

University of Hertfordshire, School of Law

Legal Practice Course (LPC) profile September 2010

Please note: The information contained in this profile is supplied by **University of Hertfordshire**. 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

We have offered a very successful part-time Legal Practice Course (LPC) Programme for over fifteen years. After the Solicitors Regulation Authority's consultation exercise on the professional stage of training we have revalidated our LPC to a full-time (one year) mode of study. These changes will allow you to complete Stages 1 & 2 of your training at the University within one year and also provides you with the opportunity to obtain a full masters through our LLM in Legal Practice.

By September 2011, the School of Law will relocate to the modern £120m De Havilland Campus from the current St Albans campus. A new £10m Law School is being built and this move will allow students to work in state of the art facilities, including a modern courtroom with public gallery, a bespoke Law Clinic and Mediation Centre. The Mediation Centre will become the centre of training for mediators in the region and will be an invaluable resource for both undergraduate students and also our students on our new full-time Legal Practice Course. Student will also be able to take full advantage of a 24-hour Learning Resources Centre and unrivalled Sports Village.

Types of LPC

Stage 1 and 2 full time, Stage 1 full time, Stage 2 full time

Key features of the different LPC courses

The full-time LPC Programme will be delivered through a mixture of traditional face-to-face teaching (including Large Group Sessions and Workshops) and distance learning through our bespoke intranet system StudyNet. It is a blended learning approach that allows you considerable flexibility in managing your studies. Face-to-face sessions will normally be held on a Wednesday (there are some exceptions to this, including foundation weeks, skills sessions and assessments) and the remaining seminar work can be undertaken online at a time of your choosing. As well as all programme manual and handbooks, we provide all our students with their own

wireless-enabled laptop to ensure they are resourced to fully participate in the online seminars.

We offer a range of eleven stage 2 electives, which allows you to specialise in a particular area. We offer four specialisms in Corporate Finance, Commercial Law, Private Client and Dispute Resolution. If you choose a named specialism, you will need to study three electives from that pathway. When you complete your LPC we can provide you with supporting documentation, alongside your transcript, which will demonstrate that you have completed modules in a specialism. Further, if you decide to proceed on to the LLM in Legal Practice your choice of a specialism will be reflected your final award certificate, along with the potential of achieving a Commendation or Distinction classification.

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

Face to face workshops will take place in classes of up to 20 with students working in small groups of 4-5. In online workshops students will be placed in small 'firm' groups to act collaboratively on workshop tasks.

Maximum number of students it will recruit onto each course

80

Entry requirements

A qualifying LLB Law Degree with a 2:2 classification or better.

A pass grade in the Graduate Diploma in Law.

Students also need to obtain the Certificate demonstrating completion of the academic stage of training from the SRA and Student Membership of the Law Society.

Policy on Stages 1 and 2

Our Programme allows students who have studied stage 1 at a different institution to study stage 2 with us, provided they have satisfactorily fully completed Stage 1 at their previous institution, prior to the commencement of Stage 2.

Academic qualification that will be awarded to successful students

Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice (Stages 1 and 2)

Postgraduate Certificate in Legal Practice (Stage 1)

Postgraduate Certificate in Legal Practice (Stage 2)

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

As stated above, students will be provided with their own laptop to enable them to fully participate in the blended learning environment. The Learning Resources

Centre subscribes to an extensive range of databases and careful selection of the most appropriate online resources has taken place for all Stage 1 modules and Stage 2 electives. In addition, many of the manuals used on the LPC have supporting websites with additional materials and questions which students will be able to access through the University's purchase of the manuals. The Learning Resources Centre also contains a wide range of hard copy practitioner materials for student reference. The Learning Resource Centres at the Hatfield campuses have 24 hour opening throughout the year.

Percentage of teaching staff who are qualified as solicitors or barristers

93% of the Legal Practice Course staff are qualified as either solicitors or barristers.

Percentage of teaching staff with higher level teaching qualification

All staff employed at the University of Hertfordshire are required to follow a compulsory certificated training programme in learning and teaching if they do not possess a teaching qualification or fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

Fees

£9500 for the Legal Practice Course in 2010/11.

Stage 1 only: £7500

Stage 2 only: £2500

For Students interested in the combined Programme leading to an LLM in Legal Practice the fees are £11000.

Pastoral support, including dedicated careers guidance staff

The University has an extensive careers service available to all students, while the School has two academic members of staff, former solicitors, who hold regular 'surgeries' providing careers advice including CV writing, interview skills and suggestions for obtaining training contracts during your studies at the School.

Contact details

For further information, please contact the provider direct:

Website: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/law>

Email: K.Rogers@herts.ac.uk

Contact name: Kevin Rogers (Postgraduate Admissions Tutor)

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