

# Programme Specification

<b>Programme Title and Name of Award</b>	LLM International Business Law		
<b>Professional Qualifications / Accreditation</b>	N/A		
<b>Academic Level</b>	Level 7	<b>Total Credits</b>	180
<b>UCAS Code</b>	N/A		
<b>HECoS Code:</b>	100482		
<b>Criteria for Admission to the Programme</b>	<p>We welcome applications from students who may not meet the formal entry criteria but who have relevant experience or the ability to pursue the course successfully.</p> <p>The formal entry requirements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An honours degree at 2:2 or above.</li> <li>• At least 2 years' relevant work experience.</li> <li>• English language at IELTS 6.5 (minimum of 5.5 in each component).</li> </ul> <p>Applications are considered from candidates who do not meet the formal entry requirements but can provide evidence of equivalence.</p> <p>Examples of equivalence are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of professional qualifications and/or work experience.</li> <li>• Working or studying in English or an English-speaking environment.</li> </ul> <p>Applications will be considered from candidates who do not meet the formal entry requirements but who can demonstrate by interview the commitment to complete the programme successfully.</p> <p>APL will be considered.</p>		
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Robert Kennedy College		
<b>Owning University of Cumbria Institute</b>	Business, Industry and Leadership		
<b>Programme delivered in</b>	The Programme is delivered by Robert Kennedy College with two		

<b>conjunction with</b>	modules delivered by the University of Cumbria.
<b>Principal Mode of Delivery</b>	The Programme is delivered by Robert Kennedy College with two modules delivered by the University of Cumbria
<b>Pattern of Delivery</b>	Full Time / Part Time
<b>Delivery Site(s)</b>	Distance Learning via Robert Kennedy College's Online Campus Platform
<b>Programme Length</b>	Full-time: Standard – 12 months Part-time: Standard – 2 years Maximum Registration - 5 years
<b>Exit Awards</b>	Students may be awarded one of the following Exit Awards if they fail to achieve the requirements of the full programme: - Postgraduate Certificate in Law (PGCert Law) if the student has obtained a minimum of 60 credits - Postgraduate Diploma in Law (PGDip Law) if the student has obtained a minimum of 120 credits
<b>Period of Approval</b>	August 2023

### Cumbria Graduate Attributes

Throughout your studies, you will be provided with the skills and knowledge relevant to the global workplace. All successful graduates of the University of Cumbria will be:

- Enquiring and open to change
- Self-reliant, adaptable and flexible
- Confident in your discipline as it develops and changes over time
- Capable of working across disciplines and working well with others
- Confident in your digital capabilities
- Able to manage your own professional and personal development
- A global citizen, socially responsible and aware of the potential contribution of your work to the cultural and economic wellbeing of the community and its impact on the environment
- A leader of people and of places
- Ambitious and proud

### Programme Features

The LLM International Business Law meets the current demand for specialist knowledge and skills in the rapidly expanding fields of international commercial and business law. It provides students with the opportunity to explore, in-depth, the legal regulation of the world of international business.

Academically rigorous, the LLM will expose students to a practical real-world application of the law.

The LLM is taught by an outstanding team of professional research active staff who have extensive practice and academic experience. The programme aims to enhance knowledge and critical thinking in this area.

The programme provides advanced critical analysis of the key themes and emerging challenges facing businesses, in a global context such as in international/global business environments and innovation and enterprise.

A key aspect of the programme is that students are able to convert their learning by critically reflecting on practice and experience, in line with the QAA benchmark statements (2.4) this is achieved through both formative and summative reflection throughout the programme. The summative assessments in terms of reflective practice within this programme are both verbal and written. Graduates are expected to be able to demonstrate a range of cognitive and intellectual skills together with techniques specific to business and management. They should also be able to demonstrate relevant personal and interpersonal skills.

This LLM offers students the opportunity to develop reflective and critical thinking skills by challenging reasoning and analytical mind-set. The problem-based learning process ensures the learning process encompasses the current global economic climate and evolving management reasoning, practices and solutions. Throughout the programme, students are also able to hone their academic and transferable skills such as report writing, portfolio creation, individual and group presentation, teamwork, negotiation skills, time management, research skills, business communication skills, leadership styles, business aptitude, IT skills, equality and diversity awareness.

This programme builds on the strong and long-standing track record in on-line delivery developed by Robert Kennedy College, and benefits greatly from the internationality derived recruitment of students from all the inhabited continents, and being able to draw on tutors, well qualified in their field, from across the globe. The value of the resultant exposure to legal business practice, culture and ideas from such a variety of experiences is incalculable, particularly to a LLM programme where participants already have a wide range of experience and expertise developed in a variety of international contexts.

This programme is entirely delivered by distance learning. RKC has tailor-made, state-of-the-art software for online course delivery called "OnlineCampus", which is a highly evolved all encompassing, interactive and easy-to-use software designed to make studying online an enjoyable experience.

The LLM teaching, learning and assessment strategy is based on the belief that all staff wish to provide the best possible learning experience for students and to continue to improve teaching competence through reflective practice. The institution wishes to build a culture of critical self-evaluation and reflective practice within which the review of LTA is regarded as positive and developmental. LTA strategy and activities are continually reviewed via the institution's quality assurance framework and adaptations are introduced as a result. Peer observation is a fundamental aspect of the review of LTA and staff development and is embedded across higher education.

## **Programme Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this Programme learners will be able to:

1. Provide an advanced understanding of the corporate and legal responsibilities and governance in an international business context.
2. Provide opportunities for the systematic development of the skills of objective analysis, evaluation and presentation to enable students to further develop confidence in effectively appraising and implementing market strategies in the context of international business law.

3. Develop an ability to apply knowledge and understanding of business law in relation to complex issues affecting global trade and corporate governance, both systematically and creatively, to improve business and management practice.
4. Provide a stimulating academic environment, rooted in the experiences of the student, but firmly based upon the values of academic openness and critical appraisal.
5. Explore and develop a comprehensive understanding of academic theory in order to inform and improve current business and commercial and legal practice in an international business context.
6. Critically apply 'action based learning' in the form of experiential activities and enable students to develop and manage solutions to complex circumstances, whilst analysing the impact this will have on the organisation with an emphasis on the international business context.

## Level Descriptors

Level Descriptors describe in general terms the expected outcomes students will achieve at each level of study as they progress through their programmes. They describe the relative demand, complexity, depth of learning and learner autonomy associated with a particular level of learning and achievement. The University's Level Descriptors are aligned to the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and are a key mechanism for ensuring the academic standards of the University's provision.

At Level 7 (Usually Master's level), students will be able to demonstrate that they have the ability:

- To display a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice.
- Employ advanced subject-specific and cognitive skills to enable decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations.
- Generate new ideas and support the achievement of desired outcomes
- Accept accountability for decision making including the use of supervision
- Analyse complex concepts and professional situations by means of synthesis of personal and work place reflection and data drawn from scholarship and research in the field.

## Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

**After 60 credits of study (PGCert) students will be able to demonstrate:**

**K1.** Relevant knowledge and understanding of organisations, the legal and external contexts in which they operate and how they are managed; with an emphasis on understanding and responding to change as well as consideration of the future of organisations along with the legal and external contexts in which they operate.

**K2.** The ability to conduct legal research and draft legal memoranda and other legal communications;

**K3.** An ability to perform critical analysis and coherent written and oral presentation of law issues.

**After 120 credits of study (PGDip) students will be able to demonstrate:**

**K4.** A systematic understanding of the relationships between law and business and their strategic focus within an evolving environment

<p><b>K5.</b> An understanding of the core disciplines of international business law, including contracts law, transnational business law, international trade at middle/senior management level.</p> <p><b>K6.</b> The application of critical thinking to the successful legal management of organizations including a deep understanding of the processes of legal problem-solving and decision-making, and the ability to communicate the conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.</p> <p><b>After 180 credits of study (LLM) students will be able to demonstrate:</b></p> <p><b>K7.</b> The range of research methods that can be applied to the study of law in an international business context.</p> <p><b>K8.</b> The application of strategic thinking to the business context, including a critical understanding of the processes of strategic legal problem solving and decision making in planning areas such as contracts and transnational business law.</p> <p><b>K9.</b> A strong understanding of how their knowledge and skills may be employed efficiently within an organisational setting.</p>
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<p><b>Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes (including Employability Skills)</b></p> <p><b>After 60 credits of study (PGCert) students will be able to demonstrate:</b></p> <p><b>S1.</b> Self-direction and originality in tackling and solving law related problems.</p> <p><b>S2.</b> The ability to ask and answer cogent questions about law and legal systems, identify gaps in their own knowledge and acquire new knowledge, and engage in critical analysis and evaluation</p> <p><b>S3.</b> Awareness of principles and values of law and justice, and of ethics</p> <p><b>After 120 credits of study (PGDip) students will be able to demonstrate an ability to:</b></p> <p><b>S4.</b> Gain knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts, values, principles and rules of public and private laws within an institutional, social, national and global context</p> <p><b>S5.</b> Make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations</p> <p><b>S6.</b> Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level.</p> <p><b>After 180 credits of study (LLM) students will be able to demonstrate an ability to:</b></p> <p><b>S7.</b> Critically reflect on personal knowledge, practice and skills, continually develop self-appraisal and insight into development plans and outcomes, and deal with complex issues of law both systematically and creatively</p> <p><b>S8.</b> Communicate their conclusions effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.</p>
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<p><b>External and Internal Reference Points</b></p> <p>The following Subject Benchmark Statements and other external and internal reference points have been used to inform the Programme Outcomes:</p> <p>Subject Benchmark Statement: Law (July 2019)</p> <p><a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-law.pdf">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-law.pdf</a></p>
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## **Graduate Prospects**

Graduates from the programme will have a wide range of opportunities in the business and legal field as employers are increasingly looking for ways to carry out business on a global scale. Many employers have increased their job candidacy requirements to Masters level qualifications over recent years. This makes post-graduate degrees of particular importance.

Studying an LLM in International Business Law will also enable students to enhance their business networks. The programme provides students with an opportunity to learn in an internationally-orientated environment with access to a global network of like-mind professionals. The course also provides an excellent pathway for further studies with numerous graduates of the programme continuing with their studies and carrying out research at PhD level.

Graduates of the LLM include students with both a legal and a non-legal background. Students working outside the legal field come from a range of different sectors including business, non-governmental organisations, inter-governmental organisations, health care, banking, finance, human resources and the civil service. The practical nature of the LLM, in particular the development of skills in alternative dispute resolution, is of benefit to students across a range of sectors.

## **Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies employed to enable the Programme Outcomes to be Achieved and Demonstrated**

Central to the philosophy of the programme is the development of independent learners, thinkers, and researchers. The programme team recognise that students are individuals with specific teaching and learning needs and attributes. Each module has varied teaching, learning and assessment methods to optimise every student's potential for learning, with a range of teaching strategies, and the focus on theory-practice balance. Every module has a module handbook providing full details of intended learning outcomes, module content and suggested reading list. Furthermore, due to the nature of a LLM, students will bring extensive personal experience of their own. This is captured so that learning, teaching, and assessment strategies employed in the programme are highly student-centred and make full use of the student group as a resource. Thus the ability to work as a team is assessed through group oral presentations.

The varied learning experience includes

- RKC's tailor-made, state-of-the-art software for online course delivery (OnlineCampus), a highly evolved all-encompassing, interactive and easy-to-use software designed to make studying online a satisfying experience;
- Seminar activities and online work in learning sets which require students to discuss their own/organizational practices;
- Webinars, live interactive online sessions and guest lectures to inform teaching;
- Use of in-house developed platforms and models to enhance the learning experience;
- Research activities both independent and tutor-led requiring students to prepare a research proposal/plan prior in order to conduct primary research;
- Self-directed study with peer groups, plus individual reflection and small-group work;

The overall programme aims are achieved through the use of a variety of learning and teaching techniques which include lectures, seminars, workshops, discussions, debates, group tutorials, case studies and problem-based learning. Self-evaluation is a key learning strategy and directed study tasks are set and completed on an individual or group basis according to their needs of the activity.

Knowledge and understanding is delivered through a series of interactive lectures, seminars and

workshops. This will be supported by the use of class debate, discussions, case studies, student led presentations and other engaging and interactive class activities.

Seminar work incorporates the use of learning sets to stimulate team working and encourages peer feedback.

Students are required to carry out additional research via private study to deepen their understanding on the material used in class and to increase knowledge and awareness of contemporary issues.

Tutorial support is integral to student success and central to the programme.

Guest lectures in the relevant field of study will enhance the programme, specific to individual subject areas.

The research methods module encourages the transfer and development of knowledge and skills between operational and people focused subject disciplines: providing the opportunity for enhanced reflection.

A range of critical thinking and reflective activities e.g. critical analysis of case study organisations and critical evaluation of journals and legal and business law articles are used to enhance the cognitive and intellectual skills of the students. Combined with the development of additional research skills, this helps to develop the student's ability to evaluate complex problems and the impact of contemporary management activities.

Assessment is an integral part of the learning process. Assessment tasks are designed to reflect the content and delivery style of each module. The LLM programme involves a wide variety of current business situations, and is underpinned by strong theoretical models and evidence based practices. This is reflected in the variety of assessment methods to accommodate a diversity of learning styles and encourage the development of new skills. Formative tutor assessment, summative tutor assessment, self-evaluation and peer assessment all contributes to the development of students' skills in critical analysis and reflection.

Summative assessment is based on analysis and critical evaluation of case-study material to facilitate the real-world application of knowledge and integration of the often considerable expected experience of the students as well as theoretical material.

## **Student Support**

Students will study the greater part of their award online with Robert Kennedy College (RKC).

### **Initial and ongoing induction**

Students receive a comprehensive induction both to RKC's VLE (OnlineCampus) and the various University of Cumbria regulations through the online module "Induction". This non-credit module covers various introductory issues such as: Motivation, Understanding the Programme Handbook, Registering and Withdrawing from a module, Literature Searching and Academic Writing, Academic Malpractice, and Grading Policy. The module is composed of these six main units and each unit includes a video and audio tutorial. Students are also introduced to the concept of online asynchronous communications via the OnlineCampus forums. Continuous monitoring of the module by RKC faculty members ensures a prompt resolution of any questions well before the start of the first credit-bearing module. The induction module is ongoing: there is no end-date and students can always refer to it or post questions in the relevant forum at any stage of the programme.

### **Library and Academic Support**

In principle all modules will provide all the necessary learning resources (e.g. in PDF format) to complete the course successfully. Some modules might require the purchase of a physical textbook and students will be notified of this requirement well in advance. To conduct their academic research

students will have access to dedicated University of Cumbria online library services via <https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/rkc>

In terms of academic skills support, students should contact their module tutor at Robert Kennedy College.

### **IT and Technical Support**

Given the distance learning/online nature of the course students are expected to have a certain familiarity with basic IT systems and internet access. Through the "OnlineCampus" app provided by the college students are also able to access course material and download it in their online devices.

For IT matters related to the College students have access to support via email, telephone and chat via the Studentcare assistance.

### **StudentCare Assistance**

RKC operates an online student support system 'StudentCare'. StudentCare will be the initial contact points for both personal and academic advice. The StudentCare assistance facility features an online Live Support function via instant messaging where students are able to get instant answers to general questions. This is in addition to an online forum and a problem-solving ticketing system, Live Support has at least two StudentCare representatives ready to provide assistance. This means that the most common issues students may experience can usually be solved in a few minutes.

### **Data Protection**

In any online community data protection is paramount. Personal data is kept completely confidential by RKC. However, it is important that students engage with the wider student community within their cohort. Students are usually known to each other by a name of their choice, which in some cases is their actual first name or surname, but in others can choose a nickname. Students can provide a profile of themselves if desired, covering aspects such as location, background, interests, family situation, and photographs. This is encouraged by the students themselves, to give them a better idea of their colleagues but it is important to emphasise to the student that uploading of any personal information is completely voluntary, to ensure that the privacy of individual students is maintained at all times.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Provided that students can operate a keyboard, or otherwise communicate via a computer, there are no restrictions due to disability in taking part in the course. Indeed, the asynchronous nature of the classroom means that students who need a long time to formulate a response are not disadvantaged in any way. Students will have access to University of Cumbria disability advisors via email.

<b>Programme Curriculum Map</b>					
For programmes with pathways, consider provide separate curriculum map tables for each pathway					
<b>Academic Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Status*</b>	<b>Programme Outcomes achieved</b>
7	LAWS7100	Advanced Legal Skills	20	Compulsory	K1, K2, K3, K4, S1, S2, S3, S4
7	LAWS7104	International Alternative Dispute Resolution	20	Compulsory	K1, K4, K5, K6, S1, S2, S5, S6, S7, S8
7	LAWS7137	Transnational Business Law and Artificial Intelligence	40	Compulsory	K1, K5, K6, K8, S4, S5, S7, S8
7	LAWS7124	Contracts and International Trade Law	40	Compulsory	K1, K5, K6, K8, S4, S5, S7, S8
7	LAWS7122	Dissertation	60	Core	K6, K7, K8, K9, S3, S4, S7, S8
<b>Notes</b>					
This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes.					
<a href="http://staff.cumbria.ac.uk/Public/AQS/Documents/AcademicRegulations/AcRegs.pdf">http://staff.cumbria.ac.uk/Public/AQS/Documents/AcademicRegulations/AcRegs.pdf</a>					
Advanced Legal Skills is the entry module but other modules can be taken as desired by the student.					
Most modules are offered three times a year. Multiple residencies are held yearly, and others will be made available if justified by student numbers.					
Students exiting with a minimum of 60 credits are awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Law, with a minimum of 120 credits a Postgraduate Diploma in Law, and with 180 credits a LLM.					
<b>* Key to Module Statuses</b>					
Core Modules	Must be taken and must be successfully passed				
Compulsory Modules	Must be taken although it may possible to carry as a marginal fail (if the award permits)				

<b>Programme Delivery Structure: Full Time / Part Time / Block / Accelerated</b>				
<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Delivery Pattern</b>	<b>Method(s) of Assessment</b>	<b>Approximate Assessment Deadline</b>
		<b>Autumn Semester / Spring Semester / Extended / Year-Long</b>		
LAWS7100	Advanced Legal Skills	Compulsory entry module (offered four times a year)	Formative assessment at six weeks, final summative assessment at 12 weeks	Twelve weeks after module start
LAWS7104	International Alternative Dispute Resolution	Compulsory module may be offered three times a year	Formative assessment at six weeks, final summative assessment at 12 weeks	Twelve weeks after module start
LAWS7137	Transnational Business Law and Artificial Intelligence	Compulsory module offered four times a year	Formative assessment at six weeks, final summative assessment at 12 weeks	Twelve weeks after module start
LAWS7124	Contracts and International Trade Law	Compulsory module offered four times a year	Formative assessment at six weeks, final summative assessment at 12 weeks	Twelve weeks after module start
LAWS7122	Dissertation	Core module offered four times a year	Ongoing formative liaison with supervisor, final summative assessment on submission of final paper	Six to twelve months

## Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and Standards of Learning

<b>Mechanisms used for the Review and Evaluation of the Curriculum and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module Evaluation</li> <li>• Programme validation and periodic review</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring</li> <li>• Peer Review of Teaching</li> <li>• External Examiner Reports</li> <li>• Dialogue between RKC and UoC link tutors</li> </ul>
<b>Mechanisms used for gaining and responding to feedback on the quality of teaching and the learning experience – gained from: Students, graduates, employers, WBL venues, other stakeholders, etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Input from post-module student surveys, encompassing quality of teaching, e-learning tools, learning outcome, assessments and feedback</li> <li>• Programme Review of Modules</li> <li>• Module/Programme/Personal tutorials</li> <li>• External Examiner Reports</li> </ul>

<b>Date of Programme Specification Production:</b>	23.05.2017
<b>Date Programme Specification was last updated:</b>	November 2025
<b>For further information about this programme, refer to the programme page on the University website</b>	
<a href="https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/international-business-law-robert-kennedy-college/">https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/international-business-law-robert-kennedy-college/</a>	

## Outline Study Plan

Below are two examples of study plans, one for full time and one for part time. Considering the programme offers some flexibility in terms of the choice of modules, these are indicative and not binding.

Full time study plan 1 year example		
Term 1	Advanced Legal Skills	
Term 2	Transnational Business Law	
Term 3	International Alternative Dispute Resolution	Dissertation
Term 4	Contracts and International Trade Law	

Part time study plan 1,5 years example		
Term 1	Advanced Legal Skills	
Term 2	Transnational Business Law	
Term 3	Contracts and International Trade Law	
Term 4	International Alternative Dispute Resolution	
Term 5		
Term 6	Dissertation	