

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	LLM International Commercial Law LLM International Commercial Law Top-up
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Law
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	LLM International Commercial Law
Pathways (if applicable)	N/A
FHEQ level of final award:	Level 7
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Postgraduate Certificate International Commercial Law Postgraduate Diploma International Commercial Law
Accreditation details:	N/A
Length of programme:	1 year (Top-up - Nine months)
Mode(s) of Study:	Full Time Part Time (Top-up only)
Mode of Delivery:	In person (on-site) delivery
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	N/A
Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):	N/A
Course Code(s):	MLMLAWFT MLMLAWTU – Top-up
UCAS Code(s):	N/A
Approval date:	December 2022
Date of last update:	January 2025

2. Programme Summary

Welcome to the LLM International Commercial Law programme! This advanced postgraduate course is perfect for you if you already have an undergraduate law degree (or equivalent) and want to deepen your legal knowledge.

Why Choose This Programme?

- **Global Relevance:** In today's globalised economy, commercial law is essential to tackle various challenges. Our programme covers areas like international commercial dispute resolution, international trade, and competition law.
- **Expand Your Expertise:** Build on what you've learned in your undergraduate studies and legal practice.
- **Develop Key Skills:** Enhance your problem-solving abilities and learn to make sound judgments in complex and new situations.
- **Career Opportunities:** Gain specialized knowledge to pursue various legal and non-legal careers.
- **Network and Employability:** Grow your professional network and boost your employability for a successful legal career.

Why Study LLM International Commercial Law at BNU?

- **Workplace Skills:** Develop problem-solving skills that enable you to exercise sound judgment in complex, uncertain, and new environments.
- **Comprehensive Understanding:** Understand domestic commercial transactions with international law elements and explore contemporary legal issues and debates.
- **Tailored Studies:** Choose optional modules that match your interests, including intellectual property law and technology, electronic commerce and digital trade, international law, international commercial dispute resolution, competition law, and international trade.
- **Realistic Facilities:** Practice your advocacy skills in our dedicated moot room, complete with wigs and gowns. Join the Mooting Society for mock trials and national competitions.
- **Learn from Experts:** Our lecturers are experts in fields like Property, Trusts, Commercial Law, International Law, EU Law, Criminal Law, and Dispute Resolution.
- **Student-Focused:** At BNU, you are our priority. We offer a high lecturer-to-student ratio and an open-door policy to ensure you get the support you need.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

1. Deepen and broaden the students' knowledge of law by enabling them to acquire a systemic understanding of legal processes, methods and concepts, within social, commercial and political contexts.
2. Enhance students' professional development and academic potential and problem-solving skills by acquiring a systematic and critical understanding of the complex legal, economic, cultural and political issues informing English and international regulations.
3. Enable students to acquire the necessary tools to apply their acquired knowledge, legal research and writing skills to the process of writing a dissertation producing an original piece of research.

4. Equip students with transferable research and writing skills applicable to a variety of professional sectors, including the legal profession, corporate and commercial industries, government bodies or academia.
5. Equip students with the skills to understand specialist legal issues and communicate such knowledge clearly with specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Analyse contemporary legal problems and also complex issues arising from practical scenarios.
K2	Critically evaluate the principles of the areas of law in the chosen pathways and study their relevance in contemporary legal systems.
K3	Analyse complex texts, construct arguments and communicate these effectively.
K4	Systematically understand the impact of specialised rules and mechanisms available for the resolution of disputes of a transnational nature.
K5	Apply practical transferrable skills, including how to locate relevant materials.

Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Apply reasoned choice between alternative solutions and critical judgement to various legal scenarios.
C2	Exhibit independence of thought and the ability to analyse and challenge complex legal debates.
C3	Identify issues and formulate questions for further research through independent work.
C4	Impart your previous experience and knowledge in addressing legal issues in an interdisciplinary approach.
C5	Demonstrate thoroughness in analysis and assessment of legal arguments.

Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	Apply knowledge and understanding to offer evidenced conclusions for addressing complex legal problems over a vast range of legal areas.
P2	Identify contemporary debates and present a reasoned choice between alternative solutions for solving legal problems.
P3	Demonstrate initiative, personal responsibility, time management, and independent learning, collaboratively and competitively.
P4	Demonstrate competence in the application of detailed rules and related practice required for advanced legal knowledge.

P5	Demonstrate a systematic awareness of the interactions between law and globalisation in research and practice.
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Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Employ appropriate socio-legal analysis by reasoning and problem-solving skills to arrive at solutions in related society.
T2	Demonstrate initiative, personal responsibility, time management, and independent learning, collaboratively and competitively.
T3	Recognise, evaluate and resolve ethical dilemmas in legal and other professions.
T4	Demonstrate a pro-active approach, taking responsibility and assuming leadership for mutual learning and well-being in working with a team.
T5	Successfully analyse situations and collaborate effectively with others on a variety of legal issues.

Graduate Attributes

At BNU, we focus on developing innovative leaders who are ready to thrive in the 21st-century job market and make a positive impact as global citizens. Our key graduate attributes include:

- **Knowledge and Its Application:** Gain a deep understanding of legal theories, concepts, values, and principles, and learn how to apply this knowledge in various contexts.
- **Creativity:** Foster your creativity through innovative teaching methods and learning activities.
- **Social and Ethical Awareness and Responsibility:** Understand the complexities of socio-legal concepts and the importance of justice and the rule of law in society.
- **Leadership and Self-Development:** Develop leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills, and nurture qualities like empathy, integrity, and citizenship.

How We Develop These Attributes:

- **Practical Application:** Our contemporary socio-legal curriculum helps you apply your knowledge and understanding in diverse contexts.
- **Innovative Teaching:** We use teaching methods and activities designed to enhance your leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills.
- **Employability Focus:** We ensure you understand socio-legal concepts, rules, and principles, and the values of justice and the rule of law, making you highly employable.
- **Holistic Development:** We equip you with skills and understanding that nurture empathy, integrity, and citizenship, which are transferable to various disciplines and careers.

At BNU, you are at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to helping you develop these attributes to succeed in your professional and personal life.

4. Entry Requirements

The University's [general entry requirements](#) will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions / exceptions:

Academic Qualifications:

Either:

- A first degree in Law or a related discipline (such as Business, Accountancy and Finance, Economics, Politics, International Relations) with at least a 2:2 classification. Or,
- An overseas qualification equivalent to a UK Honours degree with a minimum 2:2 classification.

Professional Experience:

If you don't meet the academic requirements but have relevant professional experience, you may still be invited for an interview. During the interview, you'll need to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL):

Previous study, professional, and/or vocational experiences may be recognized as equivalent learning experience. This can allow you to be exempt from certain modules according to our [accreditation of prior learning](#) (APL) process.

Top-Up Programme requirements:

A Postgraduate Diploma in Law or a related discipline, or an international equivalent (120 credits at Level 7)

5. Programme Structure

LLM International Commercial Law

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Other Exit Awards available
Level 7	<p>Core modules: LAW7002 Contemporary Issues in Law (20 credits) LAW7004 International Commercial Law (20 credits) LAW7030 Structured Independent Work (60 credits)</p> <p>Option modules: <i>Choose modules to the total of 80 credits (four modules):</i> LAW7007 Intellectual Property Law and Technology (20 credits) LAW7008 Electronic Commerce and Digital Trade (20 credits) LAW7009 International Law (20 credits) LAW7010 International Commercial Dispute Resolution (20 credits) LAW7011 Competition Law (20 credits) LAW7012 International Trade (20 credits)</p>	<p>Postgraduate Certificate awarded on the achievement of 60 credits</p> <p>Postgraduate Diploma awarded on the achievement of 120 credits</p>

LLM International Commercial Law Top-up

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Other Exit Awards available
Level 7	<p>Core modules: LAW7030 Structured Independent Work (60 credits)</p>	None

Please note:

- Not all optional modules will be available every year.
- New optional modules may be introduced later to keep the programme up-to-date with changes in the subject area.
- Not all teaching institutions (partners) will offer all options. Check the specific version of this programme specification for the relevant partner.
- Students on the top-up programme will be ineligible for a classified degree

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

The following approach will be employed:

Class Sessions

- **Small Group Teaching:** Classes are conducted in small groups to encourage interaction and engagement.
- **Preparation and Participation:** You're expected to prepare in advance, attend regularly, and actively participate.
- **Wide Reading:** Engage with various legal sources, including case law reports, statutes, academic journals, and more.

Seminars

- **Interactive Learning:** Seminars are held in small groups to provide an integrated and interactive learning experience.
- **Active Participation:** Prepare for and participate in seminars to gain the most benefit.

Teaching Methods

- **Variety of Methods:** We use lectures, seminars, workshops, and individual and group presentations to cater to your interests, needs, and abilities.
- **Formative Assessment:** Opportunities for formative assessment are provided throughout the programme to help you improve.

Assessment

Formative and Summative Assessments

- **Formative Assessments:** These do not contribute to your final grade but provide valuable feedback to help you improve.
- **Summative Assessments:** These include essays, coursework, reflective reports, and a dissertation.

Assessment Methods

- **Essays and Reports:** Demonstrate your understanding through systematic literature reviews and critical analysis.
- **Dissertation:** Conduct independent research on a legal issue of your choice, with support from an academic supervisor.

Contact Hours

Expect up to 8 hours of scheduled learning activities per week, including lectures, seminars, and workshops. Detailed contact hours can be found in individual module descriptors.

7. Programme Regulations

This programme will follow the *Regulations for Taught Degree Programmes (2023)*.

8. Support for learners

We have several systems in place to help you succeed in your studies:

- **Personal Tutor:** You'll be assigned a Personal Tutor who will provide both pastoral and academic support throughout your programme.
- **Programme Handbook and Induction:** You'll receive a handbook and an induction at the start of your studies to help you get started.
- **Library Resources:** Access a wide range of books, journals, and databases, many available electronically, with support from trained library staff.
- **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE):** Use Blackboard, accessible via PC, laptop, tablet, or mobile device, for your online learning needs.
- **MyBNU Portal:** Access all university systems, information, news, record your attendance, and view your personalised timetable through the MyBNU portal.
- **Academic Registry:** Get general guidance on university regulations, exams, and other aspects of your course administration from the Academic Registry staff.
- **Central Student Services:** Benefit from support teams for academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability, and counselling.
- **Bucks Students' Union:** Receive free and confidential advice on university processes from the Students' Union Advice Centre.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU ensures the quality of learning and teaching on your programme through various mechanisms. You can provide feedback on your programme through:

- **Feedback Questionnaires:** Formal surveys and anonymous module check-ins.
- **External Surveys:** Participation in national or external surveys.
- **Programme Committees:** Share your thoughts via appointed student representatives.
- **Informal Feedback:** Directly to your programme leader.

Quality and standards are maintained through:

- **Programme Approval:** An initial event to approve the programme for delivery.
- **External Examiner Reports:** Annual reports following external moderation of assessments.
- **Annual Monitoring:** Annual review of the programme overseen by the University's Quality Assurance Committee.
- **Periodic Subject Reviews:** Held every five years.
- **Sector Compliance:** Other compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy, Thrive 2028

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)					
	Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Level 7																					
LAW7002 Contemporary Issues in Law (Core)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAW7004 International Commercial Law (Core)	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
LAW7030 Structured Independent Work (Core)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAW7007 Intellectual Property Law and Technology (Option)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
LAW7008 Electronic Commerce and Digital Trade (Option)	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
LAW7009 International Law (Option)	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
LAW7010 International Commercial Dispute Resolution (Option)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X					X		
LAW7011 Competition Law (Option)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
LAW7012 International Trade (Option)	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				