

Programme Specification

Award and title: LLM International Commercial Law

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Law
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2027-28
<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 International Commercial Law Postgraduate Diploma International Commercial Law
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	
<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 Commercial Law at York St John University provides an intellectually rigorous and professionally relevant postgraduate legal education. The programme develops advanced knowledge and critical insight into the scope, principles, and practice of international commercial law, enabling you to engage with complex legal issues in a globalised commercial environment.

Law is an inherently challenging and stimulating discipline, and this programme is designed to cultivate the advanced analytical, research, and professional skills required for a wide range of legal and commercial careers. You will be supported to develop a sophisticated understanding of international commercial law and to apply this knowledge to real world scenarios involving cross border transactions, commercial relationships, and global business operations.

International Commercial Law is organised around the doctrinal structure of commercial relationships and dispute resolution, focusing on how legal rules govern transactions, enforcement, and rights between market actors. Through this framework, you will explore the legal principles that underpin international trade and commerce, examining how commercial relationships are created, regulated, and enforced across jurisdictions.

You will study a diverse range of areas including international commercial transactions, international commercial dispute resolution, corporate governance, and consumer protection. Through this breadth, you will gain a sophisticated understanding of how commercial law operates across jurisdictions and how legal frameworks shape and are shaped by international business practice.

A defining feature of this programme is its integrated work-related learning model. Within the core module *International Commercial Law*, you will have the opportunity to work on simulated international commercial law cases using real case management tools through the Law Clinic. This provides an authentic learning environment that reflects professional legal practice. Through these simulations, you will investigate relevant legal principles and apply your knowledge to complex, practice-based scenarios. Using live case management systems will enable you to develop practical skills in case handling, legal analysis, and professional workflow. Assessment will require you to present your research findings and proposed solutions using a range of appropriate professional communication formats.

A distinctive feature of the LLM International Commercial Law is its commitment to the core values of York St John University, which are embedded throughout the curriculum. Alongside developing advanced legal and commercial knowledge, you will be encouraged to critically examine the ethical, social, and environmental dimensions of international commercial activity. The programme explores how commercial law can both respond to and shape contemporary global challenges, including issues of corporate accountability, responsible business practice, sustainability, environmental protection, and access to justice. Through engagement with these themes, you will develop the ability to evaluate legal rules and commercial practices not only in terms of their economic effectiveness but also their wider impact on individuals, communities, and the environment. This values-based approach equips graduates with the critical awareness and ethical judgement required to operate responsibly and effectively within an increasingly interconnected and complex global marketplace.

This innovative feature of the programme will enable you to create networks with, and receive feedback from, leaders whose businesses operate internationally, and to learn more about their companies.

You will gain experience in negotiation and drafting legal documentation whilst developing your oral and written communication and presentation skills. You will study two core modules, two optional modules and complete a year-long capstone project in an area of your choice, following a thorough grounding in research methodology and supervision from a subject expert.

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:

- Embedded work-related learning across the programme
- Opportunities to build professional networks with businesses operating internationally
- Development of transferable skills including negotiation, drafting, communication, and presentation
- High levels of academic and pastoral support
- A vibrant law School community with strong peer and staff relationships
- Opportunities for in depth research supported by subject experts
- 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.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 aims

This programme aims to:

- Equip you to analyse and resolve complex cross-border commercial disputes and regulatory challenges using comparative, doctrinal, and policy-aware legal methods.
- Expose you to a work-related experience across the programme, providing context to help structure your learning.
- Create opportunities to engage with businesses which operate internationally, enabling you to expand your network, receive feedback from business leaders and explore current issues in international commercial law.

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 commercial 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 contexts 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 and commercial 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 your own learning and personal development.
- 7.7 Demonstrate advance research methodology skills necessary undertake and complete an extensive piece of independent research on a specific issue in international commercial law, producing coherent arguments, critical analysis and reasoned conclusions.

