

Programme Title: LLM in Commercial Law: Singapore and London



## Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Singapore Management University and Queen Mary University of London
Teaching Institution	Singapore Management University and Queen Mary University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	LLM in Commercial Law: Singapore and London
Name of Interim Award(s)	N/A
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	15 months
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	N/A
Date Programme Specification Approved	
Responsible School / Institute	Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

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Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

Singapore Management University

### Programme Outline

The programme will give students the opportunity to study in two major commercial hubs in the common law world and to gain insight into the legal underpinnings of commerce in the East and the West. It will be very intensive and targeted to a mature-student market where we envisage that many students will have prior professional experience and will be used to intensive and demanding time management. Students will be doing 135 credits in London and 135 credits in Singapore (270 credits in total) in the space of 15 months. This will consist of a mixture of intensive short courses, courses taught over a number of weeks, and a research project. The programme will also feature extracurricular activities including networking events, career events and social events. As such, the programme will provide more variety and a greater breadth of experience to students undertaking it than a regular one-year master's programme.

In terms of admissions, the programme will be capped at 40 students, at least for the first few years of running.

While participation in the programme depends upon obtaining visas for Singapore and for the UK, students who are unable to obtain a visa for either location should consult us with a view to establishing whether alternative arrangements may be made in their regard.

## Aims of the Programme

The Programme aims to provide students with a unique opportunity to read commercial law in two major commercial hubs, London and Singapore. The programme is designed to give students a broad overview of Asian commercial law in Singapore followed by the opportunity to build on this knowledge by going into more depth in London, through more specialised taught modules as well as a dissertation.

It also aims to give students the opportunity to experience both the British model of postgraduate education which places a major emphasis on independent study and development of critical analysis skills and research skills (in particular by writing a long dissertation) and the American/Asian system which has a strong focus on the Socratic method of teaching and involves more face-time with teaching staff and a greater variety of assessment methods (such as presentations and short applied tasks). They will therefore develop a more varied range of skills than they would otherwise, and experience a greater range of learning processes.

## What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will have gained an expert and in-depth understanding of the workings of commercial law as a distinct field of law, as well as of the application of the law to everyday practice. They will also have gained the ability critically to assess and comment upon the current state of the law from an international and transnational perspective as well as the ability to conduct advanced research in this area of law.

Academic Content:	
A1	Students will acquire a thorough understanding of key aspects of commercial law from multiple perspectives, with a major focus on international and comparative issues, and of the importance of legal principles, rules and laws underlying business and commercial relationships.
A2	Students will acquire an understanding of the realities underlying cross-border business and how these realities have affected and continue to affect legal development in this area.
A3	Students will acquire an in-depth understanding of different regions' approaches to resolving commercial problems, and the ways in which these respective solutions achieve (or fail to achieve) their ends.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B1	By the end of the programme, students will have developed the ability to manage, analyse and evaluate various legal sources and material relating to commercial law generally as well as discrete specialisations within commercial law, including international instruments, domestic legislation, case law, contractual documents and industry-developed terms and conditions, and academic commentary. In this regard, students will not only be able to assess critically the importance of the various different legal concepts that derive from such sources, but also to formulate legal arguments and proposals in relation to various complex topics that will be examined.
B2	Students will further develop their ability to demonstrate an understanding of and review a wide range of legal material and apply that knowledge to the solution of practical legal problems. This will involve them being able to identify complex legal principles and rules and apply them to various commercial circumstances that frequently arise, or can arise in the future. By the end of the programme, students will also have developed the ability to appraise the general state of the law and formulate legally sound commentary on potential future directions or solutions to current areas of uncertainty.
B3	By the end of this programme, students will have acquired the knowledge and capacity to plan and implement research projects within the area of commercial law, particularly projects involving the use of comparative methods.

Attributes:	
C1	Students will develop the ability to exercise personal responsibility and initiative to manage a wide range of legal material and their learning.
C2	Students will acquire the ability to assimilate information from a wide variety of material and to challenge such material through critical and comparative analysis and discussion. Students will be able to identify complex legal concepts and apply them in such ways as to resolve actual scenarios.
C3	Students will develop expertise in a globally significant area of law through engagement with the content which the programme comprises.

## How Will You Learn?

The learning process will take place in a variety of ways to cater for the range of transferable skills useful for pursuing a professional career in the field.

QMUL: For each module in London students will receive a minimum of 22 hours of lectures. For modules with large cohorts, lectures will be supplemented by a number of small group interactive seminars to allow more individual attention, and allowing students to test their understanding and to learn from both the seminar leader and their peers. In that framework, there will be opportunities for students to present arguments in oral and written form and to conduct independent research. For modules with smaller cohorts, all teaching will be conducted seminar-style. Both lectures and seminars will be supported by an online learning environment, provided via QMPlus. Students will conduct an independent research project under the guidance of a research supervisor, producing a 15,000 word dissertation. Research and writing skills sessions will be delivered to support the learning process and the preparation of the final dissertation.

SMU: Students read a total of 6 courses/modules at SMU, all of which are compulsory. Each of the six modules taken at SMU will be of a value of 22.5 credits. Each module will consist of 30 hours of classes, c.120 hours of preparation time for class and c.75 hours of assessment preparation time. Learning objectives are indicated in the module descriptions. All courses are exclusive to LL.M. students and will be taught in SMU's characteristic seminar style (where participants benefit from lively discussions and presentation in a highly interactive learning environment). As is the practice in the School of Law, prominent practitioners may, from time to time, be invited to participate in these sessions. Additionally, students are required to participate in a professional development workshop. This full-day workshop is specially organised by the SMU Office of Post-Graduate Professional Programmes (PGPP) for all postgraduate students in SMU.

## How Will You Be Assessed?

QMUL: Mastery of the law and understanding of the context within which it has developed will be assessed by means of unseen examinations and/or essays and/or coursework together with a 15,000 word dissertation. Legal research and writing skills will be assessed by means of the dissertation. The precise methods of assessment for each module are recorded in the respective module specifications. At least 50% (by weighting in the module) will be quality assured in some form. QMUL will quality assure the 45 credits carried forward from SMU accordingly.

SMU: A holistic approach towards course assessment is adopted. Significant assessment weightage is allocated to class participation, term assignments, oral and written presentations, whilst the end of term written examination typically accounts for a maximum of 50% of the final grade in a course. The precise methods of assessment for each course are recorded in the respective course outlines. QMUL courses are recognised to the extent that students must meet all course requirements for graduation.

## How is the Programme Structured?

July Year 1: Singapore Induction.

2 x 22.5-credit modules taught intensively in Singapore. These credits will be recognized for the purposes of the London LLM degree (total 45 credits).

Mid-August to November: 4 x 22.5-credit modules at SMU (total 90 credits).

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December: Re-sit opportunity for failed SMU modules.  
 Beginning January: London Induction (second weekend following 1st January).  
 End January: Cumberland Lodge Study Retreat: Discussion of research topics, assistance in drafting of detailed proposal; allocation of dissertation supervisor and topics; research systems and methods (with emphasis on comparative methods in view of the programme's nature); reading and annotating legal materials.  
 January to March: 4 x 22.5-credit taught modules at CCLS (total 90 credits).  
 Students will receive support from the Critical Thinking and Writing non-credit-bearing module.  
 April/May: Assessment period for taught modules.  
 June to September Year 2: Dissertation writing up.  
 October: CCLS Exam Board for SMU Double Degree Programme.  
 Students will graduate at the same time as London LLM students  
 Credits with each institution: 135 (45 mutually recognized to make up 180)  
 Grand total: 270 credits

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
International Business Law: An Asian Perspective (SMU)		22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 1
E-Commerce Law (SMU)		22.5	7	Core		Semester 1
Commercialisation of Intellectual Property Rights (SMU)		22.5	7	Core		Semester 1
Financial Regulation in Singapore, Hong Kong and Greater China (SMU)		22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 1
Foreign Investment Law in Asia (SMU)		22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 1
Alternative Regulatory Mechanisms in the Asian Context (SMU)		22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 1
Ethics in Business and Finance (CCLS)		22.5	7	Compulsory		Semester 2
Private Banking Law (CCLS)		22.5	7	Elective		Semester 2
Special Contracts in International Finance (CCLS)		22.5	7	Elective		Semester 2
Regulation of Financial Markets II (CCLS)		22.5	7	Elective		Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
International and Comparative Law of Registered Trademarks (CCLS)		22.5	7	Elective		Semester 2
International Law of Patents, Trade Secrets and Related Rights (CCLS)		22.5	7	Elective		Semester 2
Current Issues in International Copyright (CCLS)		22.5	7	Elective		Semester 2
Cyberspace Law (CCLS)		22.5	7	Elective		Semester 2
Privacy and Information Law (CCLS)		22.5	7	Elective		Semester 2
Electronic Commerce Law (CCLS)		22.5	7	Elective		Semester 2
Dissertation (CCLS)		45	7	Compulsory		Semester 2 & 3
Transnational Problems in Commercial Contracts				Compulsory		Semester 2

