

## LLM Curriculum

Students have to complete the five core courses (15 credit hours) which are common to both tracks/concentration followed by five courses from the chosen track. Students can also do dual Specialization.

Course Code	Course Number	Core LLM courses	CH	Prerequisite
LLM	600	1. Legal Research & Writing Skills	3	-
LLM	610	2. Legal Systems	3	-
LLM	635	3. Corporate Law	3	-
LLM	645	4. International Business Transactions *	3	-
LLM	650	5. Litigation – Principles & Practice*	3	-

### Track 1: LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Course Code	Course Number	Specialized LLM courses	CH	Prerequisite
LLM-ADR	700	1. Arbitration Law *	3	Three Core Courses (9 CH)
LLM-ADR	710	2. Advanced Arbitration Law*	3	Three Core Courses (9 CH)
LLM-ADR	725	3. International Investment Law & Arbitration	3	Three Core Courses (9 CH)
LLM-ADR	730	4. Alternative Dispute Resolution*	3	Three Core Courses (9 CH)
LLM-ADR	740	5. Thesis	6	To be taken in the last term

*These are also elective courses for FCML track, if when completed with second Thesis will qualify the student for awarding the second major in LLM.*

### Track 2: LLM in Financial Crimes & Money Laundering (FCML)

Course Code	Course Number	Specialized LLM courses		Prerequisite
LLM-FCML	700	1. Bribery & Corruption	3	Three Core Courses (9 CH)
LLM-FCML	710	2. Money Laundering	3	Three Core Courses (9 CH)
LLM-FCML	720	3. Competition Law	3	Three Core Courses (9 CH)
LLM-FCML	730	4. Financial Crimes and Governance, Compliance & Assurance	3	Three Core Courses (9 CH)
LLM-FCML	740	5. Thesis	6	To be taken in the last term

*These are also elective courses for ADR track, if when completed with second Thesis will qualify the student for awarding the second major in LLM.*

*\*These courses are practice-oriented courses requiring intense debate in moot-court situations.*

## Brief Course Description

### Core Courses

#### Course Code No.: LLM 600 Legal Research and Writing Skills

The Legal Research and Writing Skills is a core element of the LLM program. The emphasis of this module is firstly on the development of research techniques and the development of key analytical and rhetorical techniques necessary for independent work at postgraduate level. Secondly, this module also focuses on students writing skills from a legal practice perspective. It is sufficiently general that students from a variety of backgrounds with a diverse range of postgraduate aims will benefit. At the same time, it is sufficiently specific so that a number of the key issues involved in advanced research skills and methods are addressed. This course uses key terms and facts in legal research such as legislation, treaties, the UAE Civil Code, and identifies issues for legal research using analytical tools such as case law and briefings. This course will also address principles of citation,

referencing, literature review, research methodologies (empirical, economic, comparative, analytical, descriptive and other approaches relevant to high quality legal research). The coverage includes updating and validating the research, writing the research report, and presentation of research findings.

### **LLM 610 Legal Systems**

This course provides a comparative introduction to major global legal systems with emphasis on common law (used in DIFC and ADGM), civil law (Dubai Courts), and aspects of international law, mainly from a contractual perspective. The course introduces divergent legal systems and traditions focusing on the differences between common and civil law.

### **LLM 630 Corporate Law**

The course examines business structures and provides an overview of basic corporations law including the formation of companies especially under UAE and DIFC laws and consequences of incorporation; company internal rules; management and contracting; governance including membership, meetings and directors duties, shareholders remedies, accounts and financial reporting and audit, corporate litigation and regulation, liquidation and bankruptcy; external administration of companies; and UAE regional and international corporate governance standards, ethics and corporate social responsibility.

### **LLM 645 International Business Transactions**

This course is intended to prepare students to represent clients in a variety of business transactions that contain international elements. The emphasis is on the formation and enforcement of agreements between private commercial parties and on the anticipation and recognition of issues that are peculiar to, or are especially prevalent in, international business. The course follows a sequence of increasingly complex transactions, from the isolated purchase and sale of goods, through sales through distributors and licensing, to foreign direct investment. Topics include: the formation of the basic commercial transaction; financing the international sale of goods; agency and distributorships; licensing of intellectual property; establishing and operating a foreign investment; and dispute settlement.

### **LLM 650 Litigation – Principles & Practices**

The course deals with principles and practices of litigation. Attention will be paid to the best practices and skills needed in resolving commercial disputes through litigation. Emphasis will be given to the laws of UAE particularly the Civil Procedure Code, as a model for Civil Law jurisdictions. The course will cover generality of aspects relating to commencement of action (before UAE courts) to execution proceedings including enforcement of foreign judgements. In addition, the course will also cover the practice and procedure of Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), and Abu-Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) Courts as model for common law jurisdictions operating within UAE.

## **Track 1: LLM with concentration on Arbitration and Dispute Resolution**

### **LLM-ADR 700 Arbitration Law**

This course explains the principles and practice of domestic and international commercial arbitration. It provides the legal and regulatory framework for the UAE Federal Arbitration Law (Federal Law No. 6 of 2018). It discusses the arbitral process starting from the arbitration agreement, the role of arbitration rules, the importance of applicable law choice, the relationship between local courts and arbitration tribunals and institutions, and the enforcement and challenge proceedings of arbitral awards.

