



## **Course Specification Part A**

### **LLM in International Commercial Law (FBLT084) LLM in International Commercial Law (Professional Experience)\*(FBLT100)**

#### **Faculty of Business and Law Coventry Law School Academic Year: 2021/22**

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course 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.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Coventry University's accreditation with CMI is currently ongoing for the relevant modules and is regularly reviewed and monitored by the CMI through their quality systems. Whilst Coventry University anticipates that these reviews will continue to be successful, if they were to be unsuccessful, the relevant module in this course would no longer be accredited and we would notify applicants and students of this change as soon as possible.

\*The course award title will be LLM in International Commercial Law. The reference to Professional Experience is based on two taught semesters, up to three semesters on placement, followed by one final taught semester

## **PART A Course Specification (Published Document)**

### **LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW**

#### **1. Introduction**

Commercial transactions are the core of all business activity. Recent global events, including the failure of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, Brexit, and growing trade tensions between the United States, Europe, and China highlight the importance of a rules-based international order for trade and commerce. This course exposes students to the numerous contemporary issues that exist in international commercial law, and provides students with an advanced knowledge and understanding of these issues; as well as enhancing students' critical awareness of international commercial law. Students will examine, in particular, the obligations of buyers and sellers in commercial transactions, the rights attaching to ownership of goods and intellectual property, potential regulatory barriers to trade in goods, the tax consequences that flow from commercial transactions, and the various legal remedies that exist in international commercial law. Students will be taught by experts in the field of international commercial law, with assessment designed to test both critical understanding of the law, as well as its practical application.

Studying for an LLM is an intellectually stimulating experience. The LLM International Commercial Law course at Coventry University provides an opportunity for students to build on their undergraduate knowledge and skills and to develop their subject knowledge and their legal, analytical and transferable skills. The skills learnt and practiced on the LLM International Commercial Law course can be utilised by those students intending to enter the legal profession (in the UK and overseas). However, the utility of the course is not restricted to those who wish to pursue a career in commercial legal practice, as the skills and attributes developed and acquired throughout the LLM International Commercial Law course are translatable to many other positive career destinations and the course is designed to prepare students for the global jobs market, further graduate level study (PhD) or a career in academia.

This programme forms part of a suite of PG courses within the Law School. The suite of courses reflects the expertise within the School and responds to topical and emerging legal issues, either domestically or internationally. This course is complimented, in particular, by the LLM in Law, with teaching capabilities and resources shared between the two.

The programme offers a number of specialist modules covering important areas of international commercial law. In the first semester, students will be introduced to the study of commercial in a practical context, with a particular focus upon transactions. In the second semester, students will build upon the knowledge students acquired in semester one, providing an advanced knowledge of salient issues in international commercial law. The course thus provides a diverse and specialised overview of the legal aspects of international commerce, with particular emphasis upon contemporary developments in these fields, as well as practical application.

The LLM in International Commercial Law aims to provide students with an opportunity to develop recognised legal expertise within the field of international commercial law. The course name reflects the fact that the principal focus of the course is the law pertaining to international commercial transactions.

This course recognises that international commercial law is not always thematic. In commercial legal practice, lawyers are often required to draw from a broad toolkit of legal knowledge and skills and apply it to specific industrial sectors. The proposed 'Commercial Law in Action' module is truly unique in this respect, and provides students with key skills demanded by business in practice

This programme will be particularly attractive to recent graduates in law and related fields (e.g. business, economics, management). It is anticipated that the course will also appeal to those already working in legal practice.

The flexibility offered by the range of modules, full and part time provision, and the availability of discrete fallback awards (of a Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in International Commercial Law) makes this programme attractive to students wishing to have an international dimension to their legal studies. As part of this course students will undertake a professional development module which is currently accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI): 7050CRB Entrepreneurial Practice. Upon successful completion of the module, students will gain the CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice at no additional cost.

Students will be supported in their future employability prospects through engagement with the Postgraduate Employment Personal Tutor, Placements tutor and the wider Law Futures/Careers team at the University. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to engage with the wider legal community through guest speakers, networking events and research lectures/seminars which will immerse student at the forefront of cutting-edge

legal research. Students will also have the opportunity to engage with ongoing continuing professional development activities within the Faculty of Business and Law.

The LLM International Commercial Law course provides students with the opportunity for ownership of their own learning journey and self-realisation of their own capacity for intellectual independence. The Teaching, Learning and Assessment strategies employed on the course are informed by the University's Corporate Plan and Education Strategy (2015-2021) and seek to promote a transformative process of learning from the day a student enrolls on the course to the point at which they graduate and beyond. Students will be placed at the centre of their own learning as active participants both within the classroom and within their own legal community, preparing them to make significant contributions within society and/or their chosen professions in a competitive global market.

The LLM International Commercial Law with professional experience pathway is an extended full-time Masters with a substantive professional experience component. Students have the option of completing 1, 2 or 3 semesters on placement, enrolment dates will reflect the semester length. Students who would like to undertake a professional experience will have to apply by the given deadline. Professional experience placements are subject to a competitive application and selection process and the host organisation may include the University or Students' Union. Placements may be paid or unpaid, and this will depend on what is being offered and agreed with the host organisation. Students will have to successfully complete a significant reflective piece supported by their placement to pass the Professional Experience module(s). Placements are subject to availability and a competitive selection process. Although the University will provide support and help source placement opportunities, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure a placement. Students who are not successful to find a placement by the university deadline will continue on the 12 month LLM International Commercial Law.

## 2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	<a href="#">FHEQ Level</a>
LLM International Commercial Law	F/T 1 year  (Up to two years if undertaking professional experience)  P/T 2 years		7
<b>Fallback Awards</b>			
Postgraduate Diploma in International Commercial Law			
Postgraduate Certificate in International Commercial Law			

<b>3 Awarding Institution/Body</b>	Coventry University
<b>4 Collaboration</b>	Not Applicable
<b>5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery</b>	FHEQ Level 7 Coventry University
<b>6 Internal Approval/Review Dates</b>	Date of approval/latest review: 2019 Date for next review: Academic year 2027/2028

<b>7 Course Accredited by</b>	Not Applicable
<b>8 Accreditation Date and Duration</b>	Not Applicable
<b>9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors</b>	QAA Master's Degree Characteristics 2015
<b>10 Date of Course Specification</b>	January 2020
<b>11 Course Director</b>	Dr Stuart MacLennan

## 12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

The LLM International Commercial Law course provides a coherent course of study, developing both academic and transferrable study skills focusing on the following:

- The acquisition of knowledge and understanding of legal doctrines, concepts, principles, rules and values in commercial law and a variety of international legal areas of law; together with an appreciation of the context in which law operates, and an understanding of the dynamic nature of international commercial law;
- Further and enhanced development of the ability to apply legal knowledge and skills acquired to both the theory and practice of international commercial law;
- The identification, retrieval, collation and prioritisation of up-to-date and in-depth legal information, using paper and electronic sources, primary and secondary legal sources and academic journals relevant to the specific area of international commercial law;
- Development of enhanced postgraduate academic and employability skills in research, analysis, critical evaluation, problem solving, communication and reflection; thus enhancing both autonomous and collaborative learning for subsequent use in both legal and other professions and employment.

The course involves a range of modules focussing on both domestic and international law that are taught in an inter-culturally diverse environment. The LLM seeks to produce autonomous learners, able to work with self-direction and originality; with the ability to blend theory and practice in complex situations, and have an appreciation of how properly conducted research can enhance their practice.

The course aims to develop students' strategic thinking, effective communication and research skills, all directly relevant to employers and such skills are designed to be of great value when seeking future employment. Students who successfully complete the module and meet the CMI learning outcomes will gain a Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice based on the following CMI units: Leading and Developing People to Optimise Performance (unit 702); Entrepreneurial Practice (unit 711). Students who successfully complete this module will be awarded Foundation Chartered Manager status and be able to use the designation 'fCMgr' after their name.

The educational aims align with the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (2015), whereby students are required to have a systematic understanding of knowledge and a critical awareness of contemporary problems. In addition, students will develop originality in the application of knowledge and develop conceptual understanding enabling them to critically evaluate current research, as well as develop a range of transferable skills necessary for employment.

