability to conduct independent research, both online and offline; time management, verbal and written communication, presenting and planning.

The LLM Commercial and Corporate law programme aims to develop your legal skills within a structure that allows you to shape your degree towards those areas in which your interests match the School of Law's particular expertise, while maintaining an overall coherence in relation to your individual choice of modules.

The LLM degree programmes are designed to draw on the research strengths of the School's academic staff who are active at the cutting edge of international and national legal reform and development. The expertise of the staff has been recognised as being of international excellence, and in the School of Law we are strongly committed to providing the very best learning experience for all our students in a friendly, stimulating and research-led environment.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Special features of the programme

Southampton Law School recognises the fact that most of the LLM students come from different legal systems to that of the common law. Thus, we allocate the first week in each new Academic Year to introduce the common law system to you. This includes teaching some very main principles of the common law, co-operating with the law librarian and introducing access to the resources and discussing how to be a student in a common law system. This is a one-week intensive programme from which we believe will benefit you immensely.

The **Understanding the Common Law** course has three related purposes:

- to give you a clear picture of how a common lawyer works with the law and of how that mode of working is affected by the sources and methods of the common law;
 - to increase your confidence in the use of the English language in a legal context;
 - to offer you an understanding of the pragmatic methods of the common law, both in terms of how it develops its principles and of how it responds to practical problems. With this in mind, each session in the course is devised to illustrate method through an examination of substance. The object is to assist you with your ability to work on your chosen options.
- (a) **The Wednesday Practitioner Seminar programme** in which eminent speakers from the shipping and maritime industry come and deliver lectures and seminars on a wide range of topics;
- (b) **The Law Careers Fair**, and the **Alumni Career Event** in spring to which some shipping companies as well as Law firms are invited. For further information as well as details on where to look for vacancies and opportunities you should visit the [Career Destinations website](#)

Learning and teaching

The programme is taught with a combination of seminars, lectures, tutorials and guided independent study in order to develop your skills of analysis of relevant legal materials, the identification of the key legal and policy issues, and the appraisal of solutions available. Lectures, seminars and tutorials will develop clarity and objectivity in the application of legal principles, the drafting of legal advice and the critical appraisal of law. These skills will be further developed through the production of written work (assessed and non-assessed), written feedback and later through collaboration with dissertation supervisors during the dissertation drafting.

Assessment

Formal examinations and assignments will assess your abilities in relation to the learning outcomes of the Programme, as far as written discussion is concerned. Furthermore, the dissertation will give you the opportunity to bring together all of the skills developed and acquired throughout the programme. Oral capabilities are mainly formatively rather than summatively assessed. This means that the oral assessments will not provide significant weighting of marks towards the degree, but provide a source of feedback to you on these skills.

Educational aims of the programme

The LLM Commercial and Corporate law programme aims to develop your legal skills within a structure that will allow you to shape your degree towards those areas in which your interests match our particular expertise, while maintaining an overall coherence in relation to your individual choice of modules.

The aims of the programme are to:

- give you a thorough and systematic knowledge and understanding of the main principles of law in each of the modules and an overview of the social and economic policies and values which underpin them;
- give you an understanding of the process by which law is produced and to evaluate that process;
- give you an understanding, where appropriate, of how UK and European Law interact; likewise, UK and International law;
- provide you with experience in dealing with legal principles deriving from a variety of legal instruments, including, where appropriate, international conventions, statutes, case law and standard form contracts;
- enable you to develop skills of legal analysis and problem solving, both systematically and at an advanced level;
- enable you to understand the workings of the common law system where you come from a different legal background;
- enable you to understand the legal and policy questions at the forefront of the academic discipline and to display a critical awareness of the present legal framework.

Programme learning outcomes

. The learning outcomes that you will have achieved are as follows.

A. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. a substantial range of legal principles and processes relevant to your specialist choices;
- A2. UK law and, where appropriate, European Law; UK law and, where appropriate, international law;
- A3. current legal issues in the UK and, where appropriate, internationally;
- A4. current developments at the forefront of the subject;
- A5. the social and economic context underpinning the modules;
- A6. legal research methods, including case analysis, statutory review, and consideration of international materials.

Teaching and learning methods

Core knowledge and understanding is acquired through seminars, lectures, tutorials and guided independent study (A1-8). An introductory "Understanding the Common Law" module is provided in the first week of the year, to assist international students to familiarise themselves with a common law legal system (A2-3). More specialised knowledge of particular fields is acquired through the research required for the Dissertation (A1-8) and in all other modules through either the completion of written examinations or through summative work, or both (A1-8).

Assessment methods

Knowledge and understanding is assessed through a combination of:

- written examinations which will assess your ability in relation to A1-4 and A7-8;
- the production of assessed work which will assess A3-6 and A7-8;
- the Dissertation which concentrates on assessing A3- 6 and A7-8 but will also reflect elements of A1 and A2.

B. Subject specific intellectual and research skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. source relevant legal materials in the Law Library and through the internet;
- B2. analyse relevant legal materials, including, where appropriate, international conventions, statutes, case law and standard form contracts;
- B3. identify key legal and policy issues in their social and economic contexts;
- B4. evaluate and apply legal principles in solving complex practical problems, citing legal authorities and advising as appropriate;
- B5. critically appraise and offer solutions in existing areas of debate in UK and, where appropriate, international law;
- B6. communicate legal opinions clearly, accurately and objectively;
- B7. critically review an area of law by reference to current research, case law and, where appropriate, international conventions, showing originality of thought.

Teaching and learning methods

Seminars, lectures, tutorials and guided independent study will develop your skills of analysis of relevant legal materials (B1-2), the identification of the key legal and policy issues (B3), and the appraisal of solutions available (B5). Tutorials will initially develop clarity and objectivity in the application of legal principles (B4), the drafting of legal advice (B4) and the critical appraisal of law (B5). These skills will be further developed through your production of written work (assessed and non-assessed), written feedback and later through collaboration with your dissertation supervisor (B1 and B6). Seminars, tutorials and lectures also contribute to B3 and B7..

Assessment methods

Formal examinations and assignments will assess your abilities in relation to B1-B7, above, as far as written discussion is concerned. The dissertation will give you the opportunity to bring together all of the skills in B1-B7. Oral capabilities are mainly formatively rather than summatively assessed. This means that the oral assessments will not provide significant weighting of marks towards the degree, but provide a source of feedback to you on these skills.

C. Transferable and generic skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1.** plan and manage your time effectively, be that in on-going studies or a larger research project, demonstrating self-direction in tackling and solving problems;
- C2.** exercise initiative and personal responsibility in your work;
- C3.** feel confident in using information technology to access a variety of electronic resources when preparing your academic work;
- C4.** confidently communicate information in written format with a clear and appropriate writing style containing correct legal references;
- C5.** confidently communicate information accurately in group discussions.
- C6.** deal with complex legal and policy issues both systematically and creatively, make informed judgements in the absence of complete information, and communicate your conclusions clearly;
- C7.** continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level by self-study;
- C8.** be familiar with use of the internet, as well as traditional sources, in accessing materials;
- C9.** produce written work using a word-processor.

Teaching and learning methods

Independent, supervised research during dissertations and assignments will be the major teaching methods for C1-C4 and C6-C9.. Tutorial group work will assist in developing your ability to discuss and present the issues under study (C5).

Assessment methods

The development of time-management skills C1 is evidently crucial as failure to keep to deadlines or bad management of time may result in failure. Similarly, fulfilment of your obligations in assignments and the dissertation demand an excellent standard in C2-C4 and C6-C7 where they affect the marks awarded. Oral skills are not formally assessed, but your general performance will be affected by the way in which you are able to obtain feedback from your individual contributions in discussions (C5).

Programme structure

Typical course content

The Southampton LLM Commercial and Corporate Law programme offers optional modules to tailor your studies to your own interests and career development. Whilst providing a focus on your programme of study.

The Dissertation module is core, and all other modules for this programme are optional. This allows you to create a bespoke programme, choosing the modules which best fit your requirements.

