



# Centre for Commercial Law Studies

Shaping the future  
of commercial law



REMNANT  
STREET WC2

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Queen Mary  
University of London  
SCHOOL OF LAW

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At Queen Mary University of London, we believe that a diversity of ideas helps us achieve the previously unthinkable.

In 1980, Sir Roy Goode created an environment where practising commercial lawyers and academics could meet, exchange ideas and, in doing so, foster academic excellence. His vision was that by bringing together different perspectives, we would create better outcomes. And so the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS) was born.

Today, we uphold this vision through three overarching principles: an international and comparative perspective; close collaboration with a range of stakeholders; and a multidisciplinary approach to developing new knowledge. Our innovative approach continues to bear results in teaching and research. CCLS has become one of the largest post-graduate law centres in Europe, offering the widest variety of commercial law topics. By bringing academia and practise together, CCLS engages in cutting-edge research across all aspects of commercial law, impacting the development of policy, law and regulation.

Together, our faculty, students and alumni are shaping the future of commercial law and helping us achieve the previously unthinkable.

# Introducing the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS)



**Professor Ian Walden**  
Director of the Centre for  
Commercial Law Studies

Educating the next generation



Over the years, we have taught more than 10,000 students – creating a global family of CCLS alumni: senior lawyers, barristers, judges, legislators, policymakers, patent and trade mark attorneys and business people.”

Each student brings a unique perspective and life experience, making the Centre a diverse and exciting place to study and network.





**Lord Kitchin**  
Chair of the CCLS Advisory  
Council, Justice of The  
Supreme Court of the  
United Kingdom

## CCLS's links with the legal profession



The Centre maintains strong links with the legal and commercial community on its doorstep. Freshfields and Clifford Chance, for example, sponsor prestigious annual lectures at CCLS, and there are several senior members of the judiciary on the CCLS faculty.”

Whether you want to advance your career through postgraduate study, to collaborate on a new research project, or to support CCLS's activities, we invite you to be part of the next 40 years.

# Navigating a more regulated business environment

A person wearing a bright red jacket and a grey cap is steering a sailboat. The boat is on a blue sea with white-capped waves. In the background, several other sailboats are visible under a clear blue sky. The person's hands are on the wooden steering wheel. The overall scene is dynamic and suggests a challenging or regulated environment.



# Our approach to commercial law

Modern commercial lawyers must be familiar with increasing and changing forms of business regulation.

This regulation applies to specific sectors – such as banking and finance, energy, telecoms and insurance - as well as business practices, such as anti-competitive conduct and the handling of personal data. In addition, rapid technological advances, including artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and fintech, are transforming traditional systems and ways of working.

Much of the work undertaken at CCLS today is focused on understanding and critically appraising the implications of these developments.

**To find out more, visit:  
[qmul.ac.uk/ccls](https://qmul.ac.uk/ccls)**

# Our approach to commercial law

CCLS's work supports commercial law reform to transform economic outcomes in developing countries.

Our academics are working in a range of countries advising governments and industries on how to put in place modern commercial law frameworks that facilitate commerce and development.

One recent example is the *Sovereign Debt Forum*, established to help low and middle-income countries at risk of sovereign debt distress. Our work is driven by our commitment to using commercial law to help deliver the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

**To find out more, visit:**  
[qmul.ac.uk/ibfl/news/items/sovereign-debt-forum.html](https://qmul.ac.uk/ibfl/news/items/sovereign-debt-forum.html)





# Enabling international economic development



# Collaborating with business, government and the profession

# Our approach to commercial law

From the day we opened in 1980, CCLS has sought to break down the division between law as an academic discipline and law as commercial practice. At the heart of this are our close collaborations with the legal professions, business, NGOs and governments.

## **Teaching informed by real-world knowledge**

In our teaching faculty, there are more than 50 leading practitioners. This ensures that our teaching is academically rigorous and up to date, while grounded in a wealth of practical insights and experience.

## **Researching the latest commercial legal challenges**

Since 2009, for example, researchers at CCLS have been investigating the complex legal and regulatory challenges associated with the shift to cloud computing platforms and services.

This research has been possible thanks to an on-going financial gift from Microsoft.

**To find out more, visit:**  
**[qmul.ac.uk/ccls](http://qmul.ac.uk/ccls)**



# Our research

The School of Law is a centre of international excellence in legal research. In the most recent independent assessment of UK university research (Research Excellence Framework 2014), 86% of our research activity was classified as “world-leading” or “internationally excellent”.

