



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY LEEDS LAW SCHOOL

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – LLM Legal Practice, Postgraduate Diploma Legal Practice

How do I apply?

If you want to apply for the full-time course you need to apply through Law Cabs. Applications for the part-time course are made direct to the University.

You will need to attach evidence you meet the entry requirements for the course, which can be viewed on the course pages – see the links below.

If your final degree certificate or transcript does not state that your degree is a Qualifying Law Degree (QLD) