



LLM

International Business and Commercial Law

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **11 September 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

This course is designed to immerse you in a deep understanding of the global economy and the interconnected legal aspects that shape international business and commerce.

Introduction

Teaching on our International Business and Commercial Law LLM is research-connected. It allows you to engage in current and cutting-edge research-informed modules led by leading experts in the field.

At the core of this course is the unique module, 'Law, International Business, and Society.' This module will introduce you to International Business and Commercial Law and to our research ethos and expertise in this area. You will delve into the complex relationships between law, business, and society. Exploring three key domains—international economic governance (including sustainable trade and investment regimes), corporate governance and financial regulation, and the legal foundations of the knowledge economy (such as creations, inventions, and technology)—you will analyse how law and social justice intersect in these areas.

This course enables you to tailor your studies based on your interests and professional goals, whether focused on international trade and economic law, corporate law and regulation, or the legal aspects of the knowledge economy, creativity, and technology.

All students are given our specialised Legal Research Training as preparation for writing their dissertation. The module covers advance legal research, legal writing, as well as theoretical perspectives and research methodologies.

Upon completion of this course, you'll emerge a graduate capable of meeting the requirements of an increasingly specialised employment market, both within and outside the legal professions.

Who is this course for?

This LLM is suitable for graduates of Law or a relevant degree subject area such as business, economics, political science, history, criminology, sociology, international relations etc.

What you'll learn

- Advanced study in a range of subjects within the specialist field of international business and commercial law
- A well-rounded understanding of international business and commercial law within the broader context of global relations, history, economics, politics, social policy, and modern society
- A range of skills required for any professional environment (e.g. communication, problem solving)
- How to apply legal knowledge to a practical situation and draw reasoned conclusions supported by legal authority
- Digital fluency

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

During the course of this LLM, you will complete 180 credits in total, with 120 credits delivered via taught modules.

In semester one, you will study one compulsory module and two optional modules.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
LAW, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, AND SOCIETY (LAW528)	20

Optional modules	Credits
DIGITAL JUSTICE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES (LAW518)	20
COMPETITION LAW (LAW519)	20
GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW (LAW552)	20
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION (LAW557)	20

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

In semester two, you will study three optional modules.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT (LAW521)	20
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW (LAW529)	20
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND DIRECTORS' DUTIES (LAW530)	20
INTERNATIONAL LAW AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT (LAW542)	20
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CRIME (LAW585)	20

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

Your course concludes with a 60-credit supervised research project (dissertation) undertaken following completion of the taught modules.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Modules

Compulsory modules

Credits

DISSERTATION (LAW540)

60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching methods depend upon the module, but most modules are taught via in-person seminars on campus.

Independent study is an important part of your learning at this level, and you'll be expected to prepare in advance through guided reading and independent learning activities.

Your weekly seminars prioritise collaborative discussion and group work based on the reading and learning tasks you'll be asked to complete before the seminar. This allows you to apply your skills, knowledge and understanding, enabling your tutor to provide immediate feedback on the tasks.

How you're assessed

In semesters one and two, you will take modules totalling 120 credits. Your dissertation, completed over the summer, is worth 60 credits. You are required to complete 180 credits to achieve a full LLM.

Assessment takes different formats depending on each module's learning objectives. Many modules have two assessments: a smaller piece of work, such as a case commentary or plan, mid-way through the module, followed by a more substantial essay at the end. Semester one modules are formally assessed in January, while semester two assessments take place in May and June.

Your 12,000-word dissertation is completed during the summer period (July to September). You will receive legal research training and be assigned an expert supervisor, ensuring you are fully prepared and supported throughout the process.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to

ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

Our LLM in International Business and Commercial Law prepares you for a diverse range of career paths within and beyond the legal sector.

Alongside your studies, you'll benefit from tailored careers support, networking opportunities, skills workshops and extra-curricular activities including mooted competitions, internships, pro bono initiatives and guest lectures from leading professionals. These experiences enable you to apply your knowledge in practical contexts and position yourself confidently in today's increasingly specialised global employment market.

An LLM in International Business and Commercial Law provides rigorous training in legal analysis and promotes critical thinking, independent research and project management skills. As such, it is excellent preparation for pursuing a career in legal practice and developing knowledge and skills in matters of contemporary importance in international business and commercial law.

Graduates will be able to pursue careers in areas of trade, investment, financial or regulatory legal interest, including:

- International organisations
- Government
- Industry

For those interested in the political and social dimensions of global economic regulation and responsible business, careers are also possible in third-sector organisations such as:

- NGOs
- Charities
- Policy or research think tanks

As a member of the Pan-European Seal programme, the University of Liverpool partners with the European Union Intellectual Property Office and the European Patent Office. You can gain insights into the world's largest IP offices, attend networking events, access extra learning opportunities and apply for paid one-year internships.

The LLM also provides an ideal opportunity to gain advanced specialist knowledge in preparation for further postgraduate research.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in Law (BA or LLB) or a closely related subject, including Political Science, Sociology, Philosophy, International Relations, Banking, Management Studies, Humanities, Social Sciences and Economics.

Candidates whose first degree is in a discipline other than Law may be admitted at the discretion of the Programme Director, e.g. if they have relevant work experience (relevant work experience might include work in the legal or corporate sectors) or a degree in a relevant discipline, such as Business, Economics, Political Science, History, Criminology, Sociology, International Relations etc.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

125 overall, with writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component at 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0, for further details.

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