

Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	Master of Laws (LLM)
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	12 months (FT), 24 months (PT)
QMUL programme code(s):	M2Q5 - M2Q6
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	16 Jan 2012
Responsible School / Institute:	Centre for Commercial Law Studies

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

Institution(s) other than QMUL that will provide some teaching for the programme:

Programme outline

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 leading institutions for the study of commercial law in the world. Building upon the success of the existing School of Law London-based LLM Programme, CCLS has created the LLM Paris, an innovative postgraduate programme offering students the opportunity to develop academic and professional expertise in specialised areas of commercial law including international dispute resolution, banking and finance, intellectual property and international business law. The programme of study provides a flexible mix of classroom-based teaching (assessed by formal examinations or coursework) for taught modules, as well as a compulsory research component. One of the distinctive features of the LLM Paris is the exceptionally wide range of modules offered and the flexible structure designed to enable students with work or study commitments to complete the programme on a part time basis without having to interrupt their professional career.

Aims of the programme

This programme aims to assist students to develop a detailed, critical and advanced knowledge of key areas of commercial law, not typically covered (or not adequately covered) by an undergraduate syllabus. The programme also seeks to broaden and deepen students' understanding of their own legal systems by giving them the opportunity and the tools with which to explore current commercial law issues from an international and comparative perspective. Ultimately, the programme aims to better

prepare contemporary lawyers for practising the legal profession in an increasingly globalised world.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to...

Academic Content:

A 1	demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key legal principles, issues and debates arising out of the law and practice of chosen subjects
A 2	demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the practical implications of the legal issues arising within the specialist area
A 3	demonstrate knowledge and understanding of comparative and international approaches to legal issues within the selected specialist area

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	formulate a practical problem in specific legal terms
B 2	compare and evaluate the merits and limitations of different legal approaches and opinions
B 3	integrate knowledge to make appropriate recommendations and judgments
B 4	advise non specialists in the legal consequences of their conduct
B 5	proficiently use legal research resources to carry out appropriate legal analysis for a variety of problems
B 6	ability to write critical legal analysis of a publishable standard

Attributes:

C 1	acquire and apply knowledge in a rigorous way
C 2	demonstrate self direction and independence in solving complex or unfamiliar problems

C3	support decision making by providing expert knowledge and informed judgments
C4	use clear language to effectively communicate ideas, both orally and in writing

How will you learn?

You will learn through direct interaction with lecturers using a variety of teaching and learning strategies, including traditional and interactive lectures, small group teaching, seminar sessions and e-learning. You will also be expected to invest a significant amount of time on independent learning including reading materials in advance of lectures/seminars, preparing class presentations or doing assignments. You will also have to carry out research to complete your dissertation. For this purpose you will be provided with a variety of legal resources and you will receive training on how to use them for your dissertation.

How will you be assessed?

A variety of assessment strategies will be used. Taught modules are usually assessed by unseen written examinations, but in certain cases other assessment methods may be used, such as in class presentations, take home assignments, a combination of short essays and written examination or assessment entirely based on course essays. This is in addition to the compulsory requirement to write a dissertation.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

Students must take a total of 180 credits, of which 45 credits are achieved via a 15000-word dissertation.

Students can opt for an LLM in International Business Law, which offers the full range of modules available on the Paris LLM programme, or a specialised LLM in the following areas:

- Banking and Finance Law
- Comparative and International Dispute Resolution
- Energy and Natural Resources Law
- Intellectual Property Law

Students who opt to be awarded a specialised LLM degree must take at least 90 credits from any chosen specialism and write a 15000-word dissertation (45 credits) in that area.

The above also applies to Part-Time students, with the difference that the dissertation is taken in the second year of study.

Students can take up to 45 credits from the LLM in Computer & Communications Law by Distance Learning programme (Distance Learning Modules are run on a two year cycle - please check availability).

The LLM Paris has two intakes per year, September and January, and operates on a semester basis, with an exam period each January and July. Modules are delivered in intensive blocks between September and December, and January and June.

