

Programme Specification 2025-26

1.	Programme title	LLM International Business and Commercial Law
2.	Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3a	Teaching institution	1 Middlesex University London, 2 Middlesex University Dubai, 3 Middlesex University Mauritius
3b	Language of study	English

4a	Valid intake dates and mode of study
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Mode of Study	Cohort	Delivery Location	Duration
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Hendon	
Full-time (FT)	Semester 2	Hendon	
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Hendon	
Part-time (PT)	Semester 2	Hendon	
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Dubai	
Full-time (FT)	Semester 2	Dubai	
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Dubai	
Part-time (PT)	Semester 2	Dubai	
Full-time (FT)	Semester 1	Mauritius	
Full-time (FT)	Semester 2	Mauritius	
Part-time (PT)	Semester 1	Mauritius	
Part-time (PT)	Semester 2	Mauritius	

4c	Delivery method
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5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body (if applicable)
N/A

6.	Apprenticeship Standard (if applicable)	N/A
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7. Final qualification(s) available
Target Award Title(s)

LLM LLM International Business and Commercial Law
Exit Award Title(s)
PGCert LLM International Business and Commercial Law
PGDip LLM International Business and Commercial Law

8. Academic year effective from	2025-26
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9. Criteria for admission to the programme
<p>The University's standard entry requirement for LLM International Business and Commercial Law consists of a Law degree at 2:2 or Graduate Diploma in Law.</p> <p>However, graduates in related disciplines, with law minors or with relevant professional experience or qualifications may be admitted subject to the Programme Leader's discretion. Other non-UK qualifications will be considered in accordance with NARIC guidelines.</p> <p>International students who have not been taught in the English medium must show evidence of proven ability in English equivalent to IELTS grade 6.5 (with minimum 6.0 in all four components).</p> <p>University policies supporting students with disabilities apply, as described in the University Regulations.</p> <p>Principle of fair admission</p> <p>The University aims to ensure that its admissions processes are fair, open and transparent and aims to admit students who, regardless of their background, demonstrate potential to successfully complete their chosen programme of study where a suitable place exists and where entry criteria are met. The University values diversity and is committed to equality in education and students are selected on the basis of their individual merits, abilities and aptitudes. The University ensures that the operation of admissions processes and application of entry criteria are taken in compliance with the Equality Act.</p> <p>We take a personalised but fair approach to how we make offers. We feel it is important that our applicants continue to aspire to achieving great results and make offers which take into account pieces of information provided to us on the application form.</p> <p>This includes recognition of previous learning and experience. If you have been working, or you have other learning experience that is relevant to your course, then we can count this towards your entry requirements and even certain modules once you start studying.</p>

10. Aims of the programme
<p>The programme aims to:</p> <p>Equip students with a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework governing commercial and business, both in the context of English and international law. Students will specialise in key subjects, including trade law, international sale of goods, commercial arbitration, and the regulation of transnational business transactions.</p>

Deepen and broaden students' academic knowledge of law by providing them with a systematic understanding of legal processes, methods, and concepts. This will include exploring the social, political, and cultural contexts in which these processes occur, as well as the theoretical underpinnings of legal systems.

Enhance students' professional development by refining their problem-solving and critical thinking skills in a transnational context. Students will acquire a systematic and critical understanding of the complex legal, economic, cultural, ethical, and political issues that inform international business law and commercial transactions.

Equip students with advanced legal research, writing, and analytical skills that are transferable to various professional sectors, including law, policy-making, the corporate sector, governmental bodies, and academia.

Provide students with the tools and guidance necessary to apply their acquired knowledge, legal research, and writing skills to the process of writing a dissertation or producing an original research project focused on international commercial or business law.

Provide eligible students with the opportunity to gain professional experience appropriate for postgraduate study, enabling them to apply their knowledge in real-world settings. This experience will contribute to the development of advanced critical thinking and professional skills at level 7.

