

Programme Specification Curriculum Map for LLB (Honours) Commercial Law



1. Programme title	LLB (Hons) Commercial Law
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board
5. Final qualification	LLB (Hons) Commercial Law
6. Academic year	2015-16
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full or Part Time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

The University's standard entry requirement is 320 UCAS tariff points. However, mature applicants with relevant experience or qualifications, including access course qualifications, are also considered. Other non-UK qualifications will be considered in accordance with NARIC guidelines.

International students who have not been taught in the English medium must show evidence of proven ability in English such as TOEFL grade 550 or IELTS grade 6.0.

University policies supporting students with disabilities apply, as described in the University Regulations 'Information for students with disabilities and learning difficulties'.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Provide the student with the level of knowledge and understanding of the principles of law, particularly in the Foundations of Legal Knowledge, and an opportunity to develop the associated transferable intellectual and key skills that will enable the student to satisfy the requirements set by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board for the academic stage of training.
- Provide the student with specialist knowledge and understanding of Commercial Law, including Company Law, and the complexities inherent therein and to develop the skills to equip the student with expertise in Commercial Law.
- Provide the student with a prestigious academic qualification, which also develops the student's understanding of the broader ethical, social, political, economic, cultural and historical contexts within which law operates.
- Develop the skills of legal analysis and encourage an ability to evaluate the law and legal systems and processes.
- Provide a programme of study which is relevant to the legal profession and employers in general and lays the foundations for a successful career in Commercial Law, commerce or business generally.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme, the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:

1. The fundamental doctrines and principles which underpin the law of England and Wales, particularly in the Foundations of Legal Knowledge- Public Law, Contract Law, Tort, Criminal Law, EU Law, Land Law, Equity and Trusts, meeting the requirements of the professional bodies for exemption from the academic stage of training.
2. The fundamental principles of Commercial Law, including Company Law, and the complexities inherent therein.
3. The primary sources of law: case law, legislation and other relevant material including examination of how the laws are made and developed, of the institutions within which the law is administered and the personnel who practise law.
4. A wide range of legal concepts, values, principles and rules of English Law and how to explain the relationship between them in a number of particular areas.
5. The significance of ethical, social, business, political, historical and cultural contexts within which the law operates.

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through lectures, seminars, workshops and self-directed study using a variety of resources, including the library and e-learning.

Seminars regularly involve interactive exercises and opportunities for peer and self-assessment. They also provide the opportunity for discussion to address issues covered by lectures and back-up reading. In so doing, they also provide opportunities for students to seek clarification of understanding, and for staff to gather feedback. Seminars therefore reinforce the student knowledge base (outcomes A1-5). The level four modules introduce the essential building blocks of law (outcomes A1 and A3). Lectures on compulsory substantive law subjects are frequently used to provide an overview or framework of the subject matter of the module, to direct students to further study and research and to pose questions in relation to the subject matter being discussed (outcomes A1, A2). Compulsory year 2 module of English and International Commercial Law together with compulsory year 3 module of UK Company Law and choice of commercial oriented option module in year 3 provide students with specialist knowledge base of Commercial Law (outcome A2).

Learning and teaching on all Law modules is informed by a critical approach which encompasses relevant aspects of the ethical, social, business, historical and cultural contexts within which the law operates (outcomes A3, A4, A5). Students are encouraged to explore a range of concepts and values and to explain the relationship between them (outcome A4). In particular, ethics are specifically embedded in some modules and students are provided with the opportunity to understand the ethical dimensions within which the law operates at each level (outcome A5).

Assessment Methods

Students' knowledge and understanding are assessed by summative assessments in all modules which take a variety of forms including exams (some with seen components), moots, presentations and courseworks which allow the student to demonstrate a developing and increasingly sophisticated level of knowledge of the relevant subjects. Formative assessments at all levels also reinforce knowledge and understanding. At level four, the principal focus of the summative assessments is on developing knowledge of the relevant basic principles and concepts (outcomes A1, A3, A4). At level five and level six, the focus is on knowledge of substantive legal subjects (outcomes A1, A2, A3, A4), while level six in particular also brings to the fore in-depth, contextual and specialist knowledge of areas of law studied in core modules and in the option module (outcomes A3, A4, A5).

