

## Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary University of London and the Université Paris 1 Panthéon So
Teaching Institution	CCLS and the Sorbonne School of Law
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	Double LLM
Name of Interim Award(s)	LLM International Business Law
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	18 months
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	
QAA Benchmark Group	N/A
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

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

Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne

### Programme Outline

The QMUL-Sorbonne double LL.M. is a bilingual degree offered in French and English, in Paris, over 18 months.

The programme offers students the opportunity to study with two renowned institutions, and to develop their skills in international business law, European Law as well as French and English law.

Since its establishment more than 30 years ago, the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS) within the School of Law, has grown to become one of the world's leading institutions for the study of commercial law. The Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne School of Law is one of the most prominent and well-known French Law Schools.

Building upon the successes of the existing QMUL School of Law London-based LLM programme, and the more recent and innovative CCLS LLM in Paris programme; and the Sorbonne School of Law's LLM, this double-LLM programme brings a unique opportunity for combining study across the two legal systems of Civil and Common Law.

The programme runs full-time, with the 18 months broken down into three semesters:

- a first semester of modules taught in English at Queen Mary University of London, in Paris, from the beginning of January to the end of July. Students would be expected to take 6 taught modules offered by Queen Mary in Paris during the January – July

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period. They would further undertake a dissertation of 7,500 words;

- a second semester of classes conducted in French at Paris 1 from the beginning of September to the end of March (involving 5 courses offered within the French and European Law curriculum);
- a third and final semester from the beginning of April until the end of June, which involves an internship\*, overseen by the Sorbonne Law School.

There will be additional non-credit bearing offerings, including an Introduction to Common Law & the English Legal System; Critical Thinking and Writing in Law (English); legal French; and cultural visits to local legal institutions such as the Supreme Court, Parliament etc.

The programme is co-directed by Dr Maxi Scherer of Queen Mary University of London, and Professor Pierre Brunet of the Sorbonne Law School. It is fully integrated, meaning that students will be connected to both universities throughout the 18 months. Students receive inductions with QMUL and the Sorbonne Law School. Lecturers from both universities are available to students throughout the study period.

\* please note that Paris 1 and Queen Mary will make their best endeavours to assist students in securing internship placements for these 3 months. Should it occur that a student does not secure a position, then s/he will be required to submit a research dissertation, in French, on a topic of French or European law.

### Aims of the Programme

The Programme aims to provide students with a unique opportunity to study in French, English, international and comparative business law; in two languages, with two renowned Institutions.

The 18 month double LLM pathway combines the existing LL.M. programmes in Paris of: (i) an LL.M. in International Business Law at QMUL, and (ii) an LL.M. in French and European Law at the Sorbonne Law School.

The Programme aims to give students the opportunity to study within both the British and French models of postgraduate education, as well as undertake tangible work experience, through which they will develop a varied range of skills and knowledge, and experience a range of learning processes.

The intense mode of study aims further to enhance students' competencies in time management, prioritising, and adapting to pressure – all of which are skills anticipated by employers in the legal sector.

The aim is then for students to be able to take with them this range of knowledge, skills, competencies and experience in their chosen career path within an increasingly international legal profession.

### 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, including European Law and French 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:

A 1	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.
A 2	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.
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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 to the range of transferable skills useful for pursuing a professional career in law.

QMUL: Students receive academic support and advice at induction to help choose a coherent combination of modules which best meets their study, time and career plans. For each module students will receive a minimum of 22.5 hours of seminars/lectures in groups of generally no more than 35. The small cohort size allows students to test their understanding and to learn from both the module Convenor and their peers. In this framework, there will be opportunities for students to present arguments in oral and written form and to conduct independent research. Students will also benefit from classes which include students from the Paris LLM programme, thereby increasing the scope for peer-to-peer exchange and understanding. All classroom teaching is supported by an online learning environment, provided via QMPlus, which further facilitates students' management of personal study time across the semester.

Students will conduct an independent research project under the guidance of a research supervisor allocated from within CCLS, producing a 7,500 word dissertation. Research and writing skills support is provided in person and online to ensure that students make the most of the opportunity to engage successfully in a piece of personal research interest within the postgraduate academic context.

Sorbonne: Students receive academic support and advice at induction to meet the academics, choose their modules, and get to

know each other. Small class sizes encourage interactive teaching and learning with student presentations and group work. Classroom teaching is generally supported by an online learning environment, which further facilitates students' management of personal study time across the semester.

### 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 7,500 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 recognise the credits generated by the internship element (or the French dissertation, if necessary) through mark equivalency of the grades attributed by the Sorbonne. In the case of the internship, both co-Directors will be on the jury of the viva.

Sorbonne: All Sorbonne modules are assessed consistently through unseen written and/or oral examination.

### How is the Programme Structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if appropriate).

This programme is offered full-time only, over 18 months, starting in January.

Semester 1 – with QMUL

January – June, with exams in July, SEB in October (in line with the LLM in Paris)

6 modules chosen from the list of LLM in Paris modules offered in this semester.

Dissertation of 7,500 words to be submitted in August (in line with the September intake of the LLM in Paris)

Semester 2 – with Sorbonne

September – March, with exams in February/March.

Introduction au Droit Français = compulsory

Minimum of 120 hours from the modules offered under the curriculum of the Sorbonne Law School's LLM de droit français et de droit européen.

Semester 3

Internship element, with written work submission and viva in June/July

Internship 3 months minimum in Paris either in-house or with a law firm. To be arranged in advance and confirmed through a Convention de Stage.

Whilst Sorbonne and Queen Mary will make their best endeavours to assist students in securing internship placements for these 3 months, it is ultimately the student's responsibility. Should it occur that a student does not secure a position, then s/he will be required to submit a research dissertation, in French, on a topic of French or European law.

Non credit-bearing elements

With QMUL:

Introduction to Common Law & the English Legal System

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Critical Thinking and Writing in Law

With Paris 1:

Français langue étrangère et français juridique

Cultural visits to local legal institutions such as the Supreme Court, Parliament etc

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
English Contract Law	QLLP059	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
International Intellectual Property Law	QLLP058	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
Licensing Intellectual Property	QLLP014	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
Digital Intellectual Property	QLLP005	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
EU and US Design Law	QLLP050A	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
International and Comparative Law of Unfair Competition	QLLP053	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
International Law of Patents, Trade Secrets and Related Rights	QLLP052	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
International and Comparative Petroleum Law and Contracts	QLLP065	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
International Regulation and Governance of Energy	QLLP064	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
Negotiation Theory and Practice	QLLP039	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
International Commercial Arbitration (Regulation and Infrastructure)	QLLP038	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
International Commercial Arbitration (Applicable Laws and Procedures)	QLLP037	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
International Commercial Arbitration (Skills and Advocacy)	QLLP033	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
International Commercial Litigation	QLLP011A	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
International Construction Contracts and Dispute Resolution	QLLP012	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
Law of the World Trade Organisation	QLLP017A	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
International Banking Law	QLLP055	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
Law of Financial Crime: European and International Perspectives	QLLP044	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
Regulation of Financial Markets	QLLP016A	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
Corporate Finance Law	QLLP057	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
International Insolvency and Debt Restructuring	QLLP035	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
Insurance Law	QLLP051	22.5	7	Elective	1	B16
Introduction au droit français / Introduction to French law (Sorbonne)			7	Compulsory	1	A17
Droit des sociétés / Commercial and companies law (Sorbonne)			7	Elective	2	A17
Droit de l'entreprise / Corporate and business law (Sorbonne)			7	Elective	2	A17
Droit européen de la concurrence / European competition law (Sorbonne)			7	Elective	2	A17
Responsabilité civile / Civil liability (Sorbonne)			7	Elective	2	A17
Droit constitutionnel / Constitutional law (Sorbonne)			7	Elective	2	A17
Droit administratif / Administrative law (Sorbonne)			7	Elective	2	A17
Droit international privé / Private international law (Sorbonne)			7	Elective	2	A17
Droit européen de la propriété intellectuelle / European intellectual property law (Sorbonne)			7	Elective	2	A17
Droit du marché unique / Law of the single market (Sorbonne)			7	Elective	2	A17

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Libertés fondamentales / Fundamental liberties (Sorbonne)			7	Elective	2	A17
Droit des contrats / Contract Law (Sorbonne)			7	Elective	2	A17
Français Langue Etrangère et Juridique / French and Legal French (Sorbonne)			7	Compulsory	2	B16 & A17
Law Internship in France (Sorbonne)		22.5	7	Core	3	B17
QMUL Dissertation in International Business Law	QLLP304	22.5	7	Core	1	B16

### What Are the Entry Requirements?

These will be the standard CCLS / School of Law Entry requirements, as per the below

The usual qualification for entry to the LL.M. programme is a degree in law, or a degree with a substantial law content, normally of at least upper-second class honours (or equivalent). Namely, 13/20 at Licence or 11/20 at Masters level (if the Licence mark was a little lower than 13).

We consider every application on a case-by-case basis and anticipate that some applicants will be practising lawyers who have qualified either in France or their home jurisdiction and will have legal work experience, which will also be taken into account.

IELTS level 7.0 with minimum Writing: 7.0 and R, L, S: 5.5. No pre-sessional English classes are available in Paris. Should a student have 7.0 overall but 6.5 in the Writing, we would accept them with Critical Thinking and Writing in Law as a required element.

There will be an additional French language requirement of B2 equivalent in the Common European Language Framework. This will be assessed by the Sorbonne, only of those candidates that have been initially approved by QMUL based on the above.

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

QMUL: 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 intake of the LLM in Paris together with appropriate representation from staff within the CCLS and the University of London Institute in Paris. A student representative from the QMUL-Sorbonne Double-LLM will also be nominated to participate. The SSLC 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 at least once per semester.

Anonymous student feedback on each module is generated through a questionnaire to be filled out once teaching is complete. The feedback is aggregated electronically and used for discussions between module Convenors and the Programme Director, as well as within the broader context of programme review and development.

CCLS operates a Teaching and Learning Committee, which advises the Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of the LLM in Paris, the QMUL-Sorbonne Double, alongside other CCLS programmes; which facilitates a coordinated approach to monitoring the application of relevant QMUL policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through consideration of student surveys, and feedback.

Like all schools/institutes, CCLS operates an Annual Programme Review (APR) of its taught 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 module evaluations.

Sorbonne: Like CCLS, the Sorbonne uses a questionnaire method to garner student feedback on the classes offered, and to use these within the context of programme development and review.

Both Co-Directors of the Double LLM programme will be open to informal feedback from students, and will meet regularly to ensure that cross-institutional feedback is considered and incorporated as appropriate.

## Academic Support

The Programme Co-Directors, in coordination with colleagues and Committees at their respective Institutions, have operational responsibility for running the programme, and part of their role is to provide academic support to students and offer extensive office hours in Paris to address students needs on an individual, face to face basis.

Students will participate in two inductions – one at QMUL and one at the Sorbonne, where they will be advised and supported in their decisions regarding which modules to take. The inductions also provide them with introductory information and guidance about academic services including physical and electronic library resources, online learning environments, and the non-credit bearing courses.

CCLS Module Convenors, both in person when teaching in Paris, and via Skype, are available (within the equivalent of virtual office hours) to respond to student queries arising from their studies of the QMUL modules. They will also ensure that the Double LLM students integrate well with the LLM in Paris students with whom they will share the QMUL modules.

The following QMUL academic support mechanisms are in place:

- An individual dissertation supervisor will be allocated for each student
- The Critical Thinking and Writing in Law programme which has been successfully implemented for LLM in Paris students, will be extended to students of the Double LLM programme.
- Training in the use of online law library and database resources provided by the Law Librarian at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

For the Sorbonne:

- specific French language classes and French legal writing and oral expression training classes are part of the programme
- visits to cultural and institution (e.g. Supreme Court, Parliament etc.) are organised under the supervision of a Sorbonne academic
- Sorbonne's general seminar and conference series are open to all LLM students

## Programme-specific Rules and Facts

See separate Special Regulations.

From the QMUL side, students will receive provisional results of their summer exams in October, in line with students of the LLM in Paris. Their degree will be conferred at the DEB in October of the following year (also in line with the LLM in Paris). At the prior SEB (also in October, of the LLM in Paris), results of the internship element will be added to the previous grades in order for the overall grade average to be calculated. Success in the Sorbonne part of the Programme is also confirmed at this point.

## 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.

The Disability and Dyslexia Service can provide a range of supporting including:

- Advocacy and advice on providing reasonable adjustments for disabled students
- Guidance and advice in applying for a Disabled Student's Allowance (for UK students)
- Securing access to learning materials in alternative formats
- One-to-one support such as study skills tuition and mental health mentoring

Students should contact the Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) at the Mile End campus in London as soon as possible to arrange assistance that can be provided remotely. More information can be found at [www.dds.qmul.ac.uk/](http://www.dds.qmul.ac.uk/)

The Disability and Dyslexia Service can be contacted directly via email: [dds@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:dds@qmul.ac.uk)

The Sorbonne, similarly, ensures that students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues are supported appropriately throughout their studies, and in coordination with support provided by QMUL if/as necessary.

## Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

As part of such an established Institution in France, the Sorbonne School of Law has longstanding contacts across the French legal community.

CCLS also has good contacts in Paris – both in law firms and in company legal departments. CCLS is in touch with over 100 alumni in Paris, several of whom are interested in taking on interns. Good contacts have also been created through successful internships undertaken by LL.M. Paris students. Further, CCLS works with the Association Française des Juristes d'Entreprise (French Association of In-house Counsel) who regularly require interns across their 5000 membership.

The Sorbonne has run internships successfully as a component of their existing LLM for the past 10 years. CCLS, through its Postgraduate Law Professional Development Team, has assisted a number of its LLM in Paris students (and French students on the London LLM) to secure internships, as well as successfully compete for jobs, in Paris. The two Institutions are therefore well-placed to coordinate with students in securing internships for the final element of the Double LLM programme. They will draw on present contacts, continue with events and networking activities, and offer support in the form of Careers Advice, as well as oversee the Convention de Stage.

Both Institutions also benefit from links with Carrières Juridiques and Village de la Justice, both of which are involved in recruitment of interns and employees, which will be of interest not only during the Double-LLM programme, but also when students consider their longer-term career plans.

## Programme Specification Approval

**Person completing Programme Specification**

Anna Gray

**Person responsible for management of programme**

Dr Maxi Scherer

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

Chair's Action 13.01.16

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board**