Graduate Entry LLB Online Chat Session

This online chat session is for students interested in studying our Graduate Entry LLB at The City Law School. The session will be run by academic staff, giving you the opportunity to ask questions about your chosen course at City, University of London. As this is a typed chat group session, you will be able to see the answers to questions asked by other applicants.

Hello and welcome! I am Dr Luke McDonagh, here to answer your GELLB questions...

Thank you for joining us for today’s Online Chat session. This session is for applicants to our our Graduate Entry LLB course. This session runs from 11:00 - 12:00 (BST). This is an open chat session for you to ask any questions you have regarding the course and life at City, University of London. During the session we may also share videos, polls or documents relating to you. To ask a question, please type it in the chat box. Your question will not post straight away - it will be sent to our Moderators who will type an answer back. Once their answer is complete, it will be published with your question. Please be patient as it might take some time for us to respond to your question.

Hello, many thanks for joining us today. My name is Saralyn and I will be happy to answer as many questions as I can.

Hi, my name is Chris and I work in the Marketing team here at City. Welcome to the session!

To begin, the GELLB is a two-year course of study for students who have already achieved an undergraduate degree in another subject (politics, sociology, business, etc)

*In legal profession :)

We take about 40 GELLB students per year and it is a close-knit cohort. The students appreciate this. All GELLB core subjects are taught as a separate cohort - we do not put you into LLB lectures with 18 year olds (as happens in some institutions). Our GELLB students are taught separately as a cohort of about 40 students and only mix with the LLB students for elective subjects taken in the second year.

Can I upon graduation work only in the UK?

The degree is a qualifying law degree for England and Wales. However, most of our GELLB students come from abroad, especially common law jurisdictions such as Canada. Most of our GELLB graduates return to their home jurisdiction. Their English GELLB qualifies them in their home state as long as they pass a small number of specific exams e.g. in Canada these are the NCA exams.

Can I upon graduation work only in the UK?

You will need to check what the specific requirements of your home jurisdiction are with respect to UK-qualified law degrees. Usually students can transfer after taking a few exams in their home state to ensure they know their home jurisdictions legal system.
Are there face to face lectures 2hrs per week?

Usually there are a mix of lectures (weekly 2 hours per subject, and with 4 subjects in your first year that would be 8 hours per week) and tutorials (1 hour biweekly so every week you would have 2 hours of tutorials spread across the 4 subjects).

Would that be similar to France or Estonia?

You will need to check the specific requirements - these are not common law jurisdictions (they are civil law jurisdictions) so it may require more effort when you return to transfer your qualification. We have had students from France before who have done this.

Hey what is the difference between JD Law and LLB law?

JD is generally a North American degree. Few if any UK universities offer it. Instead we offer two law degrees - LLB (3 years) and Graduate Entry LLB (2 years). The latter is popular with students who already have a degree in another subject (not law). The LLB can be studies without an existing undergrad degree.

How best should I prepare during the summer?

Learning the Law by Granville Williams is a classic book for incoming law students.

I'm from Canada and would like to practice in Canada after graduating. Will it be an easy transition back home?

Hi I think Luke mentions in a post above that if you decide to return to Canada to practice law, then you will need to do a few more exams just to fully qualify in Canada.

I'm from Canada and would like to practice in Canada after graduating. Will it be an easy transition back home?

The majority of our GELLB students are Canadians. It is a straightforward transfer when you return home - you just need to complete the NCA exams, which many of our graduates have done successfully.

Hello, I live in Canada and want to study law in the UK. I took an undergraduate degree (psyc honours) so that makes me eligible for the GELLB? Also, if I graduate with this degree, can I work in Canada?

Hi, our entry requirements are any degree at a second-class honours standard. Saralyn and Luke have posted above about using the degree in Canada.
How many hours of readings are usually assigned per class?

Law students have a lot of reading to do! When I first studied law as an undergrad, I was told that the library was the equivalent of our laboratory for science students. Given that you have about 10 hours of direct teaching, we would expect that students would spend a couple of hours every day reading the course materials (about 10 hours per week). However, when you get assignments and in advance of exams you will spend most of your time reading! That is the life of a law student (and of a practising lawyer).

Hello, I live in canada and want to study law in UK. I took an undergraduate degree (psyc honours) so that makes me eligible for the GELBB? Also, if i graduate with this degree, can I work in canada?

Yes by completing the NCA exams when you return, you will be qualified in Canada.

Hi, is there any delay for starting the GELBB due to the COVID-19? When is the enrolment time? How much the deposit amount would be?

At the moment we are proceeding on the basis that things will be back to normal in September and we can accept students on campus. In any event your fee is not payable until just before you start the course.

Hi, is there any delay for starting the GELBB due to the COVID-19? When is the enrolment time? How much the deposit amount would be?

Please see this page for more info about COVID-19 information. We are continually updating the page with up-to-date information https://www.city.ac.uk/study/coronavirus-info-for-prospective-students

Coronavirus information for prospective students

Information for prospective students on the impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic on activities at City, University of London.
is there any material for module specific information? e.g. legal skills, criminal justice

The programme specifications are here: [https://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/476807/LLB_110001_GELLB-Programme-Specification-Route-code-GSLLBD.pdf](https://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/476807/LLB_110001_GELLB-Programme-Specification-Route-code-GSLLBD.pdf) We don't give you module specific info until you start the course. But as I recommended above, the book Learning the Law by Gianville Williams is a great place to start your legal journey.

I have a degree in Canada which is a BBA. I have applied to the LLB graduate entry program. This is only 2 years. Will I obtain a degree after this? And will this be a Law degree? Also what is better to complete a JD Law completion or LLB? Do I have to do more school after the LLB graduate program to become a lawyer?

I have a degree in Canada which is a BBA. I have applied to the Lab graduate entry program. This is only 2 years. Will I obtain a degree after this? And will this be a Law degree? Also what is better to complete a JD Law completion or LLB? Do I have to do more school after the LLB graduate program to become a lawyer?

The GELLB is a two year law degree that qualifies students for England & Wales. We have lots of Canadian students who graduate with the GELLB and then return to Canada to sit the NCA exams to transfer their qualifications to Canada. The UK and Canada are common law jurisdictions so this is a straightforward transition. The JD is a North American-style degree - few if any UK law schools offer it.

Would all the textbooks need to be purchased? If so, what is the average cost?

Hello I believe for the first year you will have access to the core text books/resources online. In the second year, as you select modules you would like to study, you will most likely need to purchase these books, although we do have access to a wealth of legal resources and journals, etc to help with your studies.

like a more in depth module description for these modules

We don't publish those specifics for prospective students as they contain teaching materials that the university owns. But if you email me at [luke.mcdonagh@city.ac.uk](mailto:luke.mcdonagh@city.ac.uk) I can try to answer any specific questions you have!

Would all the textbooks need to be purchased? If so, what is the average cost?

There is also library access and online access so you would not have to buy many books. Some students decide not to buy any and just use the online/library resources.

Are there many opportunities/guidance for those seeking to pursue an academic legal career?

We have a careers advice service at City. We also put on events for prospective law graduates, including City alumni who now work as lawyers in London.
how early do you recommend students coming from outside of the UK come to EU to settle in

Hi , I think is down to every individual on how long they think they need to help settle in to the UK. Other factors such as accommodation and Visas may also factor in to how early you decide to come to the UK.

Is City offering or co operating with law firms for placement options?

We don’t have such links with specific law firms (UK law schools generally are not linked to the corporate sector in this way). However, we have a number of legal clinics offering advice to the public at which students can gain work experience.

Are there many opportunities/guidance for those seeking to pursue an academic legal career?

Hello , we have an excellent Careers Service who support our law students in particular with job applications, interview practice etc. They also organise many networking events with law firms and other organisations, as well as the annual law fair which is an opportunity for students to meet large and small firms and find out more about their own legal placements. You will also have your own tutor who can also help to guide you, dependent on the type of legal career you would like to pursue.

wow you recommend new students live on campus or off campus for their first year?

Again, I think that is a personal choice, however we do offer Postgraduate accommodation close to campus. You can find out more here https://www.city.ac.uk/study/living-in-london/accommodation/postgraduate-halls

Postgraduate halls

Accommodation Team

Do the courses have many assignments and mid-term exams or just end of term exams?

In your first year you would have 4 essays to complete (1 in each of the 4 core subjects you take) with each essay worth 25% of your final grade. The exam (usually a sit-down exam, but which is online this year due to Covid-19) in each of the 4 subjects counts for the other 75%.

Do GELLB professors grade on a curve?

No curve - each exam is assessed on its own merits.
If I have specific questions regarding my application, who can I email?

You can email me Prof Chris Ryan at c.Lryan@city.ac.uk

where can we find information on how to apply for a student visa? Is that provided after we accept the offer from the school we choose to go to?

The City admin team will contact about this after acceptance.

If I have specific questions regarding my application, who can I email?

Hello in the first instance you can email law@city.ac.uk or complete the admissions form on our website - https://www.city.ac.uk/about/contact#tab=tab-1

Contact City, University of London

General contact form for City, University of London.

Do you offer Family law?

We offer Child Law to GELLB students in their second year, which is a Family Law subject. All our electives are here in the area for second year: https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/graduate-entry-llb

Graduate Entry LLB (GE LLB) Course

Graduate Entry LLB (GE LLB) course - This course allows non-law graduates to achieve an LLB law degree in two years instead of three.

Can you explain more about the role of a tutor for GELLB students?
Your personal tutor will deal with giving you advice on transition to law and write references for you for your future career/study. Your subject tutors will guide you through problem- and exam-style scenarios to help your practical knowledge of the law. You will look at a lot of case law and consider how to apply the law to a similar set of facts.

Is it possible for Canadians to take LPC course right after their GELLB graduation and work there with their work Visa? Is LPC practical (work placement) or more like University course?

Canadian students can take the LPC right after the GELLB. Your GELLB two year visa would end and you would apply for a new one year LPC visa. For work your UK employer would sponsor your visa.

If I am coming from canada and would like to practice law in canada do you recommend I article in the UK or back in Canada?

If you want to practice in Canada you should article in that jurisdiction to help build up your contacts.

where can we find information on how to apply for a student visa? Is that provided after we accept the offer from the school we choose to fo to?

You can also sign up to our Tier 4 Guidance online chat - It's taking place on Wednesday 13 May 11:00-12:00pm (BST) https://meetandengage.com/axqohtpgxi

CityChat Postgraduate
Welcome to CityChat, City, University of London’s chat page; where you can chat live to our teams to find out more about postgraduate study with us. Our commitment to academic excellence, focus on business and the professions, and central London location, are just some of the reasons for studying at City. Throughout your application year we will be running chats about specific courses, studying at City, living in London, funding your studies and much more.

Do we study the four modules all year and have all four exams at the end?

You have 4 exams at the end (Constitutional, Criminal, Tort, Contract). These count for 75% of the grade. But you also have 4 essays to do spread out over the year that count for 25% in each subject.

If covid is not resolved by september what does this mean for our admission into the program?
Hello, Please check this page for COVID-19 questions. It’s our FAQ and regularly updated to reflect the daily changes that occur. - https://www.city.ac.uk/study/coronavirus-info-for-prospective-students

**Coronavirus information for prospective students**

Information for prospective students on the impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic on activities at City, University of London.

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**What does a typical day as a GE LLB student at City look like (in terms of lectures and seminars)?**

You have about 10 hours of teaching per week. We try to schedule teaching so that students have one day without classes (though this is not always possible). So you will have a lot of time in between lectures/tutorials to do library reading or do university sports/society activities.

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**As you have child law from family law only, would I need to specialise in family law in my masters to become divorce lawyer?**

Not necessarily. The electives you study at university do not necessarily define your future career. By studying Child Law you will show future employers that you have an interest in the subject; but when you start work as a practising lawyer you will work in a team and will learn on the job.

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**Is it possible for Canadians to take LPC course right after their GELLB graduation and work there with their work Visa? Is LPC practical (work placement) or more like University course?**

Hi, if you would like some more info about Visa’s, you can sign up to our Visa Guidance online chat - it’s taking place on Wednesday 13 May 11:00-12:00pm (BST) https://meetandengage.com/ak8hqqox

**CityChat Postgraduate**

Welcome to CityChat, City, University of London’s chat page; where you can chat live to our teams to find out more about postgraduate study with us. Our commitment to academic excellence, focus on business and the professions, and central London location, are just some of the reasons for studying at City. Throughout your application year we will be running chats about specific courses, studying at City, living in London, funding your studies and much more.

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**Looking forward to start next year! Is there an official facebook group for offer holders? I see there is a group for this years cohort**
There is not yet a group for offer holders. If we create one over the summer we will let you know. But the induction week in September is a great way to get to know your fellow students so please attend this!

Apart from the library, are there other places on campus - specifically for law students - where students can do private study in their breaks?

There are a number of quiet student study areas. Also, when classrooms are empty students often go into study in peace. There are a lot of cool and relaxing cafes on or nearby campus.

Do you think taking the Canadian modules offered would boost success for the NCA exams?

These are useful as the NCA can waive one of your exams if you have taken such a Canadian module.

Apart from the library, are there other places on campus - specifically for law students - where students can do private study in their breaks?

Hi everyone! Our brand new Law School is due to open this Autumn - you can see what it will look like here: https://www.city.ac.uk/applicant/law-a-new-home-for-the-city-law-school/

A New Home for The City Law School
Learn more about City's new iconic Sebastian Street Law School building

I remember hearing about a building that was being constructed just for law students, has this been completed?

Hello, please see Chris's post above. We are still on track to have our new law building open in the Autumn term, but we will update students if there are any delays due to COVID-19.

Is it better to accept your offer sooner rather than later? If you do wait to accept your offer will this effect your student visa?

You should accept the offer of the university you want to attend as your visa will in due course be tied to this university. You will not be able to transfer come September.

I understand no one knows but would there be any other open sessions in terms of a virtual visit to the school building and seeing the facilities? Before September's induction week.
Hi, the new Law School hasn’t been opened yet but you can view some images of the building here - https://www.city.ac.uk/applicant/law-a-new-home-for-the-city-law-school/. It is due to open in Autumn but we will keep students updated if there are any delays.

**A New Home for The City Law School**
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Is there someone we can speak to such as a guidance counsellor?

We have several such people on staff who specialise in either careers advice, disability advice, or student support and counselling. Students can have tough times while studying (life changing events can happen, as we are all aware of in the Covid era). We provide lots of support for students.

If we have more questions about the GELLB program?

You can email me at luke.mcdonagh@city.ac.uk or Professor Chris Ryan at c.l.ryan@city.ac.uk

Are the electives structured the same way as the core modules? (25% exam and 75% exam)

These electives are quite diverse in their assessment methods. Some are 100% exam, some are 100% essay, some require presentations, some require group work. You can choose the electives depending on what type of assessments you like.

I see there is also a module on the English Legal system .. could you give more details on this? From what I gather from friends it seems to be less essay-intensive?

Yes the ELS module is a straightforward multiple-choice test. It is a knowledge test that you will do in your first term. Students usually pass it with no problem.

What does an average class size look like?

Your cohort will be likely to be 30-40 students (this year it is 35) so you will be lectures together as a full group. But for tutorials you will be in groups of 15-18 students.
Do tutors hold weekly drop-in hours where students can come with any queries relating to what was discussed in a specific lecture/seminar?

Yes, tutors hold weekly office hours during term. You make an appointment on the City moodle online.

Is there going to be another question and answer live chat anytime before school starts again?

Hi, keep an eye out for more events on our website - [https://www.city.ac.uk/applicant/law-a-new-home-for-the-city-law-school](https://www.city.ac.uk/applicant/law-a-new-home-for-the-city-law-school). We have an upcoming Postgraduate Open Evening on Wednesday 3rd June where you'll be able to talk to staff and students.

A New Home for The City Law School
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Is there a lot of group work or is it more individual work?

Most work is individual-based. But you can choose modules that involve group work if you enjoy this.

Is the ELS a mandatory module?

Yes, it is mandatory for the qualifying law degree. But in my 4 years at Programme Director, no student has ever failed it. As long as you study the key elements of knowledge (e.g., what are the highest courts in the land? How does precedent work?) you will be fine.

When will we know who are tutors are?

You will get that information when you register and at induction you will meet the module convenors for the 4 core subjects.

Do we have any mock trial or any type of presentation during this course?

Mooting is something students can do (it is optional) and the new law building will have a moot court room.
Thanks for all the answers. Will there be any essays on legal writing - I have a social science background so can imagine that I will need to work on getting use to a new style of writing quickly.

The GELLB Programme Director takes you through seminars on how to write a legal essay and how to write a problem answer in the first few weeks of term.

There are 10 minutes left for this Online Chat session. Please ask any further questions you might have now.

After how long can you decide the type of law you would like to practice ie family, corporate, criminal?

This is something you might decide very early or you might not decide until you start practising law! Every legal career is different.

Is there a high success rate of graduates in the GELLB programme

The vast majority of students obtain their degree. We have very few students who drop out and when they do it is often due to circumstances outside of the university environment. Because our GELLB students have done a degree beforehand, they are really good students. We find it hard to track our GELLB graduates because they are spread out over the globe, but we have lots of successful GELLB alumni working London, Toronto, Alberta, Vancouver, etc.

Will there be opportunities to sit on a live court case?

Members of the public in London can visit most of the courts when they are in session e.g. Royal Courts of Justice, Old Bailey, Supreme Court, etc

Will there be opportunities to sit on a live court case?

These opportunities do exist in certain court rooms who allow the public to view court sessions. Dr Luke can probably tell you more about which court(s) this is, but that’s the great thing about studying at City and being close to legal firms, courts and the Inns.

How many social events are usually organized per year?

We have an introductory party early in the first term; an event around the end of the first term; and a large formal dinner at Middle Temple Inn during the second term.

In terms of career prospects, once UK students graduate from City and take the LPC, typically which firms do they usually secure training contracts with?
The biggest firms in the ‘magic circle’: Linklaters, Clifford Chance, etc.

After the 2 year programme do we write the Barr

After the two years if you wish to practice in Canada you do the NCA exams. If you wish to practice in London you do the LPC (Solicitor route) or the Bar Course (Barrister route)

In terms of career prospects, once UK students graduate from City and take the LPC, typically which firms do they usually secure training contracts with?

To add to Luke’s post, Roy was actually an LLB student but successfully secured a placement with Clifford Chance and now works there - [https://www.city.ac.uk/people/alumni/roy-appiah](https://www.city.ac.uk/people/alumni/roy-appiah)

**Roy Appiah**

Discover how Roy became an Associate in the litigation department at Clifford Chance LLP after studying law at City, University of London.

How many times can you write the NCA exam if you are not successful the first time

For this you will need to check the NCA website.

Is it common for law firms to pay the LPC course fees for GELLB graduates?

If you obtain a training contract from a big law firm, they will usually okay your LPC fees. So obtaining a training contract (via application) is the main goal for students.

Also what happens if you fail to pass a course? Do you just re do the course or is there a different procedure to this

You can resit an essay or exam if you fail it but your mark will be capped at the basic pass rate of 40 *unless you have extenuating circumstances (medical reasons, bereavement)

If UK students decide to do the SQE, does the GE LLB help prepare them for this too?

The SQE is coming in to replace the LPC (it may be in force by 2022). So yes the GELLB will be a great help to do this exam.
Thank you for being so helpful! You have made this process a lot less stressful :)

No problem.

Thank you for being so helpful! You have made this process a lot less stressful :)
You're welcome, Thanks for joining the session

Luke, Chris, and Saralyn thank you for your informative answers and have a great day!

You're welcome,

Will City assist us in applying for training contracts?

We offer advice on TCs. We hold a law fair in the first term where law firms come to talk to our students about prospects. And we write references and offer application advice.

Thank you for joining us for today's session. This Online Chat has now ended. If you have any further questions, please email pgenquiries@city.ac.uk

Thanks! Looking forward to begin in September :)

Thank you!

Luke, Chris, and Saralyn thank you for your informative answers and have a great day!
Pleasure and stay safe

Thank you everyone and please stay safe wherever you are in the world.