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IISTL PLACEMENTS IN THE UK





Berk Bayraktar

Senior Claims Executive (Marine), Thomas Miller Claims Management, Newcastle

THOMAS
MILLER
CLAIMS MANAGEMENT

Berk obtained his LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2021–2022) with Distinction, having previously qualified as a lawyer in Türkiye. As part of the January 2021 intake, he secured an offer for a Claims Executive (P&I and FD&D) position with Thomas Miller Claims Management before completing his LLM, subsequently joining the company in Newcastle in January 2022. He progressed from Trainee Claims Executive (Marine) to Claims Executive (Marine), and has been a Senior Claims Executive (Marine) since July 2026, handling a wide range of Owners' and Charterers' P&I claims and FD&D matters, including casualties and complex, high-value disputes worldwide. In 2026, Berk was recognised among Spinnaker Global's 30 Under 30 maritime professionals.

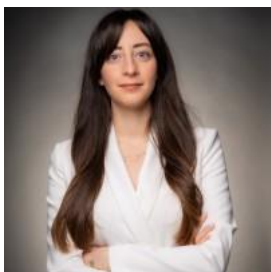


Michael Biltsoo

Partner, DWF Law LLP, London



Michael completed his LLB and LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2000–2006). He began his career as a Paralegal and Solicitor at Waltons and Morse (2003–2016), then spent over eight years at Kennedys, where he was promoted from Senior Associate to Partner in 2018. He has been a Partner at DWF Law LLP in London since July 2025. His main focus is on marine insurance and the shipping sector, regularly involved in dispute resolution in dry shipping matters, particularly charterparty disputes. He has experience with carriage of goods by sea disputes, representing cargo insurers in a wide variety of disputes. Michael's experience spans both the High Court and numerous LMAA and ICC arbitrations, and he has represented clients in a number of successful mediations.



HANNAFORD
TURNER LLP

Ece Birinci

Solicitor, Hannaford Turner LLP, London

Ece is a dual-qualified solicitor (England & Wales and Istanbul Bar) with nearly 11 years of experience in maritime law. She completed her LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University, where she found the IISTL teaching team remarkable and the Employability module invaluable. She began her career at AKT Law Firm in Istanbul, progressing from Legal Intern to Associate and then Senior Associate, focusing on ship finance, project financing, and cross-border transactions. She joined Hannaford Turner LLP in London in 2022 as a Paralegal and has been a Solicitor since 2023, advising banks, shipowners, and shipyards on complex cross-border financings, syndicated loans, newbuild and delivery-stage financings, corporate and asset financing, and restructurings.



Deven Choudhary
Legal Manager, Campbell Johnston Clark, Newcastle upon Tyne

Deven is an experienced India-qualified lawyer with a demonstrated history of working in the maritime industry, skilled in both dry and wet shipping claims. He completed his LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2019–2020). Prior to his LLM, he worked as a Shipping Claims Analyst at Scorpio Marine Management (India) Pvt. Ltd. in Mumbai, and gained early legal experience through internships at Kachwaha & Partners, ALMT Legal, and J. Sagar Associates in India. He has been a Legal Manager at Campbell Johnston Clark in Newcastle upon Tyne since July 2020. Deven credits his Swansea LLM with expanding his horizons and enabling him to plan strategically for his career in the maritime industry.





Sarah Cruz

Head of Complaints, AXIS (AXIS Capital), London

Sarah completed her LLM in International Commercial and Maritime Law at Swansea University (2012) and the Legal Practice Course (LPC) at Swansea University (2015). She began her career as a Legal Trainee at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, then worked as a Paralegal at Hugh James in Cardiff. She moved into claims and complaints management, serving as a PI Claims Handler and PI Claims Team Leader at ERS, then as a Claims Team Leader and Complaints Manager & Team Leader at UIA (Insurance) Ltd. She joined AXIS (AXIS Capital) in 2022 as a Complaints Manager, was promoted to Customer Operations Manager in 2023, and has been Head of Complaints since October 2025. Her expertise includes FCA Regulations, ICOBS, PRODs, DISP Rules, Treating Customers Fairly (TCF), and Conduct Risk principles.





Sarah C.

Head of Complaints, AXIS (AXIS Capital), London



Sarah completed her LLM in International Commercial and Maritime Law at Swansea University (2012) and the Legal Practice Course (LPC) at Swansea University (2015). She began her career as a Legal Trainee at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, then worked as a Paralegal at Hugh James in Cardiff. She moved into claims and complaints management, serving as a PI Claims Handler and PI Claims Team Leader at ERS, then as a Claims Team Leader and Complaints Manager & Team Leader at UIA (Insurance) Ltd. She joined AXIS (AXIS Capital) in 2022 as a Complaints Manager, was promoted to Customer Operations Manager in 2023, and has been Head of Complaints since October 2025. Her expertise includes FCA Regulations, ICOBS, PRODs, DISP Rules, Treating Customers Fairly (TCF), and Conduct Risk principles.



Ekaterina Danzas
Senior Contract & Tender Engineer, Purus, Newcastle upon Tyne

Purus

Ekaterina completed her LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2021–2022). Having prior experience in marine insurance, she chose modules in Marine Insurance, Charterparties, Carriage of Goods by Sea, Land and Air, and Admiralty Law. Despite not having a law degree, she found the programme adaptive and well-structured, and credits the teaching staff for their expertise and motivation. She began her career in the maritime industry at AlfaStrakhovanie in Moscow as a Leading Expert in the Marine Claim Handling Division, and later worked at OOO "Absolut Strakhovanie" as a Senior Expert in Marine Claims Handling. She joined Purus HST as a Contract & Tender Engineer in June 2022, shortly after completing her LLM, and has been a Senior Contract & Tender Engineer at Purus since March 2024.



Xabier Gutiérrez Echevarría

H&M Broker, WTW, London



Xabier completed his LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2020–2021). He began his career in the maritime insurance sector as a Marine Account Handler at Marsh in Birmingham, then moved to London as a Client Executive/Broker at Marsh. He later worked as a Broker at Atlantic Insurance & Reinsurance Brokers, and since February 2025 has been an H&M Broker at WTW in London. Xabier credits his Swansea LLM with making a real difference in the UK job market, especially as a candidate without a prior British qualification, and advises current students to start their job search early, show resilience, and make full use of the School's employability support and the professors' market knowledge.



Nanami Hara

Average Adjuster, Blue Seas Adjusters Limited, London



Nanami completed her LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2015–2016) with Distinction. She is a Fellow of the Association of Average Adjusters. Prior to her LLM, she worked as an Average Adjuster at Richards Hogg Lindley (RHL) and Charles Taylor in Tokyo, Japan (2010–2015), and after graduating from Swansea, she returned to RHL in London as an Average Adjuster, later becoming a Senior Average Adjuster (2018–2023). She also worked as a Senior Hull Adjuster at RELA – Renewable Energy Loss Adjusters (2023–2024). Nanami has been an Average Adjuster at Blue Seas Adjusters Limited in London since September 2024.



Rui Hao
Director, Richards Hogg Lindley (RHL), London



Rui completed his LLM at Swansea University and began his career as a trainee average adjuster at Richards Hogg Lindley (RHL – part of Charles Taylor) in the Liverpool office in 2013. He transferred to the Hong Kong office in 2014, and was based in the Shanghai office between 2015 and 2020. In 2020 he qualified as a Fellow of the Association of Average Adjusters. He relocated to RHL's Liverpool office in 2020 and to London in 2022. He progressed through the firm as Adjuster/Assistant Manager, Manager, and Associate Director, and has been Director since August 2024, based in Greater London.



Capt. Anshuman Jain, LLM AFNI

Director & Founder, Marine Counsel Ltd., Glasgow

Anshuman is an ex-Master Mariner with over 12 years of sailing experience, primarily on Type 1/Type 2 Chemical Tankers and Oil Tankers, and 10 years of shore-based experience managing HSSEQ and operational matters. He holds an LLM in International Maritime Law from Swansea University with Distinction, where his core modules were Maritime Claims, Marine Insurance, Charterparties, and Litigation/Arbitration. He founded Marine Counsel Ltd. in July 2023, providing client-focused solutions on marine matters, including inspections, audits, remote VDR audits, marine warranty surveys, accident investigation, and shore management training. He is also a Nautical Inspector for the Marshall Islands and a Flag State Inspector & Investigator for Liberia. In February 2024, he founded Bepositive Marine Ltd. and Bepositive Gaming Ltd., offering Port State Control eLearning courses and mental wellbeing games. He previously worked as HSSEQ Manager at V Ships UK Ltd in Glasgow.



Omkar Joshi

Master Mariner, Clyde & Co, London



Omkar is a Master Mariner specialising in shipping matters. He combines operational sea-going experience with shipping and marine industry expertise and is known for his practical, commercially focused approach to marine disputes. He completed his LLM at Swansea University, where he credits the faculty's vast experience and the university's employability initiatives and alumni network with helping him aim high and build industry connections. He previously worked as a Master Mariner at MFB in London, and now works at Clyde & Co in London, with regional experience spanning multiple jurisdictions.



Jayashanker Kizhakkedath

P&I Claims Executive – Nordics & Northern Europe, NorthStandard, Newcastle



Jayashanker is a Master Mariner with years of sea-going experience as a Master on oil tankers and experience on VLCCs and product tankers. He joined NorthStandard in 2023 as a P&I Claims Executive for the Nordics & Northern Europe region. He completed his LLM at Swansea University, which he credits with opening his views on International Maritime Law and giving him insight into how the marine insurance industry operates. His first-hand command experience, combined with his qualification in maritime law and work with a law firm in India, gives him a solid foundation to help members achieve the best possible claims outcomes. He also notes that NorthStandard has a large number of Swansea alumni who would vouch for the LLM programme.



Arunabh Kumar

P&I Claims Executive, NorthStandard, Newcastle



Arunabh is a Master Mariner (Unlimited) with sea-going experience in the Merchant Navy (2004–2016). He transitioned to shore-based maritime law and claims roles, working as a Claims Executive and later Senior Claims Executive at AeghisCorp Maritime Ventures LLP in Mumbai (2016–2022). He completed his LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2022–2023) with Merit, focusing on Carriage of Goods by Sea, Charterparties, Admiralty Law, and Law of Marine Insurance. He credits the programme's core modules, the expertise of his professors, the Employability module, and industry networking opportunities with helping him secure his current role. He has been a P&I Claims Executive at NorthStandard in Newcastle upon Tyne since October 2023.



Nilasha Raha
Senior Claims Adjuster – Marine, AXA XL, London



Nilasha completed her LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University with Upper Merit, where she received the IISTL Prize for the highest performance in Marine Insurance and the HFW Best Skeleton Award for Maritime Law. She is an Indian-qualified Advocate, a Registered Foreign Lawyer (RFL) with the SRA, and holds the LPC and GDL. She has over five years of experience handling complex aviation, marine cargo, transport, and personal injury claims across the London market and international jurisdictions. She previously worked as an Aviation Liability Adjuster at McLaren's Aviation, a Claims Adjuster at Nexus Underwriting, and a Marine Claims Adjuster at Parsyl. Nilasha now works as a Senior Claims Adjuster – Marine at AXA XL in London, managing cargo, stock throughput, and warehouse claims within a Lloyd's environment.



Karin Garfjeld Roberts

Treaty Broker – Divisional Director, Gallagher Re, London

Karin completed her LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2015–2016) with Distinction. During her studies, she was awarded the IISTL Prize for earning the highest mark for her LLM dissertation, the Charterparties Prize, and a Certificate of Achievement for coming in the top 10% of the class. She was also elected Student Representative for the 2015/16 LLM class. Prior to her LLM, she worked as a Casualty Facultative Underwriter at Gen Re in London. After graduating, she joined Willis Towers Watson as a Treaty Broker in 2016, and she has been a Treaty Broker – Divisional Director at Gallagher Re in London since October 2016. Her role involves analysing complex exposure information, claims data, and policy wordings, advising clients on reinsurance structures, available coverage and capacity, and negotiating with reinsurers.





Vineet Sabharwal

Vessel Manager (CSOVs), Purus, Swansea

Purus

Vineet is a Master Mariner with extensive sea-going experience in the carriage of crude oil and products. He began his career in the merchant navy in 2000 and has served with well-established shipping companies including BW Shipping, MOBIL, and NYK Ship Management. He worked as a Master Mariner at NYK Ship Management Private Limited from 2006 to 2020, and also worked as a Maritime Lecturer at Fosma Maritime Institute & Research Organisation in India. He completed his LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2021–2022). He then worked as a Vessel Manager at Purus HST (2022–2026) before becoming Vessel Manager (CSOVs) at Purus in Swansea in December 2025. He credits his Swansea LLM with broadening his perspective on how the maritime industry responds to English law, and with giving him access to a respected faculty and industry professionals that helped him transition into the maritime renewables sector.



Nazmus Sakib

Marine Surveyor, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Southampton



Nazmus is a UK-certified Master Mariner with over 12 years of sea-going experience, having worked with "K" Line (Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd) in Singapore as Deck Cadet, 3rd Officer, 2nd Officer, Chief Officer, and Master Mariner (2010–2022). He also gained legal experience as a Legal Intern at MCLaw Services in Bangladesh, and completed a work experience internship at the UK P&I Club. He completed his LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2022–2023) with Distinction, focusing on Admiralty Law and other core modules. He then joined the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in Southampton, where he worked as a Technical Advisor (2023–2025), Nautical Manager (2025–2026), and has been a Marine Surveyor since September 2026. He is also a member of The Nautical Institute. He credits his Swansea LLM with playing a pivotal role in securing his current position, citing the university's strong maritime reputation, the international class composition, and the employability module as key factors.



Frosso Stefanopoulou

P&I Claims Executive – Greece, NorthStandard, Newcastle



Frosso is a Greek-qualified lawyer who completed her LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2021–2022) with Merit, specialising in Marine Insurance and Charterparties. She joined NorthStandard in September 2022 as a P&I Claims Assistant in the Greek department, and was promoted to P&I Claims Executive in July 2025. She actively assists the P&I team in Newcastle and Greece with all types of P&I claims and enquiries, handling cargo claims and contract review. She is currently working towards the International Group's P&I qualification to further enhance her knowledge and skills.



Sagun Sudhir

Senior Associate, Tatham & Co, London



Sagun completed his LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2017–2018) with 77.25%, where he was awarded the IISTL Prize for the best LLM dissertation, the Ince & Co Prize for the best performing LLM student, and the HFW Prize in Carriage of Goods. He also participated in the Mooting Competition as a runner-up and had the opportunity to argue a case before Lord Mance at the Supreme Court in London. He began his career as a Junior Associate at Bose & Mitra & Co in Mumbai, then moved to London as an Associate (Registered Foreign Lawyer) at Sea Green Law, where he worked for over six years. He also completed a secondment as a Lawyer in the Defence Team at Gard AS in London. He joined Tatham & Co in April 2025 as an Associate and was promoted to Senior Associate in September 2025. Sagun has work experience in three different jurisdictions and has been exposed to various aspects of maritime law, including charterparty disputes, cargo claims, ship arrests, bunker disputes, and sanctions.



Beyza Torlak

Claims Handler, West, London



Beyza is a qualified Turkish lawyer with experience in the shipping industry. She completed her LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2022–2023). During her studies, she gained legal experience as a Legal Intern at Esenyel Partners in Istanbul, and completed summer internships at Torlak Shipyard and Torlak Shipping. After graduating from Swansea, she joined LA Marine in Bournemouth as a Paralegal (2023–2025). She has been a Claims Handler at West in London since September 2025. She has a deep understanding of cases related to demurrage and detention, P&I Club matters, cargo interests, and contracts, thanks to her strong background in maritime law and her experience as a Legal Associate and Paralegal. She has actively participated in court proceedings, conducted thorough research, and assisted in the preparation of legal documents. Beyza credits her Swansea LLM with providing the valuable knowledge that is now integrated into her professional life.



HANNAFORD
TURNER LLP

Vishesh Barjeev Tyagi

Associate, Hannaford Turner LLP, London

Vishesh is a Solicitor in England and Wales and an Advocate in India. He completed his LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2022–2023). He specialises in Ship and Aviation Finance, Ship Sale and Purchase contracts, and Shipbuilding contracts. He began his career at Hannaford Turner LLP as an Intern in September 2023, then worked as a Paralegal on a contract basis from September 2023 to March 2026, and was promoted to Associate in March 2026. He credits the IISTL and the opportunities it provided with helping him grow both personally and professionally, and he is grateful for the support he received throughout his LLM year.



Ina Wang

**Insurance Executive – Global Marine, Cargo and Logistics Risk,
United Kingdom**

Ina is a results-focused insurance executive with over 15 years of experience navigating the complexities of global marine, cargo, and logistics risk. She completed her LLM in Maritime Law at Swansea University. Her career is defined by a unique blend of logistics underwriting, legal expertise, and a "commercial-first" mindset. She previously worked as a Marine Underwriter at AIG in London, specialising in Logistics/Multimodal Transportation/Freight Forwarders/Hauliers and Warehouse Keepers' risks, and as the Legal and Insurance Manager at Bolloré Logistics UK. She now focuses on developing innovative cargo insurance solutions for the global supply chain, with core expertise in strategic growth, innovative underwriting and bespoke logistics, product design, legal and risk analytics, and leadership.



James White

Senior Claims Executive, The Shipowners' Club, London



James completed his LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University (2014–2015) with Distinction, where he elected modules including Admiralty Law. Immediately after completing his LLM, he was offered a position at Charles Taylor plc in London, where he worked as a Claims Assistant and later Claims Executive (2016–2020). He joined The Shipowners' Club in March 2020 as a Claims Executive and was promoted to Senior Claims Executive in January 2024. The Shipowners' Club is the leading P&I insurer in the smaller and specialist vessel sector, providing members with claims handling and general support in all kinds of P&I-related matters.



Lynn (Rosslynn) Yin

Partner, Asserson Law Offices, Stockport

Lynn completed her LLM in International Trade Law at Swansea University (2003–2004) with Distinction, and also holds an LLB in Law with American Studies from Swansea. After completing her LPC at BPP Law School (Distinction), she trained at Eversheds Sutherland and qualified into the Commercial Dispute Resolution team, where she worked as an Associate from 2016 to 2022. She then joined Asserson as a Senior Associate (2022–2023), was promoted to Legal Director (2024–2025), and has been a Partner since January 2026. Lynn advises on a broad range of commercial disputes, from contractual claims to reputation management issues such as defamation, and provides strategic advice to household name clients. Her experience includes an £80m breach of contract and economic duress dispute, defending against public interest winding up petitions, a multi-million pound cross-border fatal accident dispute, and a high-profile £50m+ dispute involving cutting-edge legal issues.

 ASSERSON



Dr Yang Zhao

**Senior Counsel, London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA),
London**



Yang is an English and Chinese dual-qualified solicitor. He completed his LLM in Commercial and Maritime Law at Swansea University with Distinction, and then undertook PhD research at Cambridge University under the supervision of Professor Malcolm Clarke. He trained with Herbert Smith Freehills in London (2009–2011), qualifying in England and Wales in September 2011. He then worked as an Associate Solicitor at Eversheds LLP in the international arbitration group (2011–2014), followed by a role as Associate at Holman Fenwick Willan LLP (HFW) in London (2014–2015), focusing on international commercial litigation and arbitration, shipping, insurance, and logistics disputes. He joined the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) in August 2015 as Counsel, and has been a Senior Counsel since August 2021.



Leo (Zhuoran) Fan

Claims Executive, NorthStandard, London

Leo completed his LLM in Maritime Law at Swansea University (2021–2022), where he studied Marine Insurance, Carriage of Goods, Charterparty, and Admiralty. Coming from a non-legal background, he found the programme's teaching style accommodating and benefited from the "tasting menu" of modules during induction week. He gained practical legal knowledge that prepared him for technical questions during his interview. He completed a student internship at Stephenson Harwood LLP in September 2022, then joined NorthStandard as a Claims Assistant in October 2022. He was promoted to Claims Executive in July 2025.





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