



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: Bristol Institute of Legal Practice		
Modular Scheme Title	n/a		
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	Bar Standards Board – the interim award of PG Diploma Bar Professional Training Course 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	LLM Bar Professional Training Studies (LLM BPTC)		
Default Award Title	n/a		
Fall-back Award Title	n/a		
Interim Award Titles	PG Diploma Bar Professional Training Course		
UWE Progression Route	n/a		
Mode(s) of Delivery	FT / PT		
Codes	ISIS2: M99A12 M99A12 (FT) M99B42 (PT)		
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Law		
First CAP Approval Date	15 December 2016	Valid from	September 2017
Revision CAP Approval Date		Revised with effect from	
Version	1		
Review Date	September 2023		

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme
<p>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.</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 career as a barrister; 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 Bar and Western Circuit</p>

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

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 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

The Programme comprises

- (i) **Post Graduate Diploma Bar Professional Training Course (“the Interim Award”)**: (also known as the Bar Professional Training Course: “**BPTC**”)

This Award is subject to Professional Body Regulation and Validation by the Bar Standards Board (“**BSB**”) and must be undertaken by all students wishing to progress to a career as a Barrister; 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 BSB for the BPTC

- (ii) 15/45 or-60 credit M level modules through which students complete their **Masters in Bar Professional Training Studies**.

These 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 BSB'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

UJGUPV-46-M Continuing Professional Development Portfolio 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

UJXTRE-15-M Bar Professional Development 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.

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

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

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.

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.

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.

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

conceptual understanding that enables ability to collect and analyse relevant information; evaluate current developments and advanced theory in law and practice, and acquire in-depth knowledge of written material, law reports, journals and articles in applicable areas of study	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills														
ability to be a fluent and articulate advocate, whether orally or in writing, and with the ability to adapt submissions or questioning as may be required by circumstances	√				√	√				√				
be able critically to evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data in order to deal with complex issues systematically, make sound judgments and demonstrate skill in identifying solutions and tackling and solving problems, clearly communicating their conclusions	√		√		√	√			√	√		√	√	√
a high level ability to (i) persuade orally and in written argument using cogent legal and factual analysis (ii) develop reasoned argument and (iii) deploy forensic skills with evidence (both written and oral)	√		√		√	√			√	√		√		
the ability to demonstrate the qualities and skills necessary for future employment at the Bar, with the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
(D) Transferable skills and other attributes														
Research skills	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Conduct conferences/client interviews			√											
Write opinions/advices					√	√						√	√	
Advocate, negotiate, mediate	√							√	√					√

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

Programme teaching leading to the Interim Award 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.

Preparatory tasks for each small group session may be undertaken by students either as individuals 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 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 small group session.

Although there are discreet small/large group sessions for the development of the students key legal skills are equally developed by pervading skills exercises throughout the all modules. A similar approach is taken in the development of students' knowledge of matters relating to Professional Conduct & Regulation. 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 personal 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.

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 practising 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 which many students take of participating in the highly regarded and award-winning Pro Bono initiatives which are available to them.

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

- Mediation training course and accreditation at the end of the taught program in order to further enhance their employability skills.

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
- Practitioner texts namely The White Book and Blackstone's Criminal Practice

Description of any Distinctive Features

The Programme develops students as reflective practitioners, to both support their progression towards qualification as a Barrister, 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)

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

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

The Assessment Strategy for the assessment of modules leading to the Interim Award is subject to overriding Professional Body requirements determined by the Bar Standards Board

- Assessment of the knowledge modules (Civil Litigation, Criminal Litigation and Ethics) is by way of assessments set and marked centrally by the Bar Standards Board. These are unseen closed book assessments, utilising SBA/SAQ s.
- 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 modules (Opinion Writing and Drafting) is by way of an open book examination.
- Assessment of the REDOC module is assessed by way of closed book MCQ assessment
- Assessment of the option modules will be in a skills context, either in an advocacy/conferencing contacts, or in an examination context where the student is required to draft a opinion/pleading.

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

Part 5: Assessment

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

Part 6: Programme Structure

Masters 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

	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Award
Year One	Civil Advocacy UJXUS6-20-M Civil Litigation, Remedies and Evidence UJUS7-15-M Conferencing Skills UJXUS8-5-M Criminal Litigation, Evidence and Sentencing UJXUS9-15-M Opinion Writing UJXUSA-10-M Drafting UJXU69-10-M Professional Conduct UJXUSB-10-M Resolution of Disputes Out of Court UJXUSC-5-M Criminal Advocacy UJXUSN -20-M Legal Research Methods UJXTR7-0-M	Two of 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	Postgraduate Diploma Bar Professional Course <i>Credit requirements</i> 130 credits at Level M
Year Two		UJGT7A-60-M Research and Practice Portfolio OR UJGUPV-45-M Continuing Professional Development Portfolio Plus UJXTRE-15-M Bar Professional Development	

Part Time

	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Award
Year One	<p>Conferencing Skills UJXUS8-5-M</p> <p>Criminal Litigation, Evidence and Sentencing UJXUS9-15-M</p> <p>Professional Conduct UJXUSB-10-M</p> <p>Criminal Advocacy UJXUSN -20-M</p>		
Year Two	<p>Civil Advocacy UJXUS6-20-M</p> <p>Civil Litigation, Remedies and Evidence UJXUS7-15-M</p> <p>Opinion Writing UJXUSA-10-M</p> <p>Drafting UJXU69-10-M</p> <p>Resolution of Disputes Out of Court UJXUSC-5-M</p> <p>Legal Research Methods UJXTR7-0-M</p>	<p>Two of</p> <p>Clinical Negligence UJXUSE-10-M</p> <p>Commercial Law UJXTRA-10-M</p> <p>Criminal Law UJXUSF-10-M</p> <p>Employment UJXUSH-10-M</p> <p>Family Law UJXUSJ-10-M</p> <p>Refugee and Asylum Law UJXUSK-10-M</p> <p>International Trade UJXUSL-10-M</p> <p>Landlord and Tenant UJXUSM-10-M</p>	<p>Postgraduate Diploma Bar Professional Course</p> <p><i>Credit requirements</i> 130 credits at Level M</p>
Year Three		<p>UJGT7A-60-M Research and Practice Portfolio</p> <p>OR</p> <p>UJGUPV-45-M Continuing Professional Development Portfolio Plus UJXTRE-15-M Bar Professional Development</p>	

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

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.

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](#).