

# De Montfort University Leicester

## Legal Practice Course (LPC) profile September 2011

**Please note:** The information contained in this profile is supplied by De Montfort University Leicester; it is the provider's responsibility to keep this information up-to-date.

### **Introduction from the SRA**

The SRA's requirements allow providers considerable freedom to design and focus their courses to meet the needs of particular student cohorts and particular types of legal practice. Providers have a corresponding responsibility to provide clear and useful information to those making choices about where to study and which particular course to follow. To enable potential students to make informed choices, the SRA requires all providers to supply a standard set of information about their provision.

### **General information**

The LPC has been offered at De Montfort University (DMU) since the course began in 1993. Before that, DMU delivered its predecessor, the Law Society Finals course.

The LPC is provided by Leicester Institute of Legal Practice (LILP), which is part of the Faculty of Business and Law. At the beginning of 2010 the Institute moved to a brand new £35 million building, the Hugh Aston building, which houses the Faculty of Business and Law. Classes take place in the Postgraduate and Professional suite with state of the art facilities.

### **Types of LPC**

Stages 1 and 2 (full-time).  
Stages 1 and 2 (part-time) (weekends).

Students can join us for Stage 2 (or part of Stage 2) alone.

### **Key features of the different LPC courses**

Our broad-based curriculum (including a wide range of vocational Electives) is appropriate for students wishing to enter both high street and commercial firms.

All teaching takes place in small group sessions. Lectures are available to listen to online and/or students can attend face-to-face lectures.

On the full-time course, small group sessions are timetabled over two days of the week, with optional lectures being held on a 3<sup>rd</sup> day. This gives students at least two free days in the week to spend on preparation, attend careers events and to be involved in pro-bono work.

The part-time course is a combination of home study and face-to-face teaching on campus. In September of both years students attend a study period comprising a Wednesday to Sunday followed by, in Year one, nine study weekends, and in Year two, seven study weekends. Students also have to attend for examinations and skills assessments, some of which are held on weekdays with the rest being held at weekends.

Students complete written practice assessments in the skills of writing, drafting and practical legal research which are marked, before they have to complete the actual assessments. They do individual practice assessments in the skills of advocacy and interviewing, on which they get individual feedback. Similarly, they complete mock examinations on which they receive detailed feedback in order to prepare them for the actual examinations.

Students who complete the LPC at DMU will earn 120 Masters level credits and be two-thirds of the way towards our LLM in Legal Practice. Students can attend a Research Methodology Day and start working towards the LLM while completing Stage 2 of the LPC (but must successfully complete the LPC before they can formally commence our LLM in Legal Practice).

### **Maximum number of students in the different types of teaching and learning sessions**

Small group sessions typically consist of 16 – 18 students.

### **Maximum number of students it will recruit onto each course**

LPC full-time: 80.

LPC part-time: 80.

### **Entry requirements**

To apply for the LPC you must meet the following minimum admissions requirements:

- Qualifying law degree (minimum lower second class honours); or
- GDL/CPE; or
- FILEX who is exempt from the academic stage.

### **Policy on Stages 1 and 2**

Students who have successfully completed Stage 1 with another provider will be accepted onto Stage 2 (or part of Stage 2) of DMU's LPC

### **Academic qualification that will be awarded to successful students**

Students who successfully complete both Stages 1 and 2 at DMU will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Students who have successfully completed both the GDL and LPC at DMU can, instead of being awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice, elect to be awarded a Graduate LLB.

Students who go on to successfully complete the Masters programme will be awarded an LLM in Legal Practice.

### **Learning resources available to support the course, including library and IT provision**

An extensive law library is housed in the Hugh Aston building: this includes a dedicated LPC library and IT facilities.

The Postgraduate and Professional suite includes IT facilities which can only be accessed by postgraduate students. The teaching rooms in this suite are equipped with the latest e-learning technology, including Starboards.

The course Virtual Learning Environment (which includes both teaching materials, revision exercises and announcements) and library databases can also be accessed remotely.

### **Percentage of teaching staff who are qualified as solicitors or barristers**

All teaching staff are qualified solicitors.  
The same staff teach on both the full-time and part-time courses.

### **Percentage of teaching staff with higher level teaching qualification**

Two members of staff have a higher level teaching qualification and one other is a Member of the Higher Education Academy, which recognises professionalism in teaching and learning in Higher Education.

### **Teaching staff profile**

Please see University website at:  
[http://www.dmu.ac.uk/faculties/business\\_and\\_law/law/staff/pls-staff/index.jsp](http://www.dmu.ac.uk/faculties/business_and_law/law/staff/pls-staff/index.jsp)

### **Fees**

LPC full-time (2010-11): £7,250.  
LPC part-time (2010-12): £3,725 per annum.

These fees do not include the SRA's registration fee (currently £110).

### **Pastoral support, including dedicated careers guidance staff**

Every student is allocated a personal tutor who will arrange to meet them at various times during the course.

As well as having access to the University Careers Service, LILP also provides a personalised and specialist careers service. There is a designated careers coordinator: students can approach the careers coordinator or their personal tutor for advice on their CV or for a practice interview. A wide range of careers activities are offered during the year including guest presentations, plus informal opportunities to meet practitioners and trainees, and a very successful mentoring scheme through

which students are allocated a mentor in practice who will offer careers guidance and sometimes vacation work.

Students have the chance to take part in numerous pro-bono activities . These include Law Clinic where students act as advisors, working as a voluntary case worker with the international child abduction charity Reunite, volunteering in Leicester City Council's domestic violence programmes and Street Law, where students can work as part of a team to create and present a talk to a lay audience on a specific area of law.

### **Contact details**

For further information, please contact the provider direct:

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