



SORBONNE
UNIVERSITY
ABU DHABI



Master in
**INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS
TRANSACTIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL
ARBITRATION**

2 0 2 5



Overview

The Master in International Business Transactions and International Arbitration prepares students for careers in legal and commercial fields governing international business.

The Master in International Business Transactions and International Arbitration (IBTIA) is designed to equip students with advanced legal and practical knowledge necessary to navigate the complexities of cross-border commerce and dispute resolution in today's global economy. Rooted in academic excellence and international legal standards, this two-year programme trains future professionals in the core areas of international business law, with a particular focus on transactional mechanisms and arbitration.

In a rapidly globalising world where legal systems intersect and business transactions span jurisdictions, this programme addresses the growing need for legal experts capable of managing sophisticated international deals and resolving disputes across legal traditions. The curriculum offers a robust, practice-oriented approach that blends doctrinal study with real-world insights, preparing graduates to thrive in law firms, corporate legal departments, arbitration institutions, and international organisations.

Students will gain in-depth knowledge of key areas such as international commercial arbitration, contract law (civil and common law), corporate law, tax law, compliance, international sales and trade law, intellectual property, and finance. Emphasis is placed

on arbitration and litigation as core components of commercial dispute resolution. Through a unique balance of theoretical grounding and applied learning—including case studies, negotiation workshops, and legal writing seminars, students develop the skills to analyse, draft, and negotiate complex legal documents while mastering legal argumentation and research methodologies.

The first year (M1) introduces the essential foundations of international commercial law, comparative legal systems, and dispute resolution techniques, including regional perspectives from the Middle East and insights into transport and trade logistics.

The second year (M2) builds upon this foundation, integrating advanced transactional subjects and industry-relevant areas such as mergers and acquisitions, investment arbitration, and private international law. Students may choose between completing a research-based thesis or an internship report, guided by a structured methodology seminar that supports academic writing and critical thinking.

Throughout the programme, students benefit from small class sizes, direct engagement with faculty, and a dynamic multicultural learning environment on Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi's campus. Teaching is delivered by an international faculty from Université Paris Cité, alongside visiting scholars and practitioners from the legal and diplomatic communities. Courses are conducted fully in English and taught face-to-face, with an emphasis on continuous assessment and interactive learning.

Graduates of the IBTIA Master will emerge as globally minded legal professionals equipped with the critical judgment, negotiation expertise, and ethical grounding required to lead in international legal practice and commercial dispute resolution.





Programme *highlights*

→ Aligning individual & national development

Within the next decade, the UAE is poised to dedicate its focus towards socio-economic sustainability. The curriculum at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi will be crucial in creating and encouraging a new generation passionate about global business initiatives to complement the country's rapid and ambitious progress.

→ International recognition

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi provides the combined experience of Sorbonne University and Université Paris Cité. This rich heritage of joint excellence is now available in Abu Dhabi under the Ministry of Education and is recognised worldwide.

→ Networking

Each class will have a reduced number of students from different countries. A strict entry selection procedure will guarantee the quality of the degree and will allow you to expand your personal network with high potential peers.



Structure

The degree in International Business Transactions and International Arbitration is taught in English and covers a total of four semesters across two years. The exclusively designed course schedule includes evening classes in consideration of students who intend to combine their studies with work.

Master's thesis

Students have a choice to submit an extended essay based on their internship or a research based thesis.

Internship

For nonworking students, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi recommends to complete an internship in the second year. The internship will encourage critical thinking and improve students' reasoning abilities by blending academic theory with real life work experience. Students will benefit from a greater depth of experience working in a professional environment.

The internship also provides an excellent opportunity to gain crucial insights and improve access to various career opportunities in the region and beyond. Students will discover that this collaborative learning process can lead to enduring professional relationships, which will open doors and forge new career paths.

