

Programme file LLM International Commercial
Law 2025/2026

This programme file provides you with the argumentation regarding the relation between the learning outcomes of the LLM International Commercial Law and the programme, including assessment. To this extent, you will find the following information in succession:

- the learning outcomes of the programme as they are stated in the Teaching and Examination Regulations for the LLM programmes 2025/26;
- a narrative summary per learning outcome as to how this learning outcome is covered within the programme;
- an overview to indicate which courses add to which learning outcome(s);
- a detailed overview of the connection between the courses and the learning outcomes;
- an overview holding the links to the assessment archive of the Faculty of Law of the courses concerned.

In the detailed overview of courses, the following information is available:

- in which block within an academic year a course is scheduled (block);
- the number of ECTS that is awarded to a course (ECTS);
- the educational format used for each course and the number of hours scheduled per week;
- the assessment form (assessment);
- which (part of a) learning outcome is covered by the course (learning outcome);
- the learning outcome description of the courses as it is registered in the electronic course catalogue Ocasys 2025/26.

The learning outcome mentioned per course in the course description, the educational format and the assessment form is taken into consideration when linking the course to a learning outcome of the programme. Such a link has been made if a course substantially contributes to a programme learning outcome. This does not necessarily mean that the full programme learning outcome is covered by this specific course.

Teaching and Examination Regulations for English-taught Master's degree programmes of the Faculty of Law in the academic year 2025/26

Appendix 1 Aim and learning outcomes of the Faculty's Master's degree programmes

Section 4 The International Commercial Law programme

A. Learning outcomes knowledge and insight.

The learning outcomes of the LLM programme International Commercial Law in the field of knowledge and insight of the graduate are:

- A1. Specialised knowledge of and insight in international aspects of private law, in particular international commercial contracts law, tort law and property law;
- A2. Specialised knowledge of and insight in the application of private law in international commercial practice;
- A3. Thorough insight in the coherence, differences and similarities between important legal systems in the field of private law.
- A4. Specialised knowledge of and insight in private international law, cross-border commercial transactions, and alternative dispute resolution, in particular arbitration.

B. Learning outcomes application of knowledge and insight, formulating judgements and communication.

The learning outcomes of the LLM programme International Commercial Law in the field of application of knowledge and insight, formulating judgements and communication of the graduate are:

- B1. The ability to independently assemble, assess and apply relevant facts, legislation, case-law and literature in order to solve complex issues involved in international commercial practice;
- B2. The ability to independently do academic legal research into the international aspects of private law, applying the relevant academic and professional standards of responsible research, and in this way contribute in a socially relevant manner to the development of law;
- B3. The ability to independently participate in the debate in the field of international aspects of private law with (national and/or international) peers;
- B4. The ability to convey to a group of peers both orally and in written form in good English, a complex argumentation in the field of international aspects of private law.

C. Learning outcomes learning skills.

The learning outcomes of the LLM programme International Commercial Law in the field of learning skills of the graduate are:

- C1. Knowledge and understanding of the career prospects;
- C2. Understanding of the requirements resulting from the permanent and rapid development of positive law, that are needed for self-study and independent thinking.

Narrative summary connection programme to learning outcomes

The table below provides a short explanation with regard to the learning outcomes and how they are covered in the programme.