### **13 Course Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

1. Critically assess the theories, concepts, values, principles and rules of public and private laws in a global commercial context.
2. Evidence an advanced understanding of contemporary issues and developments within commercial law.
3. Synthesise and critique relevant information from primary and secondary legal sources, using both digital and non-digital resources, and draw reasoned conclusions.
4. Apply advanced legal knowledge to practical scenarios in a commercial context.
5. Work independently, including addressing and resolving legal and related questions, identifying gaps in their own knowledge and acquiring new knowledge, tolerating ambiguity, and engaging in critical analysis and evaluation.
6. Understand the importance of social responsibility and ethical behaviour in an academic and vocational capacity.
7. Communicate effectively, by explaining and conveying information at various levels appropriate to the audience.
8. Undertake complex research-based projects independently, including an ability to manage their work effectively, be reflective, make effective use of feedback, and to work independently and collaboratively as appropriate.
9. A student should be able to; critically evaluate the principles for leading and developing people and entrepreneurial practice in strategic contexts.

### **14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards**

Modules within the course, their status, their credit value and pre/co requisites are identified in the table below.

The modules within the course, their status, credit value and pre/co-requisites are identified in the table below.

The programme has an embedded module, Professional Development, which has been developed with the Chartered Institute of Management (CMI). Students who successfully complete the module and meet the CMI learning outcomes will gain a Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice based on the following CMI units: Leading and Developing People to Optimise Performance (unit 702); Entrepreneurial Practice (unit 711). Students who successfully complete this module will be awarded Foundation Chartered Manager status and be able to use the designation 'fCMgr' after their name.

In addition, students undertaking professional experience must also undertake a module for each semester they are on placement. These modules are zero credit and based on a pass/fail assessment. The professional experience must be undertaken after 2 semesters of taught modules and before the final semester for the Project and CMI module.

#### **14.1 LLM International Commercial Law**

Students on the above course will normally take 180 credits over a period of:

- One year full-time; or
- Two years of part-time study.

Students taking the extended Masters course will take 180 credits over a period of two years full-time.

Taught modules are worth 10, or 15 credits; the Project is 50 credits. All modules are taught within a semesterised system. Full-time students will take up to 60 credits worth of modules each semester; part-time students will normally take 30 credits each semester. All modules are classed as level 7. All modules are Mandatory.

Students have the opportunity to undertake a year-long extended Master's course in between their course of study. (These modules are non-credit bearing and do not contribute to a students' overall award or classification).

### **14.2 Distinctive Features of the Course**

Distinctive features of the course include the following:

- This course allows students to gain specialised knowledge and understanding of international commercial law. A number of modules on the programme, such as International Taxation Law, are in high demand but few universities have the expertise to deliver; while others, such as Commercial Law in Action and Comparative Commercial Remedies are largely unique to Coventry Law School.
- All students are given extensive tuition in research and writing skills via the research modules. Research Skills introduces students to the necessary enhanced writing and analytical skills necessary to tackle postgraduate assessments and to comply with the School's legal referencing requirement. Research Design introduces the students to various research methodologies, and prepares them for the challenges of researching and writing their project or dissertation.
- Throughout the LLM International Commercial Law course students will be encouraged to participate in the Coventry University Global Leaders Programme to enable students to compete successfully in a global graduate market and prepare for their chosen career paths or other positive career destination.
- In addition all students take the CMI module, introducing them to professional business skills and analysis and further augmenting their career prospects
- Formal classes provide an academic workshop environment in order to encourage individual and group class participation and critical thinking. This is strengthened by the opportunity for guest lecture slots, introducing the students to national and international experts from academia and practice.

### **14.3 Awards and Classification**

#### **14.4.1 LLM International Commercial Law**

An LLM International Commercial Law will be awarded in accordance with the University's Regulations for the Course Based Postgraduate Curriculum Framework (Mode R).

#### **14.4.2 Fallback Awards**

A student who does not wish or is unable to complete the LLM International Commercial Law course may apply for a fallback award. Available awards are a Postgraduate Diploma in International Commercial Law or a Postgraduate Certificate in International Commercial Law. These will be awarded in accordance with the University's Regulations for the Course Based Postgraduate Curriculum Framework (Mode R).

To be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in International Commercial Law, a student must pass all 120 credits of CLS modules (not including 7040CLS Project or 7050CRB Entrepreneurial Practice). To be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in International Commercial Law, a student must take and pass 60 credits (not including 7040CLS Project).