Year 1

C O U R S E S		
	Semester 1	Semester 2
Fundamental courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Commercial Arbitration 1 (General Principles) Comparative Contract Law (Common Law, Civil Law) Competition Law International Commercial Litigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Arbitration 2 (Local Practice) International Sales Law Company Law
Specialised courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Law in the Middle East International Transportation Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intellectual Property Law Compliance and Due Diligence in IBT

Year 2

C O U R S E S		
	Semester 1	Semester 2
Fundamental courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Business Transactions International Finance International Finance Tax Law Private International Law Issues in IBT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Investment Law and Arbitration Mergers and Acquisitions Research Methodology
Specialised courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiations Techniques ADGM 	—
Professional skills (1 elective course)	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Thesis or Internship Report Internship Report

Assessment & graduation requirements

Throughout the year, there will be frequent assessment and evaluations. Students will be evaluated on individual assignments, internships presentations, reports and examinations, which usually take place towards the end of every semester. Attendance to all classes is mandatory and it is important that students are punctual and observe university regulations at all times.



Career prospects

Employment opportunities within the government, political, media, and business law fields are lucrative and competitive as graduates with a specialisation in International Business Transactions and International Arbitration are highly sought after. For emerging and experienced professionals, career prospects are remarkably high and vary from Senior Positions in government, legal, and diplomatic institutions, NGOs, legal advisors in the private sector or as Consultants for major multinational corporations.

At the end of their studies at SUAD (Master 1 required), students have the opportunity to present the Bar exam at the Université Paris Cité. The courses of the Institute of Judicial Studies (IEJ) are now also given in a dematerialised way and can thus be followed in addition to the completion of their Master.



Admission prospects

Admission to our master's programmes is selective and competitive and each applicant will be considered on his/her own merit. Our admissions process ensures that every course has an ideal mix of people with talent, impressive interpersonal skills and a positive attitude.

General entry requirements

- Bachelor in a relevant field with a CGPA of 3 out of 4 or equivalent. Candidates with a GPA between 2.5 and 2.99 (or equivalent scores as per the equivalency table) may be conditionally admitted under probation during the first semester. The student will be authorised to continue in the programme only if they secure an average of at least 12 out of 20 which is obtained by the end of the first semester. The decision is based on academic performance and will be made official after the completion of the first semester
 - or Bachelor with minimum of 2nd class honours
 - or Bachelor with an average of 12 out of 20
 - Bachelor students with a GPA below 3 may be admitted on the ground of their professional and/or personal experience, in case they are granted a VAPP by SU's or UP's VAPP commission
 - IELTS certificate with minimum overall band of 6.0 with a validity of 2 years or TOEFL certificate with minimum score of 79 (or equivalent) with a validity of 2 years, or Native English speaker who completed 3 full years in an English-medium institution within a maximum period of 3 years or equivalent
- Shortlisted candidates will be asked to attend an interview to assess the candidate's motivation, career expectations and relevant professional experience in the degree area. Applicants who earned their undergraduate degrees from universities outside the UAE must present a Certificate of Equivalency

for their graduation certificates from the UAE Ministry of Education. Applicants, who are holders of undergraduate degrees issued by a licensed higher education institution in the UAE, are required to submit a copy of their degrees attested by the UAE Ministry of Education. For details on requirements, kindly visit the Ministry's website: Ministry of Education. Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is committed to considering applications from all students regardless of their country of origin, income, gender, religion or physical condition. For details on requirements, kindly visit the Ministry's website:

www.moe.gov.ae

Tuition Fees

AED 166,400 (approximately US\$ 45,344)

Scholarships are available for this programme* :

- 20% alumni discount
- 25% academic excellence scholarship
- 25% discount upon enrolment on a second master's degree
- 5%-15% corporate offer

Visit our website for more information.

*Conditions apply

Why Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi ?

In today's fast-paced and globalised economies, knowledge and languages both serve an important role in creating progressive and vibrant societies. The French education system is known for its high level of rigorous critical thinking and debating skills, which play a significant role in developing future pioneers and leaders.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is a globally recognised education institution that serves as a bridge between civilisations by offering a multicultural environment, which promotes and develops a strong culture of tolerance, curiosity, harmony and cultural awareness for today's modern economy. Students have access to internationally acclaimed faculty, world-class facilities and internationally certified degrees, which places them firmly on the right path in preparation for a successful career.

This degree is awarded by Université Paris Cité and officially accredited by the UAE Commission for Academic Accreditation (www.caa.ae).





**SORBONNE
UNIVERSITY
ABU DHABI**

For more information, please contact:

Tel : +971 (0) 2 656 9330/555

Email : admissions@sorbonne.ae

PO Box 38044, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

March 2025

sorbonne.ae