

Northumbria University

Legal Practice Course (LPC) profile October 2014

Please note: The information contained in this profile is supplied by Northumbria 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

The School of Law at Northumbria University has been a leading provider of legal education for over 40 years and has a wealth of experience and expertise to draw upon in both the design and delivery of its programmes. The School has been at the forefront of innovation in legal education; for example it is a leading exponent of clinical legal education through its award winning Student Law Office, which is available to LPC students as an elective choice.

Teaching takes place in City Campus East, a £70 million state of the art building, completely I.T. enabled (Northumbria University has been named the country's 'Most IT Enabled Organisation'). The building is well equipped with lecture theatres, which comfortably accommodate the group sizes on the LPC. All lecture theatres have full wireless coverage and are equipped with cameras and speakers for video conferencing, DVD/VCR, projection screens, visualisers, PCs, induction loop and audience voting systems. All classrooms have full wireless coverage, VCR, projection screens, whiteboards and PCs. There are also dedicated skills suites, a courtroom and a well-stocked law practice library. In addition students can take advantage of the university's superb social and sports facilities. This includes Sports Central, which contains a 25 metre pool, sports hall provision equivalent to the size of four netball courts, a health and fitness suite with more than 150 pieces of the highest spec Technogym equipment, a climbing wall, glass backed squash courts and a 3,000 seat indoor arena.

Types of LPC

Both the full time and part time LPC (see 'Modes of Delivery' below) follow the same curriculum which meets the SRA LPC learning outcomes. Stage 1 of the LPC is offered in two alternative routes, General Practice and Commercial Practice. These alternatives are designed to allow students to tailor Stage 1 of their LPC to the area of legal practice in which they plan to specialise during their training contract.

General Practice Route

The General Practice Route is designed to prepare students for a training contract in a small or medium sized general practice or "high street" firm, which undertakes a broad spread

of legal work of a more general nature, deals primarily with individuals or smaller businesses (whether operating as sole trader, partnership, or company) and may undertake some publically funded work. Each of the core practice areas of Business Law and Practice, Property Law and Practice, and Litigation (Civil and Criminal) are given equal weighting on this route to reflect this more general, broad spread of work. The Legal Practice Course Skills are taught and assessed across the core practice areas and in Wills and Administration of Estates.

Commercial Practice Route

The Commercial Practice Route is designed to prepare students for a training contract in a larger commercial practice, which undertakes legal work of a more commercial nature and deals primarily with larger businesses operating as partnerships or companies. On this route, Business Law and Practice has a slightly greater weighting than either Property Law and Practice or Litigation. Both Civil and Criminal Litigation are taught on this route, however, Criminal Litigation forms a much smaller part of the Litigation core practice area than on the General route and Civil Litigation includes Alternative Dispute Resolution. The Legal Practice Course Skills are taught and assessed across the core practice areas (except in Criminal Litigation) and Wills and Administration of Estates.

Guaranteed Legal Placement or Professional Mentor Scheme

Every LPC student is guaranteed either a work placement with a firm or organisation with whom we have close professional links or alternatively a professional mentor, who will have completed the LPC at Northumbria and be working as a trainee or newly qualified solicitor and who can provide assistance and guidance on the journey to becoming a solicitor.

Law as a Business

It has never been more important for lawyers hoping to enter and be successful in private practice to have knowledge of legal business issues and how a legal firm should operate. Law firms look not just at academic achievement in making employment decisions but also at whether someone shows some evidence of the practical knowledge and understanding which will help their business. This optional module, taught by senior practitioners with significant levels of management experience at a national law firm, covers topics such as career development, how to make a profit, law firm strategy, looking after clients and professional ethics and regulation.

Mediation

Most clients never get their "day in court". Learn the skills involved in mediation, as a viable alternative to litigation. Mediation is an alternative method of dispute resolution, rapidly gaining popularity in the UK. It is cheaper and faster than going to court, and allows for greater client autonomy than having the case decided by a judge. This optional module taught by qualified mediators is designed to provide an overview of the mediation process, considering the roles of the mediator, the parties and their legal representatives. It encompasses role play and reflection.

LLM Advanced Legal Practice

LPC Students have the opportunity to gain an LLM in Advanced Legal Practice while studying on the LPC. This provides an ideal opportunity for professional development in a specialist area of law and enables students to develop specialist knowledge, enhance their legal analysis skills and acquire a career-enhancing Masters degree.

Careers Support

Within the School of Law we are able to offer specialised careers advice. Because of our links with the local profession this includes talks from practitioners and graduate recruitment advisers. In addition the University Careers and Employment Team offer invaluable support

in relation to applying for training contracts, CV checking, assessment centres, interview techniques and psychometric testing and advice.

Modes of Delivery

The LPC is taught on both a full time and part time basis. ~~In addition the full time programme can be studied on either a two day or four day route.* The two day route runs on a Tuesday and Wednesday between 9.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. from September to mid-December for Stage 1 followed by assessments in January. Stage 2 runs from the end of January to Easter followed by a further assessment period in May. The part time route runs over two years with attendance one day per week – Wednesday in Year 1 and Tuesday in Year 2.~~

~~*Subject to minimum numbers.~~

Electives

~~The following wide range of electives is offered in Stage 2:~~

~~Advanced Advocacy, Child Care Law, Commercial Law, Commercial Leases, Corporate Debt and Restructuring, Employment Law, Family Law, Housing Law, Intellectual Property, Law and the Elderly Client, Mental Health Law, Planning and Environmental Law, Sales and Acquisitions and the Student Law Office.~~

Course fees

Please see [our website](#) for up to date information on course fees.

Staff/Student Ratio

Small group workshops contain between 16 – 18 students.

Staff

Professionally qualified staff, including staff who are still in practice.

Further information

Website: <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/courses/legal-practice-course-ft-dtflpc6/>

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