

University of the West of England, Bristol

Legal Practice Course provider institutional profile

Please note: The information contained in this institutional profile is supplied by the University of the West of England, Bristol; it is not endorsed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA).

General information

UWE's Faculty of Business and Law comprises one of the largest law schools in the UK. Part of this business oriented faculty is the Bristol Institute of Legal Practice, benefitting from sitting side by side with a thriving Law department and the Bristol Business School. The Institute's LPC continuously achieved the highest possible grading throughout the period that monitoring visits were operated by the Law Society/SRA. The Institute also offers the GDL and is the only provider accredited to deliver the Bar Practical Training Course (BPTC) in the South West of England. It also runs the Professional Skills Course (PSC), an LLM in Advanced Legal Practice (which may be undertaken as a 'top-up' qualification to the LPC), and a range of continuing professional development courses designed for regional and national law firms.

Tutors on the Institute's LPC are solicitors, either practising or non-practising. This expert team is in charge of both designing and teaching the course, as well as of setting the exams (in conjunction with the SRA external examiners). This provides a seamless teaching, learning and assessment experience. The Institute is strongly embedded in local and regional practice through its award winning pro bono activity and its extensive co-operation on learning experiences with the local profession as well as through its practising members of the tutor body. Decades of course delivery have produced a large alumni body: hundreds of the Institute's graduates are active in the local and regional profession, and many nationally. Thus, its employability programme comprises amongst other initiatives a thriving local and regional placement scheme as well as its law fair which is immensely popular with firms and unique in its focus solely on the Institute's students. Complemented by a strategic relationship with the Bristol Law Society and its member firms as well as by initiatives such as virtual case studies involving local practitioners and networking opportunities for students, the Institute is at the very heart of the legal community which it is serving.

Course fee (2013/2014) Full time – £10,300
Part time – £5,150

Validated places 400 overall (i.e. total of full-time plus Year 1 part-time LPC)

Course length Full time – 36 weeks (September – June)
Part time – 54 days over two academic years (September – June)

Two day timetabling on the full-time course Stage 1 on days chosen by the students. On the part-time course, either Fridays and Saturdays (block release), or one day a week (day release)

Foundation course Core area foundation elements are taught at appropriate points throughout the course.

Electives usually offered: Commercial Law; Commercial Litigation; Acquisitions; Commercial Property; Employment; Advanced Criminal Litigation; Family Law and Practice; Private Client (Estate Planning); Public Childcare and Housing Law and Practice; Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence; Corporate Finance; Banking. These can be combined to create particular profiles eg Corporate LPC; Commercial LPC; Private Client LPC; High Street LPC etc. to suit students' career intentions, with no particular combination being prescribed.

Delivery methods Predominantly two-and-a-half-hour small group workshop sessions, with the occasional overview lecture; supported by online exercises; rests; additional exercises with written feedback and independent reading and learning. Open door policy of tutors throughout the teaching calendar.

Learning Resources Largest Law Library in the South West, complemented by comprehensive resources room (mini-library just for Institute's students); base rooms (one per small group) with PC access and WiFi; online access to legal databases and other online resources; common rooms with additional PC access; three court rooms with comprehensive recording facilities.

University Social Resources Sport facilities including sports grounds; sports hall; two gyms; classes and courses; elite team training in a range of disciplines. Expansive common areas, extensive range of art/social/sports student clubs including a number of Law student interest groupings (Elsa; African Law Students; radio station; club nights etc; comprehensive student wellbeing support.

Class size Full time – small groups of up to 16 per workshop group (the whole cohort for overview lecture sessions) Part time – small groups of up to 20 per workshop group

Disabled Students Physical access to the teaching facilities is good, with lift available. A full, comprehensive university disability service is available to support disabled students incl. special learning needs.

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/students/studysupport/disabilityservices/disabilitysupportatuwe/>

Catering A wide variety of student facilities on site.

Admin Staffing Two LPC administrators
Three faculty technicians
Faculty librarian
LPC e-learning coordinator
Law Careers service

Admissions:

Apply via CABS for full-time course: <http://www.lawcabs.ac.uk/>

Apply via UWE directly for part-time course: <http://courses.uwe.ac.uk/M30B62/#entry>

Queries: applications - admissions@uwe.ac.uk; course content and delivery - blpinfo@uwe.ac.uk

Website <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/bl/bls/courses/professionallawcourses/legalpracticecourse>