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Programme details

The LLM Commercial and Corporate Law programme, requires you to take 60 ECTS/120 CATS as option modules balanced evenly across semesters and also complete a 30 ECTS/60 CATS dissertation core module (core modules must be taken and passed). The option choices are listed as part of the appendices.

The programme can be studied either full-time over 12 months or part-time over 24 months. For full-time study you will complete the taught modules between October and June and then you will complete a supervised dissertation on a topic of your choice between June and September. For part-time study you will take 30 ECTS/60 CATS of option modules in each year (balanced across the semesters) and also complete a supervised dissertation on a topic of your choice in your second year.

It should be noted that the running of any option module within the streams depends on availability of staff and occasionally some modules may not be offered.

Summary structure of the programme

See Appendix 3

Assessment mapping

See Appendix 2

Additional costs

You are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. Costs that this programme typically incur are included in **Appendix 4**.

Progression requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters programmes](#) as set out in the University Calendar.

Intermediate exit points

You will be eligible for an interim exit award if you complete part of the programme but not all of it, as follows:

Qualification	Minimum overall credit in ECTS/CATS credits	Minimum ECTS/CATS credits required at level of award
Postgraduate Diploma	at least 60/120	45/90
Postgraduate Certificate	at least 30/60	20/40

The PG Certificate and PG Diploma will be awarded at Pass level only, i.e. you cannot be awarded a Merit or Distinction for them no matter what grades you achieve in the relevant modules.

For PG Certificate and PG Diploma you will **not** receive a named award, e.g. PG Diploma in Insurance Law, no matter which modules you have passed.

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls (18.00-08.00)
- a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

SUSU provides:

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- advice and guidance on academic matters from your personal/academic tutor;
- support from the Senior LLM Tutor on general welfare issues and how to access a wide range of University services;
- a programme handbook with study skills advice, course documentation and examination regulations;
- an English Study Skills course for the LLM programmes for non-native speakers of English;
- a one week introduction to Common Law;
- access to the Faculty/School's SharePoint site, e-learning resources on Blackboard, and student e mail;
- up-to-date library resources;
- computing facilities.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation surveys for each module of the programme
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
- Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Career opportunities

Our statistics say that 80% of our students find jobs within 6/8 months after they finish the LLM. LLM Commercial and Corporate Law graduates are usually recruited by law firms in the UK and overseas as well as by governments, banks, and private companies.

Whatever your situation, the Career Destinations service offers a wide range of services and support for postgraduate students. Visit the [Career Destinations website](#) for more details.

In the Southampton Law School we recognise that securing or advancing your career upon graduation is very important to you and there are a number of events which give you the opportunity to meet and network with experts in the shipping, commercial and maritime industries. These include:

- The Wednesday Practitioner Seminar programme in which eminent speakers from the shipping and maritime industry come and deliver lectures and seminars on a wide range of topics;
- The Law Careers Fair in November, and the Alumni Career Event in spring to which some shipping companies as well as Law firms are invited. For further information as well as details on where to look for vacancies and opportunities you should visit the [Career Destinations website](#)

External Examiners(s) for the programme

Name	Institution
Professor Joan Loughrey	University of Leeds
Dr Greta Bosch	University of Exeter
Professor Estelle Derclaye	University of Nottingham
Ms Susan Hawker	University of Notre Dam
Miss Ann Lyon	University of Plymouth
Professor Theodora Nikaki	University of Swansea

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their personal tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook (or other appropriate guide) or online at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/law/index.page>

As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme [validation process](#) which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Revision History

1. Validated Sept 2014
2. Additional Option Modules added 2015
3. Transferred to new template 28/09/15
4. Assessment mapping document: LAWS6099 Insurance Law, Assessment 2 changed from Exam 3.5 hours to Exam 2.5 hours 4/2/16
5. Updated in line with the specific programme and to read 'you' and not 'student' 12/04/18
6. Removed Admission Criteria 20/04/18
7. Updated programme lead from Prof Filippo Lorenzon to Prof Paul Todd 20/04/18

