

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Legal Practice
Award	LLM
School	The City Law School
Department or equivalent	Professional Programmes
Programme code	LALMLPP01 (Route code: PSLPP)
Type of study	Full Time & Part Time
Total UK credits	215
Total ECTS	107.5

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

This course is designed to enable you to convert a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from City to a Masters Degree.

It requires further research and analysis leading to the completion of a 15,000-20,000 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 is delivered flexibly and can be started either whilst you are registered on the LPC or within 5 years of starting it. There is a choice of two dissertation submission dates each year.

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.

LLM

For all of you completing the LLM in Legal Practice following the completion of the LPC, you will write a dissertation examining an aspect of legal practice. You will propose the topic you would like to explore in the dissertation that you see as relevant to your own developing career. Your dissertation should be based on a systematic and evaluative review of the current literature and may also include some empirical research on the topic which might inform enhancement of legal practice. This will provide an opportunity to explore an aspect of legal practice in depth.

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.

Aims

In taking a Masters level approach, the programme aims to enhance each student's ability to analyse, interpret and criticise the law relevant to professional practice, and/or 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 professional 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 this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate through your dissertation systematic knowledge and conceptual understanding of the principles of and where relevant background to your chosen area of law, to advance your knowledge of law to a higher level and to systematically achieve knowledge and understanding of substantive law in an appropriate, and where necessary, original manner, evaluating critically the relevance and application of legal principle
- Analyse data from a variety of sources, evaluating the relevance of information and the existence of gaps and ambiguities, and identifying ways of addressing gaps and ambiguities, to devise a coherent theory for a case and/or pervasive argument

Skills:

- Evaluate critically current knowledge, research and advanced scholarship in the subject area studied, including research and professional methodologies where appropriate
- Where relevant interact with legal or other practitioners in a constructive and effective professional manner, showing self-direction in addressing problems
- Apply knowledge of the law, whether gained during current or previous studies, in an appropriate manner to address issues of concern in the subject area. Originality of application is encouraged

- Write in a clear, coherent and appropriate way in the context of the area of study
- Deal with complex issues systematically and creatively to reach sound judgements
- Demonstrate a comprehensive and critical understanding of the techniques and methodologies appropriate for the analysis of complex legal and factual information in a structured way so as to be able to identify issues addressed in a case, including approaches informed by the forefront of legal professional practice

Values and attitudes:

- Identify and address where relevant the business and commercial aspects of a legal issue
- Use sound judgement and personal responsibility in decision taking in complex professional environments, including the ability to work autonomously
- Demonstrate where relevant an awareness of the values appropriate for working constructively and with understanding as a lawyer in a multi-cultural ethnic society.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

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 significant 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.

The course can be completed on either a full-time or part-time basis. If you choose to complete the course on a full-time basis you will be required to submit the dissertation within 6 months. If you choose to study on a part-time basis you be required to submit the dissertation within 12 months..

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessment is based on the completion of a 15,000-20,000 word dissertation. Transparent assessment criteria for the dissertation focus on high level research skills and analysis. The criteria requirements include demonstration of understanding of relevant literature, appropriate methodology, originality and interface of research with practice.

You will be provided with assessment criteria which are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills and knowledge that you need to demonstrate in order to complete the dissertation successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. The criteria will be made available to you to

support you in completing assessments. These will be provided in the programme handbook on the virtual learning environment and attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback on the LLM is to a certain extent incremental. You will be offered the opportunity to submit a draft of your dissertation to your supervisor, who will be able to give you feedback on how well you have fulfilled the criteria and any areas that need improvement.

Further, written feedback will be provided on your submitted dissertation, to highlight its strengths and any weaknesses. This would assist you to make required improvements, should you not achieve the 50% pass mark.

Assessment Regulations

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 result of the Dissertation will be worth 28% toward your award and the Postgraduate Diploma will be worth 72%.

The pass mark for the dissertation is 50%.

If you fail the dissertation you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, 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 the requirements for the dissertation and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:
http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

Part	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Dissertation	7	60	28	With Distinction	70
Taught	7	155	72	With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
LPC Dissertation	LSM025	60	C	N	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

You may continue to benefit from the LPC Training Contract Advisory Service. We can continue to assist you with development of your CV, covering letters, application forms and preparation for assessment days and interviews.

Completion of your dissertation will enhance your CV and, depending on the topic chosen, may assist you in developing your expertise within a chosen law firm.

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>.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

Applicants must complete both Stages of the Postgraduate Diploma at the City Law School to be eligible for the LLM.

There is one application round in Spring each year with the course commencing in July. This will normally be immediately after you complete your Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice (LPC). However, applications can also be made within 5 years of first registration for the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Selection will take into account the subject matter and quality of the proposal made for a dissertation, including the research methodology and interface with practice. We provide places for all students who put forward dissertation proposals of sufficient quality and have also made sufficient progress on the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice.

Students will not be permitted to register on the LLM if they have 3 or more required LPC resits at the time of registration.

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For use from 2019/20