

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	LLM
4	Programme Title	LLM in International Commercial Law
5	UCAS/Programme Code	5832
6	Programme Accreditation	n/a
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	n/a
8	FHEQ Level	7
9	Date written/revised	May 02; revised 05; revised 06; revised 07; revised 08; April 09

10 Programme Aims

To comply with prevailing University policies;
To enable students to:

1. acquire specialised legal knowledge and legal skills in the subject-matter of International Commercial Law
2. have the opportunity to acquire specialised knowledge in other related areas
3. develop a greater understanding of the nature of law and regulation, both generally and within the specific context of the subject-matter of International Commercial Law
4. develop their research, organisational and presentation skills, and their capacity and opportunity for independent learning
5. develop other key skills that will equip students for future learning and employment

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Law

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

- A1. understand key principles and doctrines in a range of legal subjects related to International Commercial law;
A2. be familiar with the key institutions relevant to those legal subjects;
A3. understand relevant theoretical perspectives (including those drawn from other disciplines) on the legal and policy issues raised by the subjects studied by the student; and
A4. be acquainted with contemporary research and scholarship in these legal subjects.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Students have the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding from a variety of teaching methods. First, in some subjects lecturers make presentations of selected areas of legal material. These presentations may take the form of traditional lectures, or of introductory presentations in seminar groups. Second, in all subjects, students are given handouts which both present basic information relevant to the legal subject and indicate further reading which students are required to undertake to advance their understanding and knowledge. Third, students participate in seminars in all of their chosen legal subjects. Students must prepare for such seminars through undertaking set reading, and by applying that reading to specific problems or issues set for discussion. Group discussions within seminars are then based around these set problems/issues. Finally, the compulsory written work set in all modules (including the compulsory dissertation) provide students with a further opportunity both to develop, and to test, their knowledge and understanding.

Assessment Strategy

These are assessed by three means:
(a) by assessed essay(s) (where compulsory in each module); and/or
(b) by an unseen examination paper in each module; and
(c) by the dissertation.

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to show:
the ability to
B1. Analyse legal issues, including identifying and ordering issues by relevance and importance;
B2. synthesise materials derived from diverse sources;
B3. exercise critical judgement by discriminating between the merits or otherwise of particular arguments and
B4. exercise skills of evaluation in making a reasoned choice between competing solutions or arguments.

Teaching and Learning Methods

B1 to B4 are primarily developed and demonstrated through seminar discussions, problem-solving and in researching and writing assessed coursework essays, research papers, the dissertation, examinations, and preparing for and delivering oral presentations.

Assessment Strategy

These are assessed by three means:
(a) by assessed essay(s) (where compulsory in each module); and/or
(b) by an unseen examination paper in each module; and
(c) by the dissertation.

Practical/subject-specific/professional Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:
C1. Engage in legal problem-solving (insofar as appropriate for the legal subject studied) by identifying relevant issues, applying relevant concepts, principles and rules, making judgements and reaching conclusions supported by sound and informed reasoning;
C2. Engage in theoretical reflection on the legal subjects being studied, including identifying the criteria by which the law's regulation might be evaluated and making judgements thereon supported by sound and informed reasoning;
C3. Write, speak and think with care and precision in the analysis and synthesis of the law; and

C4. Identify issues for research and to retrieve accurate and relevant legal and other sources in primary and secondary form, both in paper and digital formats.

Teaching and Learning Methods

These skills are developed generally through preparation for seminars and participation within seminars, and through students' written assignments (including the compulsory dissertation) and examinations. Skills C3 and C4. are also the focus of the compulsory module in 'dissertation preparation', and the supervisory arrangements which accompany the students' research for, and preparation of, their dissertation.

Assessment Strategy

These are assessed by three means:
(a) by assessed essay(s) (where compulsory in each module); and/or
(b) by an unseen examination paper in each module; and
(c) by the dissertation.

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:
D1(a) read, interpret and understand English language accurately in relation to complex technical texts and
(b) present argument intelligibly and accurately;
D2 word process essays and other academic work in an appropriate form, use the internet and email and demonstrate some competence in digital information retrieval;
D3(a) act independently in organising time, tasks and meeting deadlines
(b) undertake independent research both in areas already studied and those investigated without prior study and
(c) reflect on the learning process using feedback.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Under D1, the ability to argue orally is developed primarily through seminars and further developed in the dissertation Preparation seminars in LAW8099. Again under D1, literacy is developed through course work assessments, seminar papers where required and the dissertation. D2 and D3 are introduced in induction and practised throughout the programme. Coursework provides the opportunity for students to develop and demonstrate IT & C literacy (D2). D3 is developed by preparation for seminars and researching and writing coursework essays, research papers and dissertations.

Assessment Strategy

D1, 2 (part) and 3 (part) are assessed by assessed essays, exams and the dissertation.
There is no formal
assessment of the use of email skills, nor of student reflection on the learning process using feedback.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

This degree is designed to allow students to choose from a wide range of options in International Commercial Law, International, European and Comparative Law.

It can be studied over one complete academic year by full time study, or two academic years for part time study. The academic year is divided into three semesters.

Students must take modules to a total of 180 credits. There are two compulsory modules:
LAW8036 Law of International Commerce
LAW8099 Dissertation preparation and dissertation (60 credits).

The remaining Credits must be taken from a list of approved modules or, with the Degree Programme Director's consent, from other modules available within the University up to a credit value of 30. (This may be subject to timetable constraints. Externally provided modules must be of equivalent standard to LLM modules.)
Within this choice, modules to a minimum value of 30 credits marked * on the list of approved modules must be selected.

