

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	Legal Practice Course (LPC)
Award	Masters' Degree / Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice/ Postgraduate Certificate in Legal Practice
School	The City Law School
Department or equivalent	Professional Programmes
Programme code	LALMLPM01 (LLM)/ LAPDLP01 (PGD)/ LACTLPO01 (PGC)/ LACTLPV01 (ex BVC APL) / LACTLPP01 (ex BPTC APL) Route code: PSLPCM (LLM)/ PSLPCP (PGD)/ PSLPSO (PGC)/ PSLPAV (ex BVC APL)/ PSLPAP (ex BPTC APL)
Type of study	Full Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The Legal Practice Course (LPC) is part of the required training for qualification as a solicitor of England and Wales, and follows completion of the required academic stage of training (see further below). The Programme is taught at Master's level, and its structure and content fully meet the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) requirements.

The course offers you two possible routes:

1) Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice ("The LPC")

If you successfully complete the compulsory taught element of the course (150 credits) you will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma and be certified as having completed Stages 1 & 2 of the Legal Practice Course. This is the compulsory vocational qualification required to be completed as part of your training to become a solicitor and to eligible to be admitted to the Roll of Solicitors of England and Wales.

2) LLM in Legal Practice ("the LLM")

You may choose to complete an additional 30 credit practice-focussed dissertation, following the compulsory taught element of the course, in order to achieve a Master's Degree.

It is also possible to join the course for Stage 1 of the LPC only (the Postgraduate Certificate in Legal Practice), Stage 2 of the LPC only or one or more of the electives.

#### **The LPC (Postgraduate Diploma – 150 credits)**

The LPC consists of two stages. Stage 1 includes the Core Practice Areas, Skills, Solicitors' Accounts, Professional Conduct & Regulation and the reserved area of Wills & Administration of Estates. Stage 2 includes the three Elective subjects selected by the

student from the range offered. Further details are set out below and in individual module specifications.

When you successfully complete both stages of the LPC, you will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice. This award allows you to enter into a training contract or the equivalent work-based learning phase of vocational training leading to full qualification as a solicitor. Successful completion of Stage 1 alone leads to the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Legal Practice. If you complete Stage 2 alone, or individual Electives, at City Law School, you will receive a transcript of results.

The LPC provides a foundation for qualification and work as a solicitor. It assumes as a starting point legal knowledge and understanding of the seven foundation areas of law as covered by a qualifying law degree or by a CPE or Graduate Diploma in Law course, and it is designed to support you in developing transferable knowledge and skills at a level appropriate to enter legal practice. The programme adds value to previous legal study and experience, developing skills and knowledge to professional entry level, and ensuring that you work through the type of tasks and transactions most commonly performed by a solicitor early in practice. There is no relevant Benchmark Statement, but fulfilment of the degree level Law Benchmark is assumed as a starting point for the Programme.

Once you have completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice you will explore knowledge related to legal practice from different perspectives to broaden your expertise and skills. You will also evaluate critically current practice in the Core Practice areas and the three electives that you study. As a result you will be able to provide appropriate critiques of knowledge and techniques in the practice of the law which will allow you to devise solutions to the sort of complex problems that you will be expected to deal with in your training contract or period of work based learning. The insight and skills that you acquire will be applicable to the broad range of environments that you might encounter during your career.

Those students who only complete the necessary modules for the Postgraduate Certificate (Stage 1 of the LPC) will acquire the necessary insight, scholarly techniques and skills appropriate for successful legal practice. These will be acquired in the broad context of the Core Practice areas and will not be refined by the study of the more specific contexts which are considered in the electives

### Aims

The Programme's core aims are those set out in the SRA's LPC Outcomes (September 2011): to prepare you for work-based learning, and to provide a general foundation for practice. In particular, at the end of the course, if successful you should be able, under appropriate supervision, to:

- research and apply knowledge of the law and legal practice accurately and effectively;
- identify and analyse the client's objectives and different means of achieving those objectives and be aware of the financial, commercial and personal priorities and

- constraints to be taken into account, as well as the costs, benefits and risks involved in transactions or courses of action;
- perform the tasks required to advance transactions or matters and communicate conclusions in a clear, structured and persuasive way in writing and orally;
  - understand the key ethical requirements contained in the SRA Principles of Regulation and Code of Conduct, understand where these may impact and be able to apply them in context;
  - demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and skills in:
    - Professional Conduct and Regulation
    - the core practice areas (CPAs) of Business Law and Practice, Property Law and Practice, and Litigation
    - Wills and Administration of Estates and Taxation
    - Solicitors' Accounts
    - the course skills of Practical Legal Research, Writing, Drafting, Interviewing and Advising, and Advocacy.
  - demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in the three areas covered by your choice of electives; and
  - reflect on your learning and identify your learning needs.

The immediate LPC aim is to ensure that you are ready to perform skills and tasks under the supervision normally and properly accorded to a trainee. However, the course also aims to ensure that you are able to transfer skills learned from one context to another, and to advance your knowledge and understanding and skills to a higher level, to continue to learn independently as required for continuing professional development.

### **The LLM (180 credits)**

You can develop your Legal Practice Course into a full LLM by undertaking an additional research-based dissertation module. The City Law School delivers the LPC at Master's level; the dissertation enables you to earn the same credit as a conventional Master's degree.

The Dissertation module requires further research and analysis leading to the completion of a 7,500-10,000 word dissertation on an approved topic related to professional legal practice. Successful completion of the dissertation, following completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice (LPC) at The City Law School leads to the award of an LLM in Legal Practice.

The course builds on the LPC, providing you with an opportunity to work individually to develop your expertise in a particular area of legal knowledge and/or professional skill, your skills in research, independent working and presentation and to demonstrate an ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding of professional legal practice through independent and reflective learning. The LLM Programme aims to support high quality entry into the legal profession, and successful specialisation within the legal profession.

You will write a dissertation examining an aspect of legal practice. You will be given a number of topics based on the LPC core practice areas and electives subjects. You will research a chosen area and write a 7,500-10,000 word dissertation on your findings. Your work should be based on a systematic and evaluative review of the current literature with a focus on legal practice and where relevant its enhancement.

The approach will involve critical examination of material and consideration of different perspectives, which will help you to develop insight and practice-related techniques. Your work will be expected to demonstrate a sound scholarly base, with critical analysis and practice-focused insight.

This LLM programme aims to enhance your ability to analyse, interpret and criticise substantive and adjectival law relevant to professional practice, and/or the skills required for professional legal practice. In particular, it will support you in:

- demonstrating initiative and personal responsibility in tackling and solving problems, acting autonomously in planning and implementing a task at a professional level
- enhancing your knowledge and understanding of, as appropriate, substantive law, procedural and evidential rules, and skills relevant to legal professional practice
- developing an integrated, analytical, problem solving and reflective approach to legal practice
- developing a practical understanding of how techniques of research, analysis and enquiry are used in gathering and interpreting legal knowledge and factual data relevant to legal practice
- analysing complex factual and legal information systematically and critically
- developing an ability to interpret the results of analysis in the light of existing or specially researched legal knowledge, where appropriate showing originality in your application of legal knowledge and identifying and carrying out further research into facts and law as appropriate
- developing an ability to communicate conclusions in a clear, structured and persuasive way in writing.

## **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

**On successful completion of the LPC, you will be expected to be able to:**

Knowledge and understanding:

- Advise on the nature and structure of different business media, with an ability to select an appropriate medium and structure to meet a client's commercial requirements, and analyse and advise on the legal and taxation implications of, and procedures required in, common form transactions and developments arising during the life and development of a business.

- Advise on matters arising in the context of civil and criminal litigation, and identify and analyse the critical steps in the process of litigation, having gained experience through practice of some or all of the stages of litigation.
- Advise on property transactions, and identify and analyse the critical steps in a transaction, through experience of some or all of the stages of a property transaction, and be able to perform relevant tasks in the context of a domestic or commercial property transaction.
- Advise on Professional Conduct and Regulation, SRA Accounts Rules, the basic principles of business accounts and how to use them, and of tax law to be able to apply them to problems encountered on the course.

Skills:

- Analyse complex factual data and legal information systematically so as to identify client objectives and issues to be pursued, to take decisions as to how the matter should be pursued, and to communicate those decisions clearly to lay and professional clients, and if appropriate, to a court.
- Complete individual tasks incrementally to be able to complete whole transactions effectively in the areas of Business Law and Practice, Litigation and Property Law and Practice at a level appropriate for entering a training contract.
- Analyse data from a variety of sources, evaluating the relevance of information and the existence of gaps and ambiguities, and identify ways of addressing these, to devise a coherent case and/or a persuasive argument.
- Write advice letters and draft legal documents in a clear, coherent and appropriate way in the context of a variety of legal transactions.
- Develop appropriate interpersonal skills in interviewing and advising including providing clear and coherent advice to a client.
- Present an argument in advocacy in a clear, coherent and persuasive way.
- Demonstrate through, inter alia, analysis and advice, sound and analytical understanding of legal principles and relevant skills in the three areas of practice chosen as Electives at a level appropriate for entering a training contract.
- Reflect on personal development to be able to continue to develop knowledge and skills in legal practice.
- Construct sound arguments to justify proposed courses of action, and to convey such arguments systematically and persuasively, both orally and in writing, to both professional and lay clients.

Values and attitudes:

- Advise on Professional Conduct and Regulation to be able to identify and advise a client on matters of professional conduct and ethics arising in any CPA or elective part of the course. This should include the use of sound judgement and personal responsibility in complex and unpredictable professional environments.
- Be aware of the central role of the client in legal professional practice, including being able to identify and deal with issues that will lead to better client care in all aspects of the work of a solicitor, including dealing with retainers and fees, conflicts of interest, confidentiality and professional undertakings.
- Identify and address the business and commercial aspects of a transaction or a legal problem, including the practical implications of matters such as costs.
- Demonstrate the use of sound judgement and personal responsibility in decision taking in complex professional environments, including an ability to work autonomously or within groups in ways that provide an appropriate foundation for legal practice.
- Be aware of the values appropriate for working constructively and with understanding as a lawyer in a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society.

**On successful completion of the LLM route you will, in addition, be expected to be able to:**

Knowledge and understanding:

- display an ability to synthesise and apply knowledge of a range of aspects of a distinct area of law and/or legal practice, including critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights at the forefront of current law;
- evaluate critically current research, advanced scholarship and practice in a selected area of law and/or practice.

Skills:

- undertake independent learning, demonstrating self-direction and originality in addressing problems or issues arising from the current state of the law and practice in the subject area studied;
- demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to research or advanced scholarship in relation to a selected area of professional practice.

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**

The LPC

The LPC is designed to support you in achieving the highest possible standards for legal professional practice and the learning and teaching supports this. As is appropriate for

those seeking to enter professional legal practice as solicitors, there is an emphasis on individual research and personal development. Students are expected to work independently and in groups.

Learning takes place through a range of Large Group (LG), Workshop and Skills sessions. The LG sessions are used to articulate the intellectual framework and knowledge relating to the area, together with relevant techniques and methodologies, and to introduce up to date and / or cutting edge information and issues. This will include the development of research, analysis and writing skills together with relevant techniques and methodologies. Workshops of about 16 students centre on task-based exercises set in the context of realistic legal (training) case files so as to simulate as closely as possible tasks which trainees and practitioners are expected to complete in practice. Skills sessions of 6 to 8 students are used for skills development, allowing for greater individual feedback and reflection. The focus of the learning environment on the LPC is on the face to face, replicating the situations and transactions you are likely to encounter in practice.

The LPC places a strong emphasis on the use of high quality teaching materials, and you are provided with a full range of practical manuals, practical client files and access to hard and e-copy practitioner texts. The preparation you are required to do for each session is set out on each session outline.

As is appropriate for those intending to qualify and work as solicitors, there is a significant emphasis on personal performance and development, the preparation and completion of tasks and regular, significant contributions in class. Students work independently on some tasks, but in groups or teams for others. The provision of personal feedback is integrated into the course to support students in developing knowledge, understanding and skill. Students are encouraged to take a reflective approach to their work.

