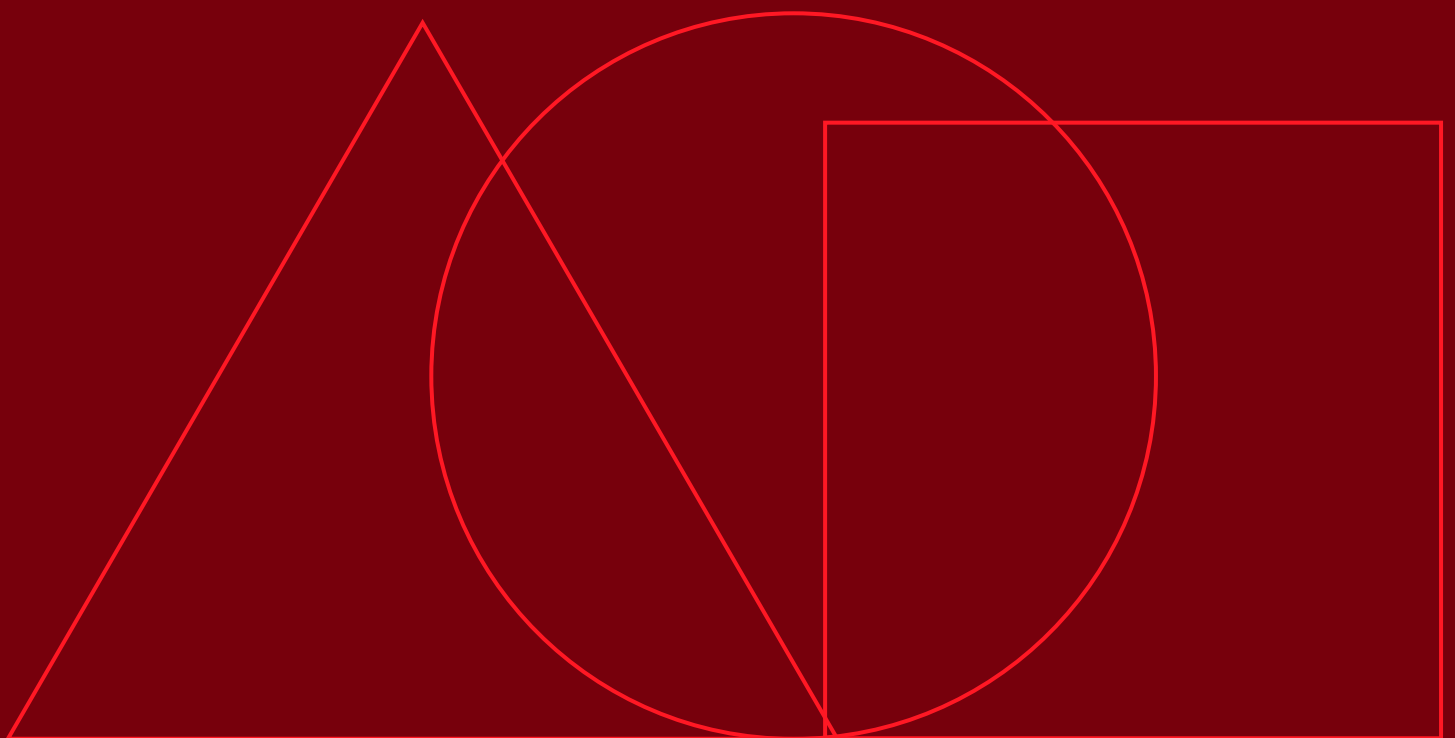


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Information sheet

Global Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration

8 to 15 September 2025
Worcester College
Oxford, UK



Diploma structure

The Diploma is an immersive course taught over 8 days. It will be hosted at Worcester College in Oxford from 8–15 September.

The course is delivered by expert tutors and speakers, with a combination of lectures and discussion workshops on international arbitration law, practice and procedure.

After successfully passing all three parts of the Diploma assessments, candidates are eligible to apply for a Peer Interview for Fellowship (FCI Arb).

The Diploma looks at the legal and practical framework of international commercial arbitration. This includes the proper drafting and interpretation of the arbitration agreement, the powers of an arbitrator, the written and oral arbitration procedure and the fundamentals of an enforceable arbitral award. It also allows candidates to explore the differences between leading international arbitration institutions.

Learning outcomes

List

- the elements required for an award to be enforceable;
- the advantages and possible disadvantages of international arbitration compared to other means of alternative dispute resolution.

Describe

- what is meant by ‘international arbitration’; also in comparison with other dispute resolution mechanisms;
- the range and limitations of an arbitrator’s powers and jurisdiction;
- the rights, duties, and responsibilities of a party to an arbitration;
- the core notions of the law applicable to the arbitration agreement, law applicable to the arbitration procedure, and the law governing the merits of the dispute;
- the types of evidence used in international arbitration;
- the role of written and oral submissions in arbitration.

Identify

- issues that arise from the parties’ submissions;
- the parties’ costs and interest;
- the relevance of signature, date and place of arbitration.

Explain

- legal procedural principles, rules and agreements relevant to international arbitration;
- the nature of the appointment of an arbitrator, the duties, powers and jurisdiction of an arbitral tribunal;
- when evidence is admissible in an arbitration;
- the legal limitations on what disputes are arbitrable;
- the methods of initiating and conducting an international arbitration;
- the relevance of the national courts and institutions in all stages in an arbitration.