### What Are the Entry Requirements?

For Law graduates, the usual qualification for entry to the LLM programme is a degree in law or a degree with a substantial law content, normally of at least upper-second class honours (or equivalent). For non-law graduates, they may be considered on the basis of exceptional professional experience that directly relates to the subject area. Non-law graduates with good honours, that have also obtained the equivalent of good honours in CPE and Bar Finals/Legal Practice examinations, or passed the solicitors' qualifying examination, may qualify. Law graduates with high 2.2 honours and at least five years professional legal experience may also qualify. Students from outside the United Kingdom must give evidence of their English language ability by producing an English language test score: IELTS 7.0 (minimum Writing: 7.0 and R, L, S: 5.5). Other English test results may also be considered in accordance with the QMUL admissions regulations. Applicants will apply directly to QMUL and, if they satisfy QMUL's admissions criteria and are shortlisted, will go through SMU's admissions process which involves passing a selection interview with a selector from SMU.

### How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students'

views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

## Academic Support

At SMU, all students will be academically supported throughout the programme, including out-of-class consultation with their professors. At the start of the Singapore portion of the programme, all students will go through the LLM Orientation Programme which includes training on the use of library resources for research, as well as a preparatory 2-day Common Law Workshop and a 2-day Legal Writing Workshop for students from a civil law background and those without a law background at all. Students will also attend the SMU Postgraduate Immersion Programme organised by the Office of Postgraduate Professional Programmes (PGPP), which gives them the opportunity to meet students from other postgraduate programmes and to immerse in the SMU postgraduate life. Additionally, all postgraduate students are required to attend a Leadership Development Series Workshop organised by PGPP mid-way through the programme. The topics for this workshop could range from career planning, resume writing and interviewing skills, to employment negotiations, wardrobe management and networking. While students are in Singapore, they will be kept connected with London via designated QMPlus pages and by being given prospective lecturers' office contact details.

For the London portion of the programme, one member of academic staff and one member of administrative staff from CCLS will visit Singapore in December to assist students with preliminary issues and to make the transition as smooth as possible. Once in London, students will receive a comprehensive induction. Students will also have a weekend retreat where they will be assisted with the preliminary stages of selecting a research topic, drafting a research proposal, considering their methodology and developing the skills needed to identify and use relevant materials. Lecturers on modules offered to the students will monitor students' progress and ensure that they integrate well with the London cohort taking the same modules (if applicable). Lecturers shall also be available to discuss any concerns students might have. SMU staff will make themselves (virtually) available to students on the programme while the students are in London.

## Programme-specific Rules and Facts

Please see attached Programme-Specific Regulations

### Programme-specific Facts

SMU will confer its LLM so long as (i) the student does not obtain more than 1 "F" grade in any SMU course AND achieves a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 at the end of the SMU portion of the programme and (ii) the student satisfies all course/credit requirements for obtaining the QMUL degree. The conferment of the SMU degree will be based solely on the student's performance at SMU. In order to be awarded the QMUL degree, students must (i) successfully progress from the Singapore to the London portion of the programme by satisfying all progression requirements and (ii) successfully complete all academic requirements set out by QMUL, by passing all 135 credits that are offered by CCLS. The classification of the QMUL degree will be based on marks obtained in 180 credits, including the mutually recognized 45 credits taken at SMU.

## Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)

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• Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

In January 2015 SMU became the first tertiary institution in Singapore to form a committee to study ways to support students with disabilities. SMU has about 70 students – 1 per cent of its total – with disabilities, including dyslexia, hearing and visual impairments, and physical disabilities such as paralysis of their limbs. In February 2015, SMU signed a Memorandum with the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) with a view to developing further its support for disabled students. The plans include reviewing the way students with disabilities are tested in class, and how they take part in co-curricular activities and overseas programmes. As a result SMU is developing state-of-the art support for its disabled students.

### Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

Several potential employers in London, some of them with offices in Singapore, have already endorsed the programme. We are also discussing with them the potential for programme-specific internship opportunities. Depending on the size of the cohort and their specific interests, designated career events will be organised for them.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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Person completing Programme Specification

Dr Miriam Goldby assisted by Christine Zhou

Person responsible for management of programme

Dr Miriam Goldby assisted by Christine Zhou

Date Programme Specification produced/amended  
by School Learning and Teaching Committee

01 July 2015

Date Programme Specification approved by  
Taught Programmes Board

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