B. Cognitive skills

On completion of this programme, the successful student will be able to:

1. Identify accurately and analyse legal issues by applying knowledge of legal principles and concepts to complex practical situations and make reasoned judgments based on informed understanding of arguments supported by legal authority.
2. Evaluate and analyse the principles of Commercial Law applicable to complicated factual and legal scenarios.

3. Research and interpret the primary and secondary source materials of law and apply the findings to the solution of legal problems.
4. Analyse and discriminate between potential alternative conclusions for particular situations and discuss supporting legal reasons for them.
5. Select and synthesise key relevant issues for legal research and formulate them with clarity.
6. Evaluate and judge the value of relevant doctrinal and policy issues in relation to a legal topic.
7. Express him/herself coherently, succinctly and analytically in the English language in writing and orally.

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills primarily through seminars, which are small group discussions interspersed with exercises and their own reading and application. These may involve written and oral communication which allows students to practise the identification and analysis of legal principles and the application of them to problems (B1, B2, B7), using, analysing and applying primary and secondary source material (B3). Group discussions and workshops provide the opportunity for students to develop their ability to reflect on, evaluate and assess competing arguments as well as to develop skills in presenting and making choices, with reasons, between alternative approaches (B4, B5, B6, B7).

Assessment Methods

The assessments for all levels allow students to demonstrate the identification and analysis of legal issues by requiring students to apply knowledge of legal principles to practical questions drawing reasoned and arguable conclusions supported by legal authority (B1, B2, B7). This will require the interpretation and application of primary and secondary source materials (B3). Students will recognise potential conclusions for particular situations and provide supporting reasons for them (B4). At level four in particular, moots assess students' abilities to express themselves orally. At levels five and six, the assessment methods expect students to show a critical and evaluative approach which analyses and discriminates between competing legal arguments and reflects on the doctrines and principles underpinning the law (B4, B5 and B6). Outcomes B4 and B5 are pervasive skills, assessed in all modules. The ability of students to express themselves coherently, succinctly and analytically in writing is also assessed in all modules (B7).

C. Practical skills

On completion of this programme, the successful student will be able to:

1. Undertake independent research and identify, retrieve, investigate and manage information from a range of academic sources, both paper and electronic, and from websites to produce up-to-date and relevant information.
2. Locate and use primary and secondary legal sources relevant to the topic under study and to reference the sources accurately according to recognised legal conventions.
3. Use and apply correct and accurate legal terminology orally in moots and presentations and in writing.
4. Produce high quality word-processed essays or other text and present them in an appropriate form.
5. Work independently and autonomously in planning and undertaking tasks in a variety of areas of law.

Teaching/learning methods

Students are trained in undertaking legal research, both paper-based and electronic, intensively at level four and then at levels five and six (C1). At levels five and six, directed learning in materials on the VLE and seminars encourage a reflective and critical review of information from academic sources and from electronic resources, including journals (C1). The level five and six modules require the students to undertake independent study in preparation for seminars, which includes the location and use of primary and secondary legal materials and conducting searches of academic sources and websites to locate information (C1, C2). Students are provided with opportunities to develop their oral skills and ability to formulate and present ideas through group discussion and debate in seminars at each level and in workshops. Students learn practical skills through an emphasis on the acquisition of the written and oral legal skills initially in the level four modules and then reinforced at levels five and six (C3, C4). At levels five and six, students are encouraged to act independently and autonomously in planning and undertaking tasks in areas in which they have studied (C5). Some modules at level six in particular provide opportunities to undertake research on specific aspects of the subject which have not been taught (C5).

