

Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	LLM in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution
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:

Centre for Commercial Law Studies

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

Programme outline

The LLM in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution aims to inspire a new generation of lawyers to rethink traditional approaches to conflict and conflict resolution. Grounded in dispute resolution theory, this Master of Law programme combines solid theoretical grounding, broad interdisciplinary training from a comparative law perspective and opportunities for individual study and skills development. The LLM in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution comprises a mix of classroom based teaching assessed by tutorials and examination or coursework and a mandatory research dissertation in a dispute resolution topic.

Modules in this programme include: Alternative Dispute Resolution, International and Comparative Commercial Arbitration, International Commercial Law International Commercial Litigation, Commercial Conflict of Laws, International Construction Contracts and Arbitration International Trade and Investment Dispute Settlement, Strategic Decision Making for Lawyers, Negotiation Theory and Practice, International Arbitration and Energy.

A particular strong focus is on international arbitration. QMUL was the first university in the world to offer specialist post-graduate courses in international arbitration since 1983 and continues to be considered amongst the top three programmes in the world

Aims of the programme

The aim of this programme is to establish students' knowledge and critical understanding as well as provide an insight into the practice of international dispute resolution in a comparative context. The subject is examined both theoretically and with reference to national laws, soft laws and other international instruments.

The approach in teaching is comparative looking into a range of national legislation and understandings of dispute resolution. We consider both theoretical and ethical issues as well as more practical approaches to disputes resolution.

In particular, the aims and objectives of the programme are:

- To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of a range of methods which are used for the settlement of international business disputes;
- To highlight legal and practical questions in relation to the theory, ethics and practice of international dispute resolution and assist students to develop their responses to such questions;
- To stimulate a thorough understanding of the international character of international dispute resolution field and provide an understanding of related choices on law and procedure;
- To enable students to reason, and draft opinions in respect of matters relating to international dispute resolution
- To enable student to understand the design of dispute resolution methods as well as the role of dispute prevention

What will you be expected to achieve?

It is expected that, upon completion of the programme, students are expected to

- Be familiar with a range of dispute resolution methods to resolve international business disputes
- Have an understanding of dispute resolution theory, design of dispute resolution methods
- Have knowledge of a wide range of national laws, soft law and international instruments related to international dispute resolution
- Have knowledge of effective practices to apply in resolving international business disputes
- Have an appreciation of related ethical issues

Academic Content:

A 1	Knowledge and understanding of legal issues relating to international dispute resolution
A 2	Apply legal theories to legal issues both from an international and a comparative perspective
A 3	Knowledge and understanding of comparative law implications relating to international dispute resolution
A 4	Understand ethical issues associated with dispute resolution for adjudicators and counsel to parties
A 5	Appreciate the history and evolution of dispute resolution in an international and comparative context
A 6	Knowledge and understanding of role of lawyers in various ADR processes

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Advise companies and commercial parties on effective approaches to international business disputes
B 2	Apply national and international instruments on international dispute resolution
B 3	Apply best practices on international dispute resolution
B 4	Understand the role and interest of states and state owned enterprises in international dispute resolution
B 5	Assess the role of lawyers in international dispute resolution and acquire fundamental skills

Attributes:	
C 1	Capacity to develop coherent and solid legal arguments and communicate them effectively
C 2	Capacity to engage with key legal and ethical issues

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.

In addition to instructed learning and self-learning the students will be afforded the opportunity to interact with practitioners in the area.

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.
- Part-time students are normally expected to take 90 credits each year of their programme but this may be varied by special permission.
- Students can take the elective dissertation in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution (SOLM906)

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
International Commercial Law	SOLM019	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Transnational Law and Governance in Practice	SOLM027	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Transnational Law and Governance Applied	SOLM028	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Strategic Decision Making for Lawyers	SOLM038	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Negotiation Theory and Practice	SOLM039	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Alternative Dispute Resolution: Theory and Context	SOLM040	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Alternative Dispute Resolution: Selected Issues	SOLM041	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
International Construction Contracts and Dispute Resolution	SOLM042	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Arbitration Law and Practice: Theory and Context	SOLM043	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Arbitration Law and Practice: Applicable Laws and Procedures	SOLM044	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

Programme Title: Comparative and International Dispute Resolution

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
International Commercial Litigation	SOLM045	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Commercial Conflict of Laws	SOLM046	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Investment Treaty Arbitration: Foundations, Jurisdiction and Procedure	SOLM047	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Investment Treaty Arbitration: Agreements and Substantive Protection	SOLM048	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Ethics in International Arbitration	SOLM049	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Maritime Arbitration	SOLM145	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Arbitration and Energy	SOLM163	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Investment Law	SOLM189	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Foreign Investments and Public Policy	SOLM190	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
WTO Law: Fundamental Principles	SOLM192	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
WTO Law Domestic Regulations and Trade Remedies	SOLM193	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cyberspace: Jurisdiction and Dispute Resolution	SOLM211	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Art Disputes and their Resolutions	SOLM228	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes	SOLM241	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
International Economic Law Clinic	SOLM263	30	7	Elective	1	Semesters 2 & 3
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

Programme Title: Comparative and International Dispute Resolution

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Advocacy in Commercial Disputes	SOLM276	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
Comparative Law and Practice of International Courts and Tribunals	SOLM277	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Dissertation	SOLM901	30	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1-3
Dissertation in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution	SOLM906	30	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1-3
International Sports Arbitration	SOLM295	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 3
International Arbitration: Skills and Advocacy	SOLM300	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Legal Design	SOLM308 NEW	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>

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 Comparative and International Dispute Resolution, LLM students must take at least 120 credits in modules on the Comparative and International Dispute Resolution 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)

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.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Sue Fitzgerald / Prof Loukas Mistelis

Programme Title: Comparative and International Dispute Resolution

Person responsible for management of programme:

Prof Loukas Mistelis

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

December 2023

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