11. Programme learning outcomes

Programme - Knowledge and Understanding

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

1. The historical and current influence of English law and international frameworks on the regulation of international sale of goods, along with the legal, commercial, and practical aspects associated with trade financing, property rights, insurance, agency, and conflict of laws.
2. Key scholarship, legal principles, and sources that underpin transnational business and commercial transactions, as well as other areas chosen by the student, with an emphasis on the role of property and agency within international commercial and business law.
3. The efficacy, authority, and impact of specialised rules and mechanisms for dispute resolution in transnational commercial transactions and trade relations, including arbitration and other international mechanisms.
4. The authority, values, and geopolitical factors that influence decision-making processes and shape specific legal frameworks and jurisprudence, alongside the capacity to critically assess these elements.
5. Recent developments in law and legal practice, emphasising the significance of ethical, social, business, political, historical, and cultural contexts within which law operates.
6. Methodologies suitable for addressing legal issues and the ability to critique various approaches from a legal perspective.

Programme - Skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:
7. Undertake critical, independent research, systematically identifying, retrieving, and managing information from a range of academic and relevant sources.
8. Apply comprehensive knowledge and advanced understanding of theories, concepts, and methods relevant to law within their contextual environments, demonstrating an awareness of the operative aspects of law in various legal, social, and economic contexts.
9. Critically evaluate and apply sophisticated theories, conceptual methods, and techniques to address complex legal issues effectively.
10. Conduct advanced research to enhance understanding of Commercial Law and International Business Law, using these skills to solve complex legal issues, frame hypotheses, and execute projects that address the legal, economic, cultural, ethical, and political factors shaping commercial transactions or transnational business.
11. Present information and complex legal arguments clearly, succinctly, and analytically in oral and/or written forms.
12. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in research and writing, with the ability to apply academic conventions effectively and recognize the authority of diverse sources relevant to professional and research contexts.

12. Teaching/learning methods
<p>The LLM in International Business and Commercial Law employs a diverse range of teaching and learning methods, including interactive workshops with peer and self-assessment to foster active student engagement. Class discussions, videos, and visits further enhance learning where suitable. Independent study is guided by recommended readings, materials, and exercises, which are then applied in classroom activities. Research skills are developed intensively, especially in the Legal Research Skills module, which provides essential tools for postgraduate work, such as critical analysis, academic writing, and information retrieval.</p> <p>The programme's modules, particularly the dissertation and research skills components, help students to identify research questions, conduct research, and draft substantial projects. A critical approach frames the learning experience, considering the social, historical, and cultural contexts within which the law operates. For those enrolled in the Work Integrated Learning internship module, real-world experience is provided, allowing students to develop professional skills through practical challenges, with mentorship from faculty or industry partners. Assessment methods vary across modules, including but not limited to presentations, literature reviews, case study analysis, critical essays, research papers, enabling students to demonstrate their ability to analyse, evaluate, and synthesise legal concepts and arguments.</p>
<p>1Approx. number of timetabled hours per week (at each level of study, as appropriate), including on-campus and online hours FT 8 hours</p>

PT 5 hours
Approx. number of hours of independent study per week (at each level of study, as appropriate)
FT 44 hours
PT 22 hours
Approx. number of hours on placement (including placement, work-based learning or year abroad, as appropriate).
FT 35 hours
PT 35 hours

13. Employability
13a Development of graduate competencies
13b Employability development
<p>The LLM in International Business and Commercial Law is designed to help students acquire and develop essential graduate competencies that are highly valued in the legal and business sectors. Through a combination of rigorous academic coursework, practical learning experiences, and research-based activities, students enhance their communication skills, becoming effective thinkers and analytical and creative problem solvers, by engaging in structured discussions, written assignments, and presentations, all of which foster clarity, precision, and persuasive argumentation. Problem-solving abilities are cultivated through critical analysis of complex legal scenarios, where students are encouraged to apply legal principles to resolve real-world challenges in the field of commercial and business law and demonstrating a mindset around sustainable solutions.</p> <p>The programme promotes strong organisational, planning, and management skills through the completion of research projects, assignments, dissertations, and internships, where students must plan, manage time effectively, and navigate the demands of multiple tasks. Students are also encouraged to demonstrate enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, as they actively engage with current legal issues, adapt to evolving practices, and expand their knowledge in the global legal environment. Flexibility is developed through exposure to diverse legal systems, methods, and challenges, enabling students to adapt their approach and thinking to a variety of international commercial contexts.</p> <p>The development of leadership and influence is enabled through the many opportunities provided in modules through teamwork exercises, research initiatives and working on their research projects. Students build their confidence to undertake such roles and academic colleagues encourage students accordingly. Entrepreneurship is promoted through identifying and generating solutions to complex challenges and global issues to facilitate a strategic entrepreneurial mindset. Their self-directed learning and ability to identify gaps in knowledge enhances their deep intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm to learn. Skills of empathy and inclusion are enhanced by the diversity of the student body and communicating with fellow students and staff, many of whom have diverse international experience. Collaborative innovation is enabled by actively contributing to and encouraging idea generation and respectfully challenging peers to ensure creative, positive outcomes. Using more advanced methodologies,</p>

researching multiple solutions and applying findings with precision and impact expands problem solving skills and enables the delivery of high quality outcomes working within deadlines. Technological agility is increased using legal cutting edge platforms for research and innovation and adapting to rapidly changing technological landscapes, including generative AI and utilising new techniques that are transformative to the legal discipline. All the graduate competencies are designed to produce employable graduates with a diverse range of knowledge and skills, making them valuable assets in the workplace.

13c Placement and work experience opportunities (if applicable)

N/A

13d Future careers / progression

The LLM in International Business and Commercial Law equips graduates with the practical and theoretical foundation necessary for success in a variety of dynamic career paths. The skills, knowledge, and professional connections developed throughout the programme ensure that graduates are well-prepared for roles in the rapidly evolving global legal and business landscapes. Graduates of the LLM in International Business and Commercial Law have access to a wide range of career and study pathways, including:

Legal Practice: Graduates are well-equipped to embark on the pathway to becoming a solicitor or barrister specializing in commercial and business disputes. They may pursue roles in private practice, corporate legal departments, or government agencies, advising businesses on matters such as contracts, trade, mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property, and dispute resolution.

In-House Counsel: The programme equips students with the skills necessary to work as in-house legal advisors within corporations, advising on day-to-day legal matters, risk management, compliance, and regulatory issues.

Government and Regulatory Bodies: Graduates may pursue positions within government departments or regulatory bodies that deal with commercial law, international trade, and business regulation.

International Organizations and NGOs: The programme's international focus also opens doors to careers with international organizations, including the United Nations, World Trade Organization, or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focused on business and human rights, environmental law, and international trade law.

Dispute Resolution and Arbitration: The skills learned in international commercial law, particularly in areas like contract law and dispute resolution, make graduates attractive candidates for positions in arbitration, mediation, and litigation, including working for specialized firms, international tribunals, or as independent arbitrators.

Academia and Research: Graduates may also choose to continue their studies by pursuing a PhD in law or a related field. This allows for further academic exploration and potential careers in teaching, research, or policy analysis at universities or research institutions.

Entrepreneurship and Business: With the programme's emphasis on commercial law, graduates may choose to venture into the business world, either by starting their own legal consultancy, joining a start-up, or assuming leadership roles within business operations that require legal expertise.

Further Specialization: Some graduates may decide to specialize further in specific areas of law such as intellectual property, mergers and acquisitions, tax law, or trade law, by pursuing additional certifications, qualifications, or professional development opportunities.

14. Assessment methods

Assessments take a variety of forms including courseworks, research essays, case studies, policy reports, portfolios, literature reviews, oral presentations and dissertation. The assessment of the Work Integrated Learning module will include a diary and an original academic research paper that indicates understanding of the background and questions faced by the organisation within which the placement is conducted. The range of assessment methods allows students to demonstrate their ability to identify and analyse legal issues by requiring them to apply knowledge of legal principles to practical questions drawing reasoned and defensible conclusions supported by legal authority. This will require the interpretation and application of primary and secondary source materials. Students will recognise potential conclusions for particular situations and provide supporting reasons for them. Assessment methods in every module expect students to demonstrate a critical and evaluative approach which analyses and discriminates between competing legal arguments and reflects on the doctrines and principles underpinning the law. Literature reviews are particularly designed to enable students to identify authoritative sources and assess their contribution to a given area of research or professional practice.

15. Programme Structure (level of study, modules, credits and progression requirements)

Structure is indicative for Part-time routes.

Students must take all of the compulsory modules and choose following programme requirements from the optional modules.

Non-compensatable modules are noted below.

