

# Swansea University

## Legal Practice Course (LPC) profile September 2013

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

*"...a strongly campus-based lifestyle; a stylish campus, near the sea, or city, or mountains; generous accommodation either on campus or in a student community close-by; a wealth of cultural activity on campus; lots of high-quality sports provision - and a sound academic reputation! An impossible dream? Well without going too far over the top, we have to say that Swansea has it all..."*

The Potter Guide to Higher Education in UK Universities & Colleges

As an internationally respected, research-led university, Swansea offers an exciting and stimulating environment in which to live and study. Not only has Swansea University been awarded the Times Higher Award for the UK's best student experience but the Sunday Times University Guide has also placed the Institution in the top 20 academic institutions in the UK for teaching quality.

The Swansea Legal Practice Course develops important practice skills and confidence for a successful career as a solicitor in England and Wales. Consistently rated as excellent by both students and external organisations, the Swansea Legal Practice Course incorporates the best of innovation in professional legal education.

The course is staffed by a dedicated team of friendly and supportive professionals with extensive experience of legal practice. We operate with first-class facilities including state-of-the-art teaching rooms and a dedicated practitioner Resource Room with full network access to extensive electronic legal practitioner resources. Students at Swansea participate in the Swansea Pro Bono Law Initiatives run by law students and have the advantage of valuable networking opportunities and work experience placements supported by the course team.

### Types of LPC

- Stages 1 and 2 full time/part-time
- Stage 1 full time/part-time
- Stage 2 full time/part-time

## **Key features of the different LPC courses**

- Course designed to allow entry into city, regional, commercial and/or high street practice environments with matching Stage 2 vocational electives
- All teaching takes place within IT-equipped dedicated rooms within the Law School
- Mock assessments and examinations with feedback
- Dedicated LPC student resource room with full network access to extensive electronic legal practitioner resources.
- State-of-the-art teaching rooms
- Swansea Pro Bono Law Clinic run by law students under the supervision of qualified local practitioners
- Networking opportunities and support for work experience placements

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

Large Group sessions: entire cohort to a maximum of 100

Small Group sessions: normally a maximum of 20 students in each session

## **Maximum number of students it will recruit onto each course**

The maximum number of students recruited onto the course will be 100.

## **Entry requirements**

All students must have completed the Academic Stage as defined by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and be registered as a student member of the Law Society.

The Admissions Policy for the Swansea LPC is conducted within the terms of reference and the aims and objectives of the University's Mission and Equal Opportunities Statements.

The LPC is open to all students who have the qualifications approved by the Solicitors Regulation Authority in any regulations in force at the time of admission.

This includes all law graduates with a qualifying law degree and those students who have successfully completed the Graduate Diploma in Law or its equivalent qualification, provided they are accepted by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

The University welcomes applications and enquiries from people regardless of age, colour, ethnic or national origins, race, religion, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family responsibility, physical or sensory disability, and political or religious beliefs and activities unless those activities are unlawful or contrary to the policies of the University.

## **Policy on Stages 1 and 2**

Students may be admitted onto Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the course in accordance with the above admissions policy.

Students may be admitted to Stage 2 of the course only through a nationally agreed credit transfer system following successful completion of Stage 1 of the course at another provider or Institution. For the avoidance of doubt this means that all Stage 1 modules must have been awarded a minimum of a pass grade under the assessment regulations at the other provider or Institution and be able to produce an official transcript of results as evidence of successful completion of Stage 1.

## **Academic qualification that will be awarded to successful students**

A student who successfully completes Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the course at the university may in the absolute discretion of the Examination Board be awarded a postgraduate **diploma** in Legal Practice from the university

A student who successfully completes Stage 1 only of the course at the University may, in the absolute discretion of the examination board, be awarded a postgraduate **certificate** in Legal Practice from the university.

A student who successfully completes Stage 2 of the course only at the university having been admitted through a nationally agreed credit transfer system following successful completion of Stage 1 of the course at another provider may, in the absolute discretion of the examination board, be awarded a postgraduate **diploma** in Legal Practice, provided the student has not previously been awarded a certificate or some other award from that different provider in respect of Stage 1 of the course.

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

The Swansea LPC commands first-class facilities including state-of-the-art teaching rooms and excellent IT and library resources, housed within a dedicated LPC resources room. It is delivered by highly professional and experienced staff within a friendly and supportive learning environment that is consistently praised by students in written testimonials.

The LPC is situated in the Richard Price building on the university campus (all University facilities are open to LPC students) as part of the Swansea Law School.

LPC teaching takes place within the Richard Price building. Large group and small group sessions take place in state-of-the-art teaching rooms, two of which are dedicated to the LPC. This supports course identity and cohesion.

The dedicated LPC teaching rooms equipped with visualisers, whiteboards and relevant IT hardware. The layout of the furniture in the teaching rooms is in pod formation which better suits interaction between the students and the facilitation of student-centred activity. The visualisers in each room are used to display supporting material, worked examples of activities and also student presentations to the whole class, or their work on class activities.

The dedicated law resource room in the Law School building is a professional-material resource centre also housing a dedicated IT suite. The LPC resource room has 20 PCs and 20 study spaces. Students can freely access their own IT accounts as well as accessing online resources as well as traditional paper copy library materials. The LPC resource room is equipped with practitioner texts in each of the compulsory and elective areas. It is fully networked and enjoys full wireless capability (as are the main library and all LPC teaching rooms) for access to electronic software, email, networks and databases. The PCs are password protected. Students can access the university's wireless network using their own laptop or may borrow a laptop from the LIS issue desk for personal study use. In addition LPC students have access to a photocopier and a dedicated printer in the LPC resource centre. Access is restricted to LPC staff and students by means of a swipe pad.

Library maintenance of the room and its materials is carried out by the senior library assistant, whose core responsibility is support of the LPC Course in general. The PCs, printer and photocopier are all maintained by Swansea University Library IT support staff. A member of the careers staff updates the careers information in the resource room. There are other full computer facilities in the Law department to which LPC students have access; with the ratio of PCs to students being 1 to 6. Swansea University has information and technical assistance readily available for all students. Students are also able to easily use the general law library materials housed in the LIS building, a few minutes' walk across campus.

The large group session teaching room is also situated on the first floor of the Richard Price building and is used to deliver large group sessions as well as timetabled practice and assessment of oral skills. This room seats just over 100 students.

The learning, teaching and research needs of Swansea Legal Practice Course staff and students, as regards library and information communication technology (ICT) provision are met by Swansea University Library and Information Services (LIS).

The main library in the LIS Building has over 1100 study spaces with almost 500 of them networked with PCs. 42 PCs are set aside for postgraduate use in a segregated room. The Library has approximately 936,000 visits per annum, with total loans current running at around 960,000 per annum. Students can have access here to the law librarian and his team, as well as similarly qualified subject librarians and their teams, in order to receive any library/research assistance they may need. There is also an IT support desk and software advisory office as well as gateways into the library on the web.

**Percentage of teaching staff who are qualified as solicitors or barristers**

All (100 per cent) teaching staff are qualified as solicitors or barristers

**Percentage of teaching staff with higher-level teaching qualification**

None - although the Director is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and has been awarded the Swansea University Distinguished Teaching Award

**Teaching staff profile**

Please refer to University website at:

<http://www.swan.ac.uk/law/professional/LegalPracticeCourseLPC/>