Assessment Methods

Students' practical skills are assessed in different ways. The level four modules expect the student to demonstrate skill C2, a skill which underpins later module assessments at each level. These include exams and coursework, which require clear and accurate writing as well as the use of accurate legal terminology (C3). Oral skills are assessed in mooting at level four and in presentations at higher levels (C3). In addition, coursework requires an advanced level of research of information, retrieval and management and effective presentation using word processing applications (C1, C2, C3, C4, C5). C5 skills are assessed in particular at levels five and six.

D. Graduate Skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to undertake and demonstrate the following skills:

1. *Personal and career development:*
Engage in activities which enhance students' skills to enable them to develop personal autonomy and map their career trajectories with particular emphasis on commercially oriented careers.
2. *Effective learning:*
Equip students with the skills to become independent in learning and with the ability to enlarge their knowledge and understanding throughout their lives.
3. *Communication:*
Develop students' skills to communicate effectively in a range of settings and using a variety of modes of communication.
4. *Teamwork:*
Cultivate skills for working in groups and teams and be an effective contributor to the group's tasks.
5. *Use of information technology:*
Use the internet, electronic information retrieval systems and legal databases effectively.
6. *Numeracy:*
Present and evaluate information (at a level appropriate for law) in numerical or statistical form.

Teaching/learning methods

Students acquire graduate skills throughout their study on the programme. In particular, the level four modules lay the foundation for many of the skills which are subsequently built on in the specialist law modules. Personal and career development are introduced at level four and are reinforced throughout levels five and six in modules as well as through dedicated careers events with an emphasis on commercial careers, workshops and a programme of guest speakers drawn from the legal profession and other careers, as well as extra-curricular student-led activities (D1). The Department has a dedicated Clinical Legal Education Programme, matches work experience opportunities to students and has set up a Legal Advice Centre with a firm of solicitors (D1). There is a focus on effective and lifelong learning skills to enable students to become independent in learning (D2). Seminars and workshops encourage effective communication between students and between tutors and students and allow students to engage in group-based exercises (D3, D4). Increasingly, use of information technology is fundamental to the accessing and management of legal resources, and this skill is reinforced at all levels (D5). Numeracy skills (at a level appropriate for law) are incorporated at each level (D6).

Assessment methods

Students' graduate skills are assessed by the summative assessments across the programme. The key skills D2, D3 and D5 underpin the programme as a whole and are assessed in all modules. Outcome D1 is assessed through structured opportunities offered by assessment schemes. Teamwork is required to be demonstrated at level four in moots as well as in the presentations in some modules at levels five and six (D4). All students are required to undertake research for their assessments by using technology and submit coursework in word-processed text on Turnitin, the University plagiarism software, through the VLE (D5). Numeracy is assessed in relevant modules which incorporate numeracy skills (D6).

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

The LLB (Hons) Commercial Law Programme comprises four thirty-credit modules in each year. The core modules comprise the Foundations of Legal Knowledge required by the professional bodies, the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board. In addition, this Programme requires the study of an English and Commercial Law module at level 5, UK Company Law at level 6 and a choice of a commercially oriented level 6 option module.

Full Time Three Year Mode:

Year One

In the first year, four compulsory 30 credit year long modules are taken. English Legal System and Legal Method are the building blocks of the LLB Programme. In addition, two compulsory 30 credit year long law modules, Public Law and Contract Law, are studied.

Year Two

Four compulsory modules are studied in the second year: Tort, EU Law, Criminal Law and English and International Commercial Law.

Year Three

As well as the core modules in Land Law and Equity and Trusts, UK Company Law is a compulsory module and students choose one 30 credit option module.

Full-time LLB (Hons) Commercial Law structure

Year One			
LAW1102 English Legal System	LAW1104 Legal Method	LAW1106 Public Law	LAW1108 Contract Law
Year Two			
LAW2101 Criminal Law	LAW2105 Tort	LAW2110 EU Law	LAW2915 English and International Commercial Law
Year Three			
LAW3101 Land Law	LAW3103 Equity and Trusts	Law3102 UK Company Law	Option module

Year 3 option modules:

- LAW3915 Global Trade Law
- LAW3455 Project (Must be relevant to pathway title.)
- LAW3330 Integrated Learning and Work Placement (subject to Programme Leader's consent and subject to the placement taking place in an appropriate professional environment.)
- LAW3540 Advanced Mooting and Advocacy (Limited to 16 students selected by the Programme team. Moot to be relevant to pathway title.)

