Lancaster University

Law Summer School 2019

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1. Programme Overview

Module Name: International Commercial Law

2019 Programme Dates: Sunday 21st July – Saturday 10th August

Academic Credit: 15 Lancaster University credits, equivalent of 8 ECTS credits

NCF Level: Level 5 (Part II undergraduate)

Teaching and learning workload: 150 hours (inclusive of private study and essay writing)

1. Programme Fee

Programme Fee: £2,790 (after 10% partner discounts for SCUT)

* Accommodation on campus in University Halls and two nights’ accommodation in London
* Three meals a day when based on campus
* Group pick-up and drop-off for airport transfers (Manchester International Airport only)
* All scheduled programme activities and excursions
* Certificate of participation and academic transcript upon successful completion of the module

1. English Language Requirements and Academic Performance

Any student applying for the Law Summer School programme should be in good academic standing at SCUT. The student should either have achieved an IELTS score of 6.0 (minimum of 5.5 in each component).

1. Application and admission arrangements

It will be helpful to provide the names and English language qualifications of participating students early in 2019, preferably no later than 1 March 2019. Lancaster University will endeavour to confirm acceptance of applications as soon as possible. It is standard practice for Lancaster University to only issue documentation for visa purposes after having received the full payment of fees from applicants.

1. Special arrangement for SCUT

In view of the size of the group of students from SCUT, Lancaster University would like to cordially invite one staff member from SCUT to accompany these students throughout their participation in the summer school. For a group of twenty or more students, Lancaster University would provide free accommodation and meals for the accompanying staff member.

1. Module Descriptor

This module will introduce students to a range of commercial and business law issues that are typically encountered in international commercial transactions. The module will largely focus on English commercial law, but will draw on approaches to commercial law issues in other jurisdictions, including the EU and United States.

Aims and Objectives

The course aims:

• To raise awareness of how commercial law has evolved;

• To evaluate the impact of historical developments on contemporary commercial practices;

• To alert students to the underlying principles governing commercial law;

• To encourage students to understand the nexus between various areas of commercial law;

• To help students understand the implications of insolvency on commercial transactions; and

• To consider the options for resolving commercial disputes.

On successful completion of the module students should:

• Possess increased level of commercial awareness;

• Comprehend the importance of various business models and commercial transactions;

• Be able to identify commercial issues from given scenarios; and

• Engage and develop their legal research and writing skills.

Syllabus

This module is divided into three phases that broadly capture the lifecycle of a commercial enterprise.

Phase I: Formation of Business

This topic introduces commercial law by highlighting the concept of risk in business/commercial activities, providing a brief history of commercial law, discussing various business vehicles as well as the concepts and implications of separate legal personality and limited liability.

Phase II: Management of Business

In this phase, we explore key issues in the trading phase of a commercial enterprise. We consider the importance of finance/capital to commercial activities and how that finance is procured, discussing key concepts like security, guarantees, retention of tile and receivables financing. Finally we consider options for resolving commercial disputes, with the focus on the globally used Arbitration.

Phase III: Insolvency and Commercial Transactions

This topic will explore the notion of insolvency as a pervasive issue in international commercial law. It will highlight the impact of insolvency on commercial activity as well as the twin ideals of insolvency regimes to facilitate the restructuring/rescue of an insolvent entity or to procure a sensible distribution of available assets to creditors. Finally, the future of insolvency and other commercial law regimes in light of Brexit will be considered.

1. Assessments

The module is assessed by a combination of group presentation (25%) and essay (75%, 2,000-word).

Students will be assigned into different groups in each of the three weeks. Each group will give a 5-minute presentation on a prescribed topic or area at the end of each week. All students in a group will receive the same mark that the group presentation merits. This gives an individual students three opportunities to present as a member of different groups during the programme. The highest mark out of the three attempts will count as 25% of the module.

The essay assignment will be announced during the programme. It will have to be submitted before an announced deadline, expected to be in September 2019.

1. Indicative Timetable

This timetable is indicative only to provide information as to the mode of teaching and typical routine throughout the programme. Dates and contents are subject to change. A final timetable will be provided to all participating students before or on their arrival on campus.

Lancaster Law Summer School 2019

Indicative Timetable (SCUT version)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday 21st July |
| Morning |  |  |  |  |  |  | Pick-up from Manchester International Airport  Check-in to university accommodation |
| Afternoon |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evening |  |  |  |  |  |  | Special welcome reception for SCUT staff and students |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Monday 22nd July | Tuesday 23rd July | Wednesday 24th July | Thursday 25th July | Friday 26th July | Saturday 27th July | Sunday 28th July |
| Morning | Orientation and Opening Ceremony  Module introduction | Lecture 1-1  History of commercial law  Seminar 1-1 | Lecture 1-2  Formation of business  Seminar 1-2 | College Cup Day  Develop your teamwork skills, know your classmates from around the world, and compete for your college | Lecture 1-3  Legal personality and limited liability  Seminar 1-3 | Free time  Optional day trip to various destinations including the Lake District and Manchester (participating students will need to pay for modest transportation cost and entry at certain attractions if applicable) | |
| Afternoon | Welcome to your college | Workshop 1-1 | Workshop 1-2  Legal Career and Skills Session 1 | Group Presentation Session 1 |
| Evening | Optional student ambassadors-led social activities, including films, dancing and various sports | | | | |

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|  | Monday 29th July | Tuesday 30th July | Wednesday 31st July | Thursday 1st August | Friday 2nd August | Saturday 3rd August | Sunday 4th August |
| Morning | Lecture 2-1  Trading in international commercial law  Seminar 2-1 | Lecture 2-2  Financing business and the law  Seminar 2-2 | Community Engagement Day  Take part in various community development project around Lancaster | Lecture 2-3  Dispute resolution and international commercial arbitration  Seminar 2-3 | Group Presentation Session 2 | Free time  Optional day trip to various destinations including the Lake District and York | Travel to London |
| Afternoon | Workshop 2-1 | Workshop 2-2 | Workshop 2-3 | Legal Career and Skills Session 2 |
| Evening | Optional student ambassadors-led social activities, including films, dancing and various sports | | | | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Monday 5th August | Tuesday 6th August | Wednesday 7th August | Thursday 8th August | Friday 9th August | Saturday 10th August | Sunday 11th August |
| Morning | Lecture by external speaker on international commercial law- TBC | Site visit - TBC | Lecture 3-1  Insolvency and termination of business  Seminar 3-1 | Lecture 3-2  Current discussions in international commercial law  Seminar 3-2 | Group Presentation Session 3 | Departure from Lancaster University  Drop off at Manchester International Airport | |
| Afternoon | Site visit – TBC | Travel back to Lancaster | Workshop 3-1  Legal Career and Skills Session 3 | Worshop 3-2  Feedback and Q&A session | Assignment preparation and final instructions |
| Evening | Free time – social evening | Optional student ambassador-led social activities | | Closing Ceremony and Farewell Party |