

Module code	ICL	NQF level	7
Credit value	20	Study duration	12 weeks

International Competition Law

Module description

This is a 20 credit level 7 module which forms part of the LLM in International Trade and Commercial Law. All students must complete this part of the course as it is a compulsory module.

International competition law is designed to ensure the consumer gets the best deal possible from the companies that manufacture and sell goods and services. Competition law has put in place safeguards at a national and international level to help prevent companies from manipulating market conditions by which prices could be artificially inflated, choice limited and innovation stifled. This can be by a number of devices, such as mergers, horizontal agreements, vertical agreements or limiting the supply of goods and services to control demand. The students will gain an in depth knowledge of the devices that companies use and the laws, articles and regulations used to combat them.

The module will equip the students with an understanding of the concepts behind international competition law. They will have the opportunity to critically analyse the effectiveness of international competition law in protecting consumer welfare. Students will gain an in-depth knowledge of international competition law.

This module aims to:

- Introduce competition law and look at how (and why) it developed
- Equip students with an understanding of the challenges and issues that lawyers and trading nations face in this area
- Provide students with knowledge of competition law through its statutes, articles and regulations
- Help students understand the operation of international competition law•Allow students to discuss successes, failures and criticisms of competition law

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a thorough and critical understanding of the legal principles of international competition law
- Critically evaluate the ways in which competition law is implemented at a national and international level
- Critically review the legal interpretation of international competition laws, articles and regulations
- Analyse how international competition law promotes innovation and trade
- Critically review how international competition law protects the consumer

- Critically analyse international competition law through a sector specific case study

Syllabus

- Overview of international competition law – EU
- Article 101(1)
- Article 101(3)
- Article 102
- Public enforcement of Articles 101 and 102
- Private enforcement of Articles 101 and 102
- Horizontal agreements (1)
- Horizontal agreements (2)
- Vertical agreements
- Abuse of dominance
- Mergers
- Overview of UK competition law
- Competition law in particular sectors

Learning and teaching methods

The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials which shall be provided on the module/ programme learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and weekly online lectures. Weekly online lectures are normally of 30 minutes duration.

Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at, relevant websites which are appropriate to the module. The students will learn to identify and share appropriate web-based resources as learning support references with their fellow students. This will act as an indicator of their individual learning contexts with their tutors.

The Q&A sessions will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials/web based module learning resources and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the tutors. Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students are given direction on required and indicative reading.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Discussion activity	2 weeks	n/a	20%
Mid module assignment: case study	2,500 words	Mid term	40%
End of module project	2,500 words	End term	40%