Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) online chat session

This online chat session is for students interested in studying our GDL 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.

Thank you for joining us for today’s CityChat session. This session is for students interested in studying our Graduate Diploma in Law course. This session runs from 12:00 – 13:00 (BST). This is an open chat session for you to ask any questions you have regarding these courses and life at City, University of London. During the session we may also share videos, polls or documents relating to your course.

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. You are also welcome to post just saying hi and introducing yourself!

Your moderators today are Daniel Wilsher (Programme Director) and Shanice Harrison (Recruitment team).

Hello everybody looking forward to our chat today

Hi Daniel, I would like to get some advise

I am British by birth, however obtained an overseas MBA degree which is equivalent of a USA Bachelors, I didn’t get the certificate of equivalence

Hi, thank you for taking the time to answer questions about the course. I look forward to joining City law school for my GDL in September. I would love to find out more about the balance between the opportunities available for potential solicitors and potential barristers.

Nice to hear you are joining us. We have a full range of careers events for both. We get lawyers coming in to do talks and also the careers service does mock interviews

Could you please confirm that, also I needed details about classes

Your first degree will be assessed by our admissions team when you apply

Hi, I’m very interested to see what questions come up and try to get feel for City and it’s postgraduate GDL.

Hi, welcome to the chat! Hopefully you’ll find this very useful
Could you please confirm that, also I needed details about classes. The course structure is on the link that Shanice is sending out - 7 lectures per week and 3.5 tutorials - small groups of 12.

What is the best way forward, would I need to send my degrees and transcripts etc?

Here is the course page (which includes the course structure):
https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/graduate-diploma-law-gdl

**Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) Course**

Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) course - Gain a solid foundation in law and fast track your career on the Graduate Diploma in Law from The City Law School.

What is the best way forward, would I need to send my degrees and transcripts etc.

Yes you apply through lawcabs website.

I really want to do the GDL but some people are saying it's very tough.

Why do you want to do it? What are your hopes - it is tough but it can be worth it.

My sister is a lawyer and has her own law firm in Manhattan USA, she was my inspiration!

Hi everyone - I was really inspired by the City GDL info video on YouTube but I'd like to know more about the differences between the GDL and graduate entry LLB. Since City doesn't seem to offer the GDL part time I see the GE LLB kind of like a more in-depth GDL over two years? Thank you!

Good question - yes - GE is the 7 core subject plus electives - so 10 altogether over 2 years - more time to study in depth.

Can I ask do you have 2 intakes September and Jan?

No - only Sept.
and with regards to the application is it via UCAS

no lawcabs

When we begin the GDL, is there any specific support in helping to transition into this new sort of thinking?

yes - English legal system study in induction and practice work

Hi, thank you for hosting this event! I haven’t applied yet, but hope to be taking the GDL in September 2019, do you still have spaces available for this intake?

sure

Thank you. Also, do you suggest preparing for the GDL before beginning in September in any way?

sure - lots of court visits and the text book - Elliot on Eng legal sys

Ok great! I would hope to get a part-time job to fund my living costs in London during the GDL, do you think that's feasible?

*this is feasible?

no - too much work

The law cabs is that on your university website?

Here is the link: https://www.lawcabs.ac.uk/

I read that the gdl can be converted into an LLB by taking extra courses - can you explain more about how that works?

top up 3 modules from electives but it is not done much

So you do not offer part time, with regards to the full time programme do you have availability?
no part time but we do have f/t places

Thanks, I will be in touch

I am student of LLB 6th semester here in Pakistan so, can I adjust the 4th left semester there in city university

no

I’ve been told that I cannot apply to the GDL (I'm a mature student and my first degree isn’t good enough), but perhaps the LLB Could be an option instead.

not my course but try our llb team

So you do not think that working one day a week would be possible alongside the workload of the GDL? Also what is the percentage of students on the GDL at City Law School going onto take the BPTC and the LPC?

not a good idea - v tough - 60% BPTC 40% LPC

Hi!! I wanted to know what would be the path from the GDL to becoming a licensed solicitor?

long q but look at lawcabs site on screen

Hi!! I wanted to know what would be the path from the GDL to becoming a licensed solicitor?

HI [REDACTED] this should help you decide: https://www.lawcabs.ac.uk/

Thank you, this has been very helpful!

great

What is the biggest difficulty that GDL students have, coming back into the world of study, after having had time out?

reading a lot fast and keeping confident amidst younger people
Also regarding City in general - what are the benefits that come with being part of Uni of London (i.e. How integrated are all the institutions/students from across Uni of London institutions)?

some access to shared facilities but not a major plus

I need to understand if it is worth doing a GDL to get to my end goal... having a career!

no website can answer that - a careers advisor can say - by looking at your degree etc

Also regarding City in general - what are the benefits that come with being part of Uni of London (i.e. How integrated are all the institutions/students from across Uni of London institutions)?