You can expect 10-15 contact hours a week during term time, but it is likely that to be adequately prepared for all sessions, you will spend about 25 hours preparing.

Stage 1 is delivered from September to February each year, while Stage 2 is delivered from March to June. Sessions take place over four days in the week. Wednesdays are usually allocated as preparation days but may occasionally be used for formative assessments or other activities.

Under SRA requirements, Stages 1 and 2 must be completed within a period of 5 years.

#### The LLM

If you choose the LLM route, in addition to the taught modules comprising the LPC, you will be required to complete a practice-focussed dissertation module.

This programme is designed to support you in achieving the highest possible standards for legal professional practice and the learning environment supports this.

Dissertations will be supervised by staff who are professionally qualified and/or who have experience of practice. There will be an emphasis on steady and sustained progress through scheduled meetings (electronic or in person), where individual feedback will be provided to support development. There will be a written agreement as to the timing of supervisions and the progress made between the supervisions. You will be expected to use primary sources, practitioner and specialist resources for research and will be encouraged to develop a critical and reflective approach.

You will receive one-to-one supervision. We will provide you with a clear structure for supervision, and you will agree with your supervisor the timeline for planning, research, analysis and completion of your dissertation. If you choose to complete the course you will be required to submit the dissertation in the September following conclusion of the teaching on Stage 2.

You are expected to use appropriate practitioner and specialist resources for research. In undertaking this, you will also be able to make use of our excellent library support for guidance on developing your literature search and other aspects of research techniques. You will have full access to online research and other resources throughout the programme.

In addition to supervision, we will provide you with an induction covering research and writing skills, and also online support, to assist you with research and analysis methods, structure for the dissertation, writing up the results of your research, referencing sources etc. Please note empirical research will not be possible on the dissertation module.

## **WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

### Assessment

The assessment process for Stages One and Two of the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice is designed to meet the SRA requirements as to content and standards to ensure that you have a thorough working knowledge of the subject areas studied, and have reached a competent standard in the skills to be used during a training contract or work based learning period and beyond.

Assessment methods are suited as closely as possible to what is being assessed, and each individual assessment is as realistic as possible. All assessments are 'open book'. Clear criteria are provided for the Skills assessments. The general standard of assessment is 'ready for the training contract/work based learning'. All formal assessment is summative, but formative assessments are provided for all assessed elements of the LPC. SRA-approved assessment regulations are in place to ensure fairness in assessment.

The assessments are as follows:

The Core Practice Areas:

- Business Law & Practice – written supervised assessment, comprising two parts
- Litigation – written supervised assessment, comprising one paper in Civil Litigation worth 67% of the available marks and one paper in Criminal Litigation worth 33% of the available marks
- Property Law & Practice – written supervised assessment, comprising two parts.

#### The Skills

- Practical Legal Research – ‘take-away’ time-limited coursework assessment
- Writing – ‘take-away’ time-limited coursework assessment in the context of Practical Legal Research
- Drafting – ‘take-away’ time-limited coursework assessment
- Interviewing & Advising – filmed performance
- Advocacy – filmed performance
- Wills & Administration of Estates – filmed performance assessed within the Interviewing & Advising assessment
- Professional Conduct & Regulation – written supervised assessment, assessed by means of multiple choice questions
- Solicitors’ Accounts – written supervised assessment

At the beginning of the course, you will be provided and become familiar with the criteria on which you will be assessed in the skills. The assessment criteria are based on the LPC outcomes as set by the SRA.

Electives – each elective is assessed by means of a written supervised assessment with the exception of Advanced Civil Litigation which is assessed by means of a written supervised assessment and a filmed performance.

#### The Dissertation

If you choose to complete the LLM you will also be required to complete a 30 credit research based dissertation (7,500-10,000 words in length).

Assessment Criteria and Grade Descriptors for the dissertation will be made available in the Assessment Handbook.

#### Feedback on assessment

Formal feedback will be provided in accordance with our assessment and feedback policy. For example, for all formative skills assessments, whether you are assessed competent or not yet competent, you will receive individual written feedback, within two weeks after submission of the assessment. If you fail any summative assessment (including the dissertation), you will then receive written feedback at the time of issue of the results and be given the opportunity to review your assessment one to one with an appropriate tutor.

Informal feedback is always available in class, and we encourage you to give feedback to each other, as this is a valuable part of development of skills on the LPC. In addition, students are encouraged to see tutors for feedback and support when needed.

### Assessment Regulations

#### (a) *The Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice*

In order to pass the course, you must successfully complete all of the assessments and have a satisfactory record of attendance.

In order to pass an assessment in a Core Practice Areas (CPA) assessments, namely Business Law and Practice, Litigation, and Property Law and Practice, Professional Conduct and Regulation, Solicitors' Accounts or an elective you must obtain a mark of at least 50%. The skills and Wills & Administration of Estates are assessed on a Competent/Not Yet Competent basis.

If you fail or are graded as Not Yet Competent in an assessment, you will normally be offered two resit attempts.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the minimum number of marks required to pass that assessment, or as appropriate graded as Competent for that assessment. If you fail your second resit, you will normally fail the course.

No compensation between assessments is allowed on the LPC.

#### (b) *The LLM in Legal Practice*

In order to pass, you must successfully complete the dissertation and must have also successfully completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Your classification for the course will be calculated on the basis of your result for the dissertation and your result in the Postgraduate Diploma.

The pass mark for the dissertation is 50%.

If you fail the dissertation you will be offered one opportunity to resubmit.

If you are successful in the resubmission, you will be awarded the minimum pass mark of 50% for the dissertation and this is the mark which will be used to calculate the classification of your award.

If you do not meet the pass requirements for the dissertation and do not complete your resit by the date specified the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

### **WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?**

#### (a) *The LPC*

Successful completion of both stages of the LPC entitles you to commence a training contract. Additionally you may be eligible for one of the City's awards, as set out below.

Postgraduate Diploma:

<b>Part</b>	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
Stage One	7	120	N/A
Stage Two	7	30	N/A

Postgraduate Certificate:

<b>Part</b>	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
Stage One	7	120	100%

### **The Postgraduate Diploma**

If you successfully complete Stages 1 & 2 (taking into account any entitlement you may have to Accreditation of Prior Learning: see below) you will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice, classified as follows:

#### Distinction

You will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma with a classification of Distinction if

- (i) you have passed all assessments at the first attempt; and
- (ii) have obtained an overall average mark of at least 70% across all six CPAs and electives; and
- (iii) have a satisfactory record of attendance.

#### Commendation

You will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma with a classification of Commendation if

- (i) you have either
  - a. passed all assessments at the first attempt; or
  - b. failed only one assessment in the Skills, Wills & Administration of Estates, PCR or Solicitors' Accounts and have passed that assessment on first resit; and
- (ii) have obtained an overall average mark of at least 60% across all six CPAs and electives; and
- (iii) have a satisfactory record of attendance.

#### Pass

All students who are certified as having completed the course successfully but do not meet the criteria set out above to be classified as Distinction or Commendation will be graded as Pass.

### **The Postgraduate Certificate**

If you successfully complete Stage 1 only you will be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Legal Practice, classified as follows:

#### Distinction

You will be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate with a classification of Distinction if

- (i) you have passed all assessments at the first attempt; and
- (ii) have obtained an overall average mark of at least 70% across all three CPAs; and
- (iii) have a satisfactory record of attendance.

#### Commendation

You will be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate with a classification of Commendation

if:

- (i) you have either
  - a. passed all assessments at the first attempt; or
  - b. failed only one assessment in the Skills, Wills & Administration of Estates, PCR or Solicitors' Accounts and have passed that assessment on first resit; and
- (ii) have obtained an overall average mark of at least 60% across the three CPAs; and
- (iii) have a satisfactory record of attendance.

#### Pass

All students who are certified as having completed the course successfully but do not meet the criteria set out above to be classified as Distinction or Commendation will be graded as Pass.

If you only complete Stage 2 of the course you will not receive any award.

#### *(b) The LLM in Legal Practice*

Part	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Dissertation	7	30	N/A	Distinction	70
Taught (LPC)	7	150	N/A	Commendation	60
				Pass	50

If you are certified as having successfully completed the LLM you will be graded as follows:

#### Distinction

You will be awarded the LLM in Legal Practice with a classification of Distinction if

- (i) you must have passed all assessments, including the Dissertation, at the first attempt; and
- (ii) have obtained an overall average mark of at least 70% across all assessments; and
- (iv) have a satisfactory record of attendance.

#### Commendation

You will be awarded the LLM in Legal Practice with a classification of Commendation if

- (i) you have
  - a. have passed the Dissertation at the first attempt; and
  - b. passed at first attempt all other assessments; or
  - c. failed only one assessment in the Skills, Wills & Administration of Estates, PCR or Solicitors' Accounts and have passed that assessment on first resit; and
- (ii) have obtained an average mark of at least 60% across all assessments; and
- (iii) have a satisfactory record of attendance.

#### Pass

All students who are certified as having completed the course successfully but do not meet the criteria set out above to be classified as Distinction or Commendation will be graded as Pass.

An exit award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice will be made to those who successfully passed all LPC Assessments as set out above, but who have not

successfully completed the Dissertation.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

### Stage 1

In Stage 1 you will complete 11 compulsory modules.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Business Law & Practice	LSM104	25	C	N	7
Property Law & Practice	LSM102	25	C	N	7
Litigation	LSM103	25	C	N	7
Drafting	LSM008	5	C	N	7
Writing	LSM009	5	C	N	7
Advocacy	LSM010	5	C	N	7
Wills & Administration of Estates	LSM029	5	C	N	7
Professional Conduct & Regulation	LSM131	5	C	N	7
Solicitors' Accounts	LSM132	10	C	N	7
Interviewing & Advising	LSM032	5	C	N	7
Practical Legal Research	LSM133	5	C	N	7

### Stage 2

In Stage 2 you will complete 3 elective modules from the following list.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Equity Finance	LSM013	10	E	N	7
Commercial Law	LSM014	10	E	N	7
Advanced Civil Litigation	LSM016	10	E	N	7
Employment Law and Practice	LSM017	10	E	N	7
Family Law	LSM018	10	E	N	7
Mergers & Acquisitions	LSM019	10	E	N	7
Commercial Dispute Resolution	LSM021	10	E	N	7
Private Client	LSM022	10	E	N	7
Media Law	LSM034	10	E	N	7

If you choose to complete the LLM you will need to complete an additional module. You are not normally required to complete the LPC successfully before progressing to the dissertation.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Dissertation	LSM100	30	C	N	7

## **WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?**

As a student on the LPC, you will be able to benefit from the Training Contract Advisory Service, led by an LPC tutor with experience of recruitment in practice. We can assist you with development of your CV, covering letters, application forms and preparation for assessment days and interviews.

As this Programme is designed for students intending to qualify as solicitors, a training contract will be the desired goal. However, students who are unsuccessful in securing a training contract by the time they complete the LPC may also go into paralegal work, which may in turn lead to a training contract. As many of the skills developed on the LPC are transferable, former students are now working in other professional environments such:

- Employed lawyers
- Government Legal Service
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Local Government lawyers
- Regulators
- Academic lawyers
- Legal publishing
- Finance industry and banking
- Commerce and business
- Banking
- Accountancy
- Tax
- Corporate governance
- Ombudsman departments

### **LLM**

You will find completing the LLM of help to you in a number of different careers. The focus on a particular area of legal practice will stand you in good stead to apply for a training contract or employment in that particular field. The fact that you have undertaken independent research and written a 7,500 – 10,000 word dissertation will be evidence of your research and writing skills. It may also provide you with the basis for later doctoral research and an academic career.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

## **WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?**

**Accrediting Body:** Solicitors Regulation Authority (for the LPC only)

**Nature of Accreditation**

Entitlement to enter a Training Contract

## **HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

The LPC is a postgraduate course with entry requirements prescribed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

Most students will have a UK honours degree in law. Normally a strong second-class degree is the minimum standard required. However, it is possible to apply with a degree in another subject and a further qualification in law, such as the Graduate Diploma in Law. The SRA can advise on non-standard qualifications.