Apply

- the appropriate legal procedural principles, rules and agreements which may arise in an international arbitration, including with respect to evidence, costs, and interest;
- institutional award checklist to the drafting of an arbitral award.

Develop the skills

- to draft the discursive and operative parts of the arbitral award;
- to draft the dispositive part of the arbitral award;
- to use clear, precise language in the drafting of procedural orders, decisions and awards;
- to structure arbitral awards to convey factual and legal analysis;
- to manage matters in the dispute logically and in accordance with the law;
- to manage and deal with all issues that arise throughout an arbitral process.

Syllabus

ADR processes and arbitration

- Arbitration distinguished from other forms of dispute resolution;
- Nature and limits of arbitration;
- Types of arbitration: including ad-hoc, institutional and expedited;
- Characteristics of institutional arbitration as presented by leading arbitration institutions;
- Privacy, confidentiality and transparency in arbitration

The arbitration agreement and the legal framework of arbitration

- The New York Convention, UNCITRAL Model Law, UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, and examples of national arbitration legislation;
- Arbitration agreement: validity, interpretation, enforceability;
- Law applicable to the arbitration agreement;
- Lex arbitri and lex loci arbitri, seat/place of arbitration, distinction from the venue of the hearing(s);
- Law applicable to the merits of the dispute;
- The role of state courts in the arbitral process and post-award

The arbitral tribunal

- The arbitrator's terms and conditions of appointment;
- Duties and powers of the arbitral tribunal;
- Conflicts and challenges;
- Liability of arbitrators;
- Role of arbitral tribunal secretaries

The arbitration procedure

- Commencement of arbitration, request for arbitration and answer, terms of reference/appointment;
- Managing the arbitration process: communications, preliminary meetings, interlocutory matters;
- Jurisdiction and admissibility in international arbitration;
- Burden and standard of proof;
- Types of evidence: documentary vs. non-documentary, witnesses, experts, site inspection, etc.;
- Privilege and confidentiality in evidentiary matters;
- Evidence in international arbitration; submission, admissibility and assessment of evidence

The hearing

- Opening statements and demonstratives;
- Oral closing statements and written post-hearing submissions;
- Transcripts of the hearing: addressing objections and corrections

Arbitral Award

- Remedies, costs, and interest, relevance of third-party funding in arbitration;
- Deliberations and decision-making;
- Form, content and structure of an arbitral award;
- Dissenting and concurring opinions;
- Identifying the issues for determination;
- Reasoning of the arbitral award; drafting the dispositive of the award;
- Challenges to arbitral awards;
- Recognition and enforcement of arbitral award

Assessments

Candidates will be assessed in three ways:

PART 1

Assessment: Law, Practice and Procedure of International Commercial Arbitration

Candidates submit two assignments (500 words) during the Diploma, a dissertation proposal (300 max) on an arbitration topic, including research question and potential literature list, and then a final dissertation (4,000 words) two months later.

The final dissertation is due by **18 October 2025**. It is worth 80% of the overall mark. Candidates need to obtain 55% on each assignment to pass.

Candidates who fail any assessments will be required to retake the assessment, and any failure to submit an assessment will result in a fail mark.

Part 2

Assessment: Law of Obligations

Candidates are required to demonstrate expertise on the common law and civil law of contract tort.

Candidates must pass a multiple-choice online exemption test before commencing to the final assessment. Candidates will be given a reference workbook and a mock assessment before taking the test. Candidates will have 90 minutes to take the test, and the pass mark is 70%. The deadline is 27 November 2025.

Ciarb Fellows do not need to complete the exemption test.

Part 3 Assessment: Evidence and Award Writing of International Arbitration

Candidates are required to submit an award via LearnADR.

The assessment is split into two stages.

Stage one:

The documents in the case are released via LearnADR 10 days before the assessment start date. They are sufficient to enable the candidate to review the nature of the case and the likely legal problems. Candidates should consider the recitals they intend to include and the relevant law.

Stage one is released via LearnADR 10 days before the assessment start date on **25 November 2025**.

Stage two:

This is the equivalent of the hearing stage, and includes an extract from the candidate's (i.e. the arbitrator's) notebook. This records the oral evidence and arguments the arbitrator has heard, as well as any other relevant documents. From the evidence, candidates must make their findings of fact. Different candidates will no doubt make different findings.

When candidates have made their findings of fact, they can write the award. It must be a final award that reflects the issues that they decide.

Stage two is released at 12pm noon GMT on the assessment start date, **5 December 2025**, via LearnADR.

Stage 2 will be available for five days from the assessment start date. Within the five days, candidates have 48 consecutive hours from the time they access the stage 2 documents, to submit the award onto LearnADR.

The length of the arbitral award is 10,000 words maximum.

Candidates will be marked on technical and judicial merit:

- **Technical Merit:** counts as 40% towards the overall mark.
- **Judicial Merit:** counts as 60% towards the overall mark.

Candidates must achieve 70% in both technical and judicial merit and 70% overall to pass this assessment. The detailed elements of each technical and judicial merits will be made available with Stage One.

Results are sent to candidates 12 weeks from the deadline date of the submission.

Research supporters



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