

Programme Specification

Award and title: LLM International Business Law

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| <i>School:</i> | York Business School |
| <i>Subject area:</i> | Law |
| <i>Entry from academic year:</i> | 2026/27 |
| <i>in the month(s) of</i> | September and February |
| <i>Awarding institution:</i> | York St John University |
| <i>Teaching institution:</i> | York St John University |
| <i>Delivery location:</i> | York St John University |
| <i>Programme/s accredited by:</i> | N/A |
| <i>Exit awards:</i> | Postgraduate Certificate in International Business Law Postgraduate Diploma in International Business Law |
| <i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i> | N/A |
| <i>Joint Honours combinations:</i> | N/A |
| <i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i> | Law |
| <i>Mode/s of study:</i> | Postgraduate periods of study ¹ for full 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 |
| <i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i> | No |

Introduction and special features

The LLM International Business Law at York St John University offers an intellectually rigorous and professionally grounded postgraduate legal education. It develops advanced expertise in the principles, frameworks, and practice of international business law, preparing you to navigate complex legal challenges in an increasingly interconnected commercial world.

Law is a demanding and dynamic discipline, and the programme is designed to cultivate the analytical, research, and professional capabilities required for diverse legal and commercial careers. You will build a sophisticated understanding of international business law and apply this knowledge to real-world issues involving cross-border transactions, corporate governance, digital regulation, and global business operations. International Business Law takes a broad regulatory and systems-based perspective, examining how legal frameworks shape corporate behaviour, governance, and business activity across multiple regulatory domains. Through this approach, you will explore the interaction between law, markets, technology, and global commerce, developing an understanding of how businesses operate within increasingly complex national and international regulatory environments. Areas of study include international corporate

governance, corporate insolvency, intellectual property, cyber regulation, and international trade law, enabling you to appreciate how legal systems shape and respond to the realities of global commerce.

A distinctive feature of the programme is its integrated work-related learning model. Through the York St John Law & Business Clinic, embedded within the compulsory module *International Business Law*, you will engage with simulated international business client scenarios, investigate relevant legal principles, and apply your learning directly to client-facing challenges. Assessments include a portfolio, of advisory letter, legal research report and a reflection on your professional skills development. Teaching is delivered through an interactive approach. You will participate in workshops, simulations, and problem-based learning (PBL) activities that mirror the demands of professional practice. These sessions provide structured opportunities to develop skills in negotiation, regulatory analysis, legal drafting, and strategic decision-making. Workshops also support the development of professional communication and presentation skills, enabling you to articulate complex legal arguments with clarity and confidence.

The LLM International Business Law is underpinned by the core values of York St John University, which are integrated throughout both the curriculum and learning experience. In addition to developing specialist knowledge of international business regulation, the programme encourages you to engage critically with the broader responsibilities of business in society. You will examine how legal and regulatory frameworks intersect with questions of ethics, fairness, sustainability, and social and environmental justice in a globalised economy. The programme places emphasis on the role of law in shaping responsible corporate behaviour, including consideration of environmental impact, corporate accountability, digital ethics, and equitable business practices. Rather than viewing business law purely in technical or commercial terms, you will be supported to evaluate how legal rules influence people, communities, and ecological systems across different jurisdictions. By embedding these values within your study, the programme aims to develop graduates who are not only legally knowledgeable and commercially aware, but also critically reflective and ethically grounded in their approach to international business practice.

This applied approach enables you to build networks with practitioners and business leaders operating internationally, gaining insight into the practical demands faced by global organisations. The programme comprises two core modules, a suite of specialist options, and a year-long Capstone Project supported by research training and expert supervision.

You will join a vibrant academic community and benefit from comprehensive careers guidance, optional subsidised field trips to legal and regulatory institutions, and a range of professional development opportunities.

Key benefits include:

- Embedded work-related learning throughout the programme
- Interactive teaching through workshops, simulations, and practice-focused activities
- Development of transferable skills in negotiation, drafting, communication, and presentation
- High levels of academic and pastoral support
- A supportive and engaged law school community
- Opportunities for in-depth research with expert supervision
- Access to field trips, careers support, and professional development activities

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.yorksj.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 aims to:

1. Develop advanced knowledge and critical understanding of international business law within global corporate, trade, digital, and governance contexts.
2. Equip you with high-level analytical, research, and professional skills necessary for legal and commercial practice in international environments.
3. Integrate academic study with work-related experiential learning to produce reflective, commercially aware, and ethically responsible graduates.

Programme learning outcomes

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

Level 7

- 7.1 Research widely and apply knowledge of international business law to complex legal issues systematically and creatively.
- 7.2 Exercise sound judgment, make appropriate decisions and draw reasoned conclusions in complex real-world legal and business environment
- 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 analysing and solving advanced international business law 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, retrieve and critically evaluate up-to-date legal information, using appropriate paper and electronic sources.
- 7.6 Reflect on, plan and implement actions to advance your own learning and personal development.
- 7.7 Demonstrate advanced research methodology skills necessary to undertake and complete an extensive piece of independent research on a specific issue in international business law, producing coherent arguments, critical analysis and reasoned conclusions.

