



ACADEMIC SERVICES

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data			
Awarding Institution	UWE, Bristol		
Teaching Institution	UWE, Bristol		
Delivery Location	UWE, Bristol Frenchay		
Faculty responsible for programme	Faculty of Business and Law		
Department responsible for programme	Law		
Modular Scheme Title	n/a		
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	The Interim Award of PG Diploma Legal Practice (the Legal Practice Course) is subject to professional body regulation and validation by the Solicitors Regulation Authority		
Highest Award Title	LLM Advanced Legal Practice		
Default Award Title	n/a		
Fall-back Award Title	n/a		
Interim Award Titles	PG Diploma Legal Practice		
UWE Progression Route	n/a		
Mode(s) of Delivery	FT / OL		
Codes	UCAS:	JACS:	
	ISIS2: M99012	HESA:	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements			
First CAP Approval Date	16 June 2010	Valid from	September 2010
Revision CAP Approval Date	1 June 2016	Revised with effect from	September 2016
Version	2		
Review Date	September 2022		

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme			
<p>The Masters in Advanced Legal Practice will be undertaken by students intending to pursue a career in law and in particular, to qualify as a Solicitor and be admitted to the Roll.</p> <p>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 interim PG Diploma Award). 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 professional law firm/business; while also preparing them for work-based learning</p> <p>The Programme offers engaging and outstanding 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 Law Society and legal profession in Bristol and the south-west region</p> <p>The Programme comprises</p>			

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

- (i) **Post Graduate Diploma Legal Practice (“the Interim Award”):** (also known as the Legal Practice Course : “LPC”)

This Award is subject to Professional Body Regulation and Validation by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and must be undertaken by all students wishing to progress to a career as a Solicitor; it will form part of a student’s Vocational Stage of Training towards qualification. On successful completion of the Diploma, students will have met the Learning Outcomes determined by the Solicitors Regulation Authority for the Legal Practice Course (annexed)

- (ii) A number of 15-60 credit M level modules from which students select to complete their **Masters in Advanced Legal Practice** programme.

All modules focus on continuing the professional development of the student, as a reflective practitioner with responsibility for their own development and learning (thus reflecting the underlying focus of the SRA's new Continuing Professional Development regime)

UJGT7A-60-M Research & Practice Portfolio: a 60 credit dissertation module in which students will produce a portfolio comprising/reflecting valuable know-how based on their experiences in a legal or other workplace context

Or

UJGUPU-45-M Continuing Professional Competence a 45 credit project module in which students will produce a portfolio reflecting on their Professional Body Regulatory obligations for continued personal development based on their experiences in a legal or other workplace context

And one of

UJXTRC-15-M Professional Development (Law): a 15 credit project module, which will provide students with the opportunity to reflect on a range of legal work/work-related experience relevant to their studies, and evidence how their development as a trainee lawyer has initiated a process of personal and professional development that can and will continue in their future legal career.

UJXTRD-15-M Professional Conduct & Regulation in Practice: a 15 credit project module; having undertaken an SRA validated compulsory programme of Continuing Professional Development for those progressing through their vocational stage of training and to qualification as a solicitor; students will compile a reflective portfolio in which they reflect on the application of matters of professional regulation and conduct in the workplace and to the firms/businesses employing them

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

The programme focuses on student centered learning through the use of small-group workshop sessions, integrating students’ acquisition of the knowledge of substantive law, and development of relevant legal skills required for legal practice. It adopts a rigorous approach to teaching, learning and assessment, with an underpinning philosophy that students perform best, and their educational experience is altogether more worthwhile, when they are challenged at the appropriate level by professionally trained and practiced tutors. The students learning journey is supported with enhanced feedback from their tutors, their peers and through self-reflection on their own learning.

