

De Montfort University Leicester

Legal Practice Course (LPC)

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. The Institute is located the Hugh Aston, a £35 million 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.

On the full-time course, small group sessions are timetabled over two days of the week. This gives students at least three 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, eight 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. The LLM in Legal Practice is taught via extensive online materials and personal supervision is provided by a tutor. Students 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
- Graduate Members and Fellows of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) who have studied Level 6 subjects to correspond with those specified by the SRA for the academic stage of training.

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 e-learning technology.

The course Virtual Learning Environment (which includes 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.

Percentage of teaching staff with higher level teaching qualification

Two members of staff are fellows of the Higher Education Academy (HEA) and two are Senior Fellows of the HEA, which recognises professionalism in teaching and learning in Higher Education.

Teaching staff profile

Please see University website at:

<http://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/schools-and-departments/leicester-de-montfort-law-school/staff.aspx>

Fees

LPC full-time (2017-18): £9,750

LPC part-time (2017 -18): £9,750 over 2 years for Home Students. There is an additional administrative charge of £150 per annum for Overseas Students.

These fees do not include the SRA's registration fee (currently £15).

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 the Law Clinic where students act as advisors, placement opportunities with a number of community not for profit organisations which have included Shelter and the international child abduction charity Reunite, volunteering for the Youth Offending Team 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:

Faculty of Business and Law

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Website: dmu.ac.uk/law