



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 / Exchange / Credit recognition	n/a		
Faculty responsible for programme	Faculty of Business and Law		
Department responsible for programme	Bristol Institute of Legal Practice		
Modular Scheme Title	n/a		
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	<p>Formerly Joint Academic Stage Board (JASB). Since 2014 the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and the Bar Standards Board (BSB) administered by the SRA</p> <p>Most recent JASB re-validation event – 2012. Both Full and Part-time CPE routes re-validated for five years from September 2012.</p>		
Highest Award Title	Graduate Diploma in Law		
Default Award Title	n/a		
Fall-back Award Title	n/a		
Interim Award Titles	n/a		
UWE Progression Route	n/a		
Mode(s) of Delivery	Full Time/ Part Time		
Codes	UCAS:	JACS:	
	ISIS2: M99017	HESA:	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Law		
First CAP Approval Date	Revalidated March 2012	Valid from	March 2012
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

- To provide those who are eligible to follow the Common Professional Examination (CPE) route (ie primarily non-law graduates and mature students who have been given a Certificate of Academic Standing) with an academically rigorous programme of legal education, which satisfies the requirements of both the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board, for completion of the Academic Stage of Training to become a solicitor or a barrister, and which thereby prepares the successful CPE student to proceed with confidence directly onto the Vocational Stage of Training.
- To enable the student to acquire a sound knowledge and understanding of
 - the 7 Foundations of Legal Knowledge ("Foundation Subjects") and their inter-relationship;
 - an eighth area of legal study, through the Independent Research Project
 - and of the English Legal System.
- To encourage and develop a capacity for critical evaluation of the law, legal institutions and legal process.
- To provide the opportunity to practice and develop both subject specific skills, such as legal analysis and research (through coursework tasks; the Independent Research Project and preparation for workshops and seminars), as well as a range of more general skills, such as good communication, team-working and IT skills.
- To enable the student to develop the capacity to transfer both knowledge and skills from one legal area to another.
- To provide a sound foundation upon which the successful CPE student can further develop the legal competencies and knowledge necessary for a career in legal practice.
- To enable the student to develop the necessary key skills to support them as autonomous, independent and life-long learners, whether or not within the legal profession.

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

Students will acquire:

- a sound knowledge and understanding of
 - the 7 Foundations of Legal Knowledge ("Foundation Subjects") and their inter-relationship;
 - an eighth area of legal study, through the Independent Research Project
 - and the English Legal System.
- a capacity for critical evaluation of the law, legal institutions and legal process.
- subject specific skills, such as legal analysis and research and more general skills, such as good communication, team-working and IT skills.
- the capacity to transfer knowledge and skills from one legal area to another.
- a foundation upon which to develop the legal competencies and knowledge necessary for a career in legal practice.
- the necessary skills to be an autonomous, independent and life-long learner.

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:

To achieve the primary aims of the programme, all CPE/GDL students, whether on the Full-time or Part-time route, are offered a range of learning opportunities, comprising plenary group sessions for the whole cohort, workshops and seminars. Eligibility to study on a CPE/GDL course is based primarily on the graduate, or equivalent, skills already demonstrated by the students in another discipline or subject. CPE/GDL students are expected to adapt to the study of law in a short time and under considerable pressure. Their efforts are supported in various ways. The Law School provides, within the course fees, a set of core texts for each student's own use, in each of the seven Foundation Subjects. In addition, a range of tutors' materials eg topic or lecture outlines; workshop exercises and seminar support sheets are made available both in hard copy and on myUWE (Blackboard). The students follow a carefully structured schedule of work to be completed each week, with prescribed preparation to be undertaken in advance of classes.

The demands of the CPE/GDL curriculum are heavy and the programme is designed to permit better focus of study by dividing the study of the seven Foundation Subjects, the eighth area of legal study and English Legal System into two "teaching blocks".

Four Foundation Subjects [Obligations I (Contract), Obligations II (Tort), Criminal Law and Public law] are studied and assessed in the first teaching block, with a further three Foundation Subjects [Property Law, Equity and Trusts and the law of the European Union] studied and assessed in the second teaching block. In addition, the Independent Research Project is researched, written and completed during the second teaching block.

For the Full-time students, each "teaching block" comprises one half of the academic year,

For the Part-time students, each "teaching block" comprises one academic year of study.

English Legal System (ELS) is studied by the combined means of a preliminary reading and study pack, which students are required to complete before starting the CPE/GDL programme, and the intensive schedule of classes held in the induction period. ELS is assessed via an online MCQ test which students must complete before the end of the October following induction. Legal Research skills are developed throughout the programme and form part of the explicit assessment criteria for all coursework, examinations and the Independent Research Project.

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

Identification, planning and execution of research in an area of law using both primary and secondary sources of law, accessed via paper sources and electronic databases as appropriate		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(D) Transferable skills and other attributes									
1. Read and discuss complex legal materials	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Present a legal argument in a manner which is relevant to the task		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Use the English language accurately so as to communicate effectively both orally and in writing in a manner appropriate to the audience		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Work co-operatively within a team		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5. Evaluate information provided in numerical or statistical form where relevant to the preparation or evaluation of an argument		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Assume responsibility for their own learning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Use IT both for the production of word-processed documents and as a research tool		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

NB The GDL is an integrated programme and each module builds towards each Outcome so that by the end of the programme each Outcome has been achieved by an aggregation of the work done towards it in each and every subject. The 'weight' within each subject is indicated by the 'strength' of the tick in each box.

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

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

- Both full and part-time students have the benefit of a personal tutor (a tutor group normally comprising between 10 and 12 tutees). A personal tutor will be a member of the teaching team who sees his / her personal tutees as an academic seminar group during the year. Meetings take place at regular intervals during the academic year. Part-time students are allocated a different personal tutor for the second year of their studies to ensure maximum opportunities for contact at tuition sessions. In addition, students have access to Blackboard, on which the following can be found: tutors materials, course information, links to the law library and electronic legal databases, to careers information and to a bulletin board. E-mail is encouraged as the primary method of communication.
- Each Foundation subject is taught by a team of two or three tutors, which ensures that the high class contact hours can be maintained and the pace of the course sustained despite the temporary absence of any given member of the team.
- The subject teaching teams work across both Full-time and Part-time provision, ensuring equivalence and parity across the two modes of study.
- Students are provided by the faculty with a number of published texts for their personal use, in addition to the substantial tutors' materials that are made available to support their learning. All classes proceed on the basis that specified pre-reading has been undertaken, as identified in the detailed schedules provided by the subject teaching teams. A comprehensive teaching schedule for each subject is provided at the start of the relevant teaching block.
- The majority of the class contact hours for the Full-time students consist of small or medium sized group work of an interactive nature. Weekly (one hour) seminars are held with groups of no more than 10 to 12. These sessions provide the culmination of a student's study of a syllabus topic and would follow a lecture and, in some cases, a workshop on that syllabus topic. In addition, fortnightly (two-hour) workshops are held, which combine 3 seminar groups to form a workshop group (no more than 30 – 33 students). In workshops students are expected to work in groups of 4 or 5 for the duration of the workshop and discussion would normally range over some material prepared in advance through to novel, previously unseen, tasks provided by the tutor during the workshop. The workshop tutor remains with the group throughout the 2-hour session and moves around the sub-groups identifying issues and facilitating the learning. Most workshops would involve exchange of views and arguments either from one sub-group to another or addressed to the workshop group as a whole. Some workshops provide an opportunity for mooting or debating an issue and many provide opportunities to draft answer plans and structure diagrams.
- Part-time students have the benefit of intensive tuition days (13 days per year) during which they also spend the majority of their time in interactive learning. Some time is allocated to subject "plenary" sessions, during which the subject tutor has the opportunity to identify any issues that may have proved to be difficult to understand, to update the students on recent developments in a given area of law and to develop their understanding of good legal reasoning. These plenary sessions can incorporate a substantial proportion of the workshop activities made available to the full-time students and thereby provide opportunities for the practice of good analysis and legal argument. In addition, the part-time students have seminars in each relevant Foundation subject during the tuition session, which enables them to cover the same areas of the syllabus as the full-time cohort.
- The division of the prescribed curriculum into two teaching blocks enables the students to concentrate on each Foundation subject to an appropriate depth. For Full-time students the academic year is divided into two teaching and assessment blocks, whereas for the Part-time students the relevant "teaching block" is one complete year of academic study.
- Both Full-time and Part-time students submit coursework in two Foundation subjects during the relevant teaching block. Deadlines for submission of summative coursework are scheduled to enable formative work to be completed and returned with feedback earlier in the teaching Block. A schedule of submission dates is published early in the teaching block.

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

Description of the teaching resources provided for students

Students are provided with:

- a number of printed texts for each subject; usually a text book, case book and a statute book.
- extensive tutor generated text/material introducing and explaining relevant legal topics
- presentation slides for lectures
- access to the online resources provided via the UWE library legal databases

Description of any Distinctive Features

Successful completion of the programme is a requirement for progression to the vocational stage of training. Two thirds of all contact time is in 'flipped learning' format.

Part 5: Assessment

Approved variant to University Academic Regulations and Procedures

UWE Graduate Diploma in Law Assessment Regulations ([link](#)) [Scroll down under 'Professional Body Variants']

Assessment Strategy

Assessment strategy to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

The assessment strategy is set in accordance with the requirements of the Professional Regulators. Accordingly assessment is primarily via unseen written examinations. The Independent research Project as its name suggests is a piece of extended coursework.

NOTE in any academic year (FT) there will be an assessed coursework in 3 of the 7 foundation subjects. On the part time route there will be assessed courseworks in 2 subjects in year 1 and in 1 in year 2. The map below reflects this pattern.

Part 5: Assessment

Assessment Map

The programme encompasses a range of **assessment methods**. These are detailed in the following assessment map:

Assessment Map for Graduate Diploma in Law


		Type of Assessment*									
		Unseen Written Exam	Open Book Written Exam	Multiple Choice Questions Exam. controlled	In-class Written Test	Practical Exam	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral assessment and/or presentation	Written Assignment	Dissertation	Portfolio
Compulsory Modules	English Legal System			A (100)							
	Obligations I (Contract Law)	A (100)/(75)							B (0)/(25)		
	Obligations II (Law of Tort)	A (100)/(75)							B (0)/(25)		
	Criminal Law	A (100)/(75)							B (0)/(25)		
	Public Law	A (100)/(75)							B (0)/(25)		
	Property Law	A (100)/(75)							B (0)/(25)		
	Equity and Trusts	A (100)/(75)							B (0)/(25)		
	European Union Law	A (100)/(75)							B (0)/(25)		
	Independent Research Project (8th area of legal study)								A (100)		

*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

Graduate Diploma in Law

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	Awards
	Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Legal System UJXU53-10-1 (10 credits) 	None	<p>Graduate Diploma in Law</p> <p>Credit requirements</p> <p>To complete the Graduate Diploma in Law a student must have satisfied the examiners in each of the 7 Foundation Subjects, the 8th area of legal study and in English Legal System - in total 165 credits of which 155 are at Level H</p>
	Level H	<p>The 7 Foundation subjects (all 20 credits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obligations I (Contract Law) UJXU54-20-3 Obligations II (Law of Tort) UJXU55-20-3 Criminal Law UJXU56-20-3 Public Law UJXU5A-20-3 Property Law UJXU59-20-3 Equity and Trusts UJXU57-20-3 European Union Law UJXU58-20-3 <p>Plus the 8th area of legal study (15 credits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Research Project UJXU5B-15-3 		

GRADUATION

Graduate Diploma in Law - Part Time

ENTRY	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules
Year 1	<p>Level 1</p> <p>English Legal System UJXU53-10-1 Level 1 (10 credits)</p> <p>2 weeks preliminary study + Induction week Assessed in October</p>	None
	<p>Level H</p> <p>Obligations I (Contract Law) UJXU54-20-3 (20 credits)</p> <p>Obligations II (Law of Tort) UJXU55-20-3 (20 credits)</p> <p>Criminal Law UJXU56-20-3 (20 credits)</p> <p>Public Law UJXU5A-20-3 (20 credits)</p>	
Year 2	<p>Compulsory Modules</p>	<p>Optional Modules</p>
	<p>Property Law UJXU59-20-3 (20 credits)</p> <p>Equity and Trusts UJXU57-20-3 (20 credits)</p> <p>European Union Law UJXU58-20-3 (20 credits)</p> <p>Independent Research Project UJXU5B-15-3 (15 credits)</p>	None

Part 7: Entry Requirements

Entrance requirements, and eligibility to study on a CPE course, are laid down by the SRA and BSB (previously the JAS Board) as follows

- (i) Non-law graduates from UK Universities (this can include students who have studied some law eg as part of a Joint Honours degree which was not a Qualifying Law Degree and those whose LLB is "stale");
- (ii) Overseas graduates;
- (iii) Mature persons holding qualifications deemed in study content to be the equivalent to an undergraduate degree.

Eligibility to study on a CPE/GDL course will require the supporting evidence, in some cases, of either a Certificate of Exemption (which identifies the outstanding CPE/GDL subjects to be completed) or a Certificate of Academic Standing (non-graduates and non-UK graduates). All students must bring their degree certificate, Certificate of Exemption or Certificate of Academic Standing, as appropriate, to the University at registration and the responsibility to establish eligibility rests with the student.

Part 8: Reference Points and Benchmarks

- The QAA Benchmark statement for Law (1998) ;
- QAA Framework for Higher Qualifications in England, Wales and NI (2001);
- SEEC Credit level descriptors (January 2002);
- "The Future Form of the CPE" as published by the CPE Board (as it then was) to inform CPE providers of their validation considerations. Future editions of this document will be provided by the JASB.

The design and delivery of the programme is informed by both the UWE Teaching and Learning Policies and by the Teaching and Learning Strategy of the School of Law

The programme is essentially the gateway to the Vocational Stage of legal training and the content is largely determined by the professional regulators. As such feedback is usually only available from students and recent graduates.

This feedback is garnered informally via student discussion with personal tutors, and more formally through the medium of the SRSF and student evaluation at relevant points in the programme.

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](#).

Graduate Diploma in Law Full-time

<p>English Legal System Level 1 – 10 credits 2 weeks preliminary study + Induction week Assessed in September</p>	<p>TEACHING BLOCK ONE Early September to late January</p>		<p>TEACHING BLOCK TWO Early February to mid June</p>	
	<p>Obligations I (Contract) Level H 20 credits</p>	<p>EITHER Coursework (25%) + examination (75%) OR examination alone (100%) Coursework submission dates announced at start of the teaching Block All examinations in late January/early February</p>	<p>Property law Level H 20 credits</p>	<p>EITHER Coursework (25%) + examination (75%) OR examination alone (100%). IRP 100% coursework Coursework and IRP submission dates announced at start of the teaching Block All examinations in early to mid June</p>
<p>Obligations II (Tort) Level H 20 credits</p>	<p>Equity and Trusts Level H 20 credits</p>			
<p>Criminal law Level H 20 credits</p>	<p>Law of the European Union Level H 20 credits</p>			
<p>Public law Level H 20 credits</p>	<p>Independent Research Project (IRP) Level H 15 credits</p>			

Graduate Diploma in Law Part-time by Distance Learning

English Legal System Level 1 – 10 credits 2 FT weeks preliminary study + Induction week Assessed in October	YEAR ONE		YEAR TWO	
	Obligations I (Contract) Level H 20 credits	EITHER Coursework (25%) + examination (75%) OR examination alone (100%) Coursework submission dates announced at start of the year All examinations in early to mid June	Property law Level H 20 credits	EITHER Coursework (25%) + examination (75%) OR examination alone (100%) Coursework and IRP submission dates announced at start of the year All examinations in early to mid June
Obligations II (Tort) Level H 20 credits	Equity and Trusts Level H 20 credits			
Criminal law Level H 20 credits	European Union Law Level H 20 credits			
Public law Level H 20 credits	Independent Research Project (IRP) Level H 15 credits			