Programme structure for September start

| Code | Level | Semester | Title | Credits | Module status | |
|----------|-------|----------|---|---------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | Compulsory (C) or optional (O) | non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X) |
| LAW7050M | 7 | 1 | International Business Law | 30 | C | X |
| LAW7051M | 7 | 1 | International Corporate Insolvency Law | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7054M | 7 | 1 | Company Law | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7048M | 7 | 1 | Data Protection and Privacy Law | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7066M | 7 | 1 | International Investment Law | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7049M | 7 | 2 | International Commercial Dispute Resolution | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7052M | 7 | 2 | International Corporate Governance | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7061M | 7 | 2 | Intellectual Property Law | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7064M | 7 | 2 | International Trade Law | 30 | C | X |
| LAW7053M | 7 | 2 | Cyber Law | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7040M | 7 | 1, 2 & 3 | Capstone Project | 60 | C | NC |

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-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level with a mark of 50 in order to progress.

Programme structure for February start

| Code | Level | Semester | Title | Credits | Module status | |
|----------|-------|----------|---|---------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | Compulsory (C) or optional (O) | non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X) |
| LAW7049M | 7 | 2 | International Commercial Dispute Resolution | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7052M | 7 | 2 | International Corporate Governance | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7061M | 7 | 2 | Intellectual Property Law | 30 | O | X |

| | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|--|----|---|----|
| LAW7064M | 7 | 2 | International Trade Law | 30 | C | X |
| LAW7053M | 7 | 2 | Cyber Law | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7050M | 7 | 1 | International Business Law | 30 | C | X |
| LAW7051M | 7 | 1 | International Corporate Insolvency Law | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7054M | 7 | 1 | Company Law | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7048M | 7 | 1 | Data Protection and Privacy Law | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7066M | 7 | 1 | International Investment Law | 30 | O | X |
| LAW7040M | 7 | 2, 3 & 1 | Capstone Project | 60 | C | NC |

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-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level with a mark of 50 in order to progress.

Learning, teaching and assessment

You will learn through an engaging teaching approach that combines academic rigour with practical application. The programme is delivered through a single three-hour session per module each week, drawing on a range of teaching methods to support different learning styles and learning outcomes. These may include short lectures, workshops, small-group discussions, case-based learning activities, problem-solving exercises, and student-led discussions. Sessions will typically begin with an interactive introduction to the key topic, providing the theoretical and legal foundations necessary for deeper exploration. This is followed by applied workshop activities that require advance preparation and encourage you to engage critically with legal, policy, and social justice issues. Teaching is highly participatory and makes use of digital tools such as Mentimeter to encourage discussion, support anonymous contributions, and enable tutors to assess understanding in real time. This varied and interactive approach provides you with an active learning environment in which you can collaborate with peers, contribute to meaningful discussions, and develop your legal analysis, critical thinking, and practical problem-solving skills. In addition, you will take part in fortnightly small-group Problem-Based Learning tutorials. These sessions enable you to research and analyse real-world issues in international business law while developing key professional skills in problem-solving, negotiation, and communication. The work you undertake also contributes to assessed tasks in which you present your findings and recommendations in a professional context.

The International Business Law programme is built around three essential compulsory modules: International Business Law, International Trade Law, and the Capstone Project. These modules form the backbone of the programme, equipping you with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the legal environment of global business. The International Business Law module covers the key legal principles and regulatory frameworks that govern business operations across borders, while International Trade Law focuses on the rules, agreements, and institutions that regulate international commerce. Together, they provide a thorough understanding of both the private and public dimensions of international business law.

Alongside your taught modules, you will complete a Capstone Project: an extended independent research project on a topic of your choice within international business law. In your first semester, weekly workshops introduce research design and methodology, helping you to identify an appropriate focus and develop a robust research plan. In your second semester, further workshops provide tailored support as you carry out

your research and analyse your findings. You will also benefit from individual supervision from an academic with expertise in your chosen area.

As part of your learning experience, the programme incorporates field trips designed to complement your academic study and provide practical, work-related insights. These visits may include courts, law firms, regulatory bodies, commercial organisations, and, for students specialising in international business and commercial law, organisations involved in cross-border trade, arbitration, and commercial dispute resolution. Field trips offer an opportunity to observe legal and business processes in real-world settings, engage with practitioners, and see how theory is applied in practice. They provide a unique form of experiential learning, enabling you to develop professional skills, critically reflect on legal and commercial practices, and contextualise your learning within practical, global, and interdisciplinary environments. By participating in these visits, you will enhance your understanding of the professional landscape, strengthen analytical and reflective skills, and gain practical insight that supports your academic development and future career readiness.

Assessment is designed to be both academically demanding and professionally relevant. Essays develop your ability to undertake independent research and construct critical legal arguments. Portfolios support the applied and progressive development of knowledge. Presentations give you the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding in realistic professional settings.

Throughout the programme, formative feedback is embedded within teaching and assessment, supported by dedicated assessment workshops, regular tutor input, and individual guidance on your Capstone Project. You will also be supported by a personal tutor who will work with you throughout your studies, helping you to reflect on your progress, refine your goals, and make the most of your academic and professional development.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [regulations](#) for taught 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-compensable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Code of Practice](#)
- [The University's Approach to Dignity and Respect](#)

Date written / revised: February 2026

Programme originally approved: