

University of Wolverhampton

Legal Practice Course (LPC) profile September 2013

Please note: The information contained in this profile is supplied by the University of Wolverhampton; 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 Legal Studies at the University of Wolverhampton offers a wide variety of both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, including the full-time LPC which has been offered since 1993 and the part-time LPC since 1996. Students completing the LPC can "carry forward" postgraduate credits gained on the LPC towards a LLM which they complete by submitting a supervised dissertation. The School is committed to the Legal Practice Course provision with an enthusiastic group of staff who are able to ensure that students are well supported during their studies.

Types of LPC

Stages 1 and 2 FT and PT (Evening)

Key features of the different LPC courses

The LPC is designed for general practice and equal emphasis is given to all core practice areas.

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

Whole group for large group sessions and usually a maximum of 12 to 15 for small group sessions.

Maximum number of students it will recruit onto each course

60 FT

30 PT in each year (30 FTE)

Entry requirements

Qualifying law degree or equivalent. The institution would expect prospective students to have at least a lower second class honours degree or equivalent.

Policy on Stages 1 and 2

Students who have studied stage 1 with another provider may be allowed onto Stage 2 subject to availability.

Academic qualification that will be awarded to successful students

Students who successfully complete Stage 1 only will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Legal Practice.

Students who successfully complete Stages 1 and 2 will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

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

The course is delivered from the University's central campus. The course benefits greatly from this location. Students can access the students union and its resources, the University's sporting facilities and coffee shops. All of which are located on the central campus.

The course has the added advantage of being able to utilise the University's media facilities. A team of technicians assist in recording the advocacy and interviewing assessments and the course can make use of the video suites and up-to-date visual and recording technology offered by this department.

The teaching rooms are light, airy, well ventilated and modern. Tutors are located in offices close to the teaching rooms allowing for easy access by students

We have 13 networked student PCs in the LPC Resources Room. We subscribe to a number of databases, including the full academic library available from Lexis Nexis Butterworths. All students receive an introduction to Lexis Nexis Butterworths' materials in the Foundation Week. In the first week of teaching they are introduced to the University's virtual learning environment ("WOLF") and the University's electronic resources. Students may access all these online resources remotely. The Resources Room is open only to LPC students. It also contains our book stock and a photocopier. All computers have access to the databases to which we subscribe.

The Foundation Week Student Questionnaire asks students about their IT ability and whether they feel they need further help. Students who need help are given a guide to the University's IT training resources and asked to contact the IT and Skills Tutor if they need any further help. Tailored training sessions through the specialist IT staff at the Harrison Learning Centre (the University's main library on its City Campus) may be arranged typically dealing with: an introduction to PowerPoint, Intermediate Word and Electronic Journals.

Students are aware they can arrange one-to-one sessions with the Harrison Learning Centre staff should they wish to have assistance in how to use the main law library facilities or online databases. Students are also aware that they can contact the student representatives for Lexis Nexis Butterworths and Westlaw if they need help using those respective databases. The contact details of the representatives are posted in the LPC Resources Room.

The core practice areas and the vocational electives use WOLF in a variety of ways; ranging from the posting of revision type MCQs to more detailed ongoing negotiation exercises.

We have the benefit of a Course Administrator and can utilise the administrative support of the Faculty of Law, as well as having access to technical support from the University's central IT Services.

The LPC Resources Room is stocked with sufficient numbers of up to date practitioner texts. There is excellent support from the University Law Librarian who, inter alia, keeps the LPC team up to date on new additions to databases and who orders new editions of essential texts for the Resources Room). The Resources Room is located within the main University library (Harrison Learning Centre), located on the same site as Course teaching and students can therefore use the library resources at any time.

All course materials and textbooks are included within the course fee. As well as a hard copy of all materials, all seen materials are also available electronically.

Percentage of teaching staff who are qualified as solicitors or barristers

c90%

Percentage of teaching staff with higher level teaching qualification

c50%

Teaching staff profile

The course team is a mixture of experienced practitioners and academics and practitioners newer to the profession and teaching. The mixture includes members of staff who sat the former Law Society Finals, different versions of the LPC at different institutions and two members of staff with experience as LPC external examiners and one member of staff as an SRA assessor.

Fees

2013/14 - £9010*

***Students who have completed their undergraduate law studies at Wolverhampton University are entitled to a 20% discount from the advertised fee.**

Pastoral support, including dedicated careers guidance staff

The Course Administrator offers support to all students both before they join the course, during the course and after it. Overseas students often require assistance in relation to registration with a local doctor, accommodation and banking.

The Course Administrator is the first point of contact if the students are unable to attend due to illness or other good reason.

The Course Tutor offers support and guidance to all students in addition to the support offered by personal tutors. Students are able to discuss any issues with the Course Tutor and will be counselled in relation to the required attendance and workload of the LPC.

The Assessments Tutor is available to all students in relation to queries about assessments including the level of performance required and also the consequences of failing an assessment.

The Course Leader is also available to consider any issue which may be raised by a student.

The Skills and IT Tutor carries out an audit of students' IT abilities during the Foundation Course and if any student identifies a need for support in any IT area, extra group or one to one sessions are laid on.

We operate a genuine "open door" policy whereby students are encouraged to see any member of staff with academic or pastoral issues usually without the need to make a prior appointment. Appointments can, of course, be made also. Most pastoral issues which arise can be dealt with by the team but if a student has serious problems we will make them an appointment with one of the University's central support services (e.g. the Student Counselling Service, the Finance Department or the International Office) or with the Student Union if appropriate.

The Careers Tutor offers activity-based open workshops on specific careers topics, including drafting CVs and covering letters, discussions of the cultural differences between "High Street" and corporate firms and offering advice on any aspect of life in practice.

The students are also offered one-to-one sessions with the Careers Tutor to assist with all or any part of the process of identifying suitable firms, preparing CVs and/or covering letters and applications, and interview techniques.

All students are also encouraged to take advantage of the Mentoring Scheme offered exclusively for LPC students. The mentors are local solicitors, many of whom are former Wolverhampton LPC students. The scheme allows the students to liaise with the practitioner and seek advice in relation to their CVs, application letters and the requirements of practice. The Mentoring Scheme also includes an international element with former international students offering guidance and contacts to existing international students.

All students, both full-time and part-time, are allocated a personal tutor. The personal tutor is a member of the LPC teaching team and is available to the student during normal office hours. The student may make an appointment to see the tutor at any mutually convenient time. The tutor allocated to the part-time students will teach one of the subjects that the student is taking in that academic year; this makes it easier for the tutor and tutee to arrange convenient appointment times.

During the full-time course there are five designated tutee weeks during which the students are required to make an appointment to see their personal tutor. During the part-time course there are three designated tutee weeks during each academic year. These weeks generally follow receipt of results from formative or summative assessments or take place during the Foundation stage of the course. The purpose

of appointments is to enable staff to identify any problems as soon as possible and to offer additional support where necessary.

In addition to the designated personal tutee weeks, students are encouraged to see their respective personal tutors as soon as an issue arises, so that the appropriate support can be offered without delay.

Contact details

For further information, please contact the provider direct:

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