#### **Cascade of Awards:**

Where a student does not meet the requirements of the award for which they are registered the following cascades will apply:

LLM International Commercial Law
Postgraduate Diploma in International Commercial Law

Postgraduate Certificate in International  
Commercial Law



Module credit level	Module Code	Title	Learning Credit Value	Assessment Credit Value	Mandatory/ Optional	Course Learning Outcomes								
						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>LEVEL 7</b>														
7	7055CLS	Research Skills	15	15	Mandatory			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7016CLS	Commercial Law in Action	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
7	7017CLS	International Sale of Goods	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7018CLS	Intellectual Property Law	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7057CLS	Research Design	15	15	Mandatory			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7031CLS	World Trade Organisation Law	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7032CLS	Comparative Commercial Remedies	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7033CLS	International Taxation Law	15	15	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7050CRB	Entrepreneurial Practice	10	10	Mandatory				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	7040CLS	Project*	50	50	Mandatory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
+														
Depending on the length of placement, students undertaking professional experience will study 1, 2 or 3 of the modules below. A student taking a one-semester placement will take 7023CLS. A student taking a two-semester placement will take 7023CLS and 7041CLS. A student taking a three-semester placement will take all three modules.														
7	7041CLS	Postgraduate Professional Experience 1**	0	0	Mandatory			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7042CLS	Postgraduate Professional Experience 2**	0	0	Mandatory			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	7023CLS	Postgraduate Professional Experience 3**	0	0	Mandatory			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

\* Internships as part of this module are subject to availability and a competitive application process

\*\* Professional experience opportunities are subject to availability and competitive application process. They are not guaranteed by the University.

Although the University will provide support and help source opportunities, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure a placement. Students who are not successful to find a placement by the university deadline will continue in the standard LLM International Commercial Law. Please note that for Tier 4 students you will need to apply and secure a visa extension before you can go on placement and you must ensure that your placement dates comply with your Visa requirements.

## **15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure**

The programme is subject to the general University admission procedures and access policies. A student should normally possess either a single (or joint) honours degree in law or an honours degree where law has been studied to an appropriate level (e.g. meeting graduate level law exemption requirements for one of the professional accountancy bodies); but each application will be considered on its merits and in appropriate cases consideration will be given to other academic qualifications and relevant work experience. In particular, applicants with first and second degrees in history, politics, International relations and business will be considered for the course. Careful monitoring of applications takes place to ensure that applicants are suited to the programme. The School will normally require the applicant to possess at least a lower second class honours degree, but lesser award may be acceptable where the student displays equivalent skills via academic qualifications and work experience.

Successful applicants will be given preliminary reading to undertake before the start of the programme to familiarise themselves with the substantive law and its legal and business context, and in the case of those who do not possess a law background, to allow them to become familiar with legal materials and legal writing.

- Applications from those not possessing a first degree will also be considered after careful consideration of the applicant's educational and work history and their capacity to complete the programme.
- In the case of overseas applicants, an adequate proficiency in English must be demonstrated. This would normally be a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 or its equivalent.

Accreditation for prior learning (APL) is in accordance with University regulations.

## **16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment**

This Course conforms to the standard Postgraduate [University Regulations](#)

## 17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

- The course has been designed in accordance with the University's regulations pertaining to Postgraduate courses.
- Coventry Law School has a strong portfolio of research, not only in terms of peer reviewed publications but also research for consultancy, knowledge exchange, externally funded projects and legal practice in order to provide engaging and cutting-edge legal education provision which is research led and/or informed. Many staff belong to formal research centres within the University. Research and research outputs from Coventry Law School staff inform the delivery, content and assessment of LLM International Commercial Law modules. Coventry Law School publishes its own law journal (Coventry Law Journal) providing staff, students, alumni and visiting lecturers to contribute articles and recent legal developments. Postgraduate students are encouraged to submit their project report or dissertation for publication in this and other journals and students are encouraged to participate in postgraduate conferences. A growing number of academic staff within Coventry Law School also conduct globally recognised research from within the University's numerous research centres.
- Guest lectures are regularly provided to the LLM students by both practitioners and legal experts, providing input in the delivery of modules and extra-curricular employability related events. Such lectures expose the students to both legal expertise and the challenges of legal practice and have been employed extensively in areas of human rights and humanitarian law and commercial, environmental and corporate law. The School has various visiting professors who provide guest lectures and articles for publication in the Coventry Law Journal.
- Students are encouraged to become members of the University's Global Leader's Programme and various conferences and field trips organised by the School and Faculty, thus augmenting their employability and networking skills.
- The postgraduate students can take advantage of the Law school's links with local firms, practitioners and others in the legal profession. For example:
  - The Annual Lanchester Rose Mooting Competition is sponsored by 43 Temple Row Chambers, Birmingham
  - The Senate House 24 Hour Mooting Competition is sponsored by Senate House Chambers, Northampton and supported by the Warwickshire Law Society, Junior Lawyers Division
  - The Law Employment Clinic and Advocacy Clinic is run by Central England Law Centres and the Law Employment Clinic in particular is partnered with Allen Overy LLP
  - Placements and graduate opportunities have been offered at various organisations including the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Age UK, Coventry Refugee Migrant Centre, British Red Cross, Volvo, Rotherhams LLP, Wigley Group, Thomas Horton LLP and Shoosmiths LLP - places are not guaranteed and subject to competition.
- Destination of Leavers in Higher Education Survey 2016/2017 issued by HESA demonstrates that 88% of surveyed graduates are in positive graduate destinations.
- LLM Business Law achieved 100% overall satisfaction in the PTES National Student Survey 2018.
- The Guardian University Guide 2019 ranked the University 13<sup>th</sup> overall in the United Kingdom and has been ranked Top Modern University of the Year for 7 consecutive years since 2012.

