



Master of Laws in Commercial Law (LLM)

SAQA 124714 NQF Level 9

🕒 Qualification duration

**Distance/Online - After Hours
(Online support and seminars)**

Full-Time

- Minimum: 2 years
- Maximum: 4 years

Part-Time

- Minimum: 3 years
- Maximum: 5 years

☰ Qualification description

The LLM Master of Laws degree seeks to provide students with a specialized professional knowledge and comprehensive understanding of commercial law principles, practices, and emerging areas within the field of commerce and business. Students will be able to contribute positively to the development and advancement of the business sector, through providing specialist legal guidance and support to businesses, organizations, and government entities. Through their specialized knowledge and skills, students will be able to understand the legal implications of commercial transactions, regulatory frameworks, and emerging trends, navigate legal complexities, mitigate risks, and make informed decisions that foster sustainable growth and compliance. The LLM qualification emphasizes the practical application of legal knowledge in commerce and business transactions through case studies, and simulations that allow students to develop the skills necessary to critically analyse existing knowledge in business and commercial law in order to apply it to real-world scenarios and provide commercially orientated solutions.

As such, this qualification specifically addresses the need for specialist knowledge in various areas of commercial law practice, through a comprehensive curriculum that covers emerging fields such as banking law, letters of credit, demand guarantees, crypto currencies, cyber and security law, international business law, cross-border transactions, among others. This specialized knowledge enables students, including attorneys, advocates, legal advisors, in-house legal counsel, and non-legal professionals to meet the demands of the evolving commercial landscape and contribute effectively to the business sector.

✅ Entry requirements

- Relevant Bachelor Honours Degree.
- Or a Postgraduate Diploma in the cognate field.
- Or a Postgraduate Diploma in Law at NQF level 8.
- Or a Bachelor Honour's degree or a four-year bachelor's degree (where 480 credits are required) in the relevant discipline.
- A recognised Bachelor of Laws (LLB).
- Or a certificate of evaluation by SAQA of a comparable degree at NQF level 8.
- Or admission via Recognition of Prior Learning.

📄 Qualification accreditation

- Accredited by the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) of the Council on Higher Education (CHE)
- Registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

📁 Possible career options

The LLM in Commercial Law is relevant to Commercial Attorneys, Corporate Legal Advisors and business professionals, or students intending to pursue a career in:

- Academia and Research
- Legal practice specialising in commercial law, tax law, banking law or international trade and business law.
- The commercial sector and international commercial organisations in fields such as compliance, risk, cross-border transactions, trade finance, construction and corporate advisory services.
- Legal Consultants
- Legal practice specialising in commercial law, tax law, banking law or international trade and business law.
- Non-legal professionals specialising in international business transactions, business consultancy, compliance.
- The commercial sector and international commercial organisations in fields such as compliance, risk, cross-border transactions, trade finance, construction and corporate advisory services.



Master of Laws in Commercial Law (LLM)

SAQA 124714 NQF Level 9

Qualification structure

Year 1

The qualification is made up of 6 elective modules and 2 compulsory Research modules. Students are required to choose 2 electives in year 1 in addition to the Research Methodology module and 1 elective module in year 2 where they will complete their LLM dissertation amounting to 180 credits.

- Research Methodology
- Elective - Choose 2
 - Corporate Law
 - International Business Transactions
 - Law of Banking and Instruments of Payment

Year 2

- LLM Dissertation
- Elective - Choose 1
 - Aspects of Cyber & Security Law
 - Labour Law
 - Tax Law



Master of Laws in Commercial Law (LLM)

SAQA 124714 NQF Level 9

Module descriptors

Year 1

Corporate Law

The purpose of this module is to provide a comprehensive and systematic understanding of the law governing business entities, more particularly the law relating to corporate governance; business ethics, legal personality; corporate financing, corporate criminal liability; financial reporting, transparency and social responsibility and the duties and responsibilities of an auditor, shareholders and the board of directors and the identification and management of risk. It explores the relationship between the business entities and their internal stakeholders as well as with third parties including the remedies available to stakeholders.

International Business Transactions

This module focuses on rules of private international law governing business transactions involving the sale and supply of goods between merchants in different countries. This includes exposing the peculiar problems that businesses face in international sales transactions: (choice of law; formation of contracts; legal remedies and obligations of the buyer and seller) and international conventions such as the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG). This will equip students with the ability to understand and analyse the rules of private international trade law governing sales transactions. Attention will be given to specialist areas such as methods of payment in international sales transactions; law relating to carriage of goods by sea and air, as well as insurance of goods.

Law of Banking and Instruments of Payment

This module provides a comprehensive, systematic overview and critical evaluation of advanced concepts of banking law and payment mechanisms within the practice of banking law in South Africa. It will also evaluate the regulatory regime governing banking institutions and instruments of payment. Furthermore, the module examines modes of payment and the role of banks in both domestic and international transactions such as demand guarantees and letters of credit within the construction and business context as well as emerging modes of payment such as crypto-currencies and their regulation. It aims to provide students with the ability to analyse and solve practical problems in the practice of banking law.

Research Methodology

The Research Methodology module is an integral part of the Master of Laws in Commercial Law degree program. This module aims to equip students with advanced research skills and methodologies necessary for conducting rigorous legal research in the field of commercial law. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of various research approaches, methods, and techniques, and apply them in the context of commercial law. The module will enhance students' ability to critically evaluate legal sources, formulate research questions, gather, and analyse data, and present research findings effectively.



Master of Laws in Commercial Law (LLM)

SAQA 124714 NQF Level 9

Module descriptors

Year 2

Aspects of Cyber and Security Law

This module investigates the new and fast changing developments in technology and the effect of 4IR on collection and processing of data. It provides a practical overview of the data and information privacy law and principles, discussion of cybercrimes and cybersecurity. The module employs a facts-based approach where scenarios are discussed to illustrate the strengths and limits of the law in regulating crimes committed online or committed using the Internet. It will review existing and emerging legal issues in cyber security, cybercrime, privacy, and data protection, including the domestic and cross-boundary legal regulatory frames and their associated ethical dimensions.

Labour Law

The module offers the theoretical and practical underpinnings of the general principles of Labour Law as encountered in practice. The module will analyse the principles of labour law and addresses the role it plays in different factual situations with reference to the necessary authority. Students will be exposed to the two main components of labour law namely individual labour law and collective labour law. The module also exposes students to alternative dispute resolution process in the form of arbitration and conciliation within the labour law context.

LLM Dissertation

This module is a capstone component of the Master of Laws in Commercial Law degree program. This module provides students with an opportunity to engage in in-depth, independent research on a specific topic within the field of commercial law. Students will apply the knowledge and skills acquired throughout their studies to conduct rigorous research, analyses legal issues, and present their findings in a well-structured and coherent manner. The module emphasizes critical thinking, advanced legal analysis, and the ability to contribute original insights to the field of commercial law.

Tax Law

The module provides students with the practical knowledge of the practices and principles of taxation in South Africa. Students will gain knowledge of principles relating to gross income; special inclusions; exempt income; allowable deductions; special deductions; capital allowances; capital gains tax; value added tax (VAT); and South African taxation law. Students will be exposed to basic knowledge, insight, and skills for analysing and solving elementary problems relating to some of the underlying principles and practices of South African taxation law. It will cultivate the ability to retrieve information from various sources and to integrate findings in the formulation of ethical sound and valued-based solutions. Furthermore, the students will also be provided with the opportunity to practise principles of taxation law.