

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	International Business Law (distance learning)
Award	LLM
School	The City Law School
Department or equivalent	Academic Courses
Programme code	LALMIBL01
Type of study	Part Time (distance learning)
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90.0

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Our distance learning Master of Laws (LLM) in International Business Law provides you with the legal skills and knowledge to succeed in today's global business environment.

We have designed our programme with one aim in mind: flexibility. Because our programme is delivered on-line, you can study wherever and whenever it suits you. To that end, the programme is ideally suited for those who are employed or are seeking employment in a variety of sectors including business, finance, transport, energy, and public service. As the emphasis of the programme is on the practical and problem solving aspects of the law, it will also benefit those who may not possess a legal background.

The academics and practitioners who will teach you on the programme include specialists in the law relating to international business, and the modules offered include subjects pertinent to the study of International Business Law.

As this is a distance learning programme, the virtual learning environment (VLE) will provide the key component of the e-learning education platform with virtual access to students. There are three programme options:

1. You may complete the Core module (Foundations of Law in International Business) and any other elective module from the range of modules offered and obtain a Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) in International Business Law. [Core + one elective for 60 credits].
2. You have the option of finishing your studies and obtaining a Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) in International Business Law upon completion of the Core module (Foundations of Law in International Business) and any three elective modules from the range of modules offered. [Core + three electives for 120 credits].
3. If you wish to proceed to gain the Master of Laws (LLM) in International Business Law, you will be required additionally to complete an additional elective module and undertake a supervised Dissertation (10,000 words) on a topic related to one of the areas you cover on the programme. [Core + four electives + Dissertation for 180 credits].

Should you exit with a Pg Cert or Pg Dip, you are welcome to return to continue your studies towards obtaining the Pg Dip or LLM, respectively, provided all the awards are completed within 5 years of your first registration for the award.

Upon successful completion of this LLM programme you will have achieved a total of 180 credits at level 7; 30 of these credits will have been attained by completing a dissertation module, on an area of the LLM International Business that you have identified as being of specific interest to you or, relevant to your own career development.

If you exit the programme with a Pg Cert, you should have acquired a systematic knowledge of the taught core modules in your chosen area of study and/ or professional practice. In addition, you should expect to be able to critically discuss the current issues and/ or new developments in these areas and also have good knowledge of the techniques and skills you would need to solve them.

If you exit the programme with a Pg Dip, you will have acquired in addition to the above, in depth knowledge of specific areas of study and/ or practice defined by your choice of elective modules. In addition, you should have acquired a more comprehensive ability to use the techniques and skills required to advance your own research and scholarship.

By the end of this programme you should have developed a systematic and in depth knowledge of your area of study and/ or professional practice. You should have a practical knowledge of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge of your discipline and be able to apply these skills in an original way. Your conceptual understanding should enable you to critically evaluate, current research, advanced scholarship and methodologies in your area.

Typically, as a holder of this qualification you should have the qualities and transferable skills to facilitate the independent learning required for your continued professional development. In addition, you will have developed the skills to exercise your initiative and make decisions in complex situations in a work environment.

### Aims

The distance learning LLM International Business Law is designed to provide graduates with specialist knowledge of certain key areas of law relevant to international business. The course aims to enhance your professional skills and ability to locate, interpret, analyse and criticise the laws, rules, policies and practices that are essential to the functioning of international business.

### **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

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

#### Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate specialist knowledge of certain key areas of law relating to international business.

- Evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in selected areas of International Business Law.
- Identify and critique current problems and/or new insights in the area of International Business Law.
- Demonstrate how techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in International Business Law.

Skills:

- Display enhanced communication skills, including the ability to express complex arguments clearly and accurately in writing.
- Apply knowledge of the law, whether gained during current or previous studies, in an appropriate and, on occasion, original manner to address issues of concern to selected areas of International Business Law.
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in addressing problems or issues arising from the current state of the law in the subject areas studied and/or proposals for its development or reform.
- Deal with complex issues, including those where data may be incomplete, both systematically and creatively and to reach sound judgements.

Values and attitudes:

- Construct coherent and principled legal arguments in specific areas of study.
- Deal with research materials ethically and appropriately, including correctly referencing the work of others.
- Show tolerance in relation to divergent opinions.

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**

The distance learning LLM in International Business Law programme will be delivered entirely on-line vis-à-vis the virtual learning environment (VLE) called Moodle. To access the VLE, you will require a computer with a stable connection to the Internet. (Please see the FAQ section of our website – minimum technical specifications are available upon request). You will be given an induction on use during the registration and induction week before your first term. For each module, you will receive access to a Module Learning Pack (MLP) comprising relevant learning materials and links to additional resources. MLPs are written by our experts and available on the VLE's e-bookshelf. As a City University London student, you will also have access to our extensive list of library resources and databases available on-line. Weekly teaching units will include on-line learning objects, such as interactive media context that you can access from anywhere and at any time – allowing you flexibility so you can manage your learning.

Academic support will be provided, for instance by way of asynchronous Q&A forums, e-mail or telephone contact and synchronous 1-on-1 'chats' with e-tutors by appointment. City University London offers general IT support for students via its 24-hour Service Desk. You will be assigned a Personal Tutor as well, whom you may

contact regarding programme-level assistance.

The programme provides you with interactive learning opportunities combining a range of learning technologies. Whilst it is a self-directed study course, there is also an emphasis on interactive engagement, with learning activities using discussion forums and chat rooms to help you to discuss and extend your learning. Each module is facilitated by an e-tutor who will offer technical and academic support, helping you to draw out learning vis-à-vis the Module Learning Packs and on-line multimedia content (e.g. video clips, podcasts and captured lectures) and the activities offered, and the wider literature.

At the start of the programme, you will be offered an on-line programme induction. For each academic term you will find your Study Plan in the calendar facility of the VLE, which will provide you with key dates and landmarks to help you to plan for your learning, activities and assignments. You will be reminded of upcoming events and deadlines via a calendar widget and pop-up reminders. During your first academic term, you will undertake the Core module for 10 weeks. Once the Core module has been completed successfully, the programme allows for some flexibility in how you proceed with your studies. You may choose to take either one or two 'elective' modules during the following academic term depending on your own schedule. You are advised, particularly if you are in employment during your studies, that taking two modules concurrently will involve a heavy workload and therefore may be very demanding of your time.

On-line contact will be between you and your e-tutor and materials. Whilst the conventional student often gets only two hours of lecture on many LLM programmes, on our distance learning programme this delivery is provided differently – on-line with media, audio, e-materials and a study manual. As a distance learning student, you get the extra benefit of a virtual tutorial and you are able to contact your e-tutor at any time by e-mail and discussion board. Skype and phone access is also available. You will also get weekly feedback on work submitted unlike the conventional student. Of course, there is also formative work and summative work both with feedback provided on the VLE.

Our elective modules cover a wide range of topics related to International Business Law. All modules run over a period of 10 weeks (10 units). The syllabus will comprise subjects covered in eight learning units, plus one formative (revision/self-reflection) unit and one summative assessment unit. Each unit comprises on-line media (30—60 minutes), discussion board (1 hour 30 minutes), individual feedback opportunities and personal tutorial support. Units will be set out clearly in the Learning Packs. You should expect more contact time per module than you might have on a course taught in a traditional classroom. Each Module Learning Pack will contain pre-assigned reading, thinking points, practice questions, additional reading and summaries. The Module Learning Packs are interactive; with hyperlinks to relevant reading and electronic sources that may be of interest.

Each module requires approximately 300 hours of study. This is devoted to on-line activity, preparation for activities, to read widely around the subject area being studied, and assessment. Students will normally spend between 25 and 30 hours a week on each module, comprised mainly of self-directed and on-line hours. Selected readings and guidance on additional reading materials are provided; you are expected to develop

your research skills through following up materials for yourself in relation to the taught modules. Research skills are developed more explicitly through the work undertaken in preparation for the Dissertation.

By the end of the programme, you will not only have gained specialist knowledge in law from an international business perspective but will have acquired transferable skills essential to understanding, and succeeding in, the world of International Business Law.

All students are required to own a computer with good internet access and webcam and audio functionality. You will be provided with a university e-mail account and secure access to your virtual learning environment. You are expected regularly to submit work on-line and engage in on-line activities. Whilst your participation on the VLE will be recorded, it is your responsibility to review your progress and ensure you are completing work as assigned.

