



CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data			
Awarding Institution	UWE, Bristol		
Teaching Institution	UWE, Bristol		
Delivery Location	UWE, Bristol - Frenchay.		
Study abroad / Eallchange / Credit recognition	n/a		
Faculty responsible for programme	Faculty of Business and Law		
Department responsible for programme	Law: Bristol Institute of Legal Practice		
Modular Scheme Title	n/a		
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	Bar Standards Board – re-accredited May 2009 for three years from Sept 2010 valid until July 2013 and then again until July 2016 and most recently until 2017		
Highest Award Title	Postgraduate Diploma in Bar Professional Training		
Default Award Title	n/a		
Fall-back Award Title	n/a		
Interim Award Titles	n/a		
UWE Progression Route	LLM		
Mode(s) of Delivery	Full time and Part-time		
Codes	<b>UCAS:</b>	<b>JACS:</b>	
	<b>ISIS2:</b> M30D12 (FT) M630D62 (PT)	<b>HESA:</b>	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Law		
First CAP Approval Date	QSC - 28 April 2010	Valid from	May 2010
Revision CAP Approval Date	1 June 2016	Revised with effect from	September 2016
Version	2		
Review Date	On revision this will now be 2022		

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The overarching aims of the BPTC are:

- to prepare students of the Inns of Court for pupillage at the Bar of England and Wales
- to enable students of the Inns from overseas jurisdictions to acquire the skills required for pupillage at the Bar of England and Wales, thereby assisting them to undertake further training or practice in their home jurisdiction.

## Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The Specific objectives of the course are:

- to bridge the gap between the academic study of law and the practice of law
- to provide the foundation for the development of excellence in advocacy
- to inculcate a professional and ethical approach to practice as a barrister
- to prepare students for practice in a culturally diverse society
- to prepare students for the further training to be given in pupillage
- to equip students to perform competently in matters in which they are likely to be briefed during pupillage
- to lay the foundation for future practice, whether in chambers or as an employed barrister, and
- to encourage students to take responsibility for their own professional development

## Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

Students acquire the key knowledge and skills sets to equip them for a future career as a barrister whether in private practice in England or Wales, at the Employed Bar or indeed in practice in commonwealth countries.

Key knowledge is dealt with in Ethics and Litigation modules and skills acquired through Advocacy, Conferencing, Opinion Writing and Drafting modules. The BPTC is prefaced on a holistic approach to teaching; knowledge permeating the skills in addition to being taught discreetly. Students acquire additional skills through optional subject modules.

There are numerous opportunities for students to participate in extra-curricular activities including chambers sponsored mooting and advocacy competitions, practitioner led advocacy sessions and pro-bono work.

Students are required to pass each of the 12 modules at 60% or more in order to graduate. Most graduate with a very competent grading ( having achieved 70% aggregate percentage or 8 very competent grades)

### Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

*This section should set out what a student is expected to know, understand and be able to do on successful completion of the programme. It will be particularly important for an approval panel to be able to judge the extent to which these reflect the Educational Aims set out in Section 2.*

*The Learning Outcomes should be set out under the following four headings:*

*A. Knowledge and Understanding (subject specific)*

*What a student, on successful completion of the proposed programme (or at different stages within it) is expected to know and understand about the subject.*

*B. Intellectual Skills (generic)*

*Those cognitive skills which a student is expected to be able to demonstrate upon successful completion of the proposed programme, eg critical thinking, analysis, synthesis of different types of information, evaluation, problem solving, application and testing of hypotheses, etc.*

*C. Subject/Professional/Practical Skills (subject specific)*

*Any subject specific, professional or practical skills which are expected to be developed by a student successfully completing the programme. They may include skills of manipulation or observation (e.g, in a laboratory or field setting), design, production, or may be related to researching (a topic or problem), using and processing information or analysing textual content etc.*

*D. Transferable Skills and other attributes (generic)*

*An indication of the generic skills which successful completion of the programme is likely to enhance, eg key skills of numeracy, communication, ability to use information technology and learning to learn.*

*Where work-based or work-place learning is an intended part of the proposed programme, the team will need to ensure that the learning outcomes are clearly articulated and contribute to the overall aims of the programme.*

*Learning outcomes with an Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) content should be highlighted. There is no expectation that all modules within a programme will consider ESD but in order to meet the expectation that a programme will consider ESD **modules at each level of study must explicitly consider ESD.***





## **Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support**

### **Teaching and learning strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated**

On the Postgraduate Diploma in Bar Professional Training programme teaching is a mix of scheduled large group and small group sessions of varying duration to include round the table knowledge classes; oral skills classes; written skills classes. A number of the skills sessions will include tutor, student and practitioner demonstrations. All students will be required to role play in conferencing and advocacy sessions. Students are required to prepare independently for all sessions in advance of attending the sessions.