N.B. The full-time three year mode will become four years if students go on a study year abroad or undertake a placement year, Law3530 Work Based Internship, in their third year and then return to Middlesex University for their fourth and final year.

Part Time Mode over Six Years:*Year One*

In the first year, two compulsory 30 credit year long modules are taken, English Legal System and Legal Method, which are the building blocks of the LLB Programme.

Year Two

Two compulsory 30 credit year long law modules, Public Law and Contract Law, are studied.

Year Three

Two further compulsory modules, Criminal Law and Tort, are studied.

Year Four

The compulsory modules, EU Law and English and International Commercial Law, are studied.

Year Five

The compulsory modules, Land Law and Equity and Trusts, are studied.

Year Six

The programme is completed with one compulsory module, Law3102 UK Company Law, and a choice of option module.

Part –time LLB (Hons) Commercial Law structure (six years)

Year One	
LAW1102 English Legal System	LAW1104 Legal Method
Year Two	
LAW1106 Public Law	LAW1108 Contract Law
Year Three	
LAW2101 Criminal Law	LAW2105 Tort
Year Four	
LAW2110 EU Law	LAW2915 English and International Commercial Law
Year Five	
LAW3101 Land Law	LAW3103 Equity and Trusts
Year Six	
LAW3102 UK Company Law	Option module (from list below)

Option modules:

- LAW3915 Global Trade Law
- LAW3455 Project (Must be relevant to pathway title.)
- LAW3330 Integrated Learning and Work Placement (subject to Programme Leader's consent and subject to the placement taking place in an appropriate professional environment)
- LAW3540 Advanced Mooting and Advocacy (Limited to 16 students selected by the Programme team. Moot to be relevant to pathway title.)

Part Time Mode over Four Years:

Year One

In the first year, two compulsory thirty credit year long modules are taken, English Legal System and Legal Method, which are the building blocks of the LLB Programme, together with one substantive law subject, Contract Law.

Year Two

Three compulsory modules are studied: Public Law, Tort and English and International Commercial Law.

Year Three

Three compulsory Law modules are studied: Criminal Law, EU Law and UK Company Law.

Year Four

The final core subjects of Land Law and Equity and Trusts are studied together with one option module.

Part-time LLB (Hons) Commercial Law structure (four years)

Year One		
LAW1102 English Legal System	LAW1104 Legal Method	LAW1108 Contract Law
Year Two		
LAW1106 Public Law	LAW2105 Tort	LAW2915 English and International Commercial Law
Year Three		
LAW2101 Criminal Law	LAW2110 EU Law	LAW3102 UK Company Law
Year Four		
LAW3101 Land Law	LAW3103 Equity and Trusts	Option module (from list below)

Option modules:

- LAW3915 Global Trade Law
- LAW3455 Project (Must be relevant to pathway title.)
- LAW3330 Integrated Learning and Work Placement (subject to Programme Leader's consent and subject to the placement taking place in an appropriate professional environment)
- LAW3540 Advanced Mooting and Advocacy (Limited to 16 students selected by the Programme team. Moot to be relevant to pathway title.)

N.B. The part-time mode over four years will become five years if students go on a study year abroad or undertake a placement year, Law3530 Work Based Internship, in their fourth year and then return to Middlesex University for their fifth and final year.

12.2 Levels and modules		
Level 4		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>LAW1102 English Legal System</p> <p>LAW1104 Legal Method</p> <p>LAW1106 Public Law</p> <p>LAW1108 Contract Law</p>		<p>Successful completion of LAW1102, LAW1104, LAW1106 and LAW1108 with a minimum grade of 16 (40%) are required to stay on the LLB programme. These modules are not compensatable for progression on the LLB programme. They may be compensated for transfer onto the BA Law programme.</p>
Level 5		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>LAW2101 Criminal Law</p> <p>LAW2105 Tort</p> <p>LAW2110 EU Law</p> <p>LAW2915 English and International Commercial Law</p>		<p>LAW2101, LAW2105, and LAW2110 must be passed with a minimum grade of 16 (40%) to remain on the LLB programme. These modules are not compensatable for progression on the LLB programme. They may be compensated for transfer onto the BA Law programme.</p>
Level 6		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>LAW3101 Land Law</p> <p>LAW3103 Equity and Trusts</p> <p>LAW3102 UK Company Law</p>	<p>Students must choose one level six option module from the list below.</p> <p>Available option modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAW3915 Global Trade Law • LAW3455 Project (Must be relevant to pathway title.) • LAW3330 Integrated Learning and Work Placement (subject to Programme Leader's consent and subject to the placement taking place in an appropriate professional environment) • LAW3530 Work Based Internship (120 credits 	<p>LAW3101 and LAW3103 must be passed with a minimum grade of 16 (40%) to graduate with the degree of LLB (Hons).</p> <p>For an Honours Degree, students must achieve at least 360 credits at level 4 and above, which must include at least 210 credits at level 5 and above of which at least 120 credits are at level 6 and above.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • module. Barred with LAW3330) • LAW3540 Advanced Mooting and Advocacy (Limited to 16 students selected by the Programme team. Moot to be relevant to pathway title.) <p>N.B. Law3530 Work Based Internship, a 120 credit year long placement module, will extend studies by one academic year.</p>	

12.3 Non-compensatable modules

Module level	Module code
Level Four	LAW1102, LAW1104, LAW1106, LAW1108
Level Five	LAW2101, LAW2105, LAW2110
Level Six	LAW3101, LAW3103

13. A curriculum map relating learning outcomes to modules

See Curriculum Map below.

14. Information about assessment regulations

The University's assessment regulations which can be found at www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations apply to the programme.

There are also special considerations concerning assessment for the LLB programme as follows:

The core modules Public Law, Contract Law, Criminal Law, Tort, EU Law, Equity and Trusts and Land Law as well as the two compulsory modules taken in the first year,

English Legal System and Legal Method, are deemed as 'non-compensatable' modules.

Award of LLB (Hons) degree and professional exemption:

Professional exemption is not automatic if:

- A student has gained the degree by credit transfer
- Has taken more than six years to obtain a degree
- A student is condoned in a compulsory core module.

In the event that a student has successfully passed all the core Law modules but failed, after resit, either a Level 5 or Level 6 module which is not a core module, they may be given permission to take a non-Law module at Summer School to make up the credit deficit and graduate.

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support

Students may choose to undertake a placement year during their third year (or equivalent year in the part-time mode), and then return to Middlesex for their final year. The Employability Service provides information and guidance on obtaining placements, but students must be pro-active in finding a suitable placement.

Students must complete 240 credits before starting a placement year and obtain the written permission of the LLB Programme Leader. This will only be given if the placement is of sufficient legal standing and is in an appropriate professional environment.

The placement adds an extra year onto the LLB, which has to be completed in six years unless the student has obtained permission from the Solicitors Regulation Authority/Bar Standards Board to exceed this limit.

Alternatively, there is also a placement option module available in the final year which comprises 30 credits and which may be undertaken during the course of the academic year subject to obtaining the written permission of the LLB Programme Leader, which will only be given if the placement is of sufficient legal standing and is in an appropriate professional environment.

