Legal Practice Course (LPC) online chat session

This online chat session is for students interested in studying our LPC 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 Online Chat session for students interested in our Legal Practice Course (LPC) course. The sessions, which runs from 12:00 - 13:00 (GMT), is 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 related to the 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 you question. Please be patient as it might take some time for us to respond to your question.

Hello! My name is Zhuliya. I am UK Marketing and Recruitment Officer at City, University of London. Feel free to ask me any questions you might have.

Hello! I am James Catchpole, I am the Director of the LPC (and the LLM in Legal Practice) - thank you for joining us today, I am only too happy to answer any questions you may have.

Do you have any open days coming up so students can visit the university and when is the application deadline for the LPC?

Currently we have none planned - but, I am only too happy to facilitate a visit for anyone interested in the course at a time that would suit you.

My story in 3 objects: Bertha Eke, Legal Practice Course (LLM route) at City

https://youtu.be/43ZqhdUw9YE
Do you have any open days coming up so students can visit the university and when is the application deadline for the LPC?

In terms of deadline, there is no particular deadline for applications - although, for those students looking to take advantage of the Post-graduate loan, the earlier you apply and accept a place does then permit the application for the loan to be made.

If you have any questions related to LPC, feel free to post them so that we can answer them.

Do you have any open days coming up so students can visit the university and when is the application deadline for the LPC?

Just one point on applications - these are made via [https://www.lawcabs.ac.uk/](https://www.lawcabs.ac.uk/) - and whilst I say there is no deadline, do remember that the process does require your referee to upload a reference before they are then forwarded to the Provider. Here at City, we were the only Provider to be in the enviable position to be able to close our applications last year in August.

Thank you, I will like to come and see the university and I will get my application done by the end of this month.

Do let me know when you would like to visit - my email is l.catchpole@city.ac.uk

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**An Introduction to The City Law School**

https://youtu.be/BpeHCBg4lo8

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How is the course structured?

There are two parts:
Stage 1 - this is all compulsory, and comprises core subject areas of Business, Property and Litigation, together with a number of skills (Writing, Research, Drafting, Interviewing and Advocacy) and professional conduction and solicitors’ accounts

How is the course structured?

Stage 2 which starts in early March is the elective period when you select three electives that help you build on your knowledge ready for practice.
How is the course structured?

Should you be doing the LLM, then it is all that which is comprised of the LPC plus a dissertation that is practice focused - with this we seek to start you on the task of selecting and writing your abstract in about October, with then a greater focus come February onwards (i.e. post the Stage 1 Assessment period), with more supervision and guidance ready for a August submission of your dissertation.

Where are you from?

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Can you tell me a little about the exams please

Of course, there is a complete mixture of assessments:

Skills:
- Advocacy - this is a live assessment where you make an application
- Interviewing & Advising - this is again live when we get you to interview an actor playing the role of the client, and then advise them on the basis of a Wills/ Administration of Estates scenario
- Drafting - this is a take home assessment done in the context of Business Law
- Research and Writing - this is again take home where you conduct your research and then report on that and write up your findings to a client

Can you tell me a little about the exams please

The Core Practice Areas:
- Business - this is a 3 and 1 hour paper
- Litigation - you are tested in Civil Ligation (ie the process of going to court to sue someone) in a 2.5 hour paper; and
- Criminal Litigation in a 1 hour 10 minute paper
- Property - ie the buying and selling of property in a 3.5 hour paper

Can you tell me a little about the exams please

All assessments are open book, but we do restrict what you can bring in so as to ensure you don’t go in with too much (!) - typically most student haven’t done these styles of assessment before so we do spend some time advising you on how to tackle them.

Can you tell me a little about the exams please

The electives are all three hours and have a skills element included - one are one of the few Providers of the LPC that continue skills teaching and training into the electives as we regard them as key for your future.

Hi my name is [redacted], sorry I have just joined in now, but I have caught up with the conversation. My question is what elective choices do we have in stage 2 and is there certain classifications that we need to chose from. Like from box 1 chose this elective and from the other box chose another elective?
Can you email me the details so I can look into this material, as it will be easy for me to understand.

Of course - drop me an email (catchpole@city.ac.uk) and I can let you have more details, and if you wish to chat further about them, let me know.

City, University of London: Marking 125 years of research and education in London

https://youtu.be/tHjiJIDzw0Y

Hi my name is ----, sorry I have just joined in now, but I have caught up with the conversation. My question is what elective choices do we have in stage 2 and is there certain classifications that we need to choose from. Like from box 1 chose this elective and from the other box chose another elective?

What I would note about our electives, is that whilst we may not appear to have as many as other, those that we provide cover more than enough for practice preparation and content is often covered that may not be within the title - for example, Commercial Law includes both Banking and some aspects of IP; likewise Media include a slightly different approach to IP as well; and Advance Litigation is in the context of Medical Negligence. All told we have more than enough to keep you occupied!

Okay I will email you regarding this, as I wanted to know everything before I apply.

Not a problem - one of the key things that you must do when making your choice is to be comfortable with your place of study - you are investing a lot of time and effort in your part so to find the right place is important.

Can we choose any of the electives, like make any combination?
Yes and No - for example, if you wanted to do Private Client and say Equity Finance, then no - the reason for this is that you need to equip yourself with the most appropriate electives that an employer needs - there are very few, if any, firms that provide both of these areas, so we seek to guide you to make sure that you are doing everything that best prepares you (and avoids you looking like you are covering all bases still) - employers want to see you making informed and sensible choices and combinations.

