

University of Glamorgan

Legal Practice Course (LPC) profile September 2010

Please note: The information contained in this profile is supplied by the University of Glamorgan; 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 Law School at the University of Glamorgan has been delivering professional legal education for over 25 years offering the Legal Practice Course since its inception in 1993 and its precursors the Law Society Finals and the Law Society Part 2 Qualifying Examinations prior to that.

The Law School is located in Tŷ Crawshay, a Grade II listed building on the main campus – just 20 minutes from Cardiff. The building houses excellent facilities specially equipped for law students including a moot courtroom, small seminar rooms and larger lecture theatres, postgraduate study areas and interview practice rooms, all featuring state-of-the-art technology.

Glamorgan's Legal Practice Course (LPC) students have two dedicated resource rooms. The first of these resource rooms is a legal practice library, including PCs and a range of practitioner volumes. The second provides a more flexible study space and is equipped with computers, an interactive white board and comfortable seating. Tŷ Crawshay also houses a small art gallery, IT lab, executive style meeting rooms and a café.

Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on skills acquisition and real practical experience, with a friendly, enthusiastic and experienced team of qualified solicitors delivering a first-class learning experience for students.

Students largely work in an interactive small group setting which will replicate the environment of the law office, the courtroom and the solicitor/client relationship. All activities are based on authentic scenarios and students are assisted in their research and preparation by the excellent range of facilities available in the Law School.

The Law School also runs a very successful work placement scheme which offers students the opportunity, during their LPC, to spend time in solicitors' practices and other legal environments. Many of those offering work placements are former students who have gone on to successful legal careers in the local and wider areas.

Types of LPC

The University of Glamorgan runs Stage 1 and Stage 2 both full and part-time. Part-time students attend one day a week over two years.

Key Features of the different LPC Courses

The LPC at Glamorgan, both full-time and part-time, is designed to prepare students for practice in both commercial and high street firms. Where practical full and part-time students are taught and assessed together.

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

Large group briefing sessions are delivered to the entire cohort (up to 130 full and part-time). Small group practice sessions normally involve a maximum of 15 students.

Maximum number of students it will recruit onto each course.

90 full-time
40 part-time

Entry requirements

All students must have completed the Academic Stage of training as defined by the Solicitors Regulation Authority ('SRA') and be enrolled as a student member of the SRA. Applicants will normally be graduates holding a qualifying law degree or students who have completed the Graduate Diploma in Law. Members of Fellows of the Institute of Legal Executives may also be eligible to apply for entry to the course.

The Admissions policy for the Glamorgan LPC is conducted in accordance with the University's Embracing Equality and Diversity Policy.

Policy on Stages 1 and 2

The University will accept applications for Stages 1 and 2 combined and for discrete study of Stage 1 or Stage 2. Students enrolled onto Stage 2 who have not undertaken Stage 1 at the University of Glamorgan will be entitled to apply for accreditation of prior certificated learning of their Stage 1 credits.

Academic Qualification that will be awarded to successful students

Both Stage 1 and Stage 2 will be awarded a "Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice", Stage 1 only will be awarded "Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (Stage 1)" and Stage 2 only will be awarded "Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (Stage 2)".

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

The LPC is based in Tŷ Crawshay which houses state-of-the-art teaching and learning accommodation and facilities, including a Moot Court, superior practice rooms, interview rooms, dedicated LPC student resource rooms, all fully equipped with digital audio-visual facilities for both students and tutors, designed, planned and installed specifically to aid teaching, learning and assessment on the LPC.

Practice rooms, each seating a minimum of 25 students, contain a desktop PC with internet and Provider network access, DVD-playing capability, and a high-specification data projector and screen. Laptops, each of which is loaded with all of the applications and software used on the LPC, are available for student use during practice sessions.

There is a fully functioning moot court room complete with state-of-the-art audio-visual recording facilities. It features two large screens at the front of the room, with two smaller

“airline-style” screens further back, driven by a networked PC with Internet access. There are also interview rooms, containing digital audio-visual recording equipment. One of these rooms is designed and furnished in the style of a solicitor's office, while another simulates secure custodial conditions.

Both the interviewing rooms and the Moot Court are linked to an Assessment Room, from which students' performance can be monitored and reviewed by tutors, the students and their peers during practice sessions and formative assessments.

Tŷ Crawshay also houses two dedicated LPC resource rooms available for the sole use of LPC students. The first room is intended to offer LPC students the same type of facilities and resources they might expect to encounter in a legal practice library. The practitioners' works found here are mainly serial subscriptions regularly maintained and updated by library staff. The second LPC resource room is designed to provide additional, flexible study space and facilities with careers material where LPC students can work in groups to practice presentations or arrange the furniture to suit their study requirements. There are five PCs with a printer in each room, and also a photocopier in the legal practice library room. There is also an ICT lab, with 20 networked PCs.

All LPC teaching staff offices are located within Tŷ Crawshay, providing immediate access for students to staff.

In the main Learning Resources centre there is a fully stocked law library. There are, amongst other items, reference books, textbooks, journals, main works with supplements, loose-leaf publications, indexes and citators, practitioners' works, procedural manuals, encyclopaedias and digests, as well as case reports and legislation. The printed stock is regularly edited and updated. There is also considerable information available electronically via the Library's FINDit, e-Databases page through services such as Heinonline, Lawtel, LexisLibrary and Westlaw and there are many thousands of titles in our e-Journal collection. The Law Library in print and electronic form is accessible to all law students.

Percentage of teaching staff who are qualified as solicitors or barristers

100%

Percentage of teaching staff with higher level teaching qualification

30% and a number of other staff members are currently pursuing this qualification.

Teaching staff profile

All staff on the LPC have considerable teaching experience across the LPC, LLB and GDL. A number of the team have experience as SRA appointed external examiners for the LPC and as external examiners on degree programmes at other Universities. Two of the current team also hold judicial posts.

Fees

Full time 2010/2011 - £8,500 (Home and EU Students) & £9,980 (International Students),
Part time 2010/2012 - £8,500 paid over 2 years (Home and EU Students).
This fee includes the Law Society registration fee, all text books and materials.

Pastoral support, including dedicated careers guidance staff

The University of Glamorgan prides itself on the high level of pastoral and academic support provided for its LPC students. Pastoral support is available from a range of sources including:

- staff mentors (a member of the LPC team is allocated to each student on enrolment and all operate an open door policy for students),
- the Disability and Dyslexia Service
- the Student Counselling Service,
- Chaplaincy
- The Education drop- in Centre which provides extra study support for students

There is a dedicated law careers adviser who provides assistance with CVs, completing application forms and preparation for interviews. Students have access to the Careers Information Room in the Student Services Building. Here they can research career areas, employers, further study, job hunting, voluntary work, vacation work, work experience and work overseas. Increasingly, careers information is being made available to students online and the Careers Service has developed a range of resources specifically for law students on its website.

In addition, every year the LPC Team hosts a programme of LPC-specific events in conjunction with the local profession, alumni and the Confederation of South Wales Law Societies. This programme includes, for example, a session on “How to get a training contract,” in which a panel of solicitors from the South Wales area share their experiences of how they got a training contract; they are also on-hand to answer students’ questions.

Relevant work experience, job and training contract vacancies are posted on the Law School Careers noticeboard and students are also encouraged to use the Careers Service website, where vacancies are updated daily. In addition to this, LPC Team members circulate job vacancies notified to them to all LPC students via e-mail.

Students on both full-time and part-time LPC are offered the opportunity to take part in our work placement scheme. The scheme has been running successfully for many years and places students in legal practices across the locality. Placements give students an excellent opportunity to gain practical experience and to make contacts in the legal profession. Over the years a number of students have obtained training contracts through their involvement in the scheme.

Contact details

For further information, please contact the provider direct:

Website	www.glam.ac.uk/law
Contact	Stephanie French, LPC Administrator
Tel	01443 654662 or 08455 194 787
E-mail	sfrench@glam.ac.uk