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

Masters In Advanced Legal Practice																
Postgraduate Diploma (Interim Award)																
<i>Learning Outcomes:</i>	BLP	PLP:	Litigation & Advocacy	Drafting:	Writing	Practical Legal Research:	Advocacy:	Interviewing & Advising	Professional Conduct & Regulation	Solicitors Accounts	Elective Modules (x3)	.	Research & Practice Portfolio (60 credit)	Continuing Professional Competence Portfolio (45	Personal professional Development (Law):	Professional Conduct in Practice
Knowledge and understanding of.																
The 3 Core Practice subjects prescribed by the SRA	x	x	x													
The 7 Skills subjects prescribed by the SRA.				x	x	x	x	x								x
The Additional Elective subjects											x					
The Rules of Professional Conduct & Regulation in Legal Practice									x.	x			x	x		x
Intellectual Skills																
Research and apply knowledge of the law and legal practice accurately and effectively	x	x	x			x	x				x		x	x	x	x
Independently analyse, critically evaluate and identify solutions in a practical context for complex factual/legal problems	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	X		

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

Identify client objectives and how to achieve these, including identifying financial and commercial priorities	x	x	x			x	x	x			x		x	X		
Identify the overall nature of a transaction or matter, investigate/identify relevant facts, plan/progress the transaction to achieve client goals; demonstrating self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems	x	x	x	x							x		x	X		
Present a structured argument, whether orally or in writing, including to present the conclusions of a process of research	x	x	x		x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x
Subject/Professional/Practical skills																
Identify and act upon ethical issues which arise during the course of legal practice	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x
Understanding of Professional Conduct and Regulatory matters governing practice as a Solicitor	x	x	x						x	x			x	x		x
Competence in oral communication skills (including advocacy in a court of law) to a standard required in legal practice							x	x					x	x		x
Competence in written communication skills (including the drafting and amending of documents) to a standard required in legal practice				x	x	x							x	x		
Competence in research skills (including researching complex legal problems) to a standard required in legal practice						x							x	x	x	
Understand the practical, commercial and personal considerations to be taking into account in practice and when acting on behalf of clients	x	x	x								x		x	x	x	x

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

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 students and tutors with technology to create a coherent and effective learning structure. Face-to-face delivery is complemented by use of Blackboard through which students can access all materials; and undertake interactive exercises/tests.

In anticipation of students undertaking the Programme who might progress 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

Each Taught Module comprises a number of Study Units (as specified in the Module Specifications). Central to each Study Unit is a 2.5 hour workshop; preceded by preparatory work and followed by consolidation tasks. Each Study Unit and its component preparatory work/workshop/consolidation exercises require students to undertake 11 Notional Learning Hours.

Preparatory tasks for each Study Unit may be undertaken by students either as individuals or working in groups. Tasks will include attending large group sessions (and/or watching these online) 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 workshop will provide students with opportunities to consolidate their preparatory work and then develop their knowledge and understanding through tasks undertaken in collaboration with their peers, which feedback is given both by students and tutors

Consolidation tasks are designed to broaden and deepen student understanding of some/all of the work covered in the relevant Study Unit. Students may be required to draft letters all documentation; working again, either as individuals or in groups; undertake further online tests; or consolidating on their existing learning. Feedback again will be given on consolidation exercises.

Only a small number of Large Group Sessions will be delivered for students, recorded for those unable to attend and/or wishing to consolidate their knowledge. The focus of large group sessions will be to provide an overview of particular topics which will be developed in subsequent Study Units, rather than providing detail the dissemination of material on individual topics.

Although there are stand-alone Study Units for the development of the students key legal skills (Advocacy, Interviewing & Advising, Writing, Drafting, Legal Research), those skills are equally developed by pervading skills exercises throughout the Core and Elective subjects. A similar approach is taken in the development of students' knowledge of matters relating to Professional Conduct & Regulation, and their understanding of legal practice and developing their commercial awareness. The course is designed to develop a culture of appropriate professional behaviour in students.

All students are allocated to a group at the start of the Programme. Each group has a dedicated Supervising Principal, a tutor who will usually be the first port of call for students seeking support in relation to their studies, personal issues, etc careers advice. In addition, further support will be provided by the Programme Leaders/Managers; whose work in relation to careers support is complemented by a tutor with particular responsibility for arranging bespoke careers activities for students on the programme. The pastoral support services provided for students complement those of the University.

Students will continue to receive pastoral and careers support as they progress into legal practice whether employed as a Trainee Solicitor or paralegal, when , the teaching and learning focus of the programme is for students to develop as reflective practitioners.

Different 60/45/15 credit modules require students to largely engage in self-directed study, research and reflection. Tutors will supervise students in these activities and provide students with guidance as they prepare their assessments..

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

Prior to undertaking the Professional Conduct & Regulation in Practice module, students undertake a Professional Body validated programme during their vocational stage of training on route to qualification as a solicitor. Students then produce a reflective portfolio under supervision of tutors

Description of any Distinctive Features

The Programme develops students as reflective practitioners, to both support their progression towards qualification as a Solicitor, and also to develop the necessary skills to be effective reflective practitioners (required both to succeed in practice and also to comply with the Professional Body Regulator's Continuing Professional Development requirements)

When undertaking the taught element of the Programme full-time students undertake 4 study units/week, typically attending two days/week. Part-time students attend study weekends typically of two days (Friday/Saturday) – some will attend one day/week studying alongside students on the full-time programme

This delivery pattern is designed to afford flexibility for students with work or family commitments and for an increasing proportion of students who will wish to base themselves from home and commute to the University - rather than living on-campus/in Bristol.

Part 5: Assessment

Approved variant to University Academic Regulations and Procedures

Legal Practice Course Assessment Regulations ([link](#))

Assessment Strategy

The overall Assessment Strategy for the Programme is subject to overriding Professional Body requirements concerning the nature and format of the assessments for the interim PG Diploma Award.

- Assessment in the Core and elective subjects is by way of three-hour open book unseen written assessments, comprising a range of MCQs/SAQ and long form problem questions
- Assessments in skills subjects will either be by way of 1.5 hour open book unseen written assessment (Drafting & Writing) take home exercise (Practical Legal Research) or oral skills assessments (Advocacy and Interviewing)
- Assessments in pervading matters of conduct and regulation are by way of a two-hour closed book assessment (Solicitors Accounts) and a two-hour open book MCQ assessment (Professional Conduct & Regulation).

There is extensive use of formative assessments to (i) develop students skills to undertake assessments on the Legal Practice Course and (ii) encourage them to reflect on their learning and identify the learning needs. Many formative assessment exercises are undertaken in exam conditions, students receive feedback and the majority are marked by tutors.

Students will be assessed through dissertation/projects/portfolios to complete the Masters qualification

Assessment Map

The Programme encompasses a range of **assessment methods** including;

- 1.5 - 3 hour open book unseen written assessments
- 2 hour closed book unseen written assessment
- Oral skills assessments
- A take-home assignment
- Dissertation/projects/portfolios

. These are detailed in the following assessment map:

Assessment Map for *LLM Advanced Legal Practice*

		Closed Book Written Exam (2 hrs)	Open Book Written Exam (3 hrs)	Open Book Written Exam (1.5hrs)	MCQ Assessment (2 hrs)	Oral assessment	Written Assignment	Report / Project	Dissertation	Portfolio
Compulsory Modules	UJXTU5-10-2	A (100)								
	UJXTR3-30-M		A (100)							
	UJXTR4-30-M		A (100)							
	UMJTR5-30-M		A (100)							
	UJXTX3-0-M					A (100)				
	UJXTX4-0-M			A (100)						
	UJXTX5-0-M			A (100)						
	UJXTX6-0-M					A (100)				
	UJXTX7-0-M						A (100)			
	UJXTX8-0-M				A (100)					
	UJXTXA-0-M					A (100)				
	Elective modules			A (100)						
	UJGT7A-60-M								A (100)	
	UJGUPU-45-M								A (100)	
	UJXTRC-15-M							A (100)		
	UJXTRD-15-M							A (100)		

Part 6: Programme Structure LLM Advanced Legal Practice

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	Interim Awards
	<p>UJXTU5-10-2: Solicitors Accounts</p> <p>UJXTR3-30-M Business Law and Practice</p> <p>UJXTR4-30-M Litigation and Advocacy</p> <p>UJXTR5-30-M Property Law and Practice</p> <p>UJXTX3-0-M Advocacy Skills</p> <p>UJXTX4-0-M Drafting Skills</p> <p>UJXTX5-0-M Legal Writing Skills</p> <p>UJXTX6-0-M Interviewing Skills</p> <p>UJXTX7-0-M Practical Legal Research Skills</p> <p>UJXTX8-0-M Professional Conduct and Regulation</p> <p>UJXTXA-0-M Wills and Administration</p>	<p>Any 3 from:</p> <p>UJXTR5-10-M Intellectual Property & Competition Law</p> <p>UJXTS3-10-M Acquisitions</p> <p>UJXTS4-10-M Advanced Criminal Litigation</p> <p>UJXTS7-10-M Commercial Law</p> <p>UJXTS8-10-M Commercial Litigation and Dispute Resolution</p> <p>UJXTS9-10-M Commercial Property</p> <p>UJXTT4-10-M Employment Law</p> <p>UJXTT5-10-M Family Law and Practice</p> <p>UJXTT8-10-M Personal Injury And Clinical Negligence</p> <p>UJXTT9-10-M Private Client (Estate Planning)</p> <p>UJXTU3-10-M Public Child Care And Housing Law And Practice</p> <hr/> <p>UJGT7A-60-M Research and Practice Portfolio</p> <p>OR UJGUPU-45-M Continuing Professional Competence Portfolio</p> <p>Plus one of:</p> <p>UJXTRC-15-M Professional Development (Law)</p> <p>UJXTRD-15-M Professional Conduct and Regulation in Practice</p>	<p>PG Diploma Legal Practice</p> <p>Target Award</p> <p>LLM Advanced Legal Practice</p>

GRADUATION

Part 7: Entry Requirements

Qualifying Law Degree or Graduate Diploma in Law (“ **Academic Stage of Training**”)

NOTE

Students may be exempted from all/part of the Academic Stage of Training by the Solicitors Regulation Authority or the University in accordance with the SRA Policy on Equivalent Means

Part 8: Reference Points and Benchmarks

The Programme aligns with key priorities of Strategy 2020

The Programme provides engaging and outstanding learning and & teaching; together with extensive pastoral and careers support during a very challenging programme; delivery of the programme utilises technology to support face-to-face delivery (including lecture capture and comprehensive online materials); combined with a wide range of employability enhancing added value activities

Students are able to realise their full potential; and are well equipped to succeed and make a positive contribution in legal practice

The programme has strong partnership links and connections with the local and regional legal profession; who are actively involved in programme delivery and careers support activities.

The University has over 40 years’ experience of delivering professional legal education.

Prior to being validated to deliver the Legal Practice Course in 1993, the University was an approved provider for courses undertaken by students leading to the Law Society Final examinations (the precursor to the LPC). Since the inception of the LPC in 1993, the course has been delivered by the University in both full and part-time mode, and from the outset provided innovative skills base professional legal education – with a radical switch in emphasis to focus on student centred learning through the use of intensive small-group workshop sessions, whereby the acquisition of knowledge of substantive law and the practice of relevant legal skills could be fully integrated.

Since 1993, the LPC has been subject to review and refinement in response to assessment audits undertaken by both the Law Society and Solicitors Regulation Authority (from March 1996 until September 2005 – when the old ratings regime was discontinued – the University was one of only a handful of providers to continuously achieve an Excellent rating).

The current LPC programme was most recently validated by the SRA in 2009. The programme remains subject to professional body oversight, and monitoring through submission of annual monitoring reports and external examiner oversight (until 2015, external examiners for the programmes were appointed by and reported to the SRA, as well as to the University)

Members of the teaching team have over time undertaken work for the SRA, including as reporting assessors, chief external and external examiners and membership of LPC QA and training subcommittees.

Validation of course provision also comes from student feedback and a thorough process of quality assurance, to collate student feedback on the programme and use this to inform programme development.

The programme team has long-established connections with legal practice, in particular a strong relationship with Bristol Law Society. The views of practitioners and work undertaken by tutors in consultancy and related capacities means that there is practitioner input which informs programme

Part 8: Reference Points and Benchmarks

design and development.

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](#).