



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

LLM International Trade Law

Course Code: LLITL

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

LLM International Trade Law (LLITL)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at October 2025

General Information

Award	Master of Laws International Trade Law
Contained awards	Postgraduate Diploma International Trade Law Postgraduate Certificate International Trade Law
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England
Course lengths and standard timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: 12 months (full time, campus based)
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus
Entry requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning . Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
Course fees	Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Policies, Standards and Regulations

www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations

There is a non-standard regulation in place for this course relating to the Masters award eligibility criteria. The exemption requires students to achieve an average of 50% or more in modules equivalent to 150 credits at this level (or above). All the remaining standard award criteria applies.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

Not applicable.

'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

The course contains a modular placement.

On campus students may elect to undertake an optional Professional Practice Placement module. The placement would commence at the start of semester 2 and needs to be completed by the end of August. The University will support a student in securing their placement, but cannot guarantee that a suitable placement will be offered. The option to undertake a Professional Practice Placement module is limited to five students per year.

Length

Standard placements will be for the period start of Semester 2 to the end of August, subject to any specific requirements of an individual employer.

Location

Students may secure a placement in the Leeds region, or elsewhere in the UK by prior agreement with the Course Director and/or Module Leader. Further information on the placement process is provided by the Course Director and/or Module Leader prior to option choices being made.

Approval

Whilst students source their own placements, they will need to meet requirements which will be outlined before module enrolment.

Timetable

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Key Contacts

Your course director

Dr Pavel Repyeuski

Your course administrator

pgdl@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

LLM International Trade Law aims to provide students with a critical understanding of international law regulating cross-border trade activities in a global economy by looking at topical areas such as international trade law, World Trade Organisation rules, transnational sale of goods, shipping law, international commercial contracts and terms. The course focuses on law as it applies to trade activities of countries as well as individual companies, regionally and globally.

The course helps students to gain a critical understanding of key rules regulating international trade activities of state and non-state actors in theory and practice. This includes exploring and assessing the essence and the nature of key transnational legal rules on how individual countries trade in a globalised world, as well as how international commercial contracts between firms operate, including forms and modes of finance and payment. The course enables students to acquire awareness of transnational rules shaping commercial activity across multiple jurisdictions and in the global economy.

The International Trade Law module explores the legal system of the World Trade Organization (WTO) which governs the relations of states and other international players in the legal framework within which nation's trade. Special consideration is given to tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and the resolution of international trade disputes, as well as the control of abuse of powers by the states, and the ways in which the WTO approaches the control of anti-trade behaviour. Whilst International Commercial Law module explores central aspects of the spheres of modern international commercial law focusing on INCOTERMS and the character and the legal substance of the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG). Regarding shipping law, students will examine and explore the importance of the contract of carriage of goods as well as relevant rights and duties of shippers and carriers in the area. Students are equipped with a critical understanding of Bills of Lading, Charterparties and elements of the Hague-Visby Rules, the Hamburg Rules, the Rotterdam Rules, Multimodal Transportation and Marine Insurance.

This programme's curriculum will further refine students' knowledge of contemporary international trade law and foster critical evaluation of the future direction and the dynamics of international commerce. Consideration of the regional and international trading blocs functioning in the supranational markets will further refine students' knowledge of international law and providing a firm platform for exploring the legal regulation of free trade throughout the world. The dissertation will give students the opportunity to pursue critical, independent research in a defined area of interest, helping students to specialise in ways specific to their chosen careers and/or field of academic interest.

The enhanced commercial awareness allied to specialist legal expertise and skills offers graduates a distinct advantage in a competitive global business environment. The course will not only be attractive to lawyers wishing to enhance their legal knowledge but to other trade and financial professionals who are working in environments where a deeper knowledge of international trade law would be advantageous.

Course learning outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	Analyse, synthesise and apply knowledge of norms relating to international trade law and the context in which such norms function.
2	Undertake complex analysis and evaluation of the efficacy of international commercial legal norms in the context of international trade law, World Trade Organisation rules, transnational sale of goods and international business contracts.
3	Critically evaluate the theoretical underpinnings of contemporary international trade law – such as contemporary <i>lex mercatoria</i> , reciprocity and exceptions in international trade - and show an ability to combine and apply these concepts to a complex analysis of legal problems involving issues relevant to the legal regulation of international trade transactions.
4	Show critical application of knowledge of relevant socio-legal theories and legal research methods and demonstrate the ability to apply key concepts of international trade law to a research question in this field.
5	Demonstrate self-direction, originality and autonomy in the production of a relevant piece of Master's level independent legal research.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

This course is offered on campus. The design and delivery of this course and its substantive content means that student cohorts will typically be diverse, coming from a range of social, cultural, academic and professional backgrounds and countries.

The course shares modules with other level 7 Academic LLM programmes, in particular cores for Legal Research Methods, Dissertation, and electives. There are three core 'subject' modules for this programme and the fourth is an elective students chose from the range of modules running on other LLMs.

For our on-campus delivery, the student community will be supported by in-person seminars and students will be encouraged to get involved with the broader School and Leeds Beckett community. Module delivery will be supplemented with the recorded content whilst reading and related activities will form the foundation of the seminars.

For on campus teaching activities, which will emphasise student-led evaluation and critique of issues, students will respond to tutor-prepared materials, tasks, problems and questions. Module units' materials will provide a framework which will steer students to both the knowledge and critical components of the programme. Students will be given the opportunity to relate the material covered to current issues of modern international trade law. The variety of student body provides an important opportunity for students to learn by sharing their and their peers' experience. Indicative content and approaches for each module are articulated in the respective module specification. For each module there are arrangements for feedback on student activities.

The Legal Research Methods module will provide students with founding knowledge about various legal research methods and how to use these in the Master's level research. The dissertation is an exercise in independent student learning, involving sustained research and a substantial piece of writing which is supported by both the dissertation Module Leader and an individual dissertation supervisor. The supervisor will guide the student on the planning and execution of the dissertation, the development of ideas, organisation and structure of the work. The preparation of the dissertation will require students to become involved with issues at the forefront of the disciplines concerned with this programme.

Your modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 7

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
International Trade Law	30	1
Legal Research Methods	30	1
International Commercial Law	30	2
Dissertation	60	Summer
Number of credits of compulsory modules	150	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Democracy, Rule of Law and HR	30	2
Competition Law and the Digital Economy	30	2
Professional Placement	30	2
Disability in International Human Rights Law	30	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	30	

Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard 30-credit module equates to 300 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

On this course students will be assessed primarily through coursework. There is a major independent study module (Dissertation) which will require the production of a dissertation of 15,000 words.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	198 hours
Independent study	1602 hours
Total	1800 hours