- Coventry University has been awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework, June 2017.
- The report of the QAA's Institutional Audit of Coventry University undertaken in February 2015 confirmed that:
  - The setting and maintenance of the academic standards of awards meet UK expectations.
  - The quality of student learning opportunities meets UK expectations.
  - The quality of the information about learning opportunities meets UK expectations.
  - The enhancement of student learning opportunities meets UK expectations.

The quality of the course is evaluated through a variety of different means, which includes but is not limited to:

- The course is managed by the Law Board of Study of the Faculty of Business and Law. The assurance and quality of the course, modules and their assessment is the responsibility of the Board of Study.
- The Course team carry out ongoing review of course performance as part of the Postgraduate Course Quality and Enhancement Monitoring (CQEM) process.
- The Faculty Programme Assessment Board is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations.
- External Examiners report annually on the programme including modular level teaching provision and assessment. These are then considered in the CQEM report.
- Students are represented within Student Forums (now Student Voice), as part of the CQEM reporting process, at the Board of Study and at Faculty Board. Forums are often held during a formal class to allow all students to participate in the process.
- Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires in addition to the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey.
- Staff teaching may be observed by the Head of School, Deputy Head of School and/or Associate Heads of School in accordance with the University's teaching observation policy.
- All courses are subject to continuing and periodic review.

## 18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional key sources of information about the course and student support other than those provided centrally by the University. These include,

- Academic Course Director(s) are responsible for particular activities across the course and are able to provide advice and support to students in course-related matters; and to direct students to relevant support within the School and university
- Students will be provided with a student handbook detailing the structure of the programme and the relevant regulations and additional information can be found on CU Online through the CourseWeb.
- Further guidance is provided by the Faculty Registry course support team, located on the ground floor of the George Eliot Building, where a postgraduate team complements the work of the Course Team by providing advice concerning course related matters.
- Students will have access to a student advice Chatbot which provides answers to general queries and signposts students to various support provisions throughout the Faculty and wider University.
- Students are supported by Academic Progress Coaches throughout the duration of their postgraduate studies. Each progress coach receives formal training and will provide both pastoral and academic support to students in order to enhance student performance.
- In addition to the Progress Coach system, module leaders and project supervisors operate a system of 'surgery hours'. Students who wish to discuss a matter with a member of staff may do so during the advertised surgery hours or make an alternative appointment time.
- Support for academic writing and good academic practice is provided by members of the school and through an online LibGuide dedicated to OSCOLA referencing. In-depth tuition on writing and referencing skills is provided by the Research Skills and Design modules, and students are encouraged to seek to have their work published in the Coventry Law Journal and other publications
- Students will receive individual written feedback, generic feedback via the module web page/ in teaching sessions on their work and may also make an appointment to see the relevant lecturer regarding any work submitted.
- The law librarian holds appointments to advise students on matters relating to the library and postgraduate legal research.
- An Employment Personal Tutor (EPT) for law dedicated to careers advice is available for individual consultation by appointment and through surgery hours on matters relating to careers and CVs.
- Law Futures provides support for those students seeking placements/employment through career events/ individual support and group sessions.
- The Law School has a dedicated moot room, with audio and visual recording equipment.
- Reasonable adjustments can be made to the learning, teaching, assessment and support of the course to maximise accessibility to students with disabilities. For example individual examination arrangements, enlarged print hand-outs and the University Welfare Office can arrange scribes, note-takers where appropriate.