	Argumentation
A1.	Practically all courses contribute to this learning outcome. In the field of substantial law, the comparative courses Comparative Property Law, International Contracts Law and Comparative Tort Law provide students with knowledge and insight regarding the most important legal systems that play a role in international commercial practice (the English/American common law, German law and French law). The procedural courses (International Commercial Dispute Settlement Law and Cross-Border Commercial Transactions) give students insight in the mechanisms that parties to an international commercial contract can use in the event of a conflict.
A2.	Students obtain first-hand knowledge of the application of private law in international commercial practice by contact with guest lectures of prestigious law firms who have a lot of international commercial experience. Especially the course Seminar Contracts Law contains a lot of guest lecturers. Because students start with this course in September, they have insight in international legal practice from day one. This lays a foundation upon which subsequent guest lecturers and staff members can build. It should be added that many staff members have worked in commercial legal practice or still do so at a part-time basis, which enables them to relate personal experiences to students.
A3.	Differences and similarities are systematically analysed in the comparative courses (International Contracts Law, Comparative Property Law and Comparative Tort Law), but are present in nearly all courses.
A4.	The courses Comparative Private International Law, Cross-border Commercial Transactions and International Commercial Dispute Resolution Law provide students with knowledge and insight into these specific fields of law. The course International Commercial Dispute Resolution Law mainly focusses on arbitration as alternative dispute resolution tool.
B1.	The ability to apply acquired knowledge to a concrete factual situation is tested in all courses with essay exams. Assembling relevant legal materials (case law, (international) legislation and academic literature) is the core of writing papers, doing research for presentations and of the master thesis in particular.
B2.	Independent academic research skills are trained and honed in the writing of seminar papers and the master thesis.
B3.	The knowledge acquired, the ability to apply the knowledge in combination with the research skills prepares students to independently participate in debates on international commercial contract law. Discussions in class between students and between students and teachers give students the skills and the confidence to participate in such debates.
B4.	Students are trained to convey the results of their research both in writing (papers for seminars and master thesis) and orally (presentations and group discussions in seminars, discussion with academic staff about papers and master thesis)
C1.	Knowledge about career prospects is acquired through contacts with guest lecturers and academic staff members who have practical experience.
C2.	Students on the programme are very quickly made aware of the rapid developments in the field as new legislation and new case law are issued on a very regular basis. These developments are of course discussed in class, thereby encouraging students to continuously study, enquire, take initiative and think for themselves.

Learning outcomes versus courses LLM International Commercial Law

Learning outcomes: A. knowledge and insight B. application, formulation judgements and communication C. learning skills International Commercial Law		A				B				C	
		International aspects of private law, in particular international commercial contracts law, tort law and property law	The application of private law in international commercial practice	The coherence, differences and similarities between important legal systems in the field of private law	Private international law, cross-border commercial transactions, and ADR, in particular arbitration.	Independently assemble, assess and apply relevant facts, legislation, jurisprudence and literature	Independently do academic research; contribute in a socially relevant manner to the development of law	Independently participate in the debate with (national and/or international) peers	Convey to a group of peers a complex argumentation	Knowledge and understanding of career prospects	Self-study and independent thinking
ECTS	Course name	A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2
6	Seminar Contracts Law	x	x						x	x	x
6	Comparative Property Law	x	x	x		x					
6	International Contracts Law	x	x	x		x		x	x		x
6	Comparative Private International Law	x	x	x	x	x				x	
6	International Commercial Dispute Settlement Law	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
6	Law in Practice (LLM)	x*	x*	x*	x*	x*	x*	x*	x*	x	x
12	Master's thesis	x	x*	x*	x*	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	Comparative Tort Law	x	x	x		x		x	x		
6	Cross-border Commercial Transactions	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	

* Whether or not students fulfil the particular learning outcomes depends on the component chosen.

The learning outcomes for the LLM International Commercial Law compared to the learning outcomes of the courses within the programme

Course name	Block	ECTS	Format	Assessment	Learning outcome	Learning outcome course (Ocasys description 2025/2026)
Seminar Contract Law: contract drafting	1+2	6	Seminar 7 2-hour seminar	Active participation	A1, A2 B4 C1, C2	The main goal of this course is to equip students with basic understanding of drafting and interpreting international contracts and the cultural differences that exist between countries. This course will enable students: - To acquire knowledge and understanding of career prospects through their contacts with legal practitioners during this course; - The ability to convey to a group of peers both orally and in written form in good English, a complex argumentation in the field of aspects of international commercial contracts.
Comparative Property Law	1	6	Lecture 14 2-hours lectures and 2 2-hours Q&A	Exam, Digital, Essay questions	A1, A2, A3 B1	The students have a thorough understanding of the field of comparative law in general and the functional method in particular. They have a thorough insight in Dutch, French, German and English property law and the similarities and differences between property law in the above legal systems. They are able to independently assemble, assess and apply relevant facts, legislation, case law and literature in order to solve complex issues in property law.
International Contracts Law	1	6	Lectures 14 2-hour lectures	Exam, Digital, Essay questions Group, Presentation Resit will be oral if less than 5 participants.	A1, A2, A3 B1, B3, B4 C2	The course International Contracts Law will enable students: - obtain thorough knowledge and understanding of the major concepts of international contracts law and the main differences and similarities between the world's major contract law systems, in particular civil law and common law; - to become aware of typical contract clauses and understand when and why they can be used in global commercial practice; - to develop the ability to contribute to the debate in the field of international contracts law in the international environment; - to acquire the ability to apply the major concepts of international contracts law when resolving complex legal issues from multiple jurisdictions and cultures; - to acquire the ability to independently draft typical contract law clauses used in international commercial practice.
Comparative Private International Law	2	6	Lecture 14 2-hour lectures	Exam, Digital, Essay questions Resit will be oral if less than 6 participants	A1, A2, A3, A4 B1 C1	This course provides students with knowledge and insight into the basis for and fundamentals of private international law, including the main doctrines and their application in (especially) the Member States of the European Union. Students will obtain knowledge of the private international law regarding a multitude of international commercial acts, such as international contracts (sale, services, consumer, transport and employment), torts (incl. culpa in contrahendo (breaking off negotiations) and negotiorum gestio (voluntary agency)) and acts involving corporations. Students will learn to understand the differences in national legal systems (e.g. between common law and continental legal systems) in the field of corporate law and private international law in general. In addition, students will learn to identify important private international law problems in cross-border situations and to solve these problems on the basis of (mainly) European PIL rules and jurisprudence.

Course name	Block	ECTS	Format	Assessment	Learning outcome	Learning outcome course (Ocasys description 2025/2026)
International Commercial Dispute Settlement Law	2	6	Lecture 14 2-hour lectures	Paper	A1, A2, A4 B1, B2, B3, B4 C1	This course will consider various methods to resolve disputes arising out of international (commercial) transactions, with a focus on international (commercial) arbitration. During this course, students will become acquainted with practical problems relating to alternative dispute resolution and more in particular in the field of international arbitration. This course aims to offer more in-depth knowledge of various forms of alternative dispute resolution, including international commercial arbitration, through active participation and discussions during the lectures. After having finished this course, students are able to quickly get to the core of arbitration law-problems in cross-border cases, to find solutions for these problems through selecting relevant rules of law and to make the legal assessments necessary. Furthermore, students have gained a general knowledge of the various other forms of alternative dispute resolution. The first part of the course will be devoted to the following topics: introduction on international dispute settlement, including advantages and disadvantages of different forms of dispute settlement, types and forms of arbitration and the procedural framework (sources of arbitration). Thereafter the course will be devoted to the issues of arbitrability, public policy, validity of arbitration agreement, drafting of arbitration agreements and the applicable procedural and substantive laws. Subsequently, the course will focus on the issues relating to the establishment of the tribunal, secretary to the tribunal, powers and duties of arbitrators and arbitral proceedings. The final part of the course will be devoted to recognition enforceability of arbitral awards. During the course the lectures will refer to different arbitration rules, arbitration laws, relevant international treaties and case law.
Law in Practice (LLM)	3+4	6	Practical	Variable	variable	At the end of the Law in Practice component, a student has: 1. Knowledge and understanding of the (national and international) career perspective related to the field of law of the Master's degree programme. 2. Understanding of the requirements that are needed, also in professional settings, for self-study to stay updated in the field of law of their Master's degree programme. 3. Understanding of the continuing and rapid development of law. 4. The ability to apply knowledge and understanding of the field of law gained in their Master's degree programme in a professional setting. 5. The ability to participate independently in the debate in the field of law of their Master's degree programme with colleagues, in a national and international context. 6. The ability to convey a complex argumentation in the field of law of their Master's degree programme in a comprehensive manner.

Course name	Block	ECTS	Format	Assessment	Learning outcome	Learning outcome course (Ocasys description 2025/2026)
Master's thesis	3+4	12			A1, A2, A3, A4 B1, B2, B4 C1, C2	The Master's thesis constitutes the final test in order to show the possession of legal and academic research skills. Upon successful completion of the Master's thesis, the student will have demonstrated the legal and academic research skills and, using and building on the knowledge and insights gained during the programme, the ability: 1) to identify a (societal) problem and, based on this, formulate an academic, legal research question relevant to the field of the chosen master's degree programme, and formulate relevant sub-questions; 2) to set up research relevant to answering the research question, choosing and justifying an appropriate research method; 3) to identify the sources and data relevant to the research, critically evaluate these and relate them to the research question; 4) to reflect upon legal concepts pertinent to the topic under discussion, and to address issues of interpretation and application of the law relevant to this topic; 5) to conduct an independent legal, academically substantiated research, within a set time frame; 6) to produce a clear, linguistically correct, concise and well-structured written piece of work, based on the research conducted, containing a reasoned answer to the research question, substantiated by a sufficient number of academic sources; 7) to refer to the sources and data used for the research in accordance with applicable legal and academic standards; 8) to process feedback from the thesis supervisor, and to defend the written work orally to the supervisor.
Comparative Tort Law	3	6	Lecture 14 2-hour lectures	Written Exam, Digital, Essay questions Oral or written, depending on the student number	A1, A2, A3 B1, B3, B4	This course will enable students: - to obtain thorough knowledge and understanding of the major concepts of tort law and the main differences and similarities between the main European systems; - to acquire the ability to independently assemble and apply the major concepts of tort law when resolving complex issues from the main European systems and cultures; - The ability to convey to a group of peers both orally and in written form in good English, a complex argumentation in the field of international aspects of tort law.
Cross-border Commercial Transactions	4	6	14x2 lectures + in-class discussions	Written, Exam	A1, A2, A3 B1, B2, B3, B4 C1	The main objective of this course is to allow students to practice and broaden their knowledge of private international law and to prepare them for international legal practice. Students will learn to critically evaluate, assess and solve several complex private international law issues, both independently and in group form. In addition, the course allows students to master independent research and promotes academic writing and discussion.

Narrative summary on assessment and feedback LLM International Commercial Law

As described in the Faculty's didactic concept, assessment in higher years usually takes the form of essay exams with more complex cases that assess students' knowledge and understanding as well as their ability to apply these. Assessment thus takes place at a high cognitive level, and the idea is to make assessment situations increasingly resemble actual legal practice in the course of the degree programme. This also implies increasing numbers of open-book examinations towards the end of the degree programme. Furthermore, this involves the assessment of the student independently being able to analyse and apply international commercial law knowledge with a critical point of view; mastering specialised knowledge; and assessing complex cases. Skills-wise the assessment mainly revolves around independent legal academic reporting, both orally and in written form.

The academic year is set up in 4 blocks of 10 weeks in which the last 3 weeks of each block is used for assessment, according to university guidelines; resits are conducted in the examination period of the adjacent block. The block 4 resits are exceptions to the rule as these resits are conducted at the end of block 4. The assessment of the courses which are assessed by written examinations is conducted in these examination periods. The LLM programme consists of 7 courses worth 6 ECTS each and the writing of a Master's thesis worth 12 ECTS. All courses are offered within one block, with the exception of 1 course which is spread of block 1 and 2.

The learning outcomes of the course, which are included in the course description, indicate what students should be able to after successfully passing the examination. The assessment is such that both knowledge and the application of knowledge are assessed.

Activities completed as part of Law in Practice (e.g., taking up an internship, participating in a Law Clinic, participating in a Moot Court competition, carrying out a research assignment, etc.) are a way to put acquired knowledge and skills to practice and receive feedback on the task performed (from e.g., employer, clients and supervisor at the Law Clinic, Moot Court organisation, research assignment supervisor, etc.).

Next to the skills component in the examinations, the academic skills are explicitly and increasingly dealt with from seminar to Master's thesis (which is the master concluding module). The assessment in the seminar Contract Law: contract drafting consists of the reviewing of a paper written, an oral presentation of this paper and in-class discussions on the topics at hand.

Assessment and feedback LLM International Commercial Law

Course name	ECTS	Assessment	Learning outcome	Assessment description
Seminar Contract Law: contract drafting	6	Active participation	A1, A2 B4 C1, C2	During this course students will analyse, draft and discuss different contract clauses (such as forum clauses) that are important in various international contracts. Students are required to actively participate in group discussions about clauses so that existing cultural differences in relation to contracts can come to the foreground.
Comparative Property Law	6	Exam, Digital, Essay questions	A1, A2, A3 B1	2 2-hours Q&A
International Contracts Law	6	Exam, Digital, Essay questions Group, Presentation Resit will be oral if less than 5 participants.	A1, A2, A3 B1, B3, B4 C2	
Comparative Private International Law	6	Exam, Digital, Essay questions Resit will be oral if less than 6 participants	A1, A2, A3, A4 B1 C1	
International Commercial Dispute Settlement Law	6	Paper	A1, A2, A4 B1, B2, B3, B4 C1	There will be one compulsory lecture for all students! In the beginning of the course a case with 12 questions will be published on Brightspace. Students will have to form groups of 4-6 students (group enroll on the student portal course page). Each group must answer one question. The answer must be between 1000-2000 words, including footnotes, and each group should submit their answer through email within a given deadline. Each group must subsequently present their answer during the compulsory lecture (week 5). Questions may be asked by other students and/or the lecturer. The students will be graded. The grade forms 1/10th of the final grade for this course. Another deadline will be given for the end paper. Students are completely free to choose their topic for the end paper, as long as it falls within the scope of this course. The grade for the end paper forms 9/10th of the final grade for this course. Students who do not attend the compulsory lecture cannot pass this course.
Law in Practice (LLM)	6	Variable	variable	
Master's thesis	12	Thesis	A1, A2, A3, A4 B1, B2, B4 C1, C2	

<i>Course name</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Learning outcome</i>	<i>Assessment description</i>
Comparative Tort Law	6	Written Exam, Digital, Essay questions Oral or written, depending on the student number	A1, A2, A3 B1, B3, B4	Bonus points to be achieved in the form of research papers and presentation This course covers the most important topics from a comparative perspective. Students are introduced to differences in tort law in various legal systems, especially the English, German and French legal systems. They will be stimulated to reflect upon the different solutions adopted by each of those systems. The teachers of this course will draw on their practical experience to ensure that students will gain useful insights into the realities of litigation.
Cross-border Commercial Transactions	6	Written, Exam	A1, A2, A3 B1, B2, B3, B4 C1	During this class students will be required to actively participate, through weekly assignments, class presentations and legal discussions during class. By doing so the main objective of this course will be fulfilled, i.e. allowing students to practice and broaden their knowledge of private international law and to prepare them for legal practice in the international arena. Presentations and papers are therefore removed from the test format.

Courses master International Commercial Law

Block	Course name	Assessment	All assessment	Evaluation
1+2	<u>Seminar Contract Law: contract drafting</u>	Seminar participation	<u>All exams</u>	<u>All evaluations</u>
1	<u>Comparative Property Law</u>	Digital, Essay questions, Exam	<u>All exams</u>	<u>All evaluations</u>
1	<u>International Contracts Law</u>	Digital, Essay questions, Exam	<u>All exams</u>	<u>All evaluations</u>
2	<u>Comparative Private International Law</u>	Digital, Essay questions, Exam	<u>All exams</u>	<u>All evaluations</u>
2	<u>International Commercial Dispute Settlement Law</u>	Paper	<u>All exams</u>	<u>All evaluations</u>
3+4	<u>Master's Thesis</u>	Variable		
3	<u>Comparative Tort Law</u>	Thesis	<u>All exams</u>	<u>All evaluations</u>
4	<u>Cross-border Commercial Transactions</u>	Written Digital, Essay questions, Exam	<u>All exams</u>	<u>All evaluations</u>