



University of the
West of England

ACADEMIC SERVICES

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of England	
Teaching Institution	University of the West of England Ho Chi Minh City University of Law Foreign Trade University	
Delivery Location	University of the West of England, Frenchay, Bristol Ho Chi Minh City University of Law, split –Vietnam/Bristol University of Foreign Trade, split –Vietnam/Bristol	
Faculty responsible for programme	Faculty of Business and Law	
Department responsible for programme	Law	
Modular Scheme Title	Law Postgraduate	
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	<i>n/a</i>	
Highest Award Title	LLM International Trade and Economic Law	
Default Award Title	<i>n/a</i>	
Fall-back Award Title	<i>n/a</i>	
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Diploma in International Trade and Economic Law Postgraduate Certificate in International Trade and Economic Law	
UWE Progression Route	<i>PhD</i>	
Mode(s) of Delivery	<i>Full time/Part time</i>	
Codes	UCAS:	JACS:
	ISIS2: M3AC12 (M34C12)	HESA:
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	<i>n/a</i>	
CAP Approval Date	(QMAC) December 2011	
Valid from	1 September 2012	
Valid until Date	1 September 2018	
Version	1.2	

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

This postgraduate Law programme offers students an opportunity to engage with the challenges posed by the current international trade regime in a legal context. It takes the perspective that international trade and economic law need to be considered along with the social, political and economic dimensions of governance and development. A range of trade and related issues are explored, such as the impact of international trade policy and rules on sustainability, development, human rights, competition and dispute settlement from the viewpoint of both developed and developing countries. The programme supports one of the key aims of UWE, in seeking to foster a strong global outlook in students. It is designed to encourage innovation and creativity in assessing current problems at the cutting edge of international trade and economic law and in designing responses thus preparing graduates for employment in legal practice and commercial organisations as well as the public sector and non-governmental organisations, both in the UK and abroad.

The programme is based on an understanding of law as both a vocational discipline and a subject of academic study. The programme seeks to reflect this by:

- Equipping students with an advanced understanding of international trade and economic law, especially focusing on current issues at the forefront of academic study.
- Developing the analytical skills needed to make reasoned, creative and original judgments regarding the development and practical application of the law in this area.
- Assisting students to develop greater intellectual autonomy and to become independent learners.
- Equipping students with the research skills and methodological knowledge needed to conduct advanced legal research.
- Refining students' ability to communicate effectively complex ideas in oral and written form.
- Developing students' ability to look reflectively at their own professional practice.
- Encouraging ethical decision-making, sustainability and global citizenship.
- Assisting students to develop the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and decision-making.
- Encouraging lifelong learning and personal development and thereby enabling students to be able to work with self-direction and originality and to make a positive contribution to society.

Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

The LLM in International Trade and Economic Law equips lawyers with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage with trade and businesses at the global level. As business have become global, lawyers who want to practice both in the international and domestic commercial and business sectors need an understanding of international trade to enable them to operate in this highly complex and competitive area. Students completing the course will have a critical and contextual understanding of the processes, actors and institutions of world trade and the free flow of capital, goods and services that shapes today's global economy. Graduates will be equipped with both the subject expertise as well as a range of professional and transferable skills which are sought after in commercial legal practice as well as in business, and the public and voluntary sectors, both in the UK and internationally.

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

Teaching and learning strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Student support for all issues relating to the content, delivery and assessment of modules is provided by Module Leaders and for more general academic and professional concerns by the LLM Programme Leader and LLM Programme Managers. In addition, students can seek support from the Faculty Learning Support Tutor to address specific study skills issue.

Student Services Student Advisors are available to provide confidential advice where necessary on matters such as regulations, extenuating circumstances procedures, progression as well as personal issues such as ill health, time management etc. This services is supported by wider University provision and online resources.

Careers Guidance and a wide range of support in relation to employability is provided centrally by UWE Careers. Students seeking employment opportunities during their studies have access to the university's Job Shop.

All students are invited to participate in an Induction programme at the start of their studies. This includes specific guidance and orientation sessions for international students. The university's web pages provide access to detailed and up to date information covering all aspects of academic and administrative procedures and support. The LLM handbook provides details of a range of issues relating to all LLM programmes.

An important part of the programme is the involvement of students. Two or three student representatives are elected each year to serve on the Student Representatives and Staff Forum (SRSF). These are held every term to discuss issues raised by students in relation to their experience of studying on the programme and at UWE in general. Issues raised are discussed in an open and friendly atmosphere and students are encouraged to express their opinions. Issues raised are taken forward for action by the LLM Programme Leader and LLM Programme Managers. Where appropriate they may be discussed at Departmental Committees or Faculty Academic Standards and Quality Committee.

Support to students with disability is offered both at Faculty level under the remit of the Leader of WP, Disability and School Liaison and centrally through the university's Disability Resource Centre.

In addition to the above, the university's Student Services offer a range of services and support including:

- University Health Centre
- Advice on careers, employability and finding student and graduate vacancies
- Community Volunteer Programme
- The Living Centre for support on faith and spiritual matters
- Global Student Support to assist international students
- Help with visas

Teaching on the LLM in International Trade and Economic Law Programme comprises a mix of scheduled workshops and independent learning.

Scheduled learning These sessions constitute an average of 24 hours per module. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices made. Learning for students who choose a work based project will include work based learning.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, preparation for workshop activities, assignment preparation and research. These sessions constitute an average of 132 hours per module.

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

Description of any Distinctive Features

This programme is designed in support of the Faculty of Business and Law Learning Teaching and Assessment (LTA) Strategy. The overarching aim of the strategy is:

“to maximise student achievement (both in relation to award classification and to employability) and student satisfaction whilst maintaining appropriately rigorous academic standards and supporting the university’s vision of becoming an inclusive and welcoming learning community, actively engaged with global society and based on values of mutual respect, critical engagement and self-awareness.”

The LTA Strategy identifies the following objectives:

1. Further development of intellectually vibrant, highly reflective, mutually respectful and diverse student and staff learning communities within the Faculty
2. Increase in the use of links with the world external to UWE (including professional accreditation where possible) to inform curriculum design and delivery and provide lifelong learning opportunities
3. Provision of an effective, efficient and supportive infrastructure for learning (organisation and management of programmes, student advice, communication with students etc)
4. Appropriate design and flexible delivery of curricula which provide an intellectually stimulating learning experience enabling students to develop as highly employable and internationally aware lifelong learners
5. Provision of effective support for students making the transition to learning at UWE
6. Provision of effective and ongoing developmental support for all staff
7. Use of effective strategies for assessment for learning

The LTA Strategy encourages students to take responsibility for their learning and become independent, as well as interdependent, learners. Student learning is facilitated through a combination of face-to-face **and online interaction that integrates** a range of learning and teaching approaches (including, for example, lectures, tutorials, group discussions, presentations, visiting speakers, and external engagement). Students are encouraged to become active participants, both in their own learning and in the creation of knowledge, and to develop their critical and reflective capacity.

Ultimately the aim of the programme is to enable students to progress to a high level of autonomy in the learning and professionalism and the view learning as a process of continuing professional development. Learning activities and resources apply theoretical knowledge and international research to practical situations with reference to real examples and a wide range of contexts. Further, the dissertation requires students to explore a substantial issue using appropriate concepts, frameworks and methodologies. Feedback from students is critical to the successful implementation of the LTA Strategy.

In implementing this strategy, an appropriate blend of learning approaches and opportunities have been integrated throughout the programme with an overall emphasis on student participation. This blend consists of face to face learning in workshop groups supported by on-line learning via Blackboard, together with exposure to real life examples through case studies, debates and invited speakers. Workshops are designed to encourage the development of the independent research, analytical and reflective skills required for successful completion of a postgraduate level course.

Students are required to complete preparatory reading, study of set case materials or other preparatory work in advance of each workshop. From each workshop, the student will be expected to have developed a general mastery of the subject under consideration. In addition, students will be expected to contribute to structured analytical discussions and raise, critically assess and defend different points of view on controversial issues in class. Analytical skills and a critical approach are encouraged. A strong emphasis is placed on independent engagement with the materials and the questioning of assumptions.

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

The activities covered in workshops may include lectures, seminars, tutorials, group discussions, group exercises, role play, case studies, presentations by students and staff, in groups or individually, debates and other activities such as films or video and online discussions. Academic staff teaching on the programme are all active researchers and incorporate aspects of their own research in their teaching.

All modules make use of Blackboard for web enhanced delivery to at least the recommended minimum standard and for communications with students. Module teaching outlines are provided for all modules which provide details of learning and teaching resources in accordance with the university's reading strategy. Additional support is provided through the library and an extensive student computing network.

In order to assist with the development of research skills, students are directed to the University Library online resources as well as a specially developed online learning unit which supports the Research Methods module and the Dissertation.

The programme provides opportunities for both formative and summative assessment and feedback. Formative assessment and feedback may take a number of forms, including self assessment and peer assessment. Summative assessment may include essays, reports, literature reviews, case studies, projects, dissertations and oral presentations. All assessment criteria conform to UWE Academic Regulations and Procedures and module specifications provide details of assessments.

Part 5: Assessment

Approved to [University Regulations and Procedures](#)

Assessment Strategy

Assessment strategy to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

The assessment strategy is designed to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated. The assessment strategy comprises of formal tutor assessment, informal tutor assessment and informal peer review and feedback. Formal testing of the knowledge base, intellectual, subject specific and transferable skills is through a combination of coursework and presentations which include essays, case studies, project reports, reflective diaries and project plans. Informal testing of intellectual, subject specific and transferable skills is through class interaction during work on current academic research and understanding, case studies, practical exercises, practice presentations and experiential exercise

Part 6: Programme Structure LLM International Trade and Economic Law
UWE Delivery

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **full time student**, including: level and credit requirements, interim award requirements, module diet, including compulsory and optional modules

ENTRY	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
	105 credits Research Methods UJGUP7-15-M Globalisation and the Law UJGUP9-15-M International Contracts UJGUP8-15-M OR World Trade Organisation Law UJGUPM-15-M Dissertation (60 credits) UJGT85-60-M	Choose 75 credits from list of 15 credit modules: (<i>subject to availability</i>) World Trade Organisation Law UJGUPM-15-M International Contracts UJGUUP8-15-M Contemporary Research Project UJGUPG-15-M Natural Resources Law UJGUPN-15-M International Intellectual Property Law UJGUPL-15-M International Financial Crime UJGUPK-15-M Information Technology Law UJGUPH-15-M International Commercial Disputes UJGUPJ-15-M Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility UJGUPP-15-M International Competition Law and Policy UJGUPA-15-M International Law and Institutions UJGUPC-15-M International Environmental Law UJGUPD-15-M International Banking and Finance Law UJGUPF-15-M International Employment Law UJGUPS-15-M Shipping Law UJGUPR-15-M A maximum of one module not listed above, offered on any of the other LLM award routes by the Department of Law (15 credits)	Postgraduate Diploma in International Trade and Economic Law Credit requirements 120 credits Postgraduate Certificate in International Trade and Economic Law Credit requirements 60 credits

GRADUATION

Part 6: Programme Structure LLM International Trade and Economic Law For students studying with University of Foreign Trade, Vietnam		
This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey for students taking the Vietnam / Bristol split delivery		
Semester 1 - Vietnam Compulsory modules (total of 60 credits) Research Methods UJGUP7-15-M Globalisation and the Law UJGUP9-15-M International Contracts UJGUP8-15-M International Banking and Finance Law UJGUPF-15-M	Semester 2 - Bristol Optional modules Students choose 60 credits from the Semester 2 options offered on UWE route.	Semester 3 Vietnam or Bristol Compulsory modules (total of 60 credits) Dissertation UJGT85-60-M
Interim Award - Postgraduate Certificate in International Trade and Economic Law (60 credits) Interim Award - Postgraduate Diploma in International Trade and Economic Law (120 credits) Target/highest – LLM in International Trade and Economic Law (180 credits to include the Dissertation module which will be the final module undertaken)		

Part 6: Programme Structure LLM International Trade and Economic Law For students studying with Ho Chi Minh City University of Law		
This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey for students taking the Vietnam / Bristol split delivery		
Semester 1 - Vietnam Compulsory modules (total of 60 credits) Research Methods UJGUP7-15-M Globalisation and the Law UJGUP9-15-M International Contracts UJGUP8-15-M International Banking and Finance Law UJGUPF-15-M	Semester 2 - Bristol Optional modules Students choose 60 credits from the Semester 2 options offered on UWE route.	Semester 3 Vietnam or Bristol Compulsory modules (total of 60 credits) Dissertation UJGT85-60-M
Interim Award - Postgraduate Certificate in International Trade and Economic Law (60 credits) Interim Award - Postgraduate Diploma in International Trade and Economic Law (120 credits) Target/highest – LLM in International Trade and Economic Law (180 credits to include the Dissertation module which will be the final module undertaken)		

Part time:

All modules can be taken in any of year 1, 2 and 3 except for the following:

Research Methods – to be taken in Year 1 Semester 1

Dissertation – to be taken in Year 2 for 2-year programmes or Year 3 for 3- year programmes.

Part 7: Entry Requirements

Candidates should normally hold a good honours degree in law (LLB (Hons)) or equivalent from a recognised UK Higher Education institution or equivalent from a recognised overseas institution. Non law graduates may be admitted if they have relevant experience.

Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to demonstrate appropriate English language proficiency, by having either:

- A minimum grade of 6.5 overall on the British Council International English Language Test (IELTS), with at least 5.5 in each component of the test.
- A TOEFL score of at least 90 (internet based test) with at least 21 in listening, 22 in reading, 23 in speaking and 21 in writing.

A full list of language tests accepted by UWE and the required levels can be found on the university website.

Part 8: Reference Points and Benchmarks

- QAA Framework for Higher Education in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (August 2008)

The educational aims and learning outcomes of the programme reflect the requirements of the QAA Framework for a qualification at Master's level. The programme has been designed to incorporate the QAA's *Master's degree characteristics* (March 2010). There is no QAA subject benchmark statement for Law at master's level.

- *UWE Vision and Mission*

The educational aims and learning outcomes support the UWE Vision and Mission by focusing in particular on the development of skills which foster innovation, sustainability, internationalisation, diversity and employability. The programme aims to address the need for an understanding of international trade and economic law in a global context, focusing on both national and international legal developments and is designed to appeal to a diversity of students, recognising their differing needs.

What methods have been used in the development of this programme to evaluate and improve the quality and standards of learning? This could include consideration of stakeholder feedback from, for example current students, graduates and employers.

Staff are actively involved in their own research, practice and knowledge exchange activities with relationships across a broad range of international, governmental, commercial and non-commercial organisations and these links have informed the development of the programme. In addition, feedback from current students and graduates, including those from our partnership programmes, have helped to shape the programme, both in terms of content and assessment.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications, available on the [University's website](#).

