

## Programme Specification

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### LLM International Commercial and Corporate Law (2020-21)

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.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Laws (LLM)
Name of award	LLM International Commercial and Corporate Law
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8426 (FT), 8427 (PT)
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	
Programme Lead	Uta Kohl

### Programme Overview

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#### Brief outline of the programme

Southampton Law School has developed a strong profile in international and human rights law, and our LLM International Law and Human Rights builds on this. The programme gives you the theoretical knowledge and practical know-how for international or human rights law practice whether in the governmental, non-governmental or private sector. There are many careers for which a thorough understanding of international conventions, state responsibility or international dispute settlement, legal obligations in armed conflicts or human rights responsibilities of state or private actors is fundamental or taken as an essential background assumption.

Having intensively studied across a range of modules including public international law, international criminal or environmental law or freedom of speech and privacy on the internet, you will be able to analyse complex legal issues arising from practical scenarios and evaluate a range of legal or policy responses. The programme also develops your practical transferable skills, including the ability to conduct independent research, both online and offline, time management, verbal and written communication, presenting and planning.

Your contact hours will be eight hours per week and will consist of seminars, or lectures and seminars, depending on the module. As a postgraduate, you will be expected to devote many hours to independent study as preparation for those contact hours and in working on your assignments and dissertation.

The LLM International Law and Human Rights draws 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.

### **Learning and teaching**

The LLM International Commercial and Corporate Law programme is taught through a combination of seminars, or lectures and seminars, and through 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. In the seminars and lectures you will develop clarity and objectivity in the application of legal principles 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 a dissertation supervisor during the dissertation drafting.

### **Assessment**

Formal examinations and assignments will assess your abilities in relation to the learning outcomes of the LLM Programme. Furthermore, the dissertation will give you the opportunity to bring together all of the skills developed and acquired throughout the programme.

## **Special Features of the programme**

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The LLM International Commercial and Corporate Law programme benefits from the many activities of a number of research centres within Southampton Law School. You will be able to attend the talks and guest lectures organised by the Centre for Law, Policy and Society, the Centre for Private and Commercial Law, Stefan Cross Centre for Equality Women and the Law, Health Ethics and Law (HEAL) and the iLaws Centre on IT law, which regularly invite academics or legal practitioners to reflect on their careers or recent regulatory challenges. You will also be very welcome to attend the Wednesday Practitioner Seminar programme organised by the Institute of Maritime Law in which eminent speakers from the shipping and maritime industry come and deliver lectures and seminars on a wide range of topics. This provides an exceptional opportunity for you to speak to, learn from and network with practitioners in the field.

The postgraduate cohort of Southampton Law School has always been very international, with students studying with us from many corners of the world. We take account of the fact that many of our LLM students do not come from a common law legal systems and other students have a lot of relevant industry experience but do not have a law degree. Therefore, we allocate the first week in each new academic year to run an intensive legal skills programme, called Introduction to Legal Skills, that introduces you to the common law system, the interactions of statute and judge-made law as well as the impact of international conventions and model laws on national law. During this week, you will also be introduced to the law library and the many legal databases and other resources we hold. The programme will provide you with the foundations for taking the specialised modules.

You will be warmly invited to the Law Careers Fair to which some important industry representatives as well as many 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

Southampton Law School also organises an annual debating competition, the LLM Challenge, where eight teams of postgraduates compete against each other on a diverse range of current legal topics. This competition is popular and each year we award a prize and certificates for the best team.

**Please note:** 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](#).

## Educational Aims of the Programme

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The aims of the programme are to: The LLM International Commercial and Corporate Law programme aims to develop your legal skills across a range of diverse commercial law and related subjects, within a structure that allows you also to shape your degree towards your particular interests.

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 processes by which law is produced and to evaluate those processes;
- give you an understanding of how national, regional, and international law, interact;
- 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;
- give you a (consolidated) understanding of the workings of the common law system generally and in the commercial law context in particular;
- 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.

The programme is aligned with The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education (March 2018).

## Programme Learning Outcomes

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Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

### Knowledge and Understanding

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

- A1. The national, regional or international institutional legal frameworks governing or affecting commercial transactions, corporate actors and trade more generally.
- A2. A substantial range of legal principles and doctrines governing private rights and liabilities and public law interventions in national or international trade.
- A3. The economic, safety or public policies or values underlying these principles and processes and areas of current controversy within them.
- A4. A specific legal area of commercial or corporate law or public law affecting national or global trade.

### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

The knowledge and understanding is acquired through the seminars and lectures and the independent study in preparation for seminars (A1-3). Understanding and knowledge of a specific legal area within commercial, corporate or trade law is acquired through the research required for the Dissertation (A4).

### **Assessment Methods**

Knowledge and understanding is assessed through a combination of:

The written examinations and course work in the case of the taught modules which will assess A1-4;  
The Dissertation concentrates on assessing A4 but will also reflect elements of A1-3.

## **Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills**

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

- B1. Source, interpret and analyse relevant legal materials, including, where appropriate, international conventions, statutes, case law and standard form contracts.
- B2. Identify, evaluate and apply key legal principles in solving complex practical problems in the commercial context.
- B3. Identify and critically evaluate key legal and policy issues in their social and economic contexts and possible policy responses.
- B4. Communicate legal arguments and opinions within the context of commercial and corporate law clearly, accurately and objectively.
- B5. Produce an extensive written discussion that coherently communicates an argument on a specific subject-matter of commercial law.

### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Seminars and guided independent study will develop your skills of analysis of relevant legal materials, the identification of the key legal and legal and policy issues and the appraisal of solutions available (B1,B2,B3). In the seminars you will also initially develop the skill of communicating legal arguments with clarity and objectivity (B4). 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-B4).

