



Programme Specification

Bar Training Course [Frenchay]

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Bar Training Course [Frenchay]

Highest award: PGDip Bar Training Course

Interim award: PGCert Legal Knowledge

Interim award: PGCert Legal Skills

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: No

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CBL Bristol Law School, College of Business and Law

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:

Bar Standards Board (BSB)

Modes of delivery: Full-time, Part-time

Entry requirements: For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

For implementation from: 01 September 2020

Programme code: M30U42

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The programme will be undertaken by students intending to pursue a career in law and in particular, to qualify as a barrister and be called to the Bar.

The Programme aims to equip graduates with the legal knowledge and skills to succeed with a career in legal practice, by undertaking a programme which has a professional focus (with professional body validation of the modules leading to Interim Awards). The Programme provides progression for a student from their academic legal studies to their vocational stage of training, it provides students with a foundation for legal practice, equipping them with the legal knowledge, skills and commercial understanding to succeed in a career as a barrister; while also preparing them for work-based learning.

The Programme offers practice orientated learning with a Teaching & Learning Strategy which focuses on student centered learning. Students prepare for legal practice, both through undertaking the programme, but also by engaging in a range of extracurricular activities. The programme benefits from strong links with the local Bar and Western Circuit.

The compulsory modules are delivered in a combined programme, that seeks to develop acquisition of knowledge in the subjects of Civil Litigation and Criminal both through specific knowledge modules which lead to centralised assessments, but also through the application of that knowledge in the skills modules.

Features of the programme: 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

Educational Aims: The overarching aims of the Programme 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.

The Specific objectives of the Programme 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 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 Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

- PO1. Apply legal knowledge in the interests of the client.
- PO2. Evaluate a set of facts in order to advise on a course of action and to draft relevant documentation.
- PO3. Analyse and evaluate factual situations and arguments to identify those matters which are likely to be important for the purposes of giving legal advice or reaching final outcome.
- PO4. Evidence comprehensive knowledge of ethical standards.
- PO5. Demonstrate professional behaviour and ethical conduct.
- PO6. Apply legal research skills in various contexts.
- PO7. Persuade by means of fluent and articulate advocacy in a variety of legal contexts.

PO8. Create cogent and persuasive submissions in court.

Assessment strategy: The Assessment Strategy for the assessment of compulsory modules is subject to overriding Professional Body requirements determined by the Bar Standards Board

Assessment of the knowledge modules (Civil Litigation and Criminal Litigation,) is by way of assessments set and marked centrally by the Bar Standards Board. These are unseen closed book assessments, utilising SBA/SAQ s. Additionally there is a second paper for Civil Litigation and Evidence that is open book and in which rolling case scenarios are used to form the basis of assessment.

Assessment of the oral skills modules (Civil Advocacy, Criminal Advocacy and Conferencing) is by way of oral skills assessments, including assessment set in a courtroom context for the advocacy modules.

Assessment of the written skills module is a combination of an open book take home assessment; (Opinion Writing and Legal Research) and an open book Invigilated assessment Drafting).

There is extensive use of formative assessments to (i) develop your skills to undertake assessments on the programme and (ii) encourage you to reflect on your learning and identify the learning needs. Many formative assessment exercises are undertaken in exam conditions, you will receive feedback and the majority are marked by tutors.

Student support: The teaching and learning strategy for Programme adopts a student-centered approach with face-to-face teaching and learning in a workshop environment. It is one of blended learning, infusing face-to-face contact between you and tutors with technology to create a coherent and effective learning structure.

Face-to-face delivery is complemented by use of the University's Virtual Learning

Environment (Blackboard) through which you can access all materials; and undertake interactive exercises/tests.

In anticipation of you progressing to a broad range of legal practice, the structure of the Programme and content of each module has been designed to appeal across the legal market.

Programme teaching leading for the Compulsory Modules is a mix of scheduled large group and small group sessions. A number of the skills sessions will include tutor, student and practitioner demonstrations. You will be required to role-play in conferencing and advocacy sessions. You will also be required to prepare independently for all sessions in advance of attending the sessions.

Preparatory tasks for each small group session may be undertaken by you working alone or working in groups. Tasks will include attending large group sessions reading from course manuals and practitioner texts; reading and research from primary source material; completion of electronic tests; case study preparation; drafting documentation, or preparing presentations.

Each small group session will provide you with opportunities to consolidate your preparatory work and then develop your knowledge and understanding through tasks undertaken in collaboration with your peers, which feedback is given both by student colleagues and tutors

Consolidation tasks are designed to broaden and deepen your understanding of some/all of the work covered in the relevant small group session.

Although there are discreet small/large group sessions for the development of your key legal skills, you will also develop and transition into a barrister by taking part in pervasive skills exercises throughout all the modules. A similar approach is taken in the development of your knowledge of matters relating to Professional Ethics which will be taught both discretely and pervasively.

You are allocated to a group at the start of the Programme. Each group has a

dedicated personal tutor, who will usually be the first port of call for you in seeking support in relation to your studies, personal issues, etc. careers advice. In addition, further support will be provided by the Programme Leaders/Managers. The pastoral support services provided complement those of the University which offers a range of services to include dedicated counselling, wellbeing advice and support.

In addition to the high level of face to face contact that you will experience in relation to the taught compulsory modules, there are available:

- Advocacy and Mooting Competitions that 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 practicing judges/barristers
- 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 of participating in the highly regarded and award-winning Pro Bono initiatives.
- Envisaged continuation of Mediation training and accreditation at the end of the taught program in order to further enhance your employability skills.
- Tutor support and mentoring for other competitions (both inns and student led).
- Individual support for students with disabilities.

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 available online
- Demonstrations to support conferencing and advocacy classes available online
- Core text manuals distributed at the commencement of the course
- Learning aids such diagrams, tables, PowerPoint slides and podcasts
- Practitioner texts namely The White Book and Blackstone's Criminal Practice

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

Full-time students must take all 120 credits from Compulsory Modules in Year 1

Part time students must take 60 compulsory credits from the modules in year 1.

The following Interim Awards are available:

For PG Certificate Legal Knowledge Exit Award, students must take 60 credits comprising the following modules:

UJXTSW-25-M Criminal Litigation

UJXTST-35-M Civil Litigation

For PG Certificate Legal Skills Exit Award, students must take 60 credits comprising the following modules:

UJXTSL-10-M Civil Advocacy

UJXTTE-15-M Drafting, Opinion Writing and Legal Research

UJXUSN-20-M Criminal Advocacy

UJXTSV-10-M Conferencing

UJXTSX-5-M Professional Ethics

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full -Time)

Full time students must take 120 compulsory credits form the modules in year 1

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UJXTSV-10-M	Conferencing 2026-27	10
UJXUSN-20-M	Criminal Advocacy 2026-27	20
UJXTTE-15-M	Drafting, Opinion Writing and Legal Research 2026-27	15
UJXTSX-5-M	Professional Ethics 2026-27	5
UJXTST-35-M	Civil Litigation 2026-27	35
UJXTSW-25-M	Criminal Litigation 2026-27	25

UJXTSL-10-M	Civil Advocacy 2026-27	10
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Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full -Time) Compulsory Modules (Part time)

Part-time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UJXUSN-20-M	Criminal Advocacy 2026-27	20
UJXTSW-25-M	Criminal Litigation 2026-27	25
UJXTSX-5-M	Professional Ethics 2026-27	5
UJXTSV-10-M	Conferencing 2026-27	10

Year 2

Part-time students must take 60 credits from Compulsory Modules (Part-Time).

For PG Certificate Legal Knowledge Exit Award, students must take 60 credits comprising the following modules:

UJXTSW-25-M Criminal Litigation

UJXTST-35-M Civil Litigation

For PG Certificate Legal Skills Exit Award, students must take 60 credits comprising the following modules:

UJXTSL-10-M Civil Advocacy

UJXTTE-15-M Drafting, Opinion Writing and Legal Research

UJXUSN-20-M Criminal Advocacy

UJXTSV-10-M Conferencing

UJXTSX-5-M Professional Ethics

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UJXTTE-15-M	Drafting, Opinion Writing and Legal Research 2027-28	15
UJXTSL-10-M	Civil Advocacy 2027-28	10
UJXTST-35-M	Civil Litigation 2027-28	35

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Students acquire the key knowledge and skills sets to equip them for a Professional Law career.

Over the course of their studies, students will transition from being a student in law to a professional lawyer who will graduate with highly developed skills of critical thinking, research and persuasion (both orally and in writing) and who will have a developed a moral compass to navigate the ethical code of practice.

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

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

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

Methods used in the development of this programme to evaluate and improve the quality and standards of learning:

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

Part E: Regulations

Approved variant to University Academic Regulations and Procedures Bar Training Course Assessment Regulations

<https://www1.uwe.ac.uk/about/departmentsandservices/professionalservices/studentandacademicservices/regulationspoliciesquality/regulationsandprocedures.aspx>