The module weighting of each LLM option is 30 credits. Some modules (marked with #) are foundation modules. The Degree Programme Director must approve any student's selection of such modules. Such approval will not be given where the student has previously studied that subject.

Semesters One AND Two

Compulsory:

LAW8099 Dissertation preparation
LAW8036 Law of International Commerce

In addition, students must take 90 credit modules from the following options. Within this choice, modules to a minimum value of 30 credits marked * must be selected:

Optional modules (all 30 credits)

LAW8037 European Environmental Law
LAW8038 International Environmental Law
LAW8039 International Financial Regulation*
LAW8040 The Law of WTO and GATT*
LAW8041 Foundations of Environmental Law and Policy#
LAW8042 Environmental Law and Environmental Rights
LAW8043 Corporate Governance and Corporate Finance*
LAW8044 International Intellectual Property Law*
(withdrawn from 2008-2009) LAW8046 Foundations of Public International Law#
LAW8047 Planning Law and Environmental Impact
LAW8050 Human Rights in a Global Context (suspended for 2008-2009)

Summer: Semester Three

In the Summer, full time students must complete the following compulsory module; part time students may write their dissertation throughout their second year:

LAW8099 Dissertation (60 credits)

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

Opportunity to engage in specialised study of international commercial law and related subjects of relevance to modern business environment as well as a degree of wider choice of modules if desired.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations>

13 Criteria for admission

Entry qualifications

Admission requirements reflect the fact that this is a postgraduate taught degree programme. We usually require a good first degree of honours standard, either in law, or in another academic discipline related to the programme.

Admissions policy/selection tools

The University's E2R system for processing applications means that applicants with an upper second class honours degree in law, or equivalent, can generally benefit from a rapid response once all the required information has been lodged with the university.

Non-standard Entry Requirements

Given the diverse backgrounds of applicants to the programme, each applicant is generally considered on an individual basis.

Level of English Language capability

Those whose first language is not English must demonstrate a good command of English, to IELTS 7.0 or equivalent.

14 Support for Student Learning

The Student Services portal provides links to key services and other information and is available at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students>

Induction

During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principle support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practicals/labs/ tutorials/etc.

Study skills support

Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the appropriate Induction Programme. Students are explicitly tutored on their approach to both group and individual projects.

Academic support

The initial point of contact for a student is with a lecturer or module leader, or their tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Degree Programme Director or Head of School may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Staff-Student Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

Pastoral support

All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees.

In addition the University offers a range of support services, including the Student Advice Centre, the Counselling and Wellbeing team, the Mature Student Support Officer, and a Childcare Support Officer.

Support for students with disabilities

The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies.

Learning resources

The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities.

All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language test in the Language Centre. Where appropriate, in-session language training can be provided. The Language Centre houses a range of resources for learning other languages.

15 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Module reviews

All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are considered at the School Teaching and Learning Committee and at the Board of Studies. Student opinion is sought at the Staff-Student Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

Programme reviews

The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

External Examiner reports

External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. External Examiner reports are shared with institutional student representatives, through the Staff-Student Committee.

Student evaluations

All modules, and the degree programme, are subject to review by student questionnaires. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Staff-Student Committee, and the Board of Studies. The National Student Survey is sent out every year to final-year undergraduate students, and consists of a set of questions seeking the students' views on the quality of the learning and teaching in their HEIs. Further information is at www.thestudentsurvey.com/ With reference to the outcomes of the NSS and institutional student satisfaction surveys actions are taken at all appropriate levels by the institution.

Mechanisms for gaining student feedback

Feedback is channelled via the Staff-Student Committee and the Board of Studies.

Faculty and University Review Mechanisms

The programme is subject to the University's Internal Subject Review process.

Accreditation reports

Additional mechanisms

16 Regulation of assessment

Pass mark

The pass mark is 50 (Postgraduate programmes)

Course requirements

Progression is subject to the University's Masters Degree Progress Regulations, Taught and Research (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/tpmdepr.pdf>) and Examination Conventions for Taught Masters Degrees (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/tpmdeprexamconv.pdf>). Limited compensation up to 40 credits of the taught element and down to a mark of 40 is possible and there are reassessment opportunities, with certain restrictions.

Weighting of stages

For part time students, the marks from Stages 1 and 2 will contribute to the final classification of the degree. The weighting of marks contributing to the degree for Stages 1 and 2 is equal, in accordance with the credit weighting of the modules chosen.

Common Marking Scheme

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Taught Postgraduate Examination Conventions, namely:

Summary description applicable to postgraduate Masters programmes

<50	Fail
50-59	Pass
60-69	Pass with Merit
70 or above	Pass with Distinction

Summary description applicable to postgraduate Certificate and Diploma programmes

<50	Fail
50 or above	Pass

Role of the External Examiner

An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, after recommendation from the Board of Studies.

The External Examiner is expected to:

- See and approve examination papers
- Moderate examination and coursework marking
- Attend the Board of Examiners
- Report to the University on the standards of the programme

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/>)

The School Brochure (contact Newcastle.Law_School@ncl.ac.uk)

The University Regulations (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/>)

The Degree Programme Handbook – available from Blackboard

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Annex

Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

Module	Type	Intended Learning Outcomes			
		A	B	C	D
LAW8099	Compulsory	3,4	1-4	3,4	1, 2, 3
LAW8036	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8037	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8038	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8039	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8040	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8041	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8042	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8043	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8044	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8045	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8046	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8047	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8050	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3
LAW8051	Option	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-3