

University of Sheffield

Legal Practice Course (LPC) profile September 2009

Please note: The information contained in this profile is supplied by the University of Sheffield; 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 University of Sheffield's School of Law is one of the largest English law schools and has a Higher Education Funding Council for England rating of 'excellent' for teaching.

The University scores very highly in many university guides confirming its position as one of UK's leading universities. The Virgin 2008 Alternative Guide to British Universities says that Sheffield is "a top university across the board". All the University's facilities are available to you. These include learning resources (see below), accommodation services, students' union, the University health centre, extensive sports facilities and student support services.

The University of Sheffield has offered a full time Legal Practice Course since 1994. From 2009 a part-time course is also being offered, run over two academic years with students attending on one day each week.

Students who achieve commendation or distinction standard on the LPC at the University of Sheffield (approximately 50% - 60% of students) will be eligible to go on to attain a Masters in Legal Practice by satisfactorily completing a dissertation of up to 12,000 words.

The course is recognised for its strong links with the legal profession. Students are encouraged to get involved with the Junior Lawyers Division and the Next Generation Group, and local solicitors support Sheffield's guest lecture programme.

The LPC course team includes a careers adviser who is only available to students undertaking the LPC or the Masters in Legal Practice, and the University arranges for local practitioners give practice job interviews to students. Careers advice continues to be available to assist students in securing training contracts for up to three years following completion of the LPC. The University's Career Service also hosts one of the leading Northern Law Fairs.

The School of Law, including the LPC, is located in Bartolomé House, which is next to the main University campus. It is only a few minutes walk away from the main student facilities including the Information Commons, the University Library, and the Union buildings with its shops, bars, cafés, coffee shop and other facilities.

Types of LPC

The LPC (ie. both Stage 1 and Stage 2); both full time and part-time
Stage 1 alone; both full time and part-time
Stage 2 alone; both full time and part-time
Individual elective subjects

Masters in Legal Practice; both full time and part-time – available to students who achieve commendation or distinction standard on the LPC

Key features of the different LPC courses

The Sheffield LPC and its constituent parts are designed for all students, irrespective of the type of work that they will do on qualifying. Within Stage 1 students have an element of choice, allowing more emphasis to be placed upon either the commercial or the individual client. The range of electives within Stage 2 allows students to concentrate upon a narrow or broad range of types of work and client; Sheffield does not restrict students in their choice of elective subjects.

The course places a particular emphasis upon understanding the client and the client's objectives, and upon understanding the role of a trainee solicitor.

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

Sheffield uses a variety of learning and teaching methods. These include lectures (accounting for 10% or less of the contact time; usually in groups of up to 120), workshops (which account for 90% or more of the contact time; in groups of up to 18 but often fewer), a variety of online exercises (such as screencasts, quizzes, and interactive self-study exercises), and other forms of independent learning.

Maximum number of students it will recruit onto each course

214 full time equivalent in total (this includes both the full time and the part-time courses, so actual numbers may vary).

Entry requirements

Legal Practice Course: usually a minimum of a 2:2 in your first degree.

Masters in Legal Practice: commendation or distinction on the Sheffield LPC.

Policy on Stages 1 and 2

Students can study the whole of the LPC, or just a part of it (whether that be Stage 1, Stage 2 or one or two elective subjects), at Sheffield.

Academic qualification that will be awarded to successful students

Students who successfully complete the whole of the LPC at the University of Sheffield will be awarded a Post-Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Students who go on to successfully complete the Masters programme will be awarded a Masters in Legal Practice.

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

Bartolomé House (where most of your teaching will take place) includes teaching rooms, computer rooms, student common room, study spaces and a mock court room.

The Information Commons is a “21st century study place” providing library, IT facilities, and group and individual work and study spaces and is open 24/7; it includes a dedicated resource room with access to restricted legal practice students. Disabled access is available to both Bartolomé House and the Information Commons.

Wireless access is available in many parts of the University, including Bartolomé House and the Information Commons.

Percentage of teaching staff who are qualified as solicitors or barristers

Every member of the LPC teaching staff is a qualified solicitor. Some continue to work in practice.

Percentage of teaching staff with higher level teaching qualification

80% of teaching staff have a teaching qualification. 85% of teaching staff are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.

Teaching staff profile

Details about individual members of staff is available at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/law/lpc/who.html>

Fees - 2008/9

LPC:	£9,200
Stage 1 only:	£7,725
Stage 2 only:	£2,855

The above fees apply to both the full time, and the part-time, course.

Fees may be paid by instalments.

It is possible to study individual elective subjects, in which case the fee is £1,065 per elective

All fees include all course materials and manuals.

Masters in Legal Practice: £1,610

All of the fees quoted are for home students. The fees for overseas students are approximately 22% higher.

Pastoral support, including dedicated careers guidance staff

Every student has a personal tutor. One tutor has specific responsibility for liaising with students with disabilities, with the Deputy Course Director having overall responsibility for pastoral care. As stated above, the Sheffield LPC course team includes a careers adviser who is only available to students undertaking the LPC or the Masters in Legal Practice. Advice continues to be available to assist students in securing training contracts for up to three years following completion of the LPC.

Contact details

For further information, please contact the provider direct:

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