



POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme Title:	Law Masters Award
Awarding Body:	Staffordshire University
Teaching Institution:	Staffordshire University
Final Awards:	LLM (International Trade & Commerce)
Intermediate Awards:	Postgraduate Diploma (International Trade & Commerce) Postgraduate Certificate (International Trade & Commerce)
Mode of Study	Distance Learning (Part Time)
UCAS Codes:	N/a
QAA Subject Benchmarks:	N/a
Professional/Statutory Body:	N/a
Date of Production:	July 2011
Date of Revision:	

If you require this document in a larger text or a different media please contact us.

EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

All awards within the Law Masters programme share the following aims:

- to introduce you, the student, to 'leading edge' subjects within each module studied;
- to enhance your research skills;
- to develop rigour in the identification of problems and related issues;
- to enable you to enhance reflective analytical and critical skills;
- to encourage innovative approaches to problems and issues;
- to ensure that you adopt, and effectively use, the appropriate methodology for dealing with particular issues;
- to develop your reflective skills both within and across modules;
- to enhance your communication skills;
- to enhance your employability;
- to develop skills in independent learning.

In addition to the foregoing general aims, the International Trade & Commerce award has the following additional specific aims:

- to make you understand how trade and the law interact across multiple jurisdictions.
- to make you apply legal concepts to practical commercial contexts, both within the domestic and international sphere.
- to encourage you to explore and consider the application and relevance of UK Law within the world of globalised finance and commerce.
- to allow you the opportunity to engage with topical, authentic transnational commercial issues and cutting-edge international research.
- to widen your experience and use of online technology and discussion forums.

What is distinctive about this programme?

There are several distinctive elements to this award; the first is the innovative use of technology and the fact that this is a distance learning award which does not necessitate any face-to-face contact or associated residential periods. You are therefore able to study, totally, at a distance, whilst enjoying a similar experience to face-to-face students through the use of asynchronous seminars.

A further feature is the fact that this award has been industry evaluated before launch, rather than being an award which we hope will meet the needs of prospective employers and the legal profession.

Finally this award seeks to assess you, not only on the theoretical concepts, but to focus on practical application, in what is a highly applied discipline. This should provide you will a varied skill set which will enhance your abilities

and competences, in a number of areas, including communication, team work, enhanced research and enquiry skill in addition to an ability to manifest lateral thought processes, all highly desirable qualities from the perspective of potential employers.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

(See the document: Preferred Approach to Expressing Postgraduate Learning Outcomes)

What will this programme teach me to do? At the end of your studies you should be able to:

Postgraduate Certificate

Identify and justify a sound theoretical framework adopted for your proposed legal research in the field of International Trade & Commerce (Knowledge & Understanding, Learning & Problem Solving.)
Use written communication at an advanced level to find information and to explain, debate, and present highly complex legal arguments, proposals, and ideas while adapting to different audiences and circumstances in the field of International Trade & Commerce. (Communication)
Demonstrate a critical understanding and appreciation of the ethical concerns around conducting and making use of legal research in the field of International Trade & Commerce (Application)
Demonstrate initiative and personal responsibility in identifying and integrating relevant professional literature to enhance and support advanced level legal study (Analysis)
Manifest awareness, commensurate with postgraduate study, of relevant authority and established research with regard to the legal issues relating to the business of a company.

Postgraduate Diploma

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the laws relating to International Trade & Commerce (Knowledge & Understanding Learning)
Display an advanced ability to communicate such knowledge and understanding clearly, in relation to hypothetical scenarios, accurately and analytically in writing at masters' level. (Communication)
Evidence a comprehensive awareness, appropriate to postgraduate level, of relevant authority and established research with regard to areas of International Trade Law & Commerce generally (Enquiry)
Manifest a detailed knowledge and understanding of some of the main areas relating to the operation of companies at an international level (Knowledge & Understanding)
Apply an ability, commensurate with postgraduate study, to use higher level problem-solving skills to identify and analyse international trade law generally & related legislation in hypothetical situations (Analysis, Application, Problem Solving)

Masters

Justify and integrate the appropriate, for postgraduate level study, research paradigms, methods and processes within the context of a small scale trade law research study. (Knowledge & Understanding, Enquiry)
Develop, implement and manage an independent programme of extended postgraduate legal research, evidencing an in-depth understanding of ethical concerns and advanced scholarship (Reflection, Learning)
Critically analyse and synthesise material from many sources (academic and practical) to assist your work and to clarify the legal problem(s) under investigation (Analysis, Application)
Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge and understanding to new or existing complex International Trade Law problems (Problem Solving, Application)
Communicate in a structured written format appropriate to the presentation of a Masters Dissertation. (Communication, Reflection, Learning)

