

Programme Specifications – LLM in International Corporate Governance, Financial Regulation and Economic Law

Programme Title

Master of Laws (LLM) in International Corporate Governance, Financial Regulation and Economic Law

Institute responsible for programme

Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London

Aims of the programme

The *LLM in International Corporate Governance, Financial Regulation and Economic Law (ICGFREL)* is an advanced level programme examining corporate governance, financial regulation and economic law from an international and comparative perspective with particular focus on European and UK corporate governance regulation and practices, and international institutional developments.

Applications are particularly welcomed from those with university educational background in the social sciences, law, and management/business and related areas of the arts and humanities and sciences. Also, those with professional experience working in financial service firms and corporations would find the course useful for studying how law and regulation affect management practices, corporate governance and business strategy. An important part of the programme will address the public policy aspects of financial regulation and corporate governance and therefore the course would be suitable for those with experience working in government and state agencies. Those with a background in university lecturing in business schools, law schools and social science faculties would find the programme to be particularly useful in enhancing their qualifications to teach corporate law/governance, financial law/regulation, and international political economy and international economic law and organisations. Applications are particularly welcomed from overseas candidates and from post-graduate students and lecturers/assistant/associate professors from North American universities and Europe.

The interdisciplinary nature of the course means that applicants are not required to have a prior law degree, nor a professional qualification in law. The programme is designed to be completed in one year (full-time) with two nine-week terms of lectures (October-December; January-March), plus one term of independent study and supervision to write a thesis on a topic to be approved by the programme director. The programme consists of two core courses, which are mandatory, and a choice of four electives in which students would have a choice to select courses on the ICGFREL and other IALS programmes. Each candidate will also be required to write a short research thesis (approximately 15,000 words).

Most of the teaching is carried out by full-time academics, while a few electives will be taught by legal, regulatory and corporate practitioners. The academic faculty for the course consists of leading scholars in the field of international financial law/regulation, European and UK economic and financial law/regulation, corporate law, governance and practice, and the extraterritorial aspects of US economic law. Faculty members have published in the leading academic presses, including Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, and Lexis-Nexis/Butterworths. Faculty members have also authored major government reports and have served as advisers to the European Union Parliament Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs. Experienced practitioners will teach some of the elective courses and there will be guest lectures given by eminent lawyers and jurists from outside the University. The rich diversity of the City of London and its wealth of expertise in corporate, financial and regulatory affairs will be drawn on for the courses and for special events and conferences.

Intended programme outcomes, and how they are achieved

The programme is intended partly to widen the students' knowledge of corporate governance, financial regulation and international and comparative aspects of economic law and financial regulation. It is intended to introduce students to the basic principles and theories that underlie this

area of study. The course aims to stimulate broader strategic thinking of the goals of corporate and financial regulation and how it affects business strategy and overarching public policy. The analysis of the economic and legal principles will be applied to case studies (including the Northern Rock bank collapse) along with other practical applications. Students will have access to the outstanding resources of the IALS and University of London libraries and the nearby British Library. The Russell Square and Bloomsbury areas will provide a stimulating environment with many restaurants, theatres, museums, pubs and other cultural amenities that make London a unique and first-class international city. The programme is ideal for the intellectually aware student who wants to combine a year of post-graduate academic study with a practical agenda of interaction and learning from leading practitioners and regulators and corporate specialists.

Knowledge and understanding

Students will acquire:

A detailed knowledge of those areas of international economic and financial law, institutional aspects of European and UK financial regulation, institutional aspects of international financial regulation and related theories of international law and global governance and a practical understanding of the role of international economic organisations. Students should gain a thorough knowledge of the importance of corporate governance and financial regulation for the broader economy and the important role of public policy. They will develop an understanding of international corporate governance and financial regulation principles from a more holistic and interdisciplinary perspective. They will develop an understanding and critical perspective of the UK principles-based regulatory approach, which will be compared to the US rules-based regulatory approach. Moreover, they will have an understanding of the important institutional and legal and regulatory developments at the European level and the implications of the 2007/08 World Credit Crunch on global and European financial markets. Students will also develop their research and writing skills.

Students will also acquire a sense of having joined an elite community of financial regulatory and corporate governance experts and practitioners based in the world's leading international financial centre – London. Moreover, the knowledge and contacts they develop will advance their career objectives and enhance their understanding of global financial markets and the opportunities and risks they present.