Before enrolling on the course, you must meet SRA requirements for evidence of completion of the academic stage of legal training and become SRA student members.

To apply for Stage 1 only or to do both Stages 1 and 2 or the LLM at the same provider, you must apply online through the Central Applications Board at [www.lawcabs.ac.uk](http://www.lawcabs.ac.uk). Applications open in early October each year and can be made up until the end of August before the start of the course.

To apply for Stage 2 only or one or two vocational electives you must apply directly to City, University of London.

In considering your application, we will take the following into account: academic profile and achievement, strength of personal reasons for wishing to take the course and evidence of your motivation to become a solicitor (work experience, training contract applications etc).

If you apply for both Stages 1 & 2, offers will be for both the LPC and the LLM; you will be required to select which route you intend to study when you accept your offer.

UK applicants should be aware that if you take the LLM route you will be eligible to apply for a government backed postgraduate loan, see <https://www.gov.uk/postgraduate-loan/overview>. The LPC alone is not eligible for this funding. Students who obtain such a loan will need to complete the full programme (they will not be able switch to the LPC route) or else may breach the terms of their loan agreement.

## **Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)**

If you are a successful BVC or BPTC graduate, you may be eligible for exemption from attendance and assessment in the following areas of the LPC, in accordance with City and SRA guidance:

- BVC graduates:
  - Stage 1 – Litigation, Advocacy, Drafting, Practical Legal Research
  - Stage 2 – Two vocational electives;
- BPTC graduates:

- Stage 1 – Litigation, Advocacy, Drafting
- Stage 2 – Two vocational electives.

You must apply online through the Central Applications Board at [www.lawcabs.ac.uk](http://www.lawcabs.ac.uk) as indicated above (see '**How do I enter the Programme?**'), noting your intention to apply for APL. You will then need to apply directly to The City Law School for APL, providing us with satisfactory evidence of your having successfully completed the BVC/BPTC no earlier than five years prior to the date of your eventual enrolment on our LPC.

If you are granted APL, you will be eligible for a Postgraduate Diploma award with a classification of Distinction if:

- (i) you have passed all assessments for which APL has not been given, with no resits; and
- (ii) have obtained an average mark of at least 70% across BLP, PLP and the vocational elective studied at the City; and
- (iii) have a satisfactory record of attendance.

#### Commendation

You will be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma with a classification of Commendation if:

- (i) you have either
  - (a) passed all assessments for which APL has not been given with no resits; or
  - (b) failed only one assessment in the Skills, Wills & Administration of Estates, PCR or Solicitors' Accounts and have passed that assessment on first resit; and
- (ii) have obtained an average mark of at least 60% across BLP, PLP and the vocational elective studied at the City; and
- (iii) have a satisfactory record of attendance.

#### Pass

All students who are certified as having completed the course successfully but do not meet the criteria set out above to be classified as Distinction or Commendation will be graded as Pass.

If you are granted APL, you will be eligible for a Masters award with a classification of Distinction if

- (i) you have passed all assessments for which APL has not been given, including the Dissertation, at the first attempt; and
- (ii) have obtained an overall average mark of at least 70% across BLP, PLP, the elective studied at City and the Dissertation; and
- (iii) have a satisfactory record of attendance.

If you are granted APL, you will be eligible for a Masters award with a classification of Commendation if

- (i) you have
  - a. have passed the Dissertation at the first attempt; and
  - b. passed at first attempt all assessments for which APL has not been given; or
  - c. failed only one assessment in the Skills, Wills & Administration of Estates, PCR or Solicitors' Accounts and have passed that assessment on first resit; and
- (ii) have obtained an average mark of at least 60% across BLP, PLP, the elective studied at City and the Dissertation; and
- (iii) have a satisfactory record of attendance.

Pass

All students who are certified as having completed the course successfully but do not meet the criteria set out above to be classified as Distinction or Commendation will be graded as Pass.

If granted APL, you are not eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate.

(Note that you will still need to complete a training contract to qualify for admission as a solicitor. This APL, which is permitted by the SRA, does not extend to exemption from any part of the training contract.)

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