If you have just arrived at the event or haven’t posted a question, please feel free to ask any questions you might have. We’d be delighted to answer them.

Yes I agree, so when are the next intakes for LPC at City?

We have a September only intake - we have decided not to offer either a part time or January start for a number of reasons. We are not a large provider, circa 150 students, and our aim is to get to know you and work with more than any other Provider can - we have classes of about 16 for the workshops, and then when we are doing skills training we take you to classes of 8 - we do get to know you, give you an awful lot of 1:2:1 feedback and support - as you can see we spend a lot of time with you! My personal aim is to see you leave us in June, be successful and moving onto the next stage of your career, hence we focus on one intake at a time.

Yes I agree, as then you know what you want to do in practice

Exactly - the difference with your degree is that you can explore subjects that may interest you or you think would be interesting; here you need to think about what you need to be prepared and able to do next step - working for an employer - so you need to select subjects that you know you want to practice in, meet clients in that context, advise them in, and work with others in

Yes, I agree, as then you know what you want to do in practice

This then helps you refine your employer search - so think about what type of client you would like to advise, what type of law and practice you would like to advise them on, and where in the country you can provide that law - likewise, who would you like your employer to be, and what they do and where they may be based (remember 27% of practising certificate are held by non-law firm lawyers, such as those who work for other organisations, bodies etc)

Yes absolutely correct. Thanks

As far I have 2 year experience, now it’s just to do my academic side.

Ok - that could easily place you at an advantage which you should use to your benefit - happy to have a further chat at anytime you may wish

Yes of course

Thanks for boosting my confidence that my 2 years I have spent, are not wasted but commitment to the profession
The most important thing you need to do is to distil your experience into your CV and then target the right firms for you - this is something that do spend some time working with our students - we have a number that don’t have contracts so we have a dedicated team from within the course together with working with the Central University careers team to help you with applications etc.

Hello Group, I am have a few questions regarding training contract support at City. I have been offered a place at City University for the LPC but have yet to secure a training contract. Is there a wide range of support available to students to help them with applications? Additionally, will the support target a range of firms or mainly London city firms? Thank you

Absolutely - this is something that we do help you with - it is not a question of targeting London firms, it is more of helping you identify the firms, wherever they may, that will take you as a candidate seriously

Hello Group, I am Aleena. I have a few questions regarding training contract support at City. I have been offered a place at City University for the LPC but have yet to secure a training contract. Is there a wide range of support available to students to help them with applications? Additionally, will the support target a range of firms or mainly London city firms? Thank you

We run a number of workshops to help you rethink your CVs, Covering letters, applications, the types of firms, etc and we also do a lot of 1-2-1 appointments with students to help you with your career search, and will happily run mock interviews etc - overall, it is something that we spend a lot of time on with you

In fact - as soon as you accept your place with us, you are welcome to contact us so that we can help you

Hello Group, I am Aleena. I have a few questions regarding training contract support at City. I have been offered a place at City University for the LPC but have yet to secure a training contract. Is there a wide range of support available to students to help them with applications? Additionally, will the support target a range of firms or mainly London city firms? Thank you

Additionally, we also work with a number of firms who look to recruit directly from City - we don’t currently have the arrangements that other Providers do in term of teaching their future trainees, but we have firms that actively look to recruit from us, and we help them do so

Brilliant, thank you for your help.

Hi, I have a few questions regarding the employment and careers service. To what extent are students aided with their applications? Also for someone pursuing the part time LPC, are we helped with applying for part-time vacancies or jobs?

We work actively with you in this regard - have a look at some of the comments/answers above for the type of things we do

Hi, I have a few questions regarding the employment and careers service. To what extent are students aided with their applications? Also for someone pursuing the part time LPC, are we helped with applying for part-time vacancies or jobs?

Just to confirm - we currently do not offer a part-time LPC, have a review of some of the comment above as to why - if you do a part-time, do remember the pull on your time and commitments that both studying and working at the same time bring, it is balance that you need to keep under review and sometimes pull back a little from work so that you achieve your best in your studies, ie around assessment periods
I know we have a few minutes left - so thank you for joining us today - if you have any further queries or would like to either come and visit us/chat further, do drop me a line - j.catchpole@city.ac.uk
James

A final question, with regards to the LPC, how many contact hours take place each week. Additionally, how many hours are students expected to study independently for research and consolidation? Would you advise students to avoid apart time jobs alongside the LPC?

This does vary as to where we are in the course - a typical day in Stage 1 is that we have you in for Mon, Tues, Thurs and Frid for normally a lecture and then two workshops - Wed we try to keep you free to work and consolidate, but sometimes use that for mock live assessments

A final question, with regards to the LPC, how many contact hours take place each week. Additionally, how many hours are students expected to study independently for research and consolidation? Would you advise students to avoid apart time jobs alongside the LPC?

Preparation does vary, again by subject and where we are, it is a bit of a shock to the system at the start as we seek to demand a lot from you, and that is deliberate to get you thinking in a completely different way, but once you have the hang of what we require then it is a lot more manageable

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Just so that you know, most workshops require not only reading to be undertaken beforehand but pre-session exercises and task that we then work with you in session (this is generally a typical approach by all LPCs)

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Re doing something part time - yes this is possible, but again keep it under advisement as sometimes the studying will need to take priority (assessment periods etc) - it does require careful time management on your part to balance the demands we place on you and work

This Online Chat has now ended. If you have any further questions, please email pgenquiries@city.ac.uk