Academic Year of Study

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	Semester 2
Licensing Intellectual Property	QLLP014	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Regulation of Financial Markets	QLLP016A	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Commercial Arbitration (Skills and Advocacy)	QLLP033	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Commercial Arbitration (Applicable Laws and Procedures)	QLLP037	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Commercial Arbitration (Regulation and Infrastructure)	QLLP038	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Law of Financial Crime: European & International Perspectives	QLLP044	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
EU and US Design Law	QLLP050A	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Law of Patents and Related Rights	QLLP067	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Insurance Law	QLLP051	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International and Comparative Law of Unfair Competition	QLLP053	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Corporate Finance Law	QLLP057	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
English Contract Law	QLLP059	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Ethics in Business and Finance	QLLP006	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Legal Aspects of International Finance	QLLP013A	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Arbitration and Energy	QLLP032	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Investment Arbitration	QLLP06	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Comparative Law of Patents and Trade Secrets	QLLP066	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
UK, EU and US Copyright Law	QLLP049A	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International and Comparative Law of Registered Trademarks	QLLP054	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Banking Law	QLLP055	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Competition Law	QLLP061	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Energy Transactions	QLLP063	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
EU Data Protection Law	QLLP074	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Information Technology Transactions	QLLP075	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Oil and Gas Laws in the Energy Transition	QLLP077	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Energy Law and Ethics	QLLP078	22.5	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Dissertation: Energy & Natural Resources Law	QLLP205	45	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1-3
Dissertation: Comparative and International Dispute Resolution	QLLP202	45	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1-3
Dissertation: International Business Law	QLLP204	45	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1-3
Dissertation: Intellectual Property Law	QLLP201	45	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1-3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation: Banking and Finance Law	QLLP200	45	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1-3

What are the entry requirements?

The usual admissions criteria for the law post-graduate programmes apply, i.e. a degree in law, or a degree with substantial law content, normally of at least Upper Second Class Honours (or equivalent). The following also qualify for entry to the LLM: a non-law graduate with good Honours who has obtained the equivalent of First Class or Second Class Honours in CPE and Bar Finals/ Legal Practice examinations, or passed the solicitors' qualifying examination. In exceptional cases persons not meeting the normal entry requirement may be considered if they have sufficient relevant experience.

- Evidence of English language proficiency will also be required.
- In order to judge the ability of applicants, emphasis is placed on references.
- Applicants are also required to provide a transcript of their marks from their former college or university.

Students of the EFB (Paris Bar School) taking the LLM as the personal project element of their professional Bar studies are exempt from the concurrent study regulation. Offers issued by the Admissions Office will not be conditional on suspending or completing current studies at the EFB, but may of course be conditional on any other entry requirements.

How do we listen to 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.

What academic support is available?

The Programme Director, Prof. Maxi Scherer, has operational responsibility for running the programme. The post is based in London, with significant time spent in Paris. Part of the Programme Director's role is to provide academic support to students including offering extensive office hours in Paris to address students needs on an individual, face to face basis.

In addition, the following academic support mechanisms include:

- Comprehensive Induction period
- All module convenors have office hours whereby student students can contact them remotely
- An individual Dissertation Supervisor who is allocated for each student
- A Dissertation workshop for each specialism is held each semester, in advance of the Dissertation Proposal submission deadline
- The LLM Research Director is available for students to help them with any academic matter that cannot be appropriately handled by the previous support mechanisms
- The Critical Thinking and Writing in Law Programme has designed a series of tailor-made hands-on workshops that allow students to deepen their understanding of the learning strategies required of postgraduate study, and which will help them improve their research and writing skills, and provide them with the confidence necessary to succeed in their LLM.
- All modules are supported by the online learning environment, QMPlus, so that despite class time being an intensive block, the module is considered semester-long from the students point of view.

- Training in the use of online law library and database resources provided by the Law Librarian at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

Programme-specific rules and facts

The LLM Paris is governed by QM general academic regulations and LLM specific regulations. Overall the programme is modelled on the LLM (London) regulations but adapted to specific Paris circumstances in areas such as attendance.

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)
- Access to specialist mentoring support for students with mental health issues and Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

An agreement is in place with the Paris Bar School whereby their students can also register for the LLM programme and use the taught element for credit towards their Projet Pédagogique Individuel (PPI).

The Paris Bar School has also agreed to the accreditation of our modules for Avocats seeking to take the LLM as "formation continue", but this has yet to be formalised.

Discussions are ongoing with a number of Paris law firms, companies, and the French Association of In-house Lawyers regarding the potential for internships, as well as the LLM and its modules contributing to the CPD of their lawyers/members. Queen Mary Careers service is coordinating advice with regard to the French requirement for a "Convention de Stage".

The Franco-British Lawyers Society's UK Academic Prize was awarded to Queen Mary in 2013 which allows the Paris LLM to offer a small prize to one member of each intake over 3 years.

The Paris LLM benefits from a collaboration with the Paris office of the law firm McDermott Will & Emery (MWE) in coordination with the AFJE (French Association of In-house Lawyers) to offer a full scholarship (costs shared 50:50 between CCLS and MWE) to a Home/EU student of each September intake.

The Paris LLM programme holds an opening lecture at the beginning of each semester to welcome the new intake. Sponsors/venues so far have included: Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, McDermott Will and Emery, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne. These events provide useful opportunities for students to network with potential employers.

A number of events are held in Paris throughout the year, for students' benefit in terms of topic and speaker(s) but also as networking opportunities.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Prof. Maxi Scherer

Person responsible for management of programme:

Prof Maxi Scherer

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

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

16 Jan 2012