

## Programme Specification (PG)

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| Awarding body / institution:                | Queen Mary University of London                |
| Teaching institution:                       | Queen Mary University of London                |
| Name of final award and title:              | LLM in International Shipping Law              |
| Name of interim award(s):                   | Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate |
| Duration of study / period of registration: | 1 year full time, 2 years part time.           |
| Queen Mary programme code(s):               |  |
| 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

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The Programme covers in depth the whole spectrum of shipping law and QMUL Centre for Commercial Law Studies is the only university in London, and among the very few in the UK to offer an extensive range in the area of the maritime practice both on a private and public level. The Programme in particular covers the areas of 'International Regulation of Shipping', which provides an excellent introduction to shipping and the international regulatory framework of all traditional and contemporary shipping matters; 'Admiralty', which covers the the maritime judicial jurisdiction and its nature; 'Charterparties: Law and Practice', which examines all aspects of contracts of vessel hire between the relevant parties; 'Carriage of Goods by Sea', which covers essential aspects of the law relating to carriage of goods by sea; 'Wet Shipping Law', which covers legal issues that might arise while a vessel and its cargo are at sea arising from various unfortunate incidents; 'Marine Insurance Law', which covers, the various insurance policies and their application on shipping; 'Maritime Arbitration', which covers the specialist dispute resolution mechanisms catering to the specific shipping industry; 'Legal Aspects of Paperless Trade', which covers the legal implications of forming and performing international sale contracts using electronic records and communications in place of paper; 'Law of the Sea: Navigational Freedoms and Practice, which covers the international ocean regime and contemporary legal order applicable to navigation; 'Protection and Indemnity Clubs, which covers the operation of mutual insurance

associations. The International Shipping Law taught programme will be complemented also by more recently approved modules on (i) Maritime Conflict of Laws (ii) Seafarers Law and (iii) Advocacy and Mooting (Aviation or Shipping), and an extensive number of modules being already offered in insurance law and air transport law. The taught programme features also a series of guest lectures delivered by leading practitioners, workshops on specialised topics, and educational visits.

### Aims of the programme

The LLM in International Shipping Law enhances the offering of specialist LLM programmes offered by the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS) within the School of Law, making Queen Mary the first college within the University of London to offer a specialism in this subject. English law is frequently selected by contracting parties as the applicable law of shipping contracts, with London being chosen as the forum for the resolution of any disputes that may arise, whether in the courts or by arbitration. Thus London is in many ways unrivalled in the UK as a location to undertake studies in this area of law: it is home to the British Maritime Law Association (BMLA) - the UK branch of the Comité Maritime International (CMI), the London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA) and also to the vast majority of the top-tier law firms for Shipping Law in the UK, as ranked in the Legal 500 and the Chambers & Partners Guides. Located as it is, in the centre of London, CCLS is the ideal place to read for an LLM in International Shipping Law: students will enjoy access to the many resources that the Centre has to offer, including the resources of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS) Library and the libraries of neighbouring London colleges. Teaching on modules offered under the International Shipping Law specialism will be enhanced by the contribution of distinguished guest speakers, including legal practitioners from City law firms with many years of experience in maritime law, and experts from the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), established under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). New modules in maritime law subjects will also be available to students selecting other LLM specialisms.

### 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 the law underlying almost all areas of the international shipping industry, the application of the law to everyday practice and the ability to assess critically and comment upon the current state of the law from an international perspective. Students will have also gained the ability to conduct research in this legal area, based on an extensive range of transferable skills. They will have access to facilities and equipment at the Postgraduate School of Law Centre in Lincoln's Inn Fields, which comprises workstations and wireless internet access. The Graduate Centre at Mile End campus will also provide work areas and social spaces tailored specifically to the needs and working patterns of postgraduate students. As well as housing the Law Library and a European Documentation Centre, the Queen Mary Library at Mile End provides access to all the main British, European and international textbooks, law reports and periodicals and also offers one of the best commercial law collections in the country. Through the University of London College network, students have access to an unrivalled range of electronic law journals and databases. In addition, Queen Mary provides free access to extensive online databases and collections including: Lexis Nexis, Westlaw, Justis, Eur-lex, Hein-Online, Business Source Complete, Index to Legal Periodicals, International Court of Justice Reports, Kluwer Arbitration, Oxford Scholarship Online (Law). Reports of Patent, Design and Trademark Cases. UK Statute law database, United Nations Treaty Collection.

Fellow students will come from the UK and more than 80 other countries, each able to draw on prior academic and in many cases professional experiences from different jurisdictions to enrich discussion and debate in class.

