

Programme Title: LLM International Shipping Law (Piraeus, Greece)



## Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	Master of Laws (LLM) in International Shipping Law
Name of Interim Award(s)	N/A
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	One year full-time and two years part-time
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	PMLF-PICCLS
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS)
Date Programme Specification Approved	
Responsible School / Institute	Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

### Programme Outline

The LLM programme consists of the following six taught modules, taught in six intensive teaching blocks over the duration of two years, plus a dissertation. More specifically:

**Maritime Arbitration (22.5 credits):** Specialist dispute resolution mechanisms catering to specific industry needs are popular in international commerce, and arbitration has emerged as the dominant industry choice for resolving shipping disputes, in particular charterparty disputes. This module will tackle questions such as: What is special about maritime arbitration and what distinguishes it from general commercial arbitration? What are the features of maritime arbitration that make it particularly popular? Is arbitration by its nature more suited to the resolution of disputes arising in connection with certain types of shipping contracts (e.g. charterparties) rather than others (e.g. contracts of carriage contained in bills of lading)? Why? ?  
Assessment: 2 hrs 30 mins written exam.

**Carriage of Goods by Sea (22.5 credits):** It is estimated that over 90% of goods traded worldwide are transported by sea. The cross-border nature of these activities has led to an intricate network of legal standards governing the carriage of goods (whether originating from national law, international agreements or the industry itself). These laws and relationships will be the subject of this module. We will examine critically the nature of the relationships, the effectiveness of the laws regulating them and the resolution of relevant disputes. Assessment: 2 hrs 30 mins written exam.

“Wet” Shipping Law: Collisions and other Incidents at Sea (22.5 credits): The module will cover all areas of so-called “wet” shipping law - i.e. all legal issues and implications that might arise as a result of various (unfortunate) incidents while a vessel and its cargo are at sea. More specifically, we will examine the law relating to collisions and salvage, the problematic area of wreck removal, the complex legal framework of marine pollution, and the concept and practice of general average. We will also examine the modern phenomenon of maritime piracy and how this has evolved and changed over recent years as well as the employment of armed guards and the serious legal concerns these have raised in the past and are continuing to raise at present. Assessment: 2 hrs 30 mins written exam.

International Regulation of Shipping (22.5 credits): The module will provide a detailed examination of the development and content of shipping law and policy, and the challenges that arise from the development of a unified maritime policy at international and regional level. It will focus on how commercial policy within international fora is promoting the uniformity of shipping law, by examining and carefully evaluating the implementation and enforcement of national maritime legislation. The selection of topics has been particularly informed by very recent and ongoing key developments and challenges that have reshaped, or soon will do so, shipping legislation. Assessment: 7,500 word essay.

Marine Insurance Law (22.5 credits): Shipping has always been perilous – sea conditions, piracy, war, deterioration of goods – and both owners of goods and owners of ships have sought to protect themselves in the event of loss to cargo or vessel. This module will examine, among other things, the definition of a marine insurance contract, the different types of marine insurance contract, the formation of the contract (including the duty of disclosure) and the importance of insurable interest, what constitutes evidence of the contract and of its terms, the parties to the contract, the risks covered, the terms of the contract, claims under the contract, the adjustment of losses, subrogation and contribution. Assessment: 2 hrs 30 mins written exam.

Charterparties: Law and Practice (22.5 credits): The module will examine all aspects of charterparties, being contracts of vessel hire between the relevant parties. More specifically, the module will cover the stage of negotiating a charterparty, the basic principles underlying all such contracts, different types of charterparties (including voyage, time, hybrid and demise charters), various charterparty forms and their practical application, the effect of charterers’ orders on the operation of charterparties, and the charterers’ discharge (including issues of breach, frustration and damages). Assessment: 2 hrs 30 mins written exam.

Protection and Indemnity Clubs (workshop featuring leading shipping practitioners) (non-assesed activity): Complementary to the modules, a workshop in Protection and Indemnity Clubs will be offered and will examine P&I Clubs operation as mutual insurance associations vital to the existence and running of the international shipping community and trade. This workshop covers their history, development and structure, their basic rules of cover and the provision of security, as well as the legal concepts underlying their operation. In addition the workshop examines the various risks Protection and Indemnity Clubs insure against, their financial operation, the International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs (including its structure, cover and importance), and how these associations relate to other forms of insurance.

All the available modules are compulsory and students have to attend 4 modules (22.5 credits) along two semesters in their first year of studies, and two modules (22.5 credits) along two semesters plus a 15,000-words Dissertation (45 credits) in their second year in the programme. The programme will be exclusively taught by CCLS members of staff, who have also set the entirety of the curriculum.

## Aims of the Programme

The Programme is aimed at lawyers and professionals with relevant work experience and an academic background, who want to specialize in international shipping law. In the highly demanding context of shipping industry, the Programme provides a sound and internationally endorsed education on maritime law, which affords the indispensable professional advantage to assure safe, secure, environmentally efficient and economically profitable undertakings in international shipping. In addition, the Programme has already been accredited by the ICS, which, given its excellent reputation worldwide, will attract shipping professionals.

## What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will have gained an expert and in-depth understanding of the workings of the law underlying almost all areas of the international shipping industry, the application of the law to everyday practice and the ability to critically assess and comment upon the current state of the law from an international perspective. Students will have also gained the ability to conduct major research projects in this legal area.

### Academic Content:

A 1	Students will acquire a thorough understanding of key aspects of the shipping and marine insurance industries from an international perspective and the importance of legal principles, rules and laws underlying the day-to-day running, management and insurance of vessels, goods and commodities.
A 2	Students will acquire an understanding of the peculiar and often, sui-generis, realities underlying the world of shipping and how these realities have affected and continue to affect legal development in this area.
A 3	Students will acquire expert knowledge and an in-depth understanding of the nature and purpose of shipping law and the ways in which the law achieves (or fails to achieve) its purpose.

### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	By the end of the programme, students will have developed the ability to manage, analyse and evaluate various legal sources and material relating to shipping law, including legislation, case law, contractual documents and industry-developed terms and conditions, and academic commentary. In this regard, students will not only be able to critically assess the importance of the various different legal concepts that derive from such sources, but also to formulate legal arguments and proposals vis-a-vis various complex topics that will be examined.
B 2	Students will further develop their ability to understand and review a wide range of legal material and apply that knowledge to practical legal problems. This will involve them being able to identify complex legal principles and rules and apply them to various circumstances that frequently arise, or can arise in the future, in various areas of the maritime world. By the end of the programme, students will also have developed the ability to appraise the general state of the law and formulate legally sound commentary on potential future directions or solutions to current areas of uncertainty.
B 3	By the end of this programme, students will have acquired the knowledge and capacity to plan and implement research projects within the area of international shipping law.

### Attributes:

C 1	Students will develop the ability to exercise personal responsibility and initiative to manage a plethora of legal material and their learning.
C 2	Students will acquire an in-depth understanding of all significant areas and legal aspects of international shipping law through the variety of material they will be referred to but also to critically challenge such material through discussion. Students will be able to identify complex legal concepts and apply them in such ways as to resolve actual scenarios.
C 3	Students will develop expertise in a globally significant area of law through engagement with the materials which the programme comprises of and discussion which challenges them to question these materials.

## How Will You Learn?

Students will attend structured lectures and seminars, where participation on their part will be encouraged, and featuring also a

number of guest lectures by leading shipping practitioners. Students will have to prepare for both lectures and seminars on the basis of detailed reading lists and materials that will be provided to them in advance.

As regards to library and research facilities, students will have access to both the HMC library with QMUL core collection of law books and the Laskaridis library in Piraeus (the Library was founded in 1993 and currently consists of over 28,000 titles and its collection is being consistently enhanced). Students will also be given access to the online Queen Mary Library and well-stocked law library at the University of London's Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS); the Institute being one of the major law libraries worldwide. Online databases subscriptions will include: Lexis Nexis, Westlaw, Justis, Eur-lex, Index to Legal Periodicals, International Court of Justice Reports, Kluwer Arbitration, UK Statute law database, United Nations Treaty Collection.

