

## Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	<b>Course Title</b>	LLM International Business Law  LLM International Business Law with Professional Placement
2	<b>Course Code</b>	PT0840-01 FT Sept PT1262-01 FT Jan PT1321-01 FT w. PP Jan PT1373-01 FT w. PP Sept  <i>TBC PT Sept</i> <i>TBC PT Jan</i>
3	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Birmingham City University (BCU)
4	<b>Teaching Institution(s)</b> (if different from point 3)	
5	<b>Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation</b>	Not applicable.

6	Course Description
	<p>The LLM International Business Law course provides an exciting opportunity to build specialist knowledge of the legal aspects of business dealings that cross a border. You will explore the legal regulation of international business, considering the perspectives of traders, corporations, individuals, and entrepreneurs. You will examine business models that cross a border and how commercial legal disputes can be resolved when a commercial agreement involves multiple parties from different jurisdictions. You will consider complex questions that arise internationally on the legal aspects of digital business models and data. There will also be opportunity to understand the role of artificial intelligence in relation to laws that operate jurisdictionally and internationally that have an impact on business and professional practice. Consideration of contemporary issues relating to technology, law, algorithms, and ethics will also be covered during the course.</p> <p>This course is a great step for any individual interested in understanding how the fields of business and law interact. As part of this analysis, you will critically examine economics, philosophy, business ethics, and law. You will be taught by a team of active researchers that specialise in international business law, competition law, dispute resolution, and corporate law. The LLM International Business Law team have a wide range of research specialisms which include areas such as the intersection of technology and business law, international/ national dispute settlement, European Union legal capital rules, and how intellectual property law is affected by digitisation.</p> <p>You will explore law from jurisdictional, comparative, and international perspectives. The skills gained on this course, such as critical thinking, critical analysis, and evaluative skills, will be crucial</p>

to enhance your employability so that you can problem solve at a high level and within many contexts. There are options available so that you can tailor your study and specialise in particular areas of interest. If you are interested in expanding your corporate law specialism you can study corporate finance law, or study comparative competition law to build your expertise in commercial/competition law. We also offer international intellectual property law to allow you to develop skills and knowledge related to intellectual creations. The law and legal tech module allows you to explore how legal technology is used in professional practice. The dissertation and placement modules provide some flexibility for you to develop as an autonomous and self-reliant learner.

The university's Employability Framework is embedded throughout the course. Modules are assessed through an authentic assessment to ensure transferrable skills within the modules' learning outcomes are assessed. The LLM is distinctive as it provides you with an intensive preparatory module on both research and professional skills. There is an emphasis on independent study and work-readiness with a choice of a placement in a work setting or a dissertation in the third semester, with the added option to continue a longer placement thereafter. The LLM International Business Law course provides you with skills and expertise that translates into many professional roles. The diverse range of career opportunities available after completion of the course is a distinctive feature of the course. Relevant career options include work in compliance, sales, banking, human resources, and education. We have had many graduates go on to undertake work in the legal industry as well as work in high-level positions in business and business management. Others have decided to pursue research careers by undertaking doctoral study.

<b>7</b>	<b>Course Awards</b>		
<b>7a</b>	<b>Name of Final Award</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Credits Awarded</b>
	Master of Laws (LLM) International Business Law	7	180
	Master of Laws (LLM) International Business Law with Professional Placement	7	240
<b>7b</b>	<b>Exit Awards and Credits Awarded</b>		
	Postgraduate Diploma in International Business Law	7	120
	Postgraduate Certificate in International Business Law	7	60

<b>8</b>	<b>Variation from the University Regulations</b>
	Not applicable.

