



Programme Specification (PG)

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 title:	LLM in International Business Law (Sorbonne-QMUL Double LLM)
Name of interim award(s):	Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate
Duration of study / period of registration:	18 months
Queen Mary programme code(s):	PMLF-PACCLS2
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	Centre for Commercial Law Studies

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

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

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 - 8 taught modules equivalent to 120 credits offered by Queen Mary in

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Paris during the January – July period. They would further undertake a dissertation of 10,000 words;

- a second semester of classes conducted in French at Paris 1 from the beginning of September to the end of March (involving 7 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 Katrien Morbee of Queen Mary University of London, and Professor Thibaut Larroutou 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.
A 3	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:	
B 1	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.
B 2	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.
B 3	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:	
C 1	Students will develop the ability to exercise personal responsibility and initiative to manage a wide range of legal material and their learning.
C 2	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.
C 3	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. 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 10000 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 online examinations and/or essays and/or coursework together with a 10000 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 structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

This programme is offered full-time only, starting in January each year, with a duration of 18 months. The Double LLM combines 60 ECTS from the Sorbonne and 150 QMUL credits. There is an internship element, overseen by the Sorbonne, which is valued at 30 QMUL credits, bringing the final credit awarded by QMUL to 180 (90 ECTS).

Semester 1 – with QMUL

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

120 credits of taught modules chosen from the list of LLM in Paris modules offered in this semester.

Dissertation of 30 credits 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.

Minimum of 140 hours or 7 modules, including Introduction au Droit Français, chosen from those 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

This involves 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. QMUL recognises this as 30 credits.

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
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

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Securities and markets regulation	CCLP001	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Mergers and Acquisition	CCLP010	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Corporate Rescue and Cross-border Insolvency	CCLP013	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Arbitration: Regulation and Infrastructure	CCLP043	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Arbitration: Applicable Laws and Procedures	CCLP044	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Licensing IP	CCLP078	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
EU and US Design Law	CCLP081	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International and Comparative Law of Unfair Competition	CCLP082	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Insurance Law	CCLP140	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Energy and Climate Change	CCLP160	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
EU Data Protection Law	CCLP209	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
English Contract Law	CCLP601	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Commercial Arbitration (Skills and Advocacy)	CCLP602	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cloud Computing Law	CCLP604	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
French & European Law Independent Research	CCLM927	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
International Construction Contracts and Dispute Resolution	CCLP042	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Oil and Gas Law and Contracts in the Energy Transition	CCLP161	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Mining & Natural Resources Law	CCLP166	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Regulation and Governance of Energy	CCLP164	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Law and Ethics in the Energy Sector	CCLP157	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Law of Patents and Related Rights	CCLP077	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Copyright Law - United Kingdom & United States	CCLP605	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Intellectual Property and the Life Sciences	CCLP093	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
New Boundaries in Competition Enforcement	CCLP608	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cybercrime	CCLP207	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Information Technology Transactions: Management and Disputes	CCLP206	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Dissertation in International Business Law - Double LLM	CCLM928	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Law Internship in France	CCLM600	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 1
French & European Law Independent Research	CCLM927	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 1
Ethics and Governance in Business and Finance	CCLP011	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

What are the entry requirements?

The usual qualification for entry to the LLM programme is a degree in law, or a degree with a substantial law content, of at least 2.1 honours (or equivalent). Law graduates with 2.2 honours who also have other legal qualifications and/or substantial professional legal experience may also qualify.

Non-law graduates with a minimum second class honours degree, that have also obtained a Merit (or 60 per cent) in the Common Professional Examination (CPE) or Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) recognised by the UK professional bodies, may also qualify. Non-law graduates may also be considered on the basis of exceptional professional experience (of at least five years) in a

legal area or an area directly related to their programme of study.

Applicants whose first language is not English must provide evidence of your English language proficiency. The usual English Language Requirements for Postgraduate Law Taught Programmes will apply. These may be accessed at <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/english-language-requirements/index.html#Postgraduatelawtaughtprogrammes>

Applicants should expect a two-tiered admissions process. They apply directly to QMUL, and if they are shortlisted, their applications details are sent to the Sorbonne, for the second stage of the admission. Non-native French speakers are required to demonstrate that they meet the Sorbonne minimum French language entry requirement of CEFR level B2. This is assessed through a Skype or telephone interview with representatives from the Sorbonne's selection committee. The interview will be carried out exclusively in French and will last for approximately 20 minutes.

Applicants will be accepted onto the programme after accepted by both universities.

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The Student Voice 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. Student Voice Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates an Education Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Education 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 and the Directorate of Governance and Legal Services (DGLS). 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 operates Programme Reviews of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The Programme Review is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the PTES and Module Experience surveys.

What academic support is available?

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

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

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
- Examination Access Arrangements
- 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)

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

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 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.

There is a mentoring programme that matches students with available mentors from the profession. An embedded Careers and professional development team provide guidance in identifying and obtaining relevant internships, valuable employment-related skills and other work-related opportunities. There is a programme of co-curricular activities designed to foster professional development and related skills.

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:

Angeliki Polatou

Person responsible for management of programme:

Katrien Morbee, Angeliki Polatou

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:

January 2025

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: