

Bournemouth University

Legal Practice Course (LPC) profile March 2011

Please note: The information contained in this profile is supplied by **Bournemouth University**; 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

[This short paragraph may include the provider's history of law provision and the location of the course. New LPC providers should stipulate in this paragraph that they are providing the LPC for the first time.]

Bournemouth University (BU) has successfully delivered the Legal Practice Course (LPC) since 1994. The BU LPC is delivered within the Business School which has considerable experience in delivering courses which are accredited by professional bodies or which form part of professional qualifications.

Types of LPC

[For example, Exempting Law Degree, Stage 1 full time, Stage 2 part time (day release), Stages 1 and 2 full time etc]

The BU LPC offers students the opportunity to study Stages 1 and 2 of the course in one year full-time, or two years part-time mode.

Stage 1 takes place between September and March/April each year. Part-time students will study units in the same classes as the full-time students, but will only attend for 2-3 days each week, allowing them to fit their studies around other commitments.

Stage 2 Elective subjects are taught between April and July each year.

Key features of the different LPC courses

[For example, where there is an emphasis on particular types of practice]

The BU LPC is aimed at the student who wishes to receive a well rounded and balanced foundation of knowledge and skills for practice and who wishes to be well prepared for continued work based learning. BU students tend to apply to regional firms dealing with a range of 'High Street' as well as more commercially based areas of work at the regional and local level. The Stage 2 electives provided at BU also reflect this.

Both the full-time and part-time delivery patterns embed the strengths and unique features of the Bournemouth LPC:

- Small group sizes with consequent high level of interaction with tutors
- A broadly based LPC, delivering an all round knowledge of the core areas of legal practice together with the necessary skills to prepare for work based learning
- A range of electives covering a range of 'High Street' as well as more commercially based areas of work
- A high level of face-to-face learning and teaching and an emphasis on interaction between students and staff
- Interaction with professionally qualified staff in a realistic practice context

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

[Information on existing and new course provision may be included]

The BU LPC is delivered through lectures (known as Large Group Sessions/LGS) and seminars/workshops (known as Small Group Sessions/SGS). LGS sessions will be delivered to the entire cohort and therefore will be a maximum of 66 students. The maximum number of students in each SGS is 15.

The LGS and SGS sessions are supported and enhanced by a variety of further e-learning methods. These include on-line audio and visual presentations, on-line tutorials and exercises.

Maximum number of students it will recruit onto each course

[Information on existing and new course provision may be included]

The maximum number for 2011/12 entry is 66 students.

Entry requirements

Students must have completed the academic stage of training by obtaining a Qualifying Law Degree or a Graduate Diploma in Law/Common Professional Examination. BU normally requires a minimum of a Lower Second Class Honours in a Qualifying Law Degree or equivalent.

If English is not your first language then an IELTS score (or equivalent) of 6.5 (Academic) or above is required.

Policy on Stages 1 and 2

[For example, will students, who have studied Stage 1 with another provider, be accepted onto Stage 2 of the provider's course]

The SRA requires all Stage 1 subjects to be completed with the same provider. BU offers Stage 2 Elective units to all LPC students, irrespective of their Stage 1 provider.

Normally the assumption will be that students will complete both Stage 1 and Stage 2 at BU. However, students will be able complete Stage 1 at BU and then opt to complete all or part of Stage 2 at BU or with another provider. Similarly, students who have completed Stage 1 with another provider may choose to take all or part of Stage 2 at BU.

Academic qualification that will be awarded to successful students

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

Students who successfully complete Stage 1 at BU and choose to undertake all or part of Stage 2 with another provider may subsequently apply for credit in relation to their Stage 2 units to be awarded the BU Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Students who have completed Stage 1 at a provider other than BU and who wish to study one or more Stage 2 Elective units at BU will, on successful completion, be awarded M Level credits but not a BU Postgraduate Diploma.

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

[Information on existing and new course provision may be included]

The LPC is delivered from a dedicated suite of rooms for both LGS's and SGS's. Facilities include full access to PC's and private study spaces.

There is a dedicated LPC Law Library which aims to replicate a legal practitioner's library. There is wide access to primary and secondary legal materials in printed form plus access to extensive on-line law resources including major law databases (Lexis Library, Westlaw and Lawtel, among others), e-journals, e-books and on-line newspapers. The off-campus use of on-line resources is enabled by use of the 'Athens' authentication system.

The University's Virtual Learning Environment (myBU) is used extensively to enhance the teaching and learning experience.

Percentage of teaching staff who are qualified as solicitors or barristers

[Information on existing and new course provision may be included]

78% of the teaching staff on the BU LPC are qualified Solicitors.

Percentage of teaching staff with higher level teaching qualification

[Information on existing and new course provision may be included]

33% of teaching staff have higher level teaching qualifications.

Teaching staff profile

[This information is optional]

Full staff profiles can be found on the BU website using the following link:

http://business.bournemouth.ac.uk/people/academic/staff_law.php

Fees

For 2011/12 entry the course fees for UK students are as follows:

Full-time Stage 1 and Stage 2 = £9,500

Full-time Stage 1 only = £7,000

Full-time Stage 2 only = £2,500

Part-time Year 1 = £4,750

Part-time Year 2 = £4,500

Individual Electives Units = £850

Course fees for overseas students are available on our [website](#).

Pastoral support, including dedicated careers guidance staff

Each LPC student is assigned a personal tutor who supports them throughout the course. Students also have the benefit of a whole range of pastoral support facilities provided by the University, for example Additional Learning Needs, Student Counselling Service, Chaplaincy, Student Advice Centre and the Students Union.

Careers guidance and support is provided at both University and course level. A Careers Day is held prior to enrolment and a dedicated series of lectures/workshops is held in conjunction with the University's Graduate Employment Service.

The LPC at BU has close links with local law societies, local practitioners, the Junior Lawyers Division and Dorset Magistrates Association. A full programme of guest lectures is held throughout the year.

Contact details

For further information, please contact the provider direct:

Website: <http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/courses/PGLPF>

Email: askBUenquiries@bournemouth.ac.uk

Contact name: **askBU Enquiry Service, Bournemouth University**

Telephone: 08456 501501* (UK callers only) or +44 (0)1202 961916

*BU does not profit from this service