#### Academic Content:

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| A 1 | Students will acquire a thorough understanding of key aspects of the shipping and marine insurance industries from an international perspective and the importance of legal principles, rules and laws underlying the day-to-day running, management and insurance of vessels, goods and commodities. |
| A 2 | Students will acquire an understanding of the peculiar and often, sui-generis, realities underlying the world of shipping and how these realities have affected and continue to affect legal development in this area.  |
| A 3 | Students will acquire expert knowledge and an in-depth understanding of the nature and purpose of shipping law and the ways in which the law achieves (or fails to achieve) its purpose.  |

| 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 shipping law, including 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 vis-a-vis various complex topics that will be examined.  |
| B 2                            | Students will further develop their ability to understand and review a wide range of legal material and apply that knowledge to practical legal problems. This will involve them being able to explain complex legal principles and rules and apply them to various circumstances that frequently arise, or can arise in the future, in various areas of the maritime world. 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 international shipping law.  |

| Attributes: |   |
|-------------|---|
| C 1         | Students will develop the ability to exercise personal responsibility and initiative to manage a plethora of legal material and their learnin   |
| C 2         | Students will acquire an in-depth understanding of all significant areas and legal aspects of international shipping law through the variety of material they will be referred to but also to critically challenge such material through 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 materials which the programme comprises of and discussion which challenges them to question these materials.  |

### How will you learn?

Students will learn through direct interaction with lecturers using a variety of teaching, learning and assessment strategies, including traditional and interactive lectures, seminar sessions, tutorials and e-learning. Students will also be expected to invest a significant amount of time in independent learning, including reading materials in advance of lectures/seminars, preparing class presentations, completing assignments and preparing for examinations.

In addition, students will need to carry out extensive research to complete the dissertation. Students will be provided with a variety of legal resources and receive training on how to use them.

### How will you be assessed?

Assessment is by examination, oral presentation, essays and/or coursework for taught modules and by dissertation.

**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.

Master of Laws (LLM)

- Students on the LLM have to complete 180 credits including the compulsory Dissertation in International Shipping Law SOLM917.
- Part-time students are normally expected to take 90 credits each year of their programme but this may be varied by special permission.

An additional dissertation (SOLM901) can be taken instead of taught modules by LLM students only with special permission from the LLM Programme Coordinator.

**Academic Year of Study**

| Module Title                                       | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester   |
|--|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Charterparties: Law and Practice                   | SOLM142     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Carriage of Goods                                  | SOLM143     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Marine Insurance Law                               | SOLM144     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Maritime Arbitration                               | SOLM145     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| International Regulation of Shipping               | SOLM146     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Wet Shipping Law                                   | SOLM147     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Legal Aspects of Paperless Trade                   | SOLM148     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2 |
| Law of the Sea: Navigational Freedoms and Practice | SOLM149     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1 |
| Admiralty  | SOLM150     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2 |

Programme Title: International Shipping Law

| Module Title                                       | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester      |
|--|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Public International & European Air Transport Law  | SOLM151     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 1    |
| Private International & European Air Transport Law | SOLM152     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2    |
| Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Clubs               | SOLM153     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2    |
| Maritime Conflict of Laws                          | SOLM154     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2    |
| Advocacy and Mooting (Aviation or Shipping)        | SOLM250     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2    |
| Seafarers Law                                      | SOLM253     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 2    |
| Research Seminar                                   | SOLM266     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3    |
| Legal Tech   | SOLM273     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3    |
| Public Affairs Advocacy                            | SOLM274     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3    |
| Taxation and Trade                                 | SOLM275     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3    |
| Advocacy in Commercial Disputes                    | SOLM276     | 15      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semester 3    |
| Dissertation                                       | SOLM901     | 30      | 7     | Elective                | 1                      | Semesters 1-3 |
| Dissertation in International Shipping Law         | SOLM917     | 30      | 7     | Compulsory              | 1                      | Semesters 1-3 |

### 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>

### **How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? 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 PTES and module evaluations.

### **What academic support is available?**

Students will receive a comprehensive induction. Students 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 taught modules shall be available to discuss any concerns students might have with regard to the particular module or its content.

### **Programme-specific rules and facts**

Students can take up to 60 credits outside of their programme within the postgraduate programmes offered by the School of Law.

In order to specialise in International Shipping Law, LLM students must take at least 120 credits, including their dissertation, in modules on the International Shipping Law programme.

### **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
- 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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### Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

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.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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Person completing Programme Specification:

Sue Fitzgerald

Person responsible for management of programme:

Miriam Goldby

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

December 2022

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: