

## Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	PGDip Law; Postgraduate Diploma in Law Flexible Study
Name of Interim Award(s)	Postgraduate Certificate
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	2-3 years
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	
QAA Benchmark Group	Law
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	n/a
Date Programme Specification Approved	1st March 2017
Responsible School / Institute	School of Law

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

n/a

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

n/a

### Programme Outline

The PG Diploma is an innovative postgraduate programme offering students the opportunity to develop academic and professional expertise in specialised areas of law including international dispute resolution, banking and finance, environmental law, human rights, intellectual property and international business law.

This part-time, flexible PG Diploma option is for anyone who wishes to study part-time and is suited to those in work. It is based on blended delivery of courses and allows the PG Diploma to be studied for between 2-3 years.

Specialism is optional but encouraged. The programme is based on modules offered in London, Paris, Piraeus and Online which build up to the final degree.

We envisage students designing their own PG Diploma (subject to timetabling and practical restraints) using the following delivery options combined with a compulsory 10,000 word dissertation:

- London LLM modules
- Paris LLM modules
- Piraeus LLM modules
- Distance Learning LLM in Computer and Communication Law modules

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- Postgraduate Diploma in Dispute Resolution (Arbitration) modules
- Dispute Resolution (Mediation) modules

All modules currently being offered on the London, Paris, Piraeus and Distance Learning LLMs and PG Dips mentioned will be available to those choosing this mixed delivery PG Diploma. An exercise has been done to ensure that duplicate modules delivered in different locations will not be chosen.

This more flexible PG Diploma will cater for students who are not able to study full-time as well as for practitioners who would like to enhance their professional knowledge and career developments on a part-time basis. Leading to a prestigious Queen Mary University of London qualification, this course will provide in-depth immersion in commercial law from both comparative and international perspectives, within a common law framework.

The key feature will be the flexible structure of the programme designed to enable students with working or other commitments to complete the programme on a part-time basis, over a period of up to three years, without having to interrupt their professional career.

### FOR THOSE STUDENTS WISHING TO SPECIALISE:

We offer the following specialisms:

Banking and Finance Law  
Commercial and Corporate Law  
Comparative and International Dispute Resolution  
Competition Law  
Computer and Communications Law  
Criminal Justice  
Energy and Natural Resources Law  
Environmental Law  
European Law  
Human Rights Law  
Immigration Law  
Insurance Law  
Intellectual Property Law  
International Business Law  
International Economic Law  
International Shipping Law  
Legal Theory  
Media Law  
Medical Law  
Public International Law  
Tax Law

### Selecting a Specialism (if wished):

- 1) Students will be provided with a student handbook and a module/programme description book at induction week(s).
- 2) Information is also passed through the induction website
- 3) Programme Information is provided and explained during Induction week(s)
- 4) Students will be expected to submit a programme and module confirmation form at the beginning of each academic year
- 5) Student name and specialist listing will be provided to the Degree Examination Board

### Specialising:

For the PGDip 120 credits are needed. Students specialise by doing 120 credits in a certain area of law (90 credits of taught modules and a 30 credit dissertation).

## Aims of the Programme

- To assist students to develop a detailed, critical and advanced knowledge of key areas of law, not typically covered (or not adequately covered) by an undergraduate syllabus.
- To respond to the needs of students who wish to enter into practice in a specialist area – the courses will assist students to acquire essential theoretical and practical skills in their subjects; this relates to students who are located locally, regionally and internationally.
- To provide students with first-class and comprehensive teaching materials.
- To provide students with an in-depth understanding of key issues in advanced law subjects.
- To broaden and deepen students' understanding of their own systems of law by giving them the opportunity and the tools with which to explore the international and comparative law context.
- To enhance the students' learning experience through regular interaction with course teachers, practitioners, visiting academics and fellow students.
- To ensure a balance of theoretical rigour and practical application and relevance in the examination of the law.

## What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to:

- Understand the key legal principles, issues and debates arising out of the law and practice of chosen subjects.
- Recognise the standard of materials expected from a post-graduate law student and be capable of producing that standard.
- Be capable of analysing legal problems and drafting detailed responses addressing the key issues.
- Be capable of producing papers through self-study that examine particular legal issues with the intellectual rigour appropriate to post-graduate legal students.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the topic at an advanced level by successfully dealing with issues in both a practical and a scholarly manner.
- Acquire practical and transferable skills, such as the capacity to make presentations and work in a team.

Academic Content:	
A 1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key legal principles, issues and debates arising out of the law and practice of chosen subjects
A 2	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the practical implications of the legal issues arising within the specialist area
A 3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of comparative and international approaches to legal issues within the selected specialist area
A 4	Recognise the standard of materials expected from a post-graduate law student and be capable of producing that standard

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Be capable of analysing legal problems and drafting detailed responses addressing the key issues
B 2	Be capable of producing papers through self-study that examine particular legal issues with the intellectual rigour appropriate to post graduate legal students
B 3	Proficiently use legal research resources to carry out appropriate legal analysis for a variety of problems

Attributes:

C 1	Acquire and apply knowledge in a rigorous way
C 2	Demonstrate self direction and independence in solving complex or unfamiliar problems
C 3	Use clear language to effectively communicate ideas, both orally and in writing

### How Will You Learn?

You will learn through direct interaction with lecturers using a variety of teaching, learning and assessment strategies, including traditional and interactive lectures, small group teaching, seminar sessions, tutorials and e-learning (particularly for those taking distance learning modules). You will also be expected to invest a significant amount of time on independent learning including reading materials in advance of lectures/seminars, preparing class presentations or doing assignments. You will also have to carry out research to complete your dissertation. For this purpose you will be provided with a variety of legal resources and you will receive training on how to use them for your dissertation.

You will have access to a wide range of learning resources within the College. These include: the College Library, the University of London Library at Senate House and the first rate resources of other libraries with London collections (e.g. the British Library); a range of IT resources including networked PCs (with full internet and email privileges), and electronic learning resources (e.g. electronic academic journals).

### How Will You Be Assessed?

Assessment strategies will include a selection (and occasionally a combination) of the following: unseen written examinations, in class presentations, including moot courts and seminar presentations, take home assignments, coursework, dissertations.

### How is the Programme Structured?

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

This programme will give students access to all of the LLM modules currently being offered by the School of Law, wherever they are taught and by whatever method.

It will comprise of existing modules from:

- the LLM in London;
- the LLMs in Paris and Pireaus, where block teaching is offered;
- the Distance Learning LLM in Computer and Communication Law, and
- the Distance Learning Postgraduate Diplomas in Dispute Resolution (Arbitration) and Dispute Resolution (Mediation).

The time allowed to study this PG Diploma is from two to three years.

Students will start in September building up to 120 credits, of which 30 credits must be dissertation.

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A minimum of 45 credit taught modules should be taken each year of study.

Modules should be chosen at the beginning of each academic year for the coming year

A dedicated programme administrator will work with students to ensure that their module diet:

- contains no duplication of study of modules
- that sufficient credits are taken across relevant modules to ensure a specialist PG Diploma is achieved if wished
- conforms to college regulations

A unique handbook will be prepared for students following this route.

Examples of possible routes to study and completion of the Postgraduate Diploma (over three years)

All of the pathways below will be available for the part-time Diploma over 3 years. Student will have to take a minimum of 45 credits taught modules per year

4 taught modules of 22.5 credits (London, Paris, Piraeus); 10,000 word dissertation (30 credit)

2 taught modules of 22.5 credits (London, Paris Piraeus); 45 credits from distance learning modules; 10,000 dissertation (30 credit)

The fee will be the same as for the taught London PG Diploma (pro rata)

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Every module currently offered on LLM London, LLM Paris, LLM Piraeus and Distance Learning LLMs at School of Law						

**What Are the Entry Requirements?**

The usual qualification for entry to the LLM programme is a degree in law, or a degree with a substantial law content, of at least 2.1 honours (or equivalent). Law graduates with 2.2 honours who also have other legal qualifications and/or substantial professional legal experience may also qualify.

Non-law graduates with a minimum second class honours degree, that have also obtained a Merit (or 60 per cent) in the

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Common Professional Examination (CPE) or Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) recognised by the UK professional bodies, may also qualify. Non-law graduates may also be considered on the basis of exceptional professional experience (of at least five years) in a legal area or an area directly related to their programme of study.

Applicants whose first language is not English must provide evidence of your English language proficiency. The usual English Language Requirements for Postgraduate Law Taught Programmes will apply. These may be accessed at <http://www.law.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/english-language-requirements/index.html#Postgraduatelawtaughtprogrammes>

## 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.

For Distance Learning, there is an Online Module Evaluation element and feedback is also requested at the Computer and Communications Law (DL) annual residential weekend. For the International Dispute Resolution - Arbitration/Mediation (DL), feedback will be requested at the annual International Award Writing Seminar.

## Academic Support

You will have access to the following academic support mechanisms:

- An individual dissertation supervisor
- Themed dissertation sessions to assist you in exploring possible dissertation topics in more detail
- LLM Research Director will also be available to help with any academic matter that cannot be appropriately handled by the previous support mechanisms
- Critical Thinking and Writing sessions (dissertation support)

## Programme-specific Rules and Facts

For the PGDip 120 credits are needed. Students can specialise by doing 120 credits in a certain area of law (90 credits of taught modules and a 30 credit dissertation).

## 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)
- 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

Some Tax modules can be used to prepare for ADIT (Advanced Diploma in International Taxation) exam papers, and a dissertation on a tax topic can be submitted in lieu of the second or third ADIT paper.'

The LLM has a dedicated Career Advisory member of staff, who works closely with many leading law firms to provide a range of presentations from various law firms as well as other career focused events. A professional mentoring programme has also been developed which students can apply to join. A number of internships are also offered each year across all LLM/Diploma programmes.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification**

Dr Gaetano Dimita

**Person responsible for management of programme**

Dr Gaetano Dimita

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

14th December 2016

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

1st March 2017