### **LLM-ADR 710 Advanced Arbitration Law**

This advanced course focuses in more detail on some key elements of arbitration. Topics that will be discussed are confidentiality of arbitral proceedings, challenge and disqualification of arbitrators, choosing an Arbitral Institution, provisional measures in arbitration, multiparty and multi-contract issues in arbitration, annulment, challenge, enforcement and revision of arbitral awards and the New York Convention. Practical experience is an important part of this course and therefore it also includes detailed attention for the drafting of an effective arbitration agreement, for the drafting of an award as well as moot court sessions.

### **LLM-ADR 725 International Investment Law & Arbitration**

The course deals with principles of international investment law and arbitration. While delivering the course attention will be paid to a comprehensive account of various bilateral and multilateral investment treaties and the disputes arising out of the treaties. The course will provide students with a current and advanced understanding of general principles regulating foreign direct investment and arbitration. Students will be exposed to advance understanding of investment treaty arbitration (ITA), role of institutions particularly the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), and public policy dimension of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS).

### **LLM-ADR 730 Alternative Dispute Resolution**

This course discusses the origin, and practice of various alternative dispute resolutions, emphasizing the techniques underlying these increasingly significant and evolving areas. Its premise is that to be effective, legal experts must possess both strong analytical skills to identify solutions to problems and a broad array of skills to empower acceptance of those solutions. This course covers these skills. The course includes detailed attention for the drafting of effective alternative dispute resolution clauses as well as moot court sessions.

### **Thesis – Specific for Each Track**

#### **LLM-ADR 740**

The purpose of this course is to write a thesis on a research topic, using adequate and acceptable sources of legal information. The course allows participants to draw on knowledge and comprehension of legal issues gained in the previous LLM courses. The thesis must provide a competent synthesis and critical analysis of the relevant materials and must be satisfactory as regards structure, style and presentation.

### **Track 2: LLM with concentration on Financial Crimes and Money Laundering**

#### **LLM-FCML 700 Bribery and Corruption**

The course deals with the concepts of bribery and corruption. The coverage includes UAE commercial and criminal regulations, UAE-specific issues in commercial contracts, and comparative study on UAE versus US, UK and EU regimes.

#### **LLM-FCML 710 Money Laundering**

This course deals with the UAE legislation (Federal and DIFC), US and UK legislation on money laundering and the impact of regulations on money laundering. The coverage also includes the Middle East and North Africa financial action taskforce, the Vienna Convention, the Palermo Convention, the Merida Convention and the United Nations Model Legislation on Laundering, Confiscation and International Cooperation in relation to the proceeds of crime (1999).

#### **LLM-FCML 720 Competition Law**

This course deals with the new 2013 UAE Federal Competition Law. The coverage also includes (comparisons with) EU law and the international dimension of competition laws. Furthermore, the course pays attention to competition elements that are included in the other UAE Laws.

#### **LLM-FCML 730 Financial Crimes and Governance, Compliance and Assurance**

The purpose of this course is to expose students to concepts, strategies and best practices in governance, compliance and assurance in relation to financial crimes.

### **Thesis – Specific for Each Track**

#### **LLM-FCML 740**

The purpose of this course is to write a thesis on a research topic, using adequate and acceptable sources of legal information. The course allows participants to draw on knowledge and comprehension of legal issues

gained in the previous LLM courses. The thesis must provide a competent synthesis and critical analysis of the relevant materials and must be satisfactory as regards structure, style and presentation.

### **Pre-LLM courses for Non-law bachelor degree holders**

Students should secure minimum B grade (80%) in these courses. In case these courses are offered in other law programs in UAE, students might be granted exemption for the particular Pre-LLM course.

After review of individual's education history, experience and skills, it is up to the discretion of the Director of the College of Law to decide which of these three courses that a highly qualified individual needs to take, in order to qualify for access to the LLM program.

#### **1. Pre-LLM Introduction to Law**

This course is intended for students who may not have studied law. The course introduces students to the basic principles of law and legal terminologies. The course is essential for the students wishing to enroll in the College of Law LLM program. It focuses on the idea of law, functions, sources and legal institutions. Students will be exposed to legal methods, legal reasoning, and classification of laws including fundamental differences of civil and common law systems

#### **2. Pre-LLM 510 Criminal Law & Procedure**

This course focuses on UAE criminal law and procedure to prepare students for enrolment into the LLM program. The course covers topics such as theories of punishment, offences, elements of criminal responsibility, evidentiary issues in criminal litigation, defenses, public prosecution etc. Students will be exposed to the mechanics of criminal investigation and prosecution, and conviction. In addition, since the course is aimed at preparing students for the LLM program, there will be emphasis on crimes against property and public interest.

#### **3. Pre-LLM 540 Business Law**

This course focuses on the introductory aspects of business and commercial law. Topics include differences between civil, tort and criminal law, principles of contract, tort, company law etc. The course is essential for the students wishing to enroll in the College of Law LLM programs in ADR and FCML. Students will be exposed to basic principles of business law relating to both dispute resolution and financial crimes and ethics.