Appendix 1

LLM Commercial and Corporate Law learning outcomes mapping document

Core = Cr
Compulsory = Cm
Optional Core = Ocr

Module	Knowledge and Understanding						Subject Specific Intellectual Skills							Transferrable / General Skills								
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9
LAWS6082 Dissertation (Cr)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAWS6064 International Trade Law	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAWS6065 Marine Insurance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAWS6076 Carriage of Goods by Sea	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAWS6077 Commercial Conflicts of Laws & International Litigation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAWS6086 Int. Commercial Arbitration	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAWS6099 Insurance Law	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAWS6128 Principles of Secured Transactions	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAWS6140 Ship Finance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAWS6130 Corporate Governance-Regulating Boards of Directors	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAWS6143 Business and Human Rights	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Appendix 2 - LLM Commercial and Corporate Law assessment mapping document

Core = Cr
 Complusory = Cm
 Optional Core = Ocr

Module Code	Module Title	Assessment 1	Assessment 2
LAWS6082	Dissertation (Cr)	15000 word dissertation 100%	
LAWS6064	International Trade Law	Exam 3.5 hours 100%	
LAWS6065	Marine Insurance	Exam 3.5 hours 100%	
LAWS6076	Carriage of Goods by Sea	Exam 3.5 hours 100%	
LAWS6077	Commercial Conflict of Laws & International Litigation	Exam 3.5 hours 100%	
LAWS6086	International Commercial Arbitration	Exam 3.5 hours 100%	
LAWS6099	Insurance Law	4000 word Essay 40%	Exam 3 hours (inc: 30 mins reading time) 60%
LAWS6128	Principles of Secured Transactions	Exam 1.5 hours 100%	
LAWS6140	Ship Finance	Closed book exam 2 hours 100%	
LAWS6130	Corporate Governance- Regulating Boards of Directors	Exam 1.5 hours 100%	
LAWS6143	Business and Human Rights	Essay 4500 words 100%	

Appendix 3

Programme Structure – LLM Commercial and Corporate Law

You must to take 60 ECTS/120 CATS as option modules balanced evenly across semesters and also complete a 30 ECTS/60 CATS dissertation core module (core modules must be taken and passed).

Please note the structure for part-time study will be that students choose their option modules to balance evenly across each semester and each year of study, i.e. 30 ECTS (60 CATS) each year of study, including any compulsory modules, and complete the core dissertation module in year 2.

It should be noted that the running of any option module within the programme depends on availability of staff and occasionally some modules may not be offered.

	Semester 1				Semester 2				
Module Code	Name	Core/ Option/ Comp	ECTS	CATS	Module Code	Name	Core/ Option/ Comp	ECTS	CATS
LAWS6082	Dissertation						Core	30	60
Optional (select a total of 60 ECTS (120 CATS) balanced across each semester)									
LAWS6064	International Trade Law						Option	15	30
LAWS6065	Marine Insurance						Option	15	30
LAWS6076	Carriage of Goods by Sea						Option	15	30
LAWS6077	Commercial Conflicts of Law and International Litigation						Option	15	30
LAWS6086	International Commercial Arbitration						Option	15	30
LAWS6099	Insurance Law						Option	15	30
LAWS6128	Principles of Secured Transactions	Option	7.5	15	LAWS6130	Corporate Governance- Regulating Boards of Directors	Option	7.5	15
LAWS6140	Ship Finance	Option	7.5	15	LAWS6143	Business and Human Rights	Option	7.5	15

Appendix 4

LLM Commercial and Corporate Law additional costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for:

- Books and Stationery Equipment (such as Lab equipment, Field Equipment, Art equipment, Recording Equipment, stethoscopes, fob watch, Excavation equipment, Approved Calculators)
- Printing and Photocopying Costs (such as Printing coursework for submission, Printing and binding dissertations or theses, Academic Poster (A1) printing).
- Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)
- Replacing lost student ID cards
- Costs of attending a graduation ceremony (e.g. hiring a gown for graduation).

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. **Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile.** Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/>