Academics at CCLS lead the way in researching the interrelationships between law and global commerce. Our unique way of working means that we secure research funding from a diverse range of organisations, including UK research councils, national governments, international intergovernmental organisations, and global corporations.

Our research activities are structured through our institutes, which bring together researchers and practitioners from a range of disciplines to explore specialist areas of commercial law. We have institutes in arbitration, banking and finance, technology, media and telecommunication, energy law, global law economics and finance, intellectual property, insurance, regulation and ethics, transnational commercial law, shipping and tax.

## The impact of CCLS research

CCLS research has a significant impact on the world. We have been particularly influential in areas relating to innovative technologies and the creative economy competition law, banking and finance, and fast-moving areas of law with a cross-border or international dimension such as arbitration and intellectual property.

## Research carried out by CCLS academics has:

- Strengthened the regulation of online gambling services
- Supported a new legal framework for paperless trading in the insurance and maritime industries
- Helped states to modernise insolvency frameworks and restructure national debts
- Exposed pharmaceutical companies for unlawful anti-competitive patenting strategies
- Examined the implications of Artificial Intelligence for arbitration and inventorship
- Informed new financial regulations to create a more stable banking sector.

**To find out more about the real-world impact of this work, visit: [qmul.ac.uk/ccls/research](https://qmul.ac.uk/ccls/research)**

# Our teaching and professional training

Each year at CCLS we educate more than 1,000 postgraduate students, from over 80 countries – including qualified and experienced legal professionals – deepening their knowledge of specialist areas of commercial law.

We ensure that our students develop an international and comparative perspective on law, regulation and commercial practice. In our teaching, we use English commercial law as a case study. But we are not parochial in our focus. Instead we draw out commonalities and differences with other jurisdictions, and examine transnational complexities.

## LLM programmes

Our LLM programme is one the most prestigious postgraduate taught masters' programmes of its kind. The majority of our LLM students join us at our home at Lincoln's Inn Fields in London.

As an alternative, you can study with us on our international LLM programmes in:

- Paris, at our base in the cultural heart of the capital
- Singapore, in conjunction with the Singapore Management University.

We also offer an exciting and expanding range of **distance learning and blended learning programmes**, which includes both face-to-face teaching and online learning, so that students can study from wherever they are based, fitting their studies around their work and other commitments.

**To find out more about our LLMs, visit:**

[qmul.ac.uk/law/postgraduate/courses/llm](http://qmul.ac.uk/law/postgraduate/courses/llm)

## PhD research degrees

At any one time, there are nearly 100 PhD students at CCLS pursuing their research. We help our PhD students to frame innovative legal questions, and to explore these in depth and with confidence.

## Enabling continuing professional development

CCLS has a long history of contributing to the training of practitioners and industry professionals. We are well known for our specialist postgraduate courses for trade mark specialists and patent agents. In other areas, both our tax and insurance law students can submit part of their work to their respective Chartered Institutes, contributing to their formal professional recognition. While our data protection students can take the International Association of Privacy Professionals' certificate.

## Bespoke executive training

CCLS offers bespoke professional training to a range of law firms, businesses, national governments, regulators and international organisations. This usually involves short training courses delivered over several sessions, tailored to the needs of staff.

In recent years, CCLS academics have trained:

- staff at a major UK accountancy firm on data protection compliance
- Thailand's judiciary on intellectual property and commercial law
- Chinese officials from the intellectual property office on European and UK patent law
- Singaporean public prosecutors on tackling cybercrime.

These short courses enable organisations to build capacity across their workforce, ensuring staff have the skills and knowledge to negotiate complex areas of regulation and commercial law.

# Supporting professional development

## The variety and scope of the careers CCLS students and alumni move into is exceptional.

Many of our graduates apply their degree knowledge directly working in the legal profession. Others use their legal skills and knowledge as a pathway into new roles and sectors. We have graduates working in government, policy, consultancy, regulation and compliance, and banking.

To support our students in their career goals, we have a comprehensive postgraduate careers programme. It includes numerous workshops, clinics, information and networking events with employers including: Linklaters, KPMG, Reed Smith, Hogan Lovells, the Financial Conduct Authority, Herbert Smith Freehills, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Deutsche Bank, and 21st Century Fox.

All of this is underpinned by individual advice sessions for students with one of our dedicated team of legal careers consultants.

### **Mentoring**

We offer an innovative professional mentoring programme. Under the programme, legal professionals – many of whom are CCLS alumni – offer one-to-one practical advice and support to our postgraduate students, helping them to plan their future careers.