The Universities of London have shared facilities, including some of the best libraries in London and amazing online resources for careers and accommodation. It is also looked upon in high regard by employers

Okay, so in other words - why should someone choose the City GDL over any other? Thank you!

ours is very tough - only for serious students - there are easier courses out there. We try to train people to be the best -

Thank you :blush:

have a great day

Also - I'm looking at 2020 entry - when do applications open?

it's always open - you can defer to 2020

I understand it's best to apply as soon as possible right?

yes

So they are accepted on a rolling basis?

yes
You say your programme is tough, I am serious but I work and have 2 kids

not easy - part time might be more compatible

Can someone help me with information about the path to becoming a solicitor? Is it GDL, LPC, 2 years training contract (given I can get a training contract) and SQE? Or is the SQE replacing the need of a training contract?

yes - all this is right - the thing is changing to SQE from LPC etc - watch for implementalothn dates

But you don’t offer that

no

Do you accept students that don’t put City as first choice on their law CAB application?

can do

Do you accept mature students with no degree?

can do - but must show special quality - not my decision

I am a foreign lawyer living in the UK. I’ve been considering the paths to getting a license to practice here. In your opinion, which path do you think is the best to get there (GDL, QLTS, or other)?

not my expertise but check with our team at Grays Inn - they do the QLTS etc

Daniel if I apply for the 2019 course and get accepted for some reason are unable to start am I able to transfer the same app for 2020

yes

What catches your eye or makes a superb personal statement? What sets one student leagues above the rest?
Demonstrating your experience and passion is the most important thing. We want to see that you are serious about studying Law at City and you will excel in the given circumstances/put in the work. If you have worked in law, or attended relevant events, definitely let us know. Remember to let your personality and ambition shine too. Good grammar and spelling is a must too. I hope that answers your question.

I see, thank you so much.

Can you elaborate please re "special quality" and decision making process. Looking at barrister path, have lawyer and two barrister recommendations, could interview as needed, planning to complete LLM at Loyola or UCLA after GDL, have visited both and met with course directors in person.

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You can send an email to law@city.ac.uk and they will be able to advise you.

Is there any other process besides the law application?

no.

And how soon will we get an update?

few weeks after app.

That's great I will apply soon, also in terms of funding do I contact the institute?

My understanding is your institute is one of the best for Law.

We are definitely one of the best, but we want to make sure every student makes the right choice. Sadly we don't offer part-time in your preferred course, and juggling a full time course with loads of commitments is extremely hard, but have a look at the options we offer: https://www.city.ac.uk/about/schools/law

**The City Law School**

The City Law School is one of London’s major law schools and offers a wide range of law courses including LLB degree, BPTC, Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), and Legal Practice Course (LPC). The City Law School is part of City, University of London.
When is the next GDL session and when is the deadline for the application

- open evening in autumn - no deadline

- I definitely know I want to do GDL

- sure you can - lots of places do very flexible methods inc DL and PT

Shanice and Daniel thanks for putting on this chat. I am going to apply. Last question, if I may. Should I include the references and letters of support in the main body of my personal statement, or just attest to their existence, and await a supplementary request from City? Thank you.

- follow the lawcabs form

Shanice and Daniel thanks for putting on this chat. I am going to apply. Last question, if I may. Should I include the references and letters of support in the main body of my personal statement, or just attest to their existence, and await a supplementary request from City? Thank you.

No problem at all, best of luck!

It doesn’t say anything about GDL tuition at City Uni website. Do u know the cost pls.

- around 11500

For students who don’t clear exams do you allow them re takes, just a general question thanks

- yes once

Thank you Daniel and Shanice! Have a good day!

- pleasure - have a good one

:):) now you know why I want to apply at City

- Glad to hear you really like City :)
Oh Yes :)

But I have kids and a job. Let's see

That's why my heart is set on this Institute

Pleasure - sure all will work out in the best way possible

Thanks both for all your support

Here is the link for the course page if you want to apply:
https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/graduate-diploma-law-gdl

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Could I get a sample time table for the classes

There is a sample timetable on the course page (the link I just shared)

Thanks Shanice

You're welcome :)

Take care

Thanks everyone - it's been lovely

Thanks Daniel for all your help
This session has now ended. Thank you for joining us for today’s chat. If you have any further questions please email generalenquiries@city.ac.uk