16. Future careers

The LLB degree is a qualifying law degree for purposes of exemption from the academic stage of legal professional qualification under the requirements of the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board. It meets the requirements of the Joint Statement of the Law Society and the General Council of the Bar on the completion of the academic stage of training. It enables students to undertake the Legal Practice Course or Bar Professional Training Course as the next stage in seeking to become solicitors or barristers. The LLB (Hons) Commercial Law should give students grounding for a career in commercial law or in the field of commerce or business. The degree may lead to a career in business, management, administration as well as other fields. The degree should also enable students to gain employment and/or further develop their careers in areas including paralegals, legal executives, legal consultants, academia, government and community advisory work.

17. Particular support for learning

- Law specific Induction workshop for all students within a week long induction period in year one.
- Availability of weekly consultation periods with programme leader on an individual basis.
- Focus in level four modules on study skills, legal writing and legal research, which

are reinforced in levels five and six.

- Availability of academic guidance from all module leaders during weekly open office hours.
- Personal Tutors available for one-to-one support and guidance.
- Availability of guidance from Graduate Academic Assistants and a Senior Graduate Academic Assistant.
- Availability of individual help and group classes in academic writing and language from the Learning Enhancement Team.
- Availability of guidance from library staff, including a dedicated Law Librarian.
- Opportunities to consult Student Achievement Officers.
- Availability of computer assisted learning facilities.
- E-mail access to tutors.
- Electronically accessible generic feedback on all summative module assessments.
- Comprehensive information in programme and module handbooks.
- Facilities and equipment available to assist students with disabilities.
- Access to careers information and an Employability Service staffed with careers advisers with extensive knowledge of career options in law.
- Clinical Legal Education Programme embedded within the Department.
- Increasing use of online systems on MyUniHub to support learning opportunities.

18. JACS codes	M200/M221 75%/25%
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group	Law

20. Reference points

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Law.
- QAA Quality Code for Higher Education.
- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.
- Academic Stage Handbook of the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board on the completion of the academic stage of training.
- The Joint Statement of the Law Society and the General Council of the Bar on the completion of the academic stage of training.
- University and School Learning and Teaching policies and strategies.
- Middlesex University Learning Framework.

21. Other information

Students may choose to study a year abroad in their third year (or equivalent year in the part-time mode) and return to Middlesex for their final year.

Students who fail one or more of the core modules on the LLB programme required by the professional bodies, the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board, will usually be able to transfer on to the BA (Hons) Law programme.

Indicators of quality

- Law at LLB level has been taught at Middlesex for nearly 40 years.
- Throughout this time, the programme has been accredited by the Law Society and Bar Council and then by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards

Board.

- A high percentage of staff teaching on the programme are qualified as solicitors and/or barristers in the UK and/or in other jurisdictions
- A high proportion of members of staff teaching on the programme have wide-ranging experience of research and/or publication in relevant fields.
- Many members of staff in the Department have received substantial research grants.
- Several members of staff in the Department have been awarded University Teaching Fellowships.
- There are several Professors of Law in the Department.
- Most staff in the Department have PhDs.
- Many members of staff have completed the Post Graduate Certificate in Higher Education and are members of the Higher Education Academy.
- LLB students from Middlesex have won major law mooting competitions. In 2000 they won two national competitions- the Observer/English Speaking Union National Mooting Competition and the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting Mooting Competition. In 2001 they won the Commonwealth Mooting Competition for the UK, which was the first time since the 1980s that the UK had won the Commonwealth Competition. In February 2015 LLB students qualified for the European Law Moot Court Regional Final held in Pisa.

Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of learning

A variety of sources of information are used to review and evaluate quality of standards of learning. These include:

- Operating within a School and University framework for quality evaluation and enhancement.
- Regular monitoring of programme and module delivery.
- Continuing opportunity for feedback from students during workshops and seminars.
- Regular feedback from students through Boards of Study.
- Feedback questionnaires completed by students during their programme.
- Participation by staff in external curriculum related staff development programmes.
- Regular discussions in Departmental meetings.
- Annual appraisal of academic staff.
- Peer observation of teaching.
- External Examiners' moderation of summative assessments, their end of year reports and our responses to those reports.
- Annual monitoring and enhancement review process.

Please note that programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the programme handbook and the University Regulations.

