

Programme Specification

LLM Commercial Law and Practice

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Law
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2025/26
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	Lord Mayor's Walk
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate in Commercial Law and Practice Postgraduate Diploma in Commercial Law and Practice
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	M101
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Law
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Postgraduate periods of study ¹ for full time / part time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

Law is an intellectually challenging and stimulating subject that enables you to develop a broad range of transferable professional skills and which will equip you for a professional career in a variety of fields and disciplines. The LLM Commercial Law and Practice programme is designed to enable you to explore commercial legal themes/concepts in depth, to inter-relate, evaluate, and apply the knowledge and skills to complex real-world problems. You will explore the role of law in our community, our society and internationally and will be supported to evaluate the objectivity and effectiveness of laws regarding current events.

Students of Law at York St John University will be known and supported as individuals. You will be taught by a dedicated team of academics and legal professionals each committed to providing a high-level of pastoral support and an engaging, inclusive teaching experience.

This programme offers you the opportunity to benefit from a live client experience through York St John Law Clinic embedded in a substantive core module in Semester 1 (Commercial Law & Practice) and in a substantive optional module in Semester 2 (Employment Law & Practice, Intellectual Property Law & Practice or Commercial Contracts & Dispute Resolution). You will gain experience in preparing legal advice and

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated; please refer to the Regulations for Undergraduate/Taught Postgraduate/Professional Doctorate Awards <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/regulations/> for information on standard periods of study

documentation in a live client, regulated environment. You will develop your understanding of relevant professional conduct rules and ways of working, including in relation to data protection and client care. You will develop transferable professional skills in an authentic context such as client interviewing, practical legal research, letter writing and legal drafting. These experiences will be externally grounded and facilitate multi-subject projects and cross-departmental working; for example, you will collaborate with students in the Business Consultancy Clinic to provide its clients with advice on business media and contractual matters and can collaborate with students in fashion and other creative disciplines to provide advice on intellectual property matters.

You will study three core modules and complete a year-long research project in an area of your choice, following a thorough grounding in research methodology and supervision from a subject expert. All optional modules on this programme have a practice element and you are expected to choose one.

You will join a vibrant student community and benefit from useful careers advice and development opportunities throughout your studies and optional field trips to legal institutions at a subsidised rate which will enhance your experience.

Key benefits of studying with us include:

- Access to the Law clinic where you will have hands on experience on live cases.
- High level of student support which ensures you are known and are supported as an individual.
- Subsidised field trips that enhance your learning.
- A vibrant law school with a close-knit student community.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

This programme you will provide you with: -

- Detailed insight and understanding of key areas within commercial law from the perspective of English and international law;
- Practical legal skills and knowledge which will make you stand out from the crowd in a competitive graduate recruitment market and make an immediate valuable contribution to your employer's business; and
- Gain experience in York St John Law Clinic providing legal advice and assistance to people and small businesses that cannot afford to pay for help, which will add value to your qualification and enable you to develop critical skills which are difficult to simulate.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 Research widely and apply knowledge of the law and/or legal practice to complex legal issues both systematically and creatively.
- 7.2 Exercise sound judgment, make appropriate decisions and draw reasoned conclusions in complex legal situations and in the absence of complete data.
- 7.3 Communicate clearly and succinctly to legal and non-legal audiences, conforming to appropriate conventions and standards where required, and requirements as to citation and referencing.
- 7.4 Demonstrate autonomy and originality in tackling and solving advanced legal problems, formulating coherent and persuasive interpretations and arguments and responding with insight and sensitivity to complex, unfamiliar and controversial arguments and debates.
- 7.5 Identify and retrieve up-to-date legal information, using appropriate paper and electronic sources.
- 7.6 Reflect on, plan and implement actions to advance their own learning and personal development
- 7.7 Demonstrate high methodology and research skills necessary to transfer learning acquired through taught and practice modules to produce an extensive piece of independent research which evaluates a specific issue in private or public law and results in coherent arguments and reasoned conclusions.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
LAW7034M	7	1	Business Law & Corporate Governance	30	C	X
LAW7035M	7	1	Commercial Law & Practice**	30	C	X
LAW7036M	7	2	International Trade Law	30	C	X
Select one module from the three optional modules						
LAW7037M	7	2	Employment Law & Practice**	30	O	X
LAW7038M	7	2	Intellectual Property Law & Practice**	30	O	X
LAW7039M	7	2	Commercial Contracts and Dispute Resolution**	30	O	X
LAW7040M	7	1,2 & 3	Capstone Project	60	C	NC

** Modules with clinical experience

Please note that not all options may be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensatable. A non-compensatable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 50 for modules at Level 7).

Learning, teaching and assessment

You will typically be taught by way of a socratic lecture introducing a topic followed by a workshop, for which you will be required to prepare, which will allow you to put what you have learned into practice. Lectures make use of interactive technologies such as Mentimeter to enable you to contribute anonymously to whole group discussion and for tutors to quickly assess understanding of core concepts. Workshops involve a maximum of 25 students and facilitate collaborative groupwork to share ideas and engage in activities. Workshops typically reflect on your preparation before introducing activities to apply learning in new contexts and finishing with a plenary to reflect on what has been learned and deepen understanding.

In modules such as Commercial Law & Practice, Employment Law & Practice, Intellectual Property Law & Practice and Commercial Contracts and Dispute Resolution, you will study the substantive law in an academic context alongside a relevant live client experience in York St John Law Clinic to enable you to acquire skills in a relevant context and reflect on the law in action. The programme will equip you with practical, clinical and research skills that are embedded throughout the programme. You will receive a detailed handbook during induction, and you will receive basic skills training during induction. In your semester 1 Commercial Law and Practice module, you will be required to work on live cases and know how to apply the law, you will research areas that are of interest to you, and which may prompt further exploration for your capstone project. Learning will be scaffolded throughout your teaching sessions, and small firm meetings will provide you with opportunities to discuss the case you are working on and receive detailed feedback and guidance. You will be supervised by one of the qualified staff in the law clinic. You are expected to spend up to four hours weekly in the law clinic carrying out research and working on your live client case with support from your designated clinic supervisor to successfully pass the programme.

You will encounter a range of assessments which are designed to be educationally impactful and develop skills. These include essays which allow for independent research and the development of reason and critical argument, portfolios will allow for the practical application of knowledge as a topic progresses, and reports which require you to look at a particular business failure and discuss impact and implications which demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a real-world context.

You will be provided with formative feedback opportunities for each assessment of each module you take. Formative feedback building towards summative assessment will form the bedrock of our approach. On the professional practice modules, you will benefit from weekly formative feedback from clients in the Law Clinic and the ongoing firm supervisory meetings. For the Capstone Project module, you will be paired with a member of academic staff with appropriate expertise who will guide and support you through your research project. For the Business Law and Corporate Governance module and International Trade Law module, two dedicated assessment workshops will be scheduled to provide formative feedback on your work. In addition to these dedicated formative feedback sessions, all workshops designed to provide you with formative feedback on your work. For the practice modules, formative feedback is provided weekly to ensure the advice you are giving to the client is correct. The advice which will be in the form of client care letters can be used in your portfolio for summative assessment.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations](#) for postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)

- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree](#)

Date written: February 2024

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