### **Assessment Methods**

Formal examinations and assignments will assess your abilities in relation to B1-B4, with varying emphasis on the practical application of the law (B2) or critical evaluation of legal and policy issues (B3). The Dissertation particularly assesses B5 but will also reflect skills in B1-B4.

## **Transferable and Generic Skills**

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

- C1. Undertake independent research and access primary and secondary sources effectively.
- C2. Analyse complex written texts and evaluate different types of arguments.
- C3. Construct arguments and solve problems, including under time pressure, based on premises drawn from various sources.
- C4. Communicate arguments in writing and reference sources appropriately.

### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

The main teaching and learning methods towards these learning outcomes will be the preparatory research for seminars and the independent, supervised research during dissertations and assignments C1-C4. Seminar group work will assist in developing your ability to discuss and present the issues under study.

### **Assessment Methods**

All of the above skills are all assessed through the summative assessments, whether in the form of examinations, course work or the final dissertation. The dissertation in particular showcases your ability to undertake independent supervised research, analyse complex texts, construct arguments and communicate these effectively.

## **Programme Structure**

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The programme structure table is below:

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

### **Part I**

The LLM International Commercial and Corporate Law programme offers you a choice of taught option modules on a broad range of commercial and corporate law subjects as well as a range of PG Law modules.

The programme consists of a taught element and a Dissertation. The Dissertation module is worth 30 ECTS (60 CATS) and is Core which means that you must pass it to be awarded the LLM.

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 generally take 30 ECTS (60 CATS) in each year 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 programme depends on availability of staff and occasionally some modules may not be offered.

You must select between 45ECTS /90CATS and 60ECTS/120CATS from the following groups of option modules. You must ensure that you choose an equal balance of modules across the year.

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, 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.

## Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LAWS6165	Dissertation	30	Core

## Part I G1 Option Semester 1

You must select between 22.2ECTS/45CATS up to 30ECTS/60CATS from the following.  
You must ensure that you choose an equal balance of credits across the year

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LAWS6155	Business Finance	7.5	Optional
LAWS6160	Corporate Governance	7.5	Optional
LAWS6161	Insurance Law	7.5	Optional
LAWS6159	International Competition Law and Policy	7.5	Optional

## Part I G1 Option Semester 2

You must select between 22.2ECTS/45CATS up to 30ECTS/60CATS from the following.  
You must ensure that you choose an equal balance of credits across the year

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LAWS6147	Cross-Border Corporate Insolvency and Restructuring	7.5	Optional
LAWS6158	Intellectual Property Law in a Global World	7.5	Optional
LAWS6157	Law of the World Trade Organization	7.5	Optional
LAWS6145	Principles of Commercial Arbitration	7.5	Optional

## Part I G2 Option Semester 1

You may select between 0ECTS/0CATS upto 15ECTS/30CATS from the following groups of modules.  
You must ensure that, wherever possible, you choose an equal balance of credits across the year

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LAWS6177	Admiralty Law: Principles and Liabilities	7.5	Optional
LAWS6179	International Commercial Litigation	7.5	Optional
LAWS6175	International Sale of Goods	7.5	Optional
LAWS6171	Marine Insurance: Law and Principles	7.5	Optional
LAWS6169	Selected Principles of the International Law of the Sea	7.5	Optional
LAWS6156	Ship Finance	7.5	Optional
LAWS6173	The Law on Charterparties	7.5	Optional

## Part I G2 Option Semester 2

You may select between 0ECTS/0CATS upto 15ECTS/30CATS from the following groups of modules.  
You must ensure that, wherever possible, you choose an equal balance of credits across the year.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
LAWS6178	Admiralty Law: Enforcement of Maritime Claims	7.5	Optional
LAWS6176	International Trade Finance	7.5	Optional
LAWS6180	Marine Environmental Law	7.5	Optional
LAWS6172	Marine Insurance: Cover and Practice	7.5	Optional
LAWS6170	Navigational Law and Practice	7.5	Optional
LAWS6174	The Law on Bills of Lading	7.5	Optional

## Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) and [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes](#). Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in [section VI of the University Calendar](#).

## 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. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- 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 and Employability services, 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 and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union 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 Legal Skills;
- 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

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

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School 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.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

## Career Opportunities

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Our statistics say that 80% of our students find jobs within 6/8 months after they finish the LLM. LLM International 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 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 at

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/careers/index.page>

## External Examiner(s) for the programme

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Name:	Miss Ann E Lyon - Plymouth University
Name:	Dr Greta Bosch - University of Exeter
Name:	Dr Russell Buchan - University of Sheffield
Name:	David Cabrelli - University of Edinburgh
Name:	Andreas Kokkinis - University of Warwick
Name:	Dr Miriam Goldby - Queen Mary's University London



Name: Dr Imogen Goold - St Annes College Oxford  
Name: Dr Bharat Malkani - University of Cardiff  
Name: Dr Aruna Nair - King's College London

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 Academic 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 they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

## Appendix 1:

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 also have to pay for:

### Additional Costs

Type	Details
Other	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Books and Stationery Equipment (such as Lab equipment, Field Equipment, Art equipment, Recording Equipment, stethoscopes, fob watch, Excavation equipment, Approved Calculators)</li><li>· Printing and Photocopying Costs (such as Printing coursework for submission, Printing and binding dissertations or theses, Academic Poster (A1) printing).</li><li>· Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)</li><li>· Replacing lost student ID cards</li><li>· Costs of attending a graduation ceremony (e.g. hiring a gown for graduation).</li></ul> <p>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 <a href="http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/">http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/</a></p>

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 [www.calendar.soton.ac.uk](http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/).