



UK

SYLLABUS 2025-2026

International Business Law

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Module Code	2526_DFC_2_EN_037
Campus	Oxford
Department(s)	Law, Finance and Control
Level / Semester	Masters Year 1 (M1); Equivalent to FHEQ level 7 Semester 07
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)?	U2 – Contract and Employment Law
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 offers an advanced legal perspective on the key stages of a company's international development. It critically examines the distinct legal framework of international business law, contrasting it with national legal orders. A significant part of the module is dedicated to the study of international contract law. The curriculum immerses students in a variety of complex international scenarios through practical case studies, enabling them to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world business challenges. This approach prepares students to
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	strategically navigate the legal complexities inherent in global commerce.
Teaching Arrangement	The module will be delivered as a face-to-face module.
Learning Outcomes	<p>By the end of this module, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically evaluate the complex legal issues involved in the formation of contracts with foreign business partners. 2. Systematically identify and analyse the most sensitive clauses within international business contracts. 3. Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the legal rules governing the international sale of goods, particularly those under the Vienna Convention (CISG). 4. Differentiate between the legal rules applicable to the sale of goods between professionals and between professionals and consumers within the European Union. 5. Formulate a comprehensive analysis of the legal issues associated with the international transport of goods, demonstrating mastery of key instruments such as Incoterms and Documentary Credit.
Competency Goals <i>(Knowledge, expertise and interpersonal skills)</i>	PGE_M_CG04 - To be a project manager with a strategic overview
Alignment with Programme Learning Goals	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)

Session 1: Contract Law Reminders

Content:

- General principles of contract law in French law
- Contract formation and the meeting of wills
- Distance contracts
- General conditions of contracting parties
- Contract validity
- Binding force of contract
- Notion of force majeure
- Contractual liability
- Limitation of liability
- Abusive clauses
- Penalty clauses

Assignments:

Last reviewed: 11/09/2025

- Case studies:
 - Sand Yacht Club
 - Sicilian Pizzerias

Session 2: International Contracts

Content:

- Law applicable to international contracts
 - Choice of parties/absence of choice
- EU Rome: regulation on the law applicable to contractual obligations
- EU Brussels: bis regulation on jurisdiction over contractual obligations
- Sensitive clauses in international contracts
 - Hardship
 - Force majeure
 - Dispute resolution
- Recourse to international arbitration
- Illustration: the international sales agent contract

References:

- Wevers, H. (2021) *A basic guide to international business law*. 5th edn. Groningen, Netherlands: Noordhoff. (Chapters 2-4)

Assignments:

- Case study: LH Wind

Session 3: International Sales Contracts

Content:

- Part 1: Study of the Vienna Convention on the International Sale of Goods (CISG)
 - Scope and main rules
 - Seller's obligations under the CISG:
 - Obligation to deliver
 - Obligation to deliver in conformity
 - Warranty obligations
 - Obligations of the buyer under CISG:
 - Obligations to receive
 - Obligations to pay
 - Obligation of examination and denunciation
 - Transfer of risk under CISG
 - Question of transfer of ownership – reference to the (national) law applicable to the contract
 - Non-performance under CISG:
 - Measurement of non-performance
 - Remedies for non-performance
 - Exception to non-performance
 - Damages
 - Performance in kind
 - Unilateral rescission
- Part 2: Rules applicable to contracts for the sale of consumer goods in the European Union:
 - Notion of consumer goods
 - European guarantee for consumer goods

- Liability for defective products
- Unfair terms and consumer rights

References:

- Wevers, H. (2021) *A basic guide to international business law*. 5th edn. Groningen, Netherlands: Noordhoff. (Chapter 5.1-5.3)

Assignments:

- Case study: West Side Connemara Story

Session 4: The International Contract for the Carriage of Goods

Content:

- Common features and particularities of contracts of carriage (modes of transport) according to applicable international conventions
 - Transport intermediaries (role, liability)
 - Obligations of the parties to the contract of carriage
 - Principle of carrier liability and limitation of carrier liability
- Special features of the contract of carriage by sea:
 - Bill of lading
 - Reservations
 - Liability of the sea carrier
 - Limitation of liability
- Legal aspects of practical instruments of the international transport contract:
 - Incoterms: functions, distinguishing the characteristics of the main incoterms and the parties' liability
 - Documentary credit

References:

- Wevers, H. (2021) *A basic guide to international business law*. 5th edn. Groningen, Netherlands: Noordhoff. (Chapter 8.1-8.3)

KEY TEXTS

1. Wevers, H. (2021) *A basic guide to international business law*. 5th edn. Groningen, Netherlands: Noordhoff.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

1. N/A

MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Continuous Assessment (40%)	Case study
Final Exam (60%)	Closed book written exam

MODULE DESIGN TEAM

- Author: *Philippe Corruble*
- Reviewer: *Vickneswaren Krishnan*
- External Reviewer: *Nigel Tomlinson*

Last reviewed: 11/09/2025