In addition to the high level of face to face contact with students in relation to the taught compulsory modules, there are:

- Advocacy competitions and the St John's Mooting Competition are all run in conjunction with the local Bar and illustrate the very strong links which the course has with local Chambers, Judiciary and the Western Circuit. The finals of these competitions were held in the Bristol Courts and Judged by HHJ Wildblood QC (Family presiding judge, Bristol),(Albion Family Advocacy Competition); HHJ Cullum (Albion Chambers Criminal Advocacy Competition) and HHJ McCahill QC (Guildhall Chambers Civil Advocacy Competition) respectively, all of whom commented favourably on the high standard of advocacy demonstrated by the finalists before them. Further, a number of practitioners who delivered advocacy 'master classes' reported favourably on the quality of the student submissions that they had observed.
- Career guidance sessions in the form of guest presentations from the local bar and judiciary, CV writing clinics as well as mock pupillage interviews with a number of local barristers attending to make up the interviewing panels.
- Excellent opportunities which many students take of participating in the highly regarded and award-winning Pro Bono initiatives which are available to them.
- Mediation training course and accreditation at the end of the BPTC teaching block in order to further enhance their employability skills.

"The UWE students have consistently reported very high levels of satisfaction with their programme (in contrast with some of their peers from other providers). The prevailing theme is that UWE staff really take the time to get to know the students and to bring the best out of them." ( Eloise Power, External Examiner and Gray's Inn Advocacy trainer)

The BSB has commended the team in its reports on the visits held at this institution in February 2015 and March 2016 in relation to the quality of the teaching, availability of staff, structure of the course and range of extra-curricular activities.

The BSB panel in its 2015 visit also wished to commend the work done so far to enable and support students with significant levels of disability, and to encourage staff to develop on this experience into pro-active expertise.

The BSB published data ( November 2015) shows UWE achieving the Highest 1<sup>st</sup> time pass rate of all BPTC providers as at Nov 2013 ( 1<sup>st</sup> time pass) and the Highest percentage of outstanding students of all the providers as at Nov 2013. Additional data also shows UWE achieving the highest percentage of outstanding for 2.2. entry level students at November 2013; highest percentage of outstanding for international students as well as the highest pass rate and highest percentage of outstanding students of all part time programmes 2011& 2012

### **Description of the teaching resources provided for students**

- Paper and electronic materials distributed to students in advance of all sessions ( at the commencement of the course) ( sessions plans, briefs and handouts)
- Additional materials to support the knowledge preparation by way of SAQ and MCQ questions

#### **Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support**

available online

- Demonstrations to support conferencing and advocacy classes available online
- Core text manuals distributed at the commencement of the course
- Practitioner texts namely The White Book and Blackstone's Criminal Litigation

#### **Description of any Distinctive Features**

We provide a professional course that demands students to demonstrate professional attributes in their preparation, attendance and participation in class. It is a rigorous professional post graduate course and therefore the teaching and support needs to be of a high quality to ensure that the students can perform to their fullest potential. The Bar standards Board requires high standards of the students and of the teaching staff providing the course.

#### **Part 5: Assessment**

##### **Approved variant to University Academic Regulations and Procedures**

Bar Professional Training Course Assessment Regulations ([link](#))

#### **Assessment Strategy**

Assessment strategy to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:  
Regulated by Bar Standards Board in terms of learning outcomes, weighting for individual subjects and grading boundaries. Additionally the knowledge modules (Civil Litigation, Criminal Litigation and Ethics) are set and marked centrally by the Bar Standards Board.

- Formative assessment in class
- Practice assessments with grading and feedback based on published assessment criteria and assessed as at final assessment stage
- Final assessments at the end of that module delivery ( End of January – May)

**Part 5: Assessment**

**Assessment Map**

The programme encompasses a range of **assessment methods** including; Invigilated closed book examinations set centrally, open book invigilated written skills assessments and oral skills assessments. These are detailed in the following assessment map:

**Assessment Map for Postgraduate Diploma in Bar Professional Training**

		Type of Assessment*									
		Unseen Written Exam	Open Book Written Exam	In-class Written Test	Practical Exam	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral assessment and/or presentation	Written Assignment	Report / Project	Dissertation	Portfolio
<b>Compulsory Modules</b>	Civil Advocacy					A (100)					
	Civil Litigation, Remedies and Evidence	A (100)									
	Conferencing Skills					A (100)					
	Criminal Litigation, Evidence and Sentencing	A (100)									
	Opinion Writing		A (100)								
	Drafting		A (100)								
	Professional Conduct	A (100)									
	Resolution of Disputes Out of Court	A (100)									
	Criminal Advocacy					A (100) x 2					
	Legal Research Methods (underpins all assessments)										


\*Assessment should be shown in terms of either **Written Exams**, **Practical exams**, or **Coursework** as indicated by the colour coding above.



**Part 6: Programme Structure**

PG Diploma Bar Professional Training Studies

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **full time student**, including:  
 level and credit requirements  
 interim award requirements  
 module diet, including compulsory and optional modules

ENTRY	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Target Award
	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Advocacy UJXUS6-20-M</li> <li>• Civil Litigation, Remedies and Evidence UJXUS7-15-M</li> <li>• Conferencing Skills UJXUS8-5-M</li> <li>• Criminal Litigation, Evidence and Sentencing UJXUS9-15-M</li> <li>• Opinion Writing UJXUSA-10-M</li> <li>• Drafting UJXU69-10-M</li> <li>• Professional Conduct UJXUSB-10-M</li> <li>• Resolution of Disputes Out of Court UJXUSC-5-M</li> <li>• Criminal Advocacy UJXUSN -20-M</li> <li>• Legal Research Methods UJXTR7-0-M</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Negligence UJXUSE-10-M</li> <li>• Commercial Law UJXTRA-10-M</li> <li>• Criminal Law UJALLUSF-10-M</li> <li>• Employment UJXUSH-10-M</li> <li>• Family Law UJXUSJ-10-M</li> <li>• Refugee and Asylum Law UJXUSK-10-M</li> <li>• International Trade UJXUSL-10-M</li> <li>• Landlord and Tenant UJXUSM-10-M</li> </ul>	<p>Postgraduate Diploma in Bar Professional Training</p> <p><i>Credit requirements</i> 130 credits at Level M</p>

**GRADUATION**

PG Diploma Bar Professional Training Studies - **Part Time**

ENTRY		Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules
Year 1		Conferencing Skills UJXUS8-5-M  Criminal Litigation, Evidence and Sentencing UJXUS9-15-M  Professional Conduct UJXUSB-10-M  Criminal Advocacy UJXASN -20-M	None
		Civil Advocacy UJXUS6-20-M  Civil Litigation, Remedies and Evidence UJXUS7-15-M  Opinion Writing UJXUSA-10-M  Drafting UJXU69-10-M  Resolution of Disputes Out of Court UJXUSC-5-M  Legal Research Methods UJXTR7-0-M	Clinical Negligence UJXUSE-10-M  Commercial Law UJXTRA-10-M  Criminal Law UJXUSF-10-M  Employment UJXUSH-10-M  Family Law UJXUSJ-10-M  Refugee and Asylum Law UJXUSK-10-M  International Trade UJXUSL-10-M  Landlord and Tenant UJXUSM-10-M
Year 2			

**Part 7: Entry Requirements**

Minimum lower second law degree or in another discipline plus the Graduate Diploma in Law; passing the BSB aptitude test and IELTS i.e. attaining 7.5 in each component at one sitting

## Part 8: Reference Points and Benchmarks

Description of **how** the following reference points and benchmarks have been used in the design of the programme:

Professional Body requirements as set out in the Bar Standard's Board Blue book regulate the course content and design.

What methods have been used in the development of this programme to evaluate and improve the quality and standards of learning? This could include consideration of stakeholder feedback from, for example current students, graduates and employers.

BSB commendations and recommendations

Feedback from external examiners

Feedback from the Local Bar and Judiciary ( master classes and competitions)

Feedback from Western Circuit trainers on competency of graduates

Student feedback in SR/SF x 4 academic year

Student evaluations x 2 academic year

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications, available on the [University's website](#).