Also available to you are additional learning support materials, such as our On-line English Resource ([lawenglish.net](http://lawenglish.net)), Lawbore ([lawbore.net](http://lawbore.net)), Lawbore Professional ([lawborepro.net](http://lawborepro.net)), and academic writing and learning software. A video on studying on-line and using electronic materials will be available. A comprehensive distance learning student handbook will also be provided. The e-tutor and Programme Director will also offer guidance and assistance.

This programme has been developed in accordance QAA reference point for Master's degree characteristics.

## **WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

### Assessment and Assessment Criteria

On a weekly basis, you will get feedback via the discussion board per each discussion thread. The Learning Packs will contain self-assessment questions, and tutors will provide formative feedback on your responses to these questions. Participation on taught modules is a pre-requisite for sitting the final assessment. Participation is mandatory and is therefore assessed as a pass/fail summative assessment. The activity requiring participation may vary from module to module, however, a standard will be maintained across all modules. For instance, if a module requires participation vis-à-vis posting messages/responses on a module discussion board and there are eight weekly opportunities to do so, you will be required to submit four posts (50%) for assessment. Each post must be sufficient in length (i.e. approximately 500 words). You are expected to participate in all on-line activities.

Summative assessment of the taught modules that comprise the degree will be by coursework only (3,500 words). It is considered that you will obtain the greatest academic benefit and satisfaction from researching a topic, reflecting on it and providing considered arguments in relation to it, as well as affording the opportunity to explore particular topics in greater depth. All coursework must be submitted via the VLE. Email submissions will not be accepted.

You will be offered a range of assessment titles in each subject. Additional titles may be added to reflect any developments in the subject occurring during the teaching of the module, enabling you to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of contemporary

issues and to respond to the most up to date information available.

The requirement to complete a (10,000 words) Dissertation reflects the assumption, and the concerns of employers, that an LLM graduate should display a high standard of competence in research and a capacity for original thought. Dissertation supervision will be undertaken by internal members of staff and visiting lecturers ensuring that expert guidance is available to all. Where it is appropriate for a student to be supervised by a visiting lecturer, because of the subject area of the dissertation, the student should ensure that they have agreed in advance methods of communication including the mode and frequency of contact.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

#### Feedback on assessment

As explained above, you will be given opportunities to submit work for formative assessment and feedback. Feedback will be in the form of on-line discussion boards, self-assessment questions as well as formative and summative feedback on problem scenarios and essays. Since feedback is essential for learning, it will be given prior to the submission of summative assessments so that you can use feedback effectively. For coursework, submissions will be marked and feedback provided via Moodle. On your first module, Foundations of Law in International Business, you will receive multiple opportunities for formative feedback, both on writing brief answers and longer essays.

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on dissertations may be longer. The full Assessment and Feedback Policy can be found at: <http://www.city.ac.uk/about/education/quality-manual/6-assessment>

#### Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The taught part of the programme will be weighted as 83.3% of your final mark and the

Dissertation will be weighted as worth 16.7%.

The pass mark for each module is 50%. Students are required to achieve a minimum mark of 50% in the Core module, Foundations of Law in International Business, before proceeding to the additional taught elective modules and, if desired, the Dissertation. Participation on taught modules is mandatory and is therefore assessed as a pass/fail summative assessment (see above).

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

Re-sit: you will be offered one re-sit attempt when the module runs next. If you are required to re-sit a module, you may be prevented from progressing on the programme, or prevented from enrolling on more than one new module in the succeeding term(s), at the discretion of the Programme Director.

If you are successful in the re-sit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a re-sit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the component that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your re-sit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

Coursework and Dissertations may be subject to viva voce examinations in order to investigate allegations of misconduct.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:  
[http://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/word\\_doc/0020/337340/s19.docx](http://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/word_doc/0020/337340/s19.docx)

The minimum period of enrolment for this part-time programme is four academic terms. The maximum period of enrolment is five years. Students may elect to suspend studies for a maximum of two consecutive terms without a claim accepted for extenuating circumstances.

## WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

### Master's Degree:

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught	7	150	83.3	With Distinction	70
Dissertation	7	30	16.7	With Commendation	60
				Without	50

				classification	
<u>Postgraduate Diploma:</u>					
	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught	7	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Commendation	60
				Without classification	50
<u>Postgraduate Certificate:</u>					
	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Commendation	60
				Without classification	50

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Taught component

The distance learning LLM in International Business Law programme consists of taught modules of 150 credits (five modules at 30 credits each) and a compulsory Dissertation module of 30 credits. In the first academic term, all students are required to take the Core module, Foundations of Law in International Business (30 credits). Upon successful completion of the Core module, you will select any further four taught modules from the range of available subjects. Students are free to take one or two modules each academic term. Typically, once all taught modules have been successfully completed, students proceed to the Dissertation (30 credits).

The modules listed below will draw from a variety of sources of law including laws from different systems of law (European Union Law, international law and the English common law) to make your learning experience more rewarding. The programme will take an internationalist and comparative legal approach wherever appropriate, an approach that is more enriching for professionals who work in a global environment. This distinguishes The City Law School distance learning LLM from most other LLMs offered by UK universities.

Please note that it is possible to start the course in January, May and September of each year. The Foundations of Law in International Business will run three times a year. In the unlikely event the Foundations module does not run owing to low recruitment, students may be asked to defer entry. All other modules will run according to demand.

Module Title	SITS	Module	Core/	Compensation	Level
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	<b>Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Elective</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	
Foundations of Law in International Business	LMM146	30	Core	No	7
International Corporation Law	LMM147	30	Elective	No	7
Regulation of Information Technology and Intellectual Property	LMM148	30	Elective	No	7
Dispute Resolution in International Commerce	LMM149	30	Elective	No	7
Law of International Trade	LMM151	30	Elective	No	7
International Investment Law	LMM152	30	Elective	No	7
Legal Aspects of International Finance	LMM154	30	Elective	No	7
Clinical Legal Education and Global Governance	LMM177	30	Elective	No	7
Introduction to Contemporary Issues in Transatlantic Relations	LMM178	30	Elective	No	7

Dissertation component

<b>Module Title</b>	<b>SITS Code</b>	<b>Module Credits</b>	<b>Core/ Elective</b>	<b>Compensation Yes/No</b>	<b>Level</b>
Dissertation	LMM153	30	Core	No	7

The Dissertation is an independent research essay. The model for the Dissertation is a law journal article, law review essay or literature review (10,000 words), and this is reflected in the number of module credits (30 credits). The duration of time for the Dissertation should be between 10—12 weeks but may be longer subject to approval from your supervisor or tutor. You will be required to submit a preliminary draft essay topic (500 words) and preliminary list of sources, following which a Dissertation supervisor, selected from our range of experts, will be assigned to you. Your first meeting with your Dissertation supervisor must be held 'face-to-face' in person, via Skype or Adobe Connect. Following the first meeting, you will be expected to develop your preliminary topic and list of sources into a full proposal. Your progress on the dissertation will be discussed during the second and any subsequent meetings.

To obtain the LLM in International Business Law you must complete the Core module, Foundations of Law in International Business, plus any four modules and conduct your

Dissertation on a topic related to an area studied on the programme.

### **TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?**

By the end of the programme, you will not only have gained specialist knowledge in key areas of law from an international business perspective but will have also acquired transferable skills essential to understanding, and succeeding in, the world of International Business Law. With this sound basis, you will be well placed for developing a career in international business or law.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

### **WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?**

Students are encouraged to seek out internships and other placement opportunities, and should speak to the Programme Director for further advice in this regard.

### **HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

The City Law School accepts candidates for postgraduate study who have very strong academic potential and good English. Applicants should normally hold a first degree in law from a recognised university (Lower second class honours UK-standard or higher). Applicants with UK honours degrees or equivalent in a subject other than law are also encouraged to apply and will be considered.

An appropriate professional qualification and relevant experience may also be acceptable. Also, those without formal qualifications but who have more than 10 years relevant working experience may be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants whose first language is not English, the following qualifications are also required:

- IELTS: 7.0 average, 6.5 minimum in each section
- PTE Academic: 65 or better

Other language tests may be accepted or exemptions granted, at the discretion of the Programme Director, if you are able to demonstrate evidence of proficiency in English to the level of 7.0 on the IELTS.

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