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE, MODULES AND CREDITS

Programme Title – LLM in International Trade & Commerce

Certificate Level	Teaching Block 1	Legal Research Methodology 15 Credits	Business Law 15 Credits	<u>First Year of Study</u>
Certificate Level	Teaching Block 2	Transnational Corporate Governance Law 15 Credits	Intellectual Property Law 15 Credits	
Diploma Level	Teaching Block 1	Corporate Finance Law 15 Credits	European Union Law 15 Credits	<u>Second Year of Study</u>
Diploma Level	Teaching Block 2	International Banking Law 15 Credits	European Competition Law 15 Credits	
Masters Level	Final Dissertation – 60 Credits			

• HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT AND ASSESSED?

Teaching and Learning

The main teaching mechanism is a series of on-line seminars, (5 in each 15 credit module), spread over the length of the teaching block and covering the key elements of the syllabus. On the part-time route students study 2 modules in parallel in each of two 17 week teaching blocks with 12 weeks of teaching followed by a 5 week independent study and assessment preparation period.

The on-line learning materials are designed for self study, ahead of the Seminars. These materials will generally consist of pre-reading, and other exercises, each seminar will additionally include specific tasks and discussion points.

At these seminars you will have the opportunity to ask questions, to present your answers to particular topics and to lead the group in presentations based on your research, at all times the emphasis is on your participation – the seminars are never lecture based. You may also receive podcasts in advance of the seminars and will be expected to prepare answers to a number of specific questions, these answers will then be posted to a discussion forum or wiki in order to allow the group to comment, reflect and expand upon the topic, part of this online discussion will be assessed and will count towards the final mark.

Participation and engagement at these seminars is expected, to ensure satisfactory completion of any module, and non-participation and non-engagement is considered as non-attendance and is therefore subject to the general University Postgraduate Regulations, specifically see Regulation 1.3:

http://www.staffs.ac.uk/assets/postgrad_regs_tcm44-26797.pdf

Assessment

The standard form of assessment is by way of BOTH a 5,000 word assignment per 15-credit module comprising 75% of the total marks AND assessed contributions to an online discussion forum comprising the other 25% of the total marks.

Other forms of formative or summative assessment may be utilised including bibliographies, literature reviews, article/book reviews and presentations. Once again the emphasis is on diversity and the appropriateness of the assessment for the subject under investigation.

Feedback is provided to you on your work and you are encouraged to raise any matters of doubt with your subject tutor(s) in the first instance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Entry Requirements (including IELTS score)

What qualifications would I need to join this programme?

The minimum entry requirements for the award are normally:

- (i) a lower second class honours degree in law, or a relevant discipline*, of a UK university; or
- (ii) a lower second class honours degree of a non-UK university in which law formed a substantial part or any other qualification deemed to be equivalent to such a UK lower second honours degree; or
- (iii) a Graduate Diploma in Law (CPE), which equates to a lower second class honours degree; or
- (iv) a relevant professional qualification; or
- (v) ILEX fellowship

A minimum IELTS Score of 7

Disability Statement

Staffordshire University operates a policy of inclusive teaching and learning to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. Details about how to apply to have your needs assessed can be found at: http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study_here/disabled_students/index.jsp

* This may include, but is not limited to, Banking, Accountancy & Finance and/or an MBA.

AWARD SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Please be advised that if you wish to become a solicitor or a barrister you will need a 'Qualifying Law Degree' (QLD). An LL.M is not recognised as a QLD, it is therefore not of itself a route into legal practice in the UK. The professional bodies the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Council have developed criteria for the recognition of law degrees, should you have any concerns please ask the Award Manager.

This award is offered on a part time basis. It is expected that normally the minimum period of registration for the LLM will be 12 months and you would normally complete the award within 36 months. Should you feel the need to intermit from your award you should refer to the maximum registration periods in the postgraduate regulations for further information see:

http://www.staffs.ac.uk/images/postgrad_regs_tcm68-12690.pdf

Normally the dissertation will only be undertaken on completion of the diploma level study.

Further information about the award can be found in the relevant Student Handbook and on the University Website. This includes information about optional modules, student support, and academic regulations.

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