



UK

## SYLLABUS 2025-2026

### European Competition Law

#### MODULE SPECIFICATION

Module Code	2526_DFC_2_EN_003
Campus	Oxford
Department(s)	Law, Finance and Control
Level / Semester	Masters Year 1 (M1); Equivalent to FHEQ level 7 Semester 08
Language of Instruction	English
Teaching Method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-person (face-to-face) <input type="checkbox"/> Distance learning (live online) <input type="checkbox"/> e-Learning (asynchronous) <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid: _____
Pre-requisite(s)?	None
ECTS <i>Reminder: 1 ECTS = between 20 and 30hr- student workload</i>	2
Equivalent FHEQ credits	4
Study Hours	50 hours which comprise of 14 directed learning and 36 independent learning/assessment hours

#### MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module Aims	This module provides an in-depth analysis of the regulation of competition within the European Single Market and the European Economic Area. It critically examines the strategic role of both the European Commission and National Competition Authorities in shaping market behaviour. Students will gain a sophisticated understanding of how these bodies enforce competition rules to ensure fair and open markets. The module's focus is on deconstructing the legal and economic frameworks that underpin competition law, preparing students to navigate this complex regulatory environment.
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<b>Teaching Arrangement</b>	The module will be delivered through lectures, class presentations, and readings.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	By the end of this module, students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Critically evaluate the scope of application of EU Competition rules, demonstrating a nuanced understanding of their extraterritorial reach and key exemptions.</li> <li>2. Synthesise and appraise the intricate relationship between economic principles and the strategic objectives of competition law.</li> <li>3. Conduct a rigorous legal and contextual analysis of the main competition law infringements, including anti-competitive agreements, abuses of dominance, and merger control.</li> <li>4. Formulate an analysis of the dynamic interactions between competition authorities and undertakings in the enforcement of European competition law.</li> </ol>
<b>Competency Goals</b> <i>(Knowledge, expertise and interpersonal skills)</i>	PGE_M_CG04 - To be a project manager with a strategic overview
<b>Alignment with Programme Learning Goals</b>	PGE_M_CG04_LO01 - To do a global analysis of the firm in its environment
	PGE_M_CG04_LO02 - To make relevant strategic recommendations

## SESSION TOPICS / MODULE SCHEDULE

*(Please note, a session/sequence may be more than one scheduled class)*

<p><u>Session 1: Introduction to EU Competition Law</u></p> <p><i>Content:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope of application</li> <li>• Main infringements</li> <li>• Economics and goals of competition law enforcement</li> </ul> <p><i>References:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fox, E.M. and Gerard, D. (2023) <i>EU competition law: Cases, texts and context</i>. 2nd edn. Cheltenham, United Kingdom: Edward Elgar Publishing. (Chapter 1)</li> </ul>
<p><u>Session 2: The European Commission's Fight Against Cartels</u></p> <p><i>Content:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why are cartels at the heart of competition authorities' preoccupations?</li> <li>• Illustration with famous international cartel cases</li> <li>• Game theory and leniency policy</li> <li>• Settlement policy</li> </ul> <p><i>References:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fox, E.M. and Gerard, D. (2023) <i>EU competition law: Cases, texts and context</i>. 2nd edn. Cheltenham, United Kingdom: Edward Elgar Publishing. (Chapter 2)</li> </ul>

*Last reviewed: 15/09/2025*

*Assignments:*

- Cartel cases listed on Upward

Session 3: Abuse of a Dominant Position

*Content:*

- Specific responsibilities of dominant firms in the EEA
- Definition of a relevant market under EU competition law
- Definition of dominance in the case law of the European Court of Justice
- Notion of abuse
- Emphasis on unfair and predatory pricing policies by dominant firms
- Analysis of relevant cases

*References:*

- Fox, E.M. and Gerard, D. (2023) *EU competition law: Cases, texts and context*. 2nd edn. Cheltenham, United Kingdom: Edward Elgar Publishing. (Chapter 5)

*Assignments:*

- Abuse of dominance cases listed on Upward

Session 4: Merger Control

*Content:*

- EU merger regulation
- EU thresholds (one stop shop for 30 countries)
- Who is in charge of controlling M&A?
- Restoring competition in a concentrated market – commitments and negotiations between companies and the regulators
- Analysis of relevant M&A cases by the EU Commission

*References:*

- Fox, E.M. and Gerard, D. (2023) *EU competition law: Cases, texts and context*. 2nd edn. Cheltenham, United Kingdom: Edward Elgar Publishing. (Chapter 6)

*Assignments:*

- Merger cases listed on Upward

Session 5: The Case of Digital Industry – How do the EU Authorities Apply Competition Rules in the Digital Sector?

*Content:*

- Abuse of dominance
- Digital Market Act
- International challenges associated with enforcing EU rules to the GAFAMs

*References:*

- Digital Market Act

**KEY TEXTS**

1. Fox, E.M. and Gerard, D. (2023) *EU competition law: Cases, texts and context*. 2nd edn. Cheltenham, United Kingdom: Edward Elgar Publishing.

## SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

1. N/A
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## MODES OF ASSESSMENT

<b>Continuous Assessment</b> (40%)	Written assessment
<b>Final Exam</b> (60%)	Closed book written assessment

## MODULE DESIGN TEAM

- Author: *Philippe Corruble*
- Reviewer: *Mitra Arami*
- External Reviewer: *Nigel Tomlinson*