



LLM in Technology & Intellectual Property Law

By the end of the programme, you will have an advanced understanding of both the framework that governs the commercial application of technology and intellectual property law, and the latest developments in this fast-changing area. Whether you are a practising lawyer or have broader management responsibilities, this LLM will enable you to advance your career in both the legal profession and the broader business world.

Programme Outline

- Our LLM in Technology & Intellectual Property Law is a specialist Master of Laws degree that will equip you with the skills and knowledge to manage the technology and intellectual property demands of the business environment within a legal context. It provides a firm foundation in commercial law, covering the latest internet and technology-based intellectual issues and offering the opportunity to pursue your specific interests. In doing so, you will master the key doctrines of intellectual property law – in copyright, patents and trademark/unfair competition law – which now play a vital role in the rapidly changing global communications and technical landscape.
- Our virtual classroom is the ideal environment for practising lawyers and business professionals to learn together and from each other. Reflecting the cross-border and cross-discipline reality of global business networks, it brings together students from around the world in a dynamic, collaborative forum. Together you will discover and debate the nature and development of the legal context that shapes worldwide commercial activity. This online exchange of different legal and business perspectives provides new opportunities for learning that a traditional classroom cannot match.
- Core modules cover legal methodology, conflict of laws in business and commerce, copyright, patents, internet law, and information security. You can then personalise your Masters with two elective modules chosen from aspects of banking law, international money laundering regulation, competition law, commercial contracts, international law and foreign investment, and law of business organisations. You complete your degree with an original dissertation.

- You will graduate with specialist legal and commercial expertise in technology and IP law – expertise that is increasingly required by international organisations seeking to flourish in the knowledge economy. The knowledge you acquire will be invaluable to both practising lawyers and business professionals with responsibility for overseeing legal structures and strategies. As the advent of new technologies, increased globalisation and the expanding scope of patentable subject matter place an even higher premium on your new skills, this advanced qualification will enable you to develop your career in an expanding and exciting range of legal and commercial environments.

Programme Structure

- The programme comprises two preparatory modules, six core modules and two electives, culminating in a dissertation.
- You will follow two non-credit bearing modules (Student Readiness Orientation and Foundations for Academic Success) that will prepare you for your online learning experience. For more information about these required preparatory modules refer to the [Centre for Student Success document](#).
- The first module will be nine weeks in length (two half weeks and seven full weeks). Each subsequent module lasts eight weeks. You take one module at a time in order to study a specific subject in-depth without distractions.

Required modules

Legal methodology

Aim: To provide a comprehensive grounding in the specialist skills and perspectives necessary for independent legal reading and presentation.

- The structured exercises that comprise this module will help you develop appropriate skills and

introduce you to intellectual perspectives over a range of international, European and domestic legal subject areas. You will work on reading, writing and presentation techniques and receive specific counselling on legal writing skills.

Conflict of laws in business and commerce

Aim: To introduce the theoretical basis of conflict of laws and the purpose of rules in law.

- This module provides an introduction to conflict of laws, including its theoretical basis, the purpose of the rules and issues of particular relevance to business. You will study issues such as where to litigate, and the jurisdiction of the English courts under the common law rules, the Brussels Convention/Regulation and the Lugano Convention. You will cover the choice of law in contract, torts and in relation to movable and immovable property, including issues such as jurisdiction, renvoi and expropriation. You will develop a view on what system should govern e-commerce and examine the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments.

Copyright

Aim: To analyse the legal rights in works of authorship.

- In this module you will examine copyrightable subject matter, the duration and ownership of copyrights, the exclusive rights of copyright holders, defences, infringement and remedies.

Patent Law

Aim: To assess the legal aspect of patenting inventions and examine trademark law in global arenas.

- This module assesses the nature of industrial rights, notably patentable inventions and trademarks, and investigates the interaction of those rights in both the UK and European arenas.

Internet law

Aim: To introduce the conceptual and practical dimensions of internet technology and their effect on an emerging legal architecture.

- In this module you will examine the impact of the international communications infrastructure on economic, political and social institutions. It will cover a range of themes against the background of globalisation, drawing material from a number of jurisdictions and from a wide range of perspectives (not limited to law).

Information security

Aim: To develop your understanding of the nature of information security and the varied threats to it, as well as the legal, technical and business responses to those threats

- This module covers a wide range of information security threats and responses. You will examine technical issues such as cryptography and e-signatures and study the legal response to information security threats in the UK, EU, US and Australia. You will also consider the issues surrounding setting standards in information security and the impact of information security on corporations and the workplace.

Elective modules

Aspects of banking law

Aim: To analyse the role of the banking sector and issues relating to bank regulation.

- This module focuses particularly on the shortcomings of banking regulators. You will study the development of the banker/customer relationship with an emphasis on bank confidentiality and money laundering regimes. You will also look at mitigating factors in banking transactions, such as undue influence and duress, with special reference to the impact of third-party behaviour (O'Brien and the subsequent cases).

International money laundering regulation

Aim: To provide a comparative study of UK and international responses to the problems of money laundering and economic crime.

- In this module you will undertake a comparative survey of major countries, including the history of financial crimes and their regulation, methods of money-laundering, the uses and abuses of off-shore financial centres, and international regulation of money movements. You will also learn about the increasing role that tax counsel plays in compliance and due diligence investigations.

Competition law

Aim: To develop your knowledge of competition law and enable you to apply it to practical problems.

- This module covers the main areas of competition law in the EU. You will develop and demonstrate knowledge of the principles and legal rules of EU competition law and engage in a critical analysis of the main judicial decisions and administrative practice of the EU authorities. You will also apply your knowledge of EU competition law suggest solutions to practical problems.

Commercial contracts

Aim: To provide an understanding of the substantive law of contracts in the UK and the EU.

- This module provides a basic understanding of the substantive law of contracts in the UK, the EU and international arenas. Contracts are a prominent feature of not only business, but also consumer law, residential leases, the sale of property and so on. This module deals with how contracts are formed, which contracts are valid, when a contract has been breached, defences to contractual liability, the various remedies for breach, and quasi-contractual theories of liability based on detrimental reliance and unjust enrichment.

International law and foreign investment

Aim: To examine the problems concerning the legal regulation of foreign investment.

- This module examines responses to these problems at the national, bilateral and multilateral level. You will study legal frameworks as well as the law and policy issues involved. You will also examine the concerns of developed and developing countries. In addition, you will address the interrelationships between foreign investment regulation and environmental and social concerns, and consider the role of civil society in international law and policy-making.

Law of business organisations

Aim: To analyse the relationships arising out of different business organisations and in particular the legal effects of establishing limited liability companies.

- This module introduces different forms of business organisations, such as partnerships and LLPs. You will explore the relationships arising out of different business organisations, including those between partners; partners and third parties; contractual obligations; rules of agency law as applicable to partners, and dissolution of the partnership. You will then look at the limited liability partnership and the changes to general partnership it has entailed. Finally, you will explore the different types of limited liability company, the legal effect of establishing such a company, and rules relating to management and contractual capacity.

Dissertation

Aim: To undertake a piece of original research to demonstrate your mastery and integration of knowledge you have acquired during the programme.

- You will choose your dissertation topic in conjunction with your personal dissertation advisor, an academic supervisor, who will provide support throughout the study and writing process. Your dissertation will apply your new knowledge and work experience and must have merit beyond the narrower scope of your particular need.