9 Delivery Patterns			
Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
Full Time	City Centre (and placement provider if necessary).	12 months (Sep intake) 15 months (Jan intake)	PT0840-01 PT1262-01
Part time	City Centre (and placement provider if necessary).	24 months (September intake) 30 Months (January intake)	TBD TBD
Full Time with Professional Placement	City Centre (and placement provider)	18 months (Sep intake) 21 months (Jan intake)	PT1373-01 PT1321-01

10 Entry Requirements	
<b>Home:</b>	Minimum 2:2 class UK degree or international equivalent in any subject area.
<b>EU:</b>	<p>IELTS: 6.5 overall with 6.0 minimum in all bands</p> <p>If an applicant does not meet the required IELTS score, they may be eligible for one of our pre-sessional English courses (see: <a href="https://www.beta.bcu.ac.uk/international/your-application/english-language-and-english-tests/pre-sessional-english-courses">https://www.beta.bcu.ac.uk/international/your-application/english-language-and-english-tests/pre-sessional-english-courses</a>).</p> <p>An applicant must have a Secure English Language Test (SELT) to study on the pre-sessional English course (see: <a href="https://www.bcu.ac.uk/international/your-application/english-language-and-english-tests/pre-sessional-english-courses">https://www.bcu.ac.uk/international/your-application/english-language-and-english-tests/pre-sessional-english-courses</a>)</p> <p>For other accepted qualifications see: <a href="https://www.bcu.ac.uk/international/your-application/english-language-and-english-tests/accepted-qualifications">https://www.bcu.ac.uk/international/your-application/english-language-and-english-tests/accepted-qualifications</a>.</p>
<b>International:</b>	Minimum 2:2 class UK degree or international equivalent in any subject area.
<b>Access:</b>	An international applicant can enter the LLM through the Pre-Masters course offered by BCU International College. See: <a href="https://bcuic.bcu.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/law/">https://bcuic.bcu.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/law/</a>
11 Course Aims	
<p>The LLM International Business Law course aims to nurture critically aware and professionally adept future global citizens. A cornerstone of the course is the development of a systematic understanding of international business law. This is cultivated in tandem with a critical awareness of the discipline and an ability to creatively apply its ideas and doctrines. This knowledge will be built on – and learned through – the utilisation of research methodologies to identify and critically evaluate sources of information and apply them to complex legal problems. The LLM will allow you to study complex legal challenges that arise when transactions cross a border. In addition to this you will gain awareness of how commercial laws can settle disputes that cross a border. You</p>	

will study how governance and regulation can be used beyond a national jurisdiction in the context of governance of companies.

As LLM students and future professionals, the course team will help students learn how to act autonomously with their individual studies and career plans, and also in collaboration and partnership with staff and other students. On the latter, the course will simulate situations faced by practitioners of international business law, for example, this might include simulated arbitrations and/or arguing in writing and verbally to simulate professional environments. The course aims to provide assessments to allow you to demonstrate your communication skills answering complex problems in international business law, whether in writing or verbally. At various points in the course, including in the core Advanced Skills module, you will learn how to reflect on your practice and position in a globalised world. The core modules allow you to undertake simulated professional activity preparing you to be ready for the future by writing business reports, legal analyses, case studies, and presenting in professional business/ legal related professional environments. The LLM offers you the opportunity to engage with either a research or placement project further enhancing your self-reliance, confidence, independence, collaborative teamworking, and communication skills.

The objectives of the course can be summarised as follows:

- Analyse the essential features of international business law.
- Develop critical awareness of fields relevant to the discipline that inform solutions to complicated issues.
- Evaluate the relationships between law, business, and economics.
- Develop problem solving skills through independence and self-reliance.
- Enhance teamworking, leadership, and organisational skills; and,
- Build communication skills that translate to professional working contexts.

These objectives form the basis for the learning outcomes of the course. They are also aligned with the faculty strategic vision to provide experiential learning and impactful research informed teaching which transforms the lives of our community. The course aims to provide industry relevant education which is informed by research to help our graduates go on to provide solutions to complex challenges socially, economically and globally.

<b>12</b>	<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>
	<b>Knowledge and understanding</b>
<b>1</b>	Critically analyse essential features of international business law to develop sophisticated knowledge of the commercial, economic, and corporate governance contexts within which international business transactions take place.
<b>2</b>	Use legal, economic, and philosophical foundations to interpret the application of the law — demonstrating critical awareness of issues that arise in a contemporary society considering both politics and technological advancement.

3	Critically analyse the relationships between globalisation, business requirements, legal requirements, and theoretical frameworks to identify solutions to key contemporary global business-related issues using advanced international business law related scholarship.
4	Critically evaluate current research to communicate legal, business, and economic concepts to a specialist and non-specialist audience in a professional, coherent, and comprehensive manner.
5	Consider policy and ethical questions that arise in business transactions/ business governance analysing legal issues which cross a border.
6	Apply critical thinking to contemporary issues in international business and regulation of business. Critically analyse the regulatory frameworks that govern international business.
<b>Skills and Other Attributes</b>	
7	Acquire key transferrable skills essential to a career in law or business which underpins continuing professional development. Develop a range of pervasive skills including communication; critical thinking; professionalism; research skills; analytical thinking; problem solving; commercial awareness; and other related attributes.
8	Demonstrate independence and autonomy in problem-solving to propose solutions or use established techniques of research to find solutions to complex issues.
9	Apply theoretical learning to a long form project and enhance employability through a placement and reflective exercise. Work independently and collaboratively to build professional skills that help lead to employment opportunities in related fields. [Professional Placement Course].

<b>13</b>	<b>Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy</b>
	<p>The goal of the Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy is to provide opportunities, support and reliable measures of the course learning outcomes as realised across the modules. Its overall goal is to develop autonomous, critical and reflective learners, who are able to take responsibility for their studies and career plans and imagine their position in wider global society. In order to achieve this, the objectives in the strategy set out below will incorporate key elements of the Quality Assurance Agency's Subject Benchmark Statement Law including equality, diversity and inclusion; accessibility; sustainability; and enterprise.</p> <p>The first objective in the strategy is to enable a smooth transition for the students. This recognises the entrance requirements, and especially the diversity of backgrounds of our students, who often have lived and studied in different jurisdictions, come from disadvantaged and/or minority backgrounds. Teaching and assessment strategies in the core modules prioritise support for cultivating belonging and inclusiveness through personal study and career planning with tutors, and collaborative working to build a scholarly and welcoming community. The frequent targeted assessments on writing, reflection and research skills in the Advanced Skills module will help identify and triage students early on, who are struggling to adapt. As students learn the fundamentals of academic writing and research at master's level the teaching team will involve the Centre for Academic Success.</p> <p>A second key objective is ensuring the course represents values of equality and accessibility for students. There is emphasis in several core modules and options on critical and reflective engagement with the history, culture and underpinning philosophy of international business law. This recognises that the discipline can often prioritise American, European and White voices or interpretations making other contributions invisible. Crucial to understanding this wider literature</p>

is making sources accessible for a variety of learners using audio, visual and literary sources in addition to orthodox journals and texts. Accessibility is also reflected in the variety of assessments, which will be flexible and adjusted to any students with disabilities. The teaching team will develop students' digital skills and norms to locate reliable sources and use artificial intelligence appropriately and sensibly.

Thirdly, it is vital for teaching, learning and assessment to reflect broader global concerns such as the Sustainability Development Goals. Students are encouraged in classroom activities and through role-play-based assessment in core and optional modules by both critically analysing the evidence base and by proposing innovative solutions and new interpretations. These forms of assessment will help students practice interpersonal skills as well providing opportunities for creative thinking.

Lastly, throughout the course students will be supported to develop their professional and civic identities and agency to have an entrepreneurial and prosocial mindset. From the base in the core modules, where study and career plans are prepared, students have opportunities in the placement module and extended placement award to apply their knowledge and skills in the workplace. They will be provided with reflective tools and exercises to build their self-knowledge, monitor their well-being and better understand their motivation to work in international business law and related fields. Throughout the optional modules, students will be challenged to consider how business interacts with wider cultural and societal contexts.

The above strategy, which underpins the achievement of the course learning outcomes, is complemented by a range of experiential learning opportunities and involvement in the School's research community:

- The American Legal Practice Internship: all postgraduate students have access to this module and its opportunity to intern in legal practices and charities in the United States;
- School of Law Research Seminars and External Events: students are invited to attend and sometimes deliver research seminars with staff.

Student Research Collaborations: students are invited to collaborate with staff on active research projects, alongside the opportunity to be featured in the School of Law student journal Forward Thinking (<https://www.bcu.ac.uk/law/research/student-research-collaborations>).

The assessments within the course are designed to be inclusive and authentic. The purpose of the assessments is to challenge students and to improve their employability skills whilst also testing their knowledge of the complex legal matters that arise in international business. There will be a diverse range of assessments used during the course this will ensure that students understand professionalism and how to contribute to real world working environments. In particular the core modules ensure that students will write reports, present, take part in simulated arbitrations, reflect upon their skills and development and also be able to engage in either a long form project or long form placement which prepares the student for the future. The scenarios will include both individual work and teamworking exercises meaning that students will be able to gain skills of problem solving in an individual setting and a group setting as part of a team helping them have experience relevant to working environments.

We foster a culture of success by providing formative feedback opportunities. There will be feedback provided for each formative assessment so that students obtain directed detailed feedback. Each formative assessment will be directly linked to the summative assessment ensuring all can be successful. Each summative assessment will provide you with detailed



feedback and feedforward to help with your development and to help you identify areas for improvement.

**14 Course Requirements**

**14a Level 7:**

***In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 140 credits):***

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
LAW7129	Transnational Commercial Law	20
LAW	Advanced Skills	20
LAW	Cross-Border Dispute Resolution	20
LAW	Corporate Law: A Comparative Approach	20
LAW	Dissertation/ Live Project	60
	OR	
LAW7154	Placement	60

***In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:***

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
LAW7121	International Intellectual Property Law	20
LAW	Corporate Finance Law	20
LAW	Comparative Competition Law	20
LAW	Law and Legal Tech	20

***In order to qualify for the award of LLM International Business Law with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete all of the Level 7 modules listed above as well as the following Level 6 module:***

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PLA6001	Professional Placement	60

**14b Structure Diagram**

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

**Full-time: September starters**

If you are a September intake student studying on a full-time basis, you will complete the course in 12 months.

If you are a January intake student studying on a full-time basis, you will have up to 15 months to complete the course. This will give you the option to complete all taught modules before attempting the Dissertation/Live Project/Placement module.

**Level 7**

<b>September- December Semester 1</b>	<u><b>Core:</b></u>  <b>LAW7129: Transnational Commercial Law (20 Credits)</b>  <b>AND</b>  <b>LAWXXXX: Advanced Skills (20 Credits)</b>	<u><b>Optional Modules:</b></u>  <b>LAWXXXX International Intellectual Property Law (20 Credits)</b>  <b>OR</b>  <b>LAWXXXX Corporate Finance Law (20 Credits)</b>
<b>January- May Semester 2</b>	<u><b>Core:</b></u>  <b>LAWXXXX: Cross-Border Dispute Resolution (20 Credits)</b>  <b>AND</b>  <b>LAWXXXX: Corporate Law: A Comparative Approach (20 Credits)</b>	<u><b>Optional Modules:</b></u>  <b>LAWXXXX: Comparative Competition Law</b>  <b>OR</b>  <b>LAWXXXX: Law and Legal Tech</b>
<b>June-August Semester 3</b>	<u><b>Core Modules:</b></u>  <b>LAWXXXX: Dissertation/ Live Project (60 Credits)</b>  <b>Or</b>	



	<b>LAW7154 Placement (60 Credits)</b>	
<b>Professional Placement</b> <i>(if opted for LLM International Business Law with Professional Placement)</i>	<b>PLA6001 Professional Placement (60 Credits)</b>	

## Part Time

If you are a student studying on a part-time basis, whether September or January intake, you will have up to 24 months to complete the course.

## Year One

<b>Semester 1 and semester 2</b>	Complete 4 taught modules (80 credits)
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## Year Two

<b>Semester 1 and semester 2</b>	Complete 2 taught modules (40 credits)
<b>Semester 3</b>	Dissertation (60 credits)  OR  Placement (60 credits)

## 15 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

## Level 7

## Workload

### 17% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	145
Directed Learning	160
Private Study	1495
<b>Total Hours</b>	1800

## Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	80%
Exam	0%
In-Person	20%