Programme structure for September starts

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	Non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
LAW7047M	7	1	International Commercial Law	30	C	X
LAW7055M	7	1	Consumer Protection Law	30	O	X
LAW7065M	7	1	Business Law and Corporate Governance	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
LAW7061M	7	2	Intellectual Property Law	30	O	X
LAW7064M	7	2	International Trade Law	30	C	X
LAW7062M	7	2	Employment 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 starts

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
LAW7061M	7	2	Intellectual Property Law	30	O	X
LAW7064M	7	2	International Trade Law	30	C	X
LAW7062M	7	2	Employment Law	30	O	X
LAW7047M	7	1	International Commercial Law	30	C	X
LAW7055M	7	1	Consumer Protection Law	30	O	X
LAW7064M	7	1	Business Law and Corporate Governance	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 be taught through several interactive, student centred sessions including workshops, lectures, and seminars which are designed to develop in depth core knowledge while deepening your understanding through active participation. Each module is delivered through a weekly three-hour session. You will be expected to prepare in advance by completing set readings or tasks, which will form the basis of in-class activities. During the session, you will take part in discussions, problem-solving exercises, case study analysis, and, where appropriate, group work and presentations. These sessions will be facilitated by your tutor, who will guide discussions, clarify key concepts, and support you in applying theory to practical and real-world scenarios. These sessions will provide you with opportunities to develop critical thinking, communication, and analytical skills, while also enabling you to learn from your peers and test your understanding in a supportive environment. Interactive technologies such as Mentimeter are used to enable anonymous contributions to whole group discussion and allow tutors to assess understanding of key concepts in real time. In addition, you will participate in fortnightly one-hour small group Problem Based Learning (PBL) tutorials. These sessions provide a work-related learning experience in which you research and analyse a real-world scenario set by an industry partner operating in international trade. The PBL format develops your problem solving, research, and negotiation skills, and the work you produce contributes to an assessed element requiring you to present your findings and recommendations back to the industry partner. This supports the development of your oral and written communication and professional presentation skills across the programme.

The International Commercial Law programme is built around three core compulsory modules: International Commercial Law, International Trade Law, and the Capstone Project. These modules are central to the programme as they provide you with a coherent and comprehensive understanding of the legal frameworks governing global commerce. International Commercial Law equips you with the foundational principles of cross-border transactions, while International Trade Law explores the regulation of international trade and the role of global institutions. Together, they ensure a balanced understanding of both private and public aspects of international commerce. The Capstone Project serves as the culmination of the programme, enabling you to undertake independent research and apply your knowledge to real-world issues. Collectively, these modules develop subject expertise, critical analysis, and research skills essential for your professional or academic progression. In addition to these core modules, you can choose from a range of optional modules based on their interests, allowing you to tailor your learning and explore specific areas of international commercial law in greater depth.

Throughout the programme, you will work on your Capstone Project, an extended piece of independent research on a topic of your choice within international commercial law. In your first semester, weekly two-hour workshops introduce research methodology and design, supporting you to select appropriate methods and plan your project. In the second semester, fortnightly three-hour workshops provide tailored, practical support as you conduct your research and analyse your findings. You will also receive up to eight hours of 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.

You will encounter a range of assessments designed to be educationally meaningful and to develop both academic and professional skills. Essays support independent research and the development of reasoned, critical argument. Portfolios enable the practical application of knowledge as a topic progresses. Presentations allow you to demonstrate your understanding and skills in a real-world context.

Formative feedback underpins the programme's approach to supporting your learning. Each module provides formative opportunities for every assessment, and workshop tutors will regularly observe your work and offer informal feedback. For the Capstone Project, you will work closely with a dedicated supervisor who will guide and support your research.

Each module includes two dedicated assessment workshops offering guidance on assessment requirements and opportunities for formative feedback on your developing work.

Alongside academic support, you will be assigned a personal tutor who will get to know you and your aspirations, monitor your overall progress, and provide pastoral advice and guidance.

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: January 2026

Programme originally approved: