

Programme Specification

Programme title: LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law with Solicitors Practice

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| Academic Year: | 2024/25 |
| Degree Awarding Body: | University of Bradford |
| Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate): | BarBri |
| | <p>Master of Laws (LLM) [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7]</p> <p>Postgraduate Diploma [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7]</p> <p>Postgraduate Certificate [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7]</p> |
| Programme accredited by (if appropriate): | N/A |
| Programme duration: | 2 years full-time |
| QAA Subject benchmark statement(s): | Law (QAA) |
| Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board | N/A |

Please note: This programme meets the Solicitors Regulation Authority law degree requirements for aspiring solicitors and is intended for those who wish to qualify as a solicitor in England & Wales. Students will require 1-2 years of qualifying work experience (QWE) and to pass Stages 1 and 2 of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) in order to practice as a solicitor in the UK.

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

Introduction

The LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law with Solicitors Practice together with the other LLM programmes offered is part of the vibrant postgraduate community of the School of Law. This LLM offers the unique opportunity to explore a specialist area of the law, whilst also

providing a clearly defined career pathway to qualification as a solicitor in England & Wales. It contributes towards enhancing the research-led teaching strategy of the School and the University, with a strong focus on internationalization, and is geared towards 'making knowledge work'. On graduation, students will have completed both mandatory Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) examinations, possess an in-depth knowledge of the law, and gained practice experience via the School's Law Clinic and the University's placement scheme.

The LLM programme engages with current global, regional and national challenges, with a strong focus on developing deep knowledge of the subject matter and employability skills for qualification as a solicitor in England & Wales that graduates from the programme aspire to.

The LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law with Solicitors Practice will equip graduates with knowledge of essential laws and regulations in their specialist area of the law. In many of these areas the legal responses are still emerging, and students will have the opportunity to engage with the current legal debates as well as the latest laws. This cutting-edge knowledge, which is secured through regular programme content updates, will equip students with knowledge and skills which will greatly improve their employability.

The knowledge offered will start from the introduction of the students to the international legal standards in the subject areas, which will offer them the shared legal knowledge of the fundamentals of law in the areas of study. Students will then be able to compare and contrast legal frameworks and principles from jurisdictions of their choice through the adoption of a flexible approach to the study of the subjects. This type of study will offer students an appreciation of the links and connections between the various national and regional legal frameworks and equip them with tools which will enable them to navigate the complex national and international legal landscape.

The programme is taught by research active staff at Bradford University School of Law who have interests and expertise in the issues the student will study, therefore ensuring they have access to cutting edge research and thinking.

The LLM also provides a distinct route to prepare students for Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the SRA's Solicitors Qualification Examination (SQE). Consequently, the LLM programme has been designed to provide students with the necessary support and guidance to perform effectively in both SQE1 and SQE2.

The LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law with Solicitors Practice's 2-year model enables students to study the SQE1 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module in Year 1 which will focus on preparing students for Stage 1 of the SRA's external Solicitors Qualification Examination (SQE1). In addition, students will work in the dynamic, multicultural environment of our student law clinic, advising clients from the local community on a wide range of legal matters. This work experience may count towards the two years Qualifying Work Experience (QWE) required by the SRA for a student to qualify as a solicitor in England & Wales.

Students are also provided with the opportunity to choose from a range of options relating to their chosen area of specialism. At the end of year 1 students will sit Stage 1 of the SRA's centralized examination.

On successful completion of SQE1, students are permitted to progress to Year 2 during which they will continue their studies by undertaking the SQE2 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module alongside a further opportunity to work in the School's Law Clinic which may count towards a student's two years QWE. In addition, students will undertake a Dissertation in their second year of study. Students may then choose from the School's range of Masters level modules relating to their area of specialism.

Alongside the rigorous academic and clinical training offered within the curriculum, students enjoy a rich variety of extra-curricular activities and opportunities. These include participation in mock trials and moots in our Lady Hale Court Room facility, opened by Baroness Hale of Richmond in January 2020. Students can also take advantage of volunteering opportunities with a variety of advice organisations and within the university, court visits, external speakers, and there is a wide range of social and law-related events organised by our thriving Student Law Society. Supported by our dedicated colleagues in the Careers Service, students will have the chance to obtain career mentoring and work experience through our links to our local legal, business, and not-for-profit communities.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- A1. Deliver a clearly defined and supported career pathway to qualification as a solicitor in England & Wales.
- A2. Connect with the local and regional community through the provision of a range of student-led legal services.
- A3. Develop subject knowledge and understanding of legal frameworks in traditional legal practice and specialist areas such as corporate law, human rights, banking or environment and energy law.
- A4. Encourage participative, independent and reflective learning and the development of personal and professional skills including clinical legal practice.
- A5. Enable students to understand the complexities of an advanced level and in its ever-changing contexts.
- A6. Equip students to have mastery of the subject, conduct effective research and to critically analyse and assess the specific areas of study undertaken and apply this learning in the relevant practical context.
- A7. Ensure the accessibility of the programme to students from diverse backgrounds and various career trajectories.

Programme Learning Outcomes

To be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- 1.** Have a systematic and critical knowledge of the substantive concepts, values, principles and rules in traditional legal practice or specialist areas, and their theoretical and ethical underpinnings within the framework of the wider legal environment in its historical, socio-political and economic contexts, including the role of contemporary developments in shaping technology and sustainability principles and influencing the operation of modern corporations.
- 2.** Demonstrate critical knowledge of the institutions and procedures operating at the international, regional and local levels in traditional legal practice or specialist areas, and their impact on the development of law and policy.
- 3.** Conduct independent research which demonstrates the ability to evaluate approaches to legal research in this subject, develop appropriate research designs and techniques to investigate propositions/hypotheses.
- 4.** Develop an advanced understanding of the role of law and its shortcomings and limitations as well as the interrelationship between law and other related legal disciplines.
- 5.** Generate clear, concise and coherent communication orally and in writing in which style, scope and depth are appropriate to task, purpose and audience, whether working independently or as a group.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

- 6.** Employ relevant competencies and strategies to engage constructively with in traditional legal practice or specialist areas in various roles.
- 7.** Identify and apply critical learning gained to current developments, disputes and debates in traditional legal practice or specialist areas.
- 8.** Demonstrate initiative and independence in systematic academic inquiry, using relevant techniques to gather, evaluate and manage evidence, data and information from appropriate sources.
- 9.** Reflect critically on professional and career development needs and to take action to maintain the knowledge and skills required of a practitioner in traditional legal practice or specialist areas.
- 10.** Plan and execute a range of assignments, including essays and presentations in which style and, scope and depth are appropriate to the task.

Additionally, to be eligible for the award of Degree of Master at FHEQ level 7, students will be able to:

11. Design and carry out, with appropriate ethical approval, an original and self-directed capstone research project which draws upon a comprehensive and critical review of relevant literature.
12. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in completion of an advanced, original and self-directed capstone project using critical reflective communication to deepen understanding of the learning process, with appropriate documentation.
13. Recognise and be able to critically reflect on own values, experiences and orientation in ones' own academic work.

Curriculum

The LLM programme consists of 280 credits, made up of core modules and optional modules. Students take 120 credits in Stage 1 and 160 credits in Stage 2. Each 'Stage' or taught 'academic year' of the Masters programme consists of two semesters.

During Stage 1, students will undertake the BarBri Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module for Stage 1 of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE1). This is a core module together with the Law Clinic 1 module which will count towards the students Qualifying Work Experience (QWE). For the remaining 40 credits students may then choose from a variety of law modules that correspond to their chosen specialism, or they may choose a general route. To sustain the thread of clinical and professional education that runs through the two SQE Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice modules, all our academic law options consider how the law operates in a practical 'real-world' context, besides the more purely academic and theoretical aspects.

At Stage 2, students will undertake the BarBri Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice for Stage 2 of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE2). This is also a core module together with the Law Clinic 2 module which, again, will count towards the students Qualifying Work Experience (QWE). In addition, students must study the Dissertation module which is a core module. For the remaining 40 credits students may then select a further **2 options** from the list of law modules that correspond to their chosen specialism. One option from Semester 1 not previously studied and one option from Semester 2 not previously studied to make up to **160 credits** in total.

Stage 1

In stage 1, students will enrol on the BarBri SQE1 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module and the Law Clinic 1 module (80 credits in total). Students will then select **2 options** from the list below. One option from Semester 1 and one option from Semester 2 to make up to **120 credits** in total.

| FHEQ Level | Module Title | Core/Option | Credits | Study Period | Module Code |
|------------|---|-------------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| FHEQ 7 | SQE1 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice | Core | 40 | Academic Year | LAW7099-D |
| FHEQ 7 | Law Clinic 1 | Core | 40 | Academic Year | LAW7097-D |
| FHEQ 6 | SQE1 (SRA External Exam) | Core | 0 | Academic Year | LAW6032-Z |
| FHEQ 7 | International Banking and Finance Law | Option | 20 | Semester 1 | LAW7037-B |
| FHEQ 7 | Law of Financial Crime | Option | 20 | Semester 1 | LAW7085-B |
| FHEQ 7 | International Trade and investment law | Option | 20 | Semester 1 | LAW7045-B |
| FHEQ 7 | Legal Technology | Option | 20 | Semester 2 | LAW7084-B |
| FHEQ 7 | Regulation of Financial Technologies and Virtual Assets | Option | 20 | Semester 2 | LAW7078-B |
| FHEQ 7 | International Law of Taxation | Option | 20 | Semester 2 | LAW7073-B |

At the end of Stage 1, students will be eligible to exit with the award of **Postgraduate Certificate** in International Banking and Finance Technology Law if they have successfully completed 60 credits (without dissertation and SQE1 and SQE2) and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students must pass SQE1 (SRA External Exam) (LAW6032-Z) in order to progress from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of the programme, referral will therefore NOT be permitted. Students are reminded that cost of the SQE1 (SRA External Exam) are not covered in the course tuition fee. Additional Information relating to the additional fees can be found <https://sqa.sra.org.uk/about-sqa/costs-and-fees>.

Stage 2

In stage 2, students will enrol on the BarBri SQE2 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module, the second Law Clinic 2 module and the Dissertation module (120 credits in total). Students will then select a further **2 options** from the list below. One option from Semester 1 not previously studied and one option from Semester 2 not previously studied to make up to **160 credits** in total.

| FHEQ Level | Module Title | Core/ Option | Credits | Study Period | Module Code |
|------------|---|--------------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| FHEQ 7 | SQE2 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice | Core | 40 | Academic Year | LAW7100-D |
| FHEQ 7 | Law Clinic 2 | Core | 40 | Academic Year | LAW7098-D |
| FHEQ 7 | Dissertation | Core | 40 | Academic Year | LAW7101-D |
| FHEQ 7 | International Banking and Finance Law | Option | 20 | Semester 1 | LAW7037-B |
| FHEQ 7 | Law of Financial Crime | Option | 20 | Semester 1 | LAW7085-B |
| FHEQ 7 | International Trade and investment law | Option | 20 | Semester 1 | LAW7045-B |
| FHEQ 7 | Legal Technology | Option | 20 | Semester 2 | LAW7084-B |
| FHEQ 7 | Regulation of Financial Technologies and Virtual Assets | Option | 20 | Semester 2 | LAW7078-B |
| FHEQ 7 | International Law of Taxation | Option | 20 | Semester 2 | LAW7073-B |

At the end of Stage 2, students will be eligible for the award of **Degree of Master of Laws in International Banking and Financial Technology Law with Solicitors Practice** if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits (with dissertation), passed both of the SQE1 and SQE2 modules, and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of **Postgraduate Diploma in International Banking and Financial Technology Law with Solicitors Practice** if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits (without dissertation) and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be able to exit with an **LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law** if they have successfully passed 180 credits including the dissertation (excluding SQE1 and SQE2)

This award confers eligibility to undertake externally Stage 2 of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE2). Students are reminded that cost of the SQE2 (SRA External Exam) are not covered in the course tuition fee. Additional Information relating to the additional fees can be found <https://sqa.sra.org.uk/about-sqa/costs-and-fees>.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

This LLM programme aims to integrate applied and theoretical knowledge with assessment processes that test knowledge, application and analysis of the subject. To this end, the learning, teaching and assessment strategy for this programme has been developed to help the student build their knowledge incrementally over the two years of study and to develop their research, critical thinking and writing skills. The overriding objective of the programme is to offer a clearly defined and supported career pathway to qualification as a solicitor in England & Wales whilst also developing a specialism in law. On graduation students will have completed both mandatory Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) examinations, possess an in-depth knowledge of the law, and gained practice experience via the School's Law Clinic and the University's placement scheme.

In year 1 students will undertake the SQE1 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module which is delivered in partnership with BarBri which is the sector's leading provider of legal examination preparation for the SRA's Stage 1 examination at the end of year 1. Students will access module materials throughout Terms 1 and 2 online and will be guided by a Personal Study Plan (PSP) which guides every assignment and activity during their SQE1 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module. Pre-recorded video lectures, soft and hard copy workbooks and thousands of practice questions will build knowledge over time and deliver the right combination of substance and skills on a flexible schedule.

Students will also work in the School's law clinic, advising clients from the local community on a wide range of legal matters. This provides students with the opportunity to undertake work in a clinical environment which will contribute to the two-years of Qualifying Work Experience (QWE) required by the SRA for a student to qualify as a solicitor in England & Wales. Students are provided with the opportunity to choose from a range of options relating to their chosen area of specialism such as corporate law, human rights, banking or environment and energy law. At the end of year 1 students will sit Stage 1 of the SRA's centralized examination.

On completion of year 1, and on passing Stage 1 of the SQE successfully, students will progress in to year 2 and undertake the SQE2 Legal Theory & Solicitors Practice module. This module will focus on development on the practical skills required by the SRA including advocacy, interviewing, legal research and drafting. At the end of year 2, students will sit the Stage 2 of the SQE. In addition, students will continue to work in the School's law clinic and undertake the core Dissertation module. Students will also choose from a range of options relating to their chosen area of specialism.

Teaching on the subject specialist modules will typically involve a combination of formal workshop styled seminars, group discussions, directed reading and personal research. Each 20 credits module represents approximately 200 hours of study time broken down into formal tutor led contact hours in class as well as engagement via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and independent study. Case study analysis and discussion is used to contextualise learning and the application of techniques. Students also work in small groups which encourage participative learning and help develop organisational skills.

All taught modules have a two-hour teaching slot every week throughout the Semester in which they are taught, and we expect students to attend all scheduled classes. In the early part of the programme, most of these slots will be used as class time with lecturer input, individual and group

work activities. A module manual is provided with each module to provide clear instructions, guidance and details of the preparatory work required. The programme team also uses the VLE, in order to make additional material available to the student (e.g. session handouts, power point slides, sample questions, model answers), host discussions and provide programme related information and links. Students will be set research and writing tasks, be expected to contribute to discussions online, engage with other activities supported through the VLE or meet with their tutors to discuss a particular task or their progress generally.

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and engage with the materials and ideas provided. Students must therefore prepare for all teaching sessions and take all opportunities offered to develop their skills and knowledge.

To effectively assess whether a student has achieved a module's learning outcomes, a combination of assessment approaches is typically applied.

Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategy on this programme is robust, adopting a range of assessment methods, thereby aiming to be inclusive, and giving students the opportunity to play to their strengths while also developing areas of weakness.

Assessment is based on the skills and knowledge developed throughout the programme and the LLM International Banking and Financial Technology Law with Solicitors Practice employs a variety of assessment methods- both formative and summative. The assessments are structured in such a way as to help them demonstrate that they meet the learning outcomes of each module and the programme overall. The only timed, closed book examinations for this programme are on the SQE modules and are an requirement. Instead, we use a variety of programme work assignments to develop and test their research, critical thinking, problem solving and writing skills. The student might therefore be asked to write a traditional academic essay, to create a portfolio of activities, to write a book review or develop a research plan. The type of assessment for each module will be specified in the module descriptor with more detail being available in the module handbook.

There is a balance of formative and summative assessments, including feedback during individual and group tasks to ensure that students are supported effectively in their learning and are able to produce their best work for the summative assessment.

We therefore cater for a variety of learning styles and preferences and aim to create an inclusive and inspiring learning environment where the student can engage with the material studied in the ways most suitable to them. However, we also want students to push themselves out of their comfort zone, learn new things and develop intellectually and personally and we therefore hope they will engage in as many of the activities as possible to give the best possible chance of achieving the learning outcomes and demonstrating this through various assessments.

Finally, in response to the SQE which is comprised of mixed subject questions (e.g. contract with civil litigation) in multiple-choice formats, the LLM's SQE1 and SQE2 preparation course modules are designed to provide students with sufficient test preparation to sit the SRA's new centralised examinations. Students will receive continuous feedback throughout Terms 1 and 2 before sitting a final summative assessment.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Regulations which are available at the following link:

<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/agpo/ordinances-and-regulations/>

However, there are the following exceptions to these regulations.

1. Students must pass SQE1 (SRA External Exam) (LAW6032-Z) in order to progress from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of the programme, referral will therefore NOT be permitted.
2. To pass SQE1 (SRA External Exam) (LAW6032-Z), students must successfully complete the external SQE1 examination which is currently offered in July and January of each calendar year. If a student passes the July SQE1 examination following the end of Year 1, they will pass SQE1 (SRA External Exam) (LAW6032-Z) and be eligible to progress from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of the programme. If a student does not pass the July SQE1 examination, and they wish to progress to Stage 2 of the programme in the following academic year, the student must re-sit, and pass, the SQE1 examination in either January or July prior to the start of the academic year.

The Following are requirements set out by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), further details of the SRA's assessment regulations are available via the following link:

<https://rb.gy/5wg5zp>

3. The SRA's current SQE Assessment Regulations provide that SQE1 consists of two assessments, FLK1 and FLK2. Both must be passed to pass SQE1. FLK1 and FLK2 must be taken in a single assessment window, except where the candidate: has attempted both FLK1 and FLK2 and, having passed one of these assessments and failed the other, is having a further attempt at the assessment that they failed; has passed either FLK1 or FLK2 but failed to attempt the other assessment in a single assessment window and, having had a successful application for mitigating circumstances in relation to the failure to attempt, is having an attempt at that other assessment; or has made a request for reasonable adjustments and the adjustments that have been made allow the candidate to attempt FLK1 and FLK2 in different assessment windows.
4. The SRA's current SQE Assessment Regulations provide that a student who fails FLK1 and/or FLK2 at the first attempt will have two further opportunities to take the assessment(s) they failed,

(FLK1 and/or FLK2) within six years from the date they first sat an SQE assessment. Candidates who fail both FLK1 and FLK2 must retake them both in the same assessment window. If a candidate fails FLK1 and/or FLK2 three times during this six-year period, they must wait until that six-year period expires before reapplying and previous passes will not be carried forward.

5. Participation in the programme will include clinical and other experience which will count as Qualifying Work Experience (QWE) of up to 3 months per year. The extent of QWE is subject to the SRA's requirements and is assessed on each student's individual record, considering levels of engagement with the Law Clinic and involvement in supplemental activities, such as the Summer School and Careers Booster which are arranged by the University from time to time. Qualifying Work Experience may be enhanced by students who succeed in obtaining placements in relevant workplaces.

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme.

Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

The standard entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

- Previous Degree: 2:2 or above in any subject, or relevant work experience at graduate level.
- English language requirements: IELTS at 6.5 or equivalent with a minimum of 5.5 in each sub-test.
- Alternatively, students may take a University of Bradford pre-session English course.
- Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience.

Recognition of Prior Learning

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

Minor Modification Schedule

| Version Number | Brief description of Modification | Date of Approval (Faculty Board) |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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