



## **Module Specification**

### **International Commercial Law**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** International Commercial Law

**Module code:** UJGU94-30-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2024-25

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**College:** College of Business and Law

**School:** CBL Bristol Law School

**Partner institutions:** Bristol Institute of Business Management, Foreign Trade University, Vietnam, Villa College

**Field:** Law Postgraduate (Programmes)

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** Business contributes to the wealth and development of countries. This module therefore aims at providing an understanding of the essential principles in the area of International Business Law.

**Features:** The module covers the legal theory in this area of Law.

Additionally, the module covers practical aspects of international contracts law and shipping law.

**Educational aims:** The educational aims include:

To introduce the student to the law behind modern international commercial transactions and its intricacies and to provide key understandings of the sales, finance, etc law.

To enable students to understand and to critically interpret the dynamics of global business and to critically analyse legal problems arising in this growing area.

To enable students to research, to develop an appreciation of complexity and the limits of scholarship in this sphere, and to examine problems relating to international business transactions across borders.

**Outline syllabus:** Outline of the indicative content of the module listing the topic areas to be covered.

1. International transactions and how they are usually conducted.

An examination of the key players and the timeline that is commonly followed in such matters and what each stage of the process involves.

2. An Introduction to the Sale of Goods.

An examination of various sections in the Sale of Goods Act 1979.

3. International Sales Contracts

3.1 FOB – Free on Board

3.2 CIF – Cost, Insurance and Freight

To examine how each of these contracts function covering matters such as for e.g. Sellers' and Buyers' obligations, the

transfer of property and risk, the significance of key documents, a brief introduction to INCOTERMS, etc.

#### 4. Carriage Contracts

4.1 Under the Hague Visby Rules System

4.2 Under the Common Law System

To examine matters such as for e.g. the functions of the bill of lading, the Carriers' and Cargo-owners' obligations, potential defences, limitation of liability, etc.

#### 5. Finance Contracts

To examine Documentary Letters of Credit and how they function. Principles such as for e.g. strict compliance, autonomy of letters of credit, the fraud exception, etc.

#### 6. Charterparties

Charterparties as a key area of modern shipping law is dealt in this part of the module. This part of the module therefore explores voyage charters, time charters, bareboat/demise charters, the duties of ship-owners in the area, set-off, remedies for non-payment, etc.

#### 7. Marine Insurance

To examine the key concepts involved in marine insurance. A look at the Institute Cargo Clauses A, B and C, types of warranties, types of policies, types of losses, etc.

#### 8. Multimodal Transport

A discussion for eg of a variety of different types of multimodal

transport, an analysis of the problems in relation to multimodal transport, the possible use of multimodal transport documents, the different types of emerging contracts due to multimodal transport, etc.

N.B. Please note that the whole of the syllabus may not be taught in any one year. Selection of topics will depend on staff current research and interests.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** The learning context is student-centred and utilises a variety of techniques to encourage independent thought and constructive criticism. Dialogue is promoted between student and lecturer in an inter-active relationship which emphasises the two-way flow of information, analysis and criticism.

It is not necessarily envisaged that every topic in the syllabus will be covered in any one academic year.

Areas which have topical significance could, therefore, be developed at greater length and less important areas delineated in outline only.

Students will be expected to conduct research with both traditional and electronic sources and will be instructed on how to do this both during the Programme as a whole and, where necessary, within the module.

Student preparation:

Seminars: Seminars will be two-hours long per week.

Seminars: Seminar preparation tasks include working individually or in small groups.

Mini-oral presentations will be encouraged in these sessions.

Students will be given seminar documents detailing the learning objectives, questions and a reading list for each topic in advance of their seminars which will be centred on the analysis of articles, cases, statutes, etc. as appropriate. Powerpoint slides for the topic will also be released in advance of each session.

Directed reading will be suggested along with internet sources and video material as appropriate.

Students are expected to make full use of their independent learning time to reflect critically upon the subject and to develop their own ideas.

Operation and purpose:

Seminars: Seminars will involve analysis and synthesis of conceptual and contextual issues, through plenary discussion and may include mini-oral presentations by individual students or groups of students.

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** To identify the different legal issues involved in global business.

**MO2** To suggest methods on how to resolve legal anomalies in this area of the Law.

**MO3** To integrate domestic rules of law with international principles and convention provisions.

**MO4** To consider possible future developments in this area of Law and recommend how to resolve any issues that may arise.

**MO5** To research into different areas of global business law and communicate the outcome of that research in an articulate way.

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 256 hours

Face-to-face learning = 44 hours

Total = 300

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/96E5A9C2-1580-8008-CCE2-866F88D5CB0E.html?lang=en&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/96E5A9C2-1580-8008-CCE2-866F88D5CB0E.html?lang=en&login=1>

## Part 4: Assessment

**Assessment strategy:** The first assessment is a Coursework piece. The maximum word limit is 2,500 words. This assessment is worth 50% of the module.

The second assessment is an oral presentation. The student has a maximum of 20 minutes for the oral presentation. This assessment is worth the other 50% of the module.

The assessments will usually be questions focusing on understanding, critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of the Law in the topic areas in the module. A student should be able to clearly, accurately and precisely identify the key legal concepts and legal issues raised in the questions. There should have been evidence of appropriate research (for e.g. with reference to textbooks, statutes, cases, legal articles, etc) with a bibliography . The structure and presentation of the answers should be clear.

Additionally, for the oral assessment, a submitted answer should contain three elements, i.e. a recorded oral presentation, accompanying powerpoint slides and a bibliography. All three elements must be submitted on a specific day and time as stated in the oral assessment question.

### Assessment tasks:

#### Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: The first assessment is a Coursework piece. Max 2,500 words.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

**Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: Oral presentation. (20 mins max)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: The referral first assessment is a Coursework piece. The maximum word limit is 2,500 words.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: The referral second assessment is an oral presentation. The student has a maximum of 20 minutes for the oral presentation.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:



Global Business and Finance Law [Villa] LLM 2024-25

Global Business and Finance Law [FTU] LLM 2024-25

Global Business and Finance Law [BIBM] LLM 2024-25

Global Business and Finance Law [Frenchay] LLM 2024-25