Breaking down the boundaries of business and law

Commercial law has traditionally been about setting up companies rather than making business decisions, something that schools are looking to do, writes Della Bradshaw

Back to school: the theory and learning centre of the University of Economics and Business, Wiener Börse, in Vienna, Austria, was designed by Zaha Hadid.

INNOVATIVE LAW SCHOOLS

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T HIS MONTH, 22 OF AUSTRIA’S best law schools and public and private colleges set aside their caps and gowns and went into school to discover the best way to light white-collar crime.

They were part of a programme designed by the Austrian Project Management Academy for Change (APMA), which is working with the University of Economics and Business (WU), to provide a practical and genuine insight into the business world.

The project was held at the University of Economics and Business (WU) and was managed by Rudi Mahler, managing director of the WU Executive Academy.

The programme, which covers everything from financial risk and corporate reporting to business and management, also includes practical sessions designed to prepare students for the real world.

The programme is aimed at business students and is designed to help them understand the importance of business and management.

The programme is funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus Plus programme.

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### Financial Times LLM programme listing 2012

#### School information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law degree or equivalent required</th>
<th>Full-time study</th>
<th>Part-time study</th>
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<tr>
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### Specialist LLM programmes

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<th>Asia-Pacifi c</th>
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<tr>
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<td>New York University</td>
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### اللجنة الدولية للوعي القانوني

#### Law school

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Principle country</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>English</td>
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### Note

- The number of LLM programmes reported by law schools participating in the 2012 Financial Times LLM survey increased by 8 per cent, with 24 listed institutions, compared to 22 reported in 2011. 
- Of those in the US – offer 91 full-time programmes, compared to 74 last year. 
- The disparity in demand for LLM programmes between the US and other regions of the world remains significant, with a strong growth in international student numbers across Europe. 
- According to the Law School tuition fees for full-time LLM programmes range from $14,100 (Sweden) to $35,640 (Hong Kong).
- The cost of part-time programmes in the US are $11,000 (Monash, Australia) to $17,400 (Monash, Australia).
- In Asia, the full-time LLM programme fees range from $22,000 (Monash, Australia) to $33,240 (Monash, Australia).
- Part-time programmes in Asia range from $11,000 (Monash, Australia) to $17,400 (Monash, Australia).
Legal studies in a globalised era

Students see the importance of international context but also must engage at that level, writes Adam Polin

T he legal landscape has been fundamentally altered by the march of globalisation. Today, lawyers are required to understand and engage with multiple legal systems and transnational bodies. Law schools are facing a challenging challenge in equipping today’s lawyers with the skills to operate in this evolving environment.

“Law can no longer be looked at in national terms, as it has been historically,” says Lord Justice Aldous in his recent programme, Legal Studies in a Globalised Era. “It is important that our law schools understand the need to embed EU law in their curricula, he says, as a part of national law. It is essential for European schools to appreciate the importance of international law – in fields such as international commercial law, environmental law, and intellectual property.”

Not only does the adoption of EU law in national law demonstrate the potential for European schools to move beyond national law’s traditional boundaries and transnational to reflect the increasing relevance of global laws – in fields such as international trade – the world economy becomes more integrated. This is evident in the evolution of the European Union, which has evolved from a free trade area to a single market.

There is a need to establish a new level of educational excellence and to introduce international and transnational approaches, says Lord Justice Aldous. “In a globalised world, we need to have the intellectual tools – by developing their legal reasoning and that many places now regard as standard.”

The school, which teaches exclusively in English, offers two LLM programmes. The first, an LLM in European and International Law, is a 12-month programme and is offered in Luxembourg, and the second, an LLM in international law, is a 12-month programme and is offered in Luxembourg. Law schools have moved away from the traditional notion of legal education to focus on a range of subjects and experiences.

Class act: breaking students’ national boundaries will broaden their legal reasoning.

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Theory and practice

Master of Laws student Sonia Tan tells Charlotte Clarke why it is critical to have a global perspective

SONIA TAN IS AN LLM STUDENT at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law in Asia, where she also studied as an undergraduate. She is the recipient of the Kwa Geok Choo Graduate Scholarship.

Prior to starting her postgraduate studies in August, Ms Tan worked as a corporate lawyer for four years, specialising in mergers and acquisitions.

Why did you choose to study for an LLM?
Having spent a few years practising as a lawyer, it seemed a good time to return to a more academic study of the law. Through postgraduate studies, I hope to broaden my legal knowledge and further my professional development.

What made you decide to study at NUS?
As I enjoyed my undergraduate studies at NUS, I had always considered pursuing postgraduate studies there, after spending some years in practice. NUS is ranked highly among the world’s top law universities and it offers an extensive range of law electives taught by top academics from Singapore and other countries. The university also provides a variety of scholarships for local and foreign postgraduate students.

What has been the biggest challenge so far?
As an alumna, it has certainly been easier for me to adapt to the university environment, so I would say that academic work has fortunately been manageable so far.

What have you found the most surprising?
I was surprised that there are very few Singaporean postgraduate students in comparison with international postgraduate students – at orientation day it seemed like every continent was represented. However, there is always a good mix of local and international students in classes shared by undergraduates and postgraduates.

What would you say makes you different from other LLM students?
My work experience has given me a deeper insight into certain areas such as corporate law, which I can share with fellow classmates.

What advice would you give to others?
Spend a few years in practice before considering postgraduate studies in law. If you have an inclination towards academic research, your practical experience will help you in approaching legal issues from different angles.

How do you deal with pressure?
Family and friends are my greatest source of moral support.

What has been the best advice given to you with regard to your studies?
In order to practise as a lawyer in a globalised economy, it is not enough to be proficient in only your own jurisdiction’s laws. It is also important to foster a good understanding of foreign and international laws.

What is your biggest lesson learnt?
To be an effective student (or practitioner), you need to make continuous efforts to keep abreast of legal developments.

What would you do if you were dean for the day?
I would probably send all final-year undergraduates out on a week-long internship to assist in pro bono legal work. When I was an undergraduate, I was part of a student team which advised counsellors from social service organisations.

What do you plan to do after the course?
I intend to return to private practice.