Available Pathways

Not Applicable

Year 1

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4801	Compulsory	Legal Research Skills 2025-26	30 at Level 7
LEX4802	Compulsory	Law of the International Sale of Goods 2025-26	15 at Level 7

LEX4809	Compulsory	International Commercial Litigation and Arbitration 2025-26	30 at Level 7
LEX4810	Compulsory	Comparative Corporate Governance 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4165	Compulsory	Dissertation 2025-26	60 at Level 7
LEX4770	Compulsory	Work Integrated Learning 2025-26	60 at Level 7
LEX4821	Compulsory	Legal Research and Writing Skills 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4803	Compulsory	English Commercial Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4804	Compulsory	Technology and the Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4805	Compulsory	Principles of International Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4807	Compulsory	Mergers and Acquisitions 2025-26	15 at Level 7

Year 1 Optional Module Selection

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4803	Optional	English Commercial Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4804	Optional	Technology and the Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4805	Optional	Principles of International Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7

LEX4807	Optional	Mergers and Acquisitions 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4800	Optional	Postgraduate Legal Work Experience 2025-26	0 at Level 7
LEX4811	Optional	Law and Policy of The World Trade Organization 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4812	Optional	Business and Human Rights 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4818	Optional	UAE and DIFC Employment Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4817	Optional	Technology in Legal Practice and Dispute Resolution 2025-26	15 at Level 7
LEX4819	Optional	International Maritime Law 2025-26	15 at Level 7

Year 2

PT Optional Modules

Code	Type	Module Title	Credits at FHEQ Level
LEX4803	Optional	English Commercial Law 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4804	Optional	Technology and the Law 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4805	Optional	Principles of International Law 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4807	Optional	Mergers and Acquisitions 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4800	Optional	Postgraduate Legal Work Experience 2026-27	0 at Level 7

LEX4811	Optional	Law and Policy of The World Trade Organization 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4812	Optional	Business and Human Rights 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4818	Optional	UAE and DIFC Employment Law 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4817	Optional	Technology in Legal Practice and Dispute Resolution 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4819	Optional	International Maritime Law 2026-27	15 at Level 7
LEX4165	Compulsory	Dissertation 2026-27	60 at Level 7
LEX4770	Compulsory	Work Integrated Learning 2026-27	60 at Level 7
LEX4810	Compulsory	Comparative Corporate Governance 2026-27	15 at Level 7

*Please refer to your programme page on the website re availability of option modules

16. Programme-specific support for learning

Tailor-made and comprehensive Welcome and Induction programme and advice on decisions regarding module and programme enrolment;

Specialist skills training and advice about opportunities for generic language and skills training;

Availability of individual help and group sessions on academic writing and language from the Learning Enhancement Team;

Supply of a comprehensive programme handbook and separate module handbooks for all modules including a detailed dissertation handbook;

A free electronic copy of key textbooks and electronic and tailored reading lists available through MyMDX for each module;

Online systems on MyMDX to support learning opportunities;

Opportunities to consult Progression and Support Advisers;

Availability and guidance from library staff, including a dedicated Law Librarian;

Availability of computer assisted learning facilities;

Electronically accessible feedback on all summative module assessments;

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;

Access to libraries other than Middlesex University;

Provision of close personal supervision throughout the course via their module tutors/programme leader/ supervisors of dissertation or internships, including availability of guidance during weekly office hours.

17. HECos code(s)	000000: Not applicable
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18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark(s)	
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19. University Regulations

This programme will run in line with general University Regulations: [Policies | Middlesex University](#)

20. Reference points

21. Other information (if applicable)

Please note 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 they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulations.

Mapping by level of study and module

Module Title	Level 7	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6
Dissertation		LEX4165	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Work Integrated Learning (eligible students only)		LEX4770			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Postgraduate Legal Work Experience (non-credit bearing)		LEX4800				X	X		X				X	X
Legal Research Skills (September start students only)		LEX4801					X	X	X	X			X	X
Law of the International Sale of Goods		LEX4802	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
English Commercial Law		LEX4803	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Technology and the Law		LEX4804				X	X		X	X			X	X
Principles of International Law (but not for September start students in Hendon)		LEX4805	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Mergers and Acquisitions [Dubai and Mauritius only]		LEX4807	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
International Commercial Litigation and Arbitration		LEX4809	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Comparative Corporate Governance		LEX4810	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization		LEX4811	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Business and Human Rights		LEX4812		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Technology in Legal Practice and Dispute Resolution [Dubai only]		LEX4817			X	X	X		X	X			X	X
UAE and DIFC Employment Law [Dubai only]		LEX4818			X		X		X	X	X		X	X
International Maritime Law [Dubai and Mauritius only]		LEX4819	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Legal Research and Writing Skills (January start students only)		LEX4821					X	X	X	X			X	X