In relation to teaching delivery, more specifically, for each of the half (22.5-credit) modules, students will undertake the following:

- 22 hours of lectures/seminars (to take place within a one-week period)
- 110 hours of preparation for lectures/seminars (approximately 10 hours per lecture/seminar)
- 93 hours of exam preparation/essay writing
- thus, a total of 225 notional study hours

Students will also engage in independent research (under our supervision and guidance) preparing and writing up their dissertation.

### How Will You Be Assessed?

Students will be assessed both by means of essays and exams, as indicated under each module description above, and will also have to submit a 15,000 word dissertation. All assessments will be set (in the case of exams), supervised (in the case of dissertations), and marked (this applies to every single assessment of the programme) by CCLS members of staff. CCLS will have full control over the supervision and marking of all assessments, exams and dissertations. HMC shall provide the teaching venue (s), exam invigilation and the organisation and venue for the annual graduation ceremony (which CCLS members of staff shall also attend).

### How is the Programme Structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if appropriate).

The same as the standard full-time option available to all students, for the two-year part time option, teaching will also be delivered in intensive blocks throughout the two years of study.

The programme comprises of 6 compulsory modules of 22.5 credits each. Each module will be taught over a period of one or two weeks with classes taking place on weekdays (in the afternoon/evening) and weekends. It is proposed that each one-week period will comprise of the following teaching times:

Thursday, Friday and Monday: 17.30-21.30

Saturday and Sunday: 10.00-17.00

Two-weeks period will comprise of the following teaching times (x 2):

Thursday and Friday: 17:30 - 20:30

Saturday: 10:00 - 17:00

For the part-time option, teaching of the 6 modules will be split in two years, distributed in both semesters of each year (thus, the first year students will complete 4 modules, 2 in each semester, and the second year they will complete 2 modules, one in each semester plus the dissertation).

For a more detailed description of the modules and allocation, please refer to the arrangements below.

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Academic Year of Study PT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
International Regulation of Shipping	QLLG008	22.5	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Carriage of Goods	QLLG004	22.5	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Wet Shipping Law: Collisions and Other Incidents at Sea	QLLG002	22.5	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Marine Insurance Law	QLLG001	22.5	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Charter-parties: Law and Practice	QLLG006	22.5	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Maritime Arbitration	QLLG003	22.5	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
Dissertation in International Shipping Law	QLLG007	45	7	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1-3

### What Are the Entry Requirements?

The entry requirements will be the same as with the UK LLM degree - i.e. a degree in law, or a degree with a substantial law content, normally of at least upper-second class honours (or equivalent).

As the programme is principally directed to working professionals, non-law graduates will also be considered on the basis of professional experience that directly relates to the specialist LLM taught courses.

Applicants may also be asked to attend and pass a selection interview (either in person or through Skype) with a selector from CCLS, QMUL.

All students from countries where English is not their first language, must supply a TOEFL or IELTS language test result or equivalent, as per CCLS, QMUL standard requirements.

CCLS, QMUL will arrange a simplified admissions process for students to apply directly but will retain the right to make the final decision on academic grounds for any applicant.

Any visa issues (which are not anticipated as almost all applicants are expected to be EU students) will be taken care of by the HMC who possess relevant knowledge, procedures and facilities.

## How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

## Academic Support

Students will be academically supported throughout the programme. They shall be provided with a short induction at the start of the academic year by at least one member of staff from CCLS. Lecturers will have meetings with the students on every visit to Piraeus as well as meetings regarding dissertation supervision. Lecturers shall also be available to discuss any concerns students might have via email and Skype.

Finally, students will have access to a QMPlus page designed specifically for them where lecturers will upload all relevant reading material, lecture/seminar notes/slides, announcements etc.

## Programme-specific Rules and Facts

N/A

## Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)

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- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Access to specialist mentoring support for students with mental health issues and Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

### Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

We are endeavouring to enhance our students' professional profile by organising networking events as well as seminars and workshops and we are attempting to secure some placement/internship opportunities with various employers within the shipping industry for students who attend the programme.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification**

Dr Alexandros Ntovas

**Person responsible for management of programme**

Dr Alexandros Ntovas

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

March 2017

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board**