To date, we have over 80 active mentor-mentee relationships. Mentors come from a range of organisations, including: Allen & Overy, Shell, 20 Essex Street Chambers, Dentons, Ashurst, London Business Bank, Simmons & Simmons, Mills & Reeve, Baker McKenzie, the Commercial Court and the Court of Appeal.

### **To find out more, visit:**

[qmul.ac.uk/law/postgraduate/careers](http://qmul.ac.uk/law/postgraduate/careers)



My mentor, who is a Partner at Baker McKenzie LLP, was giving me an insight from the industry that would be very difficult to obtain in any other way. Her professionalism, enthusiasm, grace and good-humour are contagious and motivated me to work hard and with dedication.”

Mentee, Sandro Bruno Sandri da Rocha,  
LLM in Computer and Communications Law



### Internships

With their specialist skills and knowledge, CCLS postgraduate students are highly valued by organisations looking for interns who can make an immediate impact on their business.

Taking on a CCLS student is a great way to introduce new talent to an organisation. Our students can help with workload, and they can bring new ideas and different perspectives.

We have a dedicated internship coordinator that works with firms and chambers to set up unique internship opportunities that CCLS students can apply for.

#### To find out more, visit:

[qmul.ac.uk/law/postgraduate/careers](https://qmul.ac.uk/law/postgraduate/careers)



I was delighted to work with the whole team and to have a chance of finding solutions to interesting energy-related issues. It was truly remarkable to see how a global law firm operates.”

Alexander Kozak, LLM Energy and Natural Resources

### Free legal advice service: qLegal

qLegal is our award-winning innovative free legal advice service for tech start-ups and entrepreneurs, making the most of our location near East London's Tech City and the King's Cross Tech Hub. Under supervision of qualified lawyers working on a pro-bono basis, CCLS students provide legal advice on a range of complex legal issues.

The focus is on collaborative client-centric practice, recognising how technology is changing how lawyers work and their clients' expectations. Programmes introduce students to legal design methodologies and client-relationship management skills.

We are pleased to be partnering with Strathmore University in Nairobi, expanding their Law Clinic's offering to include bespoke legal advice. By adapting the qLegal model to suit local needs, Strathmore's clinic will be able to play a bigger part in community development, recognising the importance of entrepreneurship within Kenya and the country's desire to increase access to legal services.

#### To find out more, visit: [qlegal.qmul.ac.uk](https://qlegal.qmul.ac.uk)



qLegal helps you to sharpen different skills such as drafting, team working, client relationship management and networking. It also gave me credibility for my future job.”

Nicolas Hamblenne, Koan Law Firm, Belgium  
(former qLegal student adviser)

# Our alumni – an international CCLS family

When our students graduate, the relationship does not end there. Our alumni are central to CCLS and continue to make vital contributions to the life of the Centre.

There are CCLS alumni working all over the world and in many aspects of commercial law. This includes judges, barristers, senior lawyers in global firms, in-house counsel, government officials, regulators, NGOs and industry, as well as leading academics.

We regularly welcome alumni to give guest lectures at the Centre. Others approach us with ideas for research projects or collaborations. Many also contribute their time and professional networks, supporting our mentoring and careers programme for current students.

There are a growing number of CCLS Chapters and social networking groups organised by alumni for alumni.

**To see further information about Chapters and other alumni engagement, visit: [qmul.ac.uk/ccls/alumni](https://qmul.ac.uk/ccls/alumni)**

“

The degree from CCLS has opened up a lot of doors for me. My story would not be what it is today, if it hadn't been for the LLM I studied at CCLS. I certainly would not be working outside my country.”

Diego Alexandre-García Fernández. LLM Comparative and International Dispute Resolution. Now Associate in International Arbitration at Herbert Smith Freehills in Madrid, Spain





# How to work with us

The strength of CCLS depends on the quality and diversity of our collaborations with our alumni, industry, government and the full breadth of the legal profession.

There are three main routes to working with us:

## **1. Support CCLS students with scholarships, bursaries, mentoring or internships**

- Support a scholarship or bursary to enable the best students to reach their potential
- Participate in our mentoring programme
- Provide internships for students to hone their legal skills
- Participate in qLegal by providing supervisory support.

## **2. Get involved in our research or teaching**

- Support or commission a research project
- Assist with capacity building activities
- Help shape new policy proposals and consultations on areas of law
- Guest lecture on your area of specialism or speak at our lectures and conferences.

## **3. Raise your institutional profile and sponsor our activities**

- Support a named position in an area of commercial law
- Sponsor a conference, seminar or lecture series
- Provide financial support for our research activities

**To find out more about how to work with us, visit: [qmul.ac.uk/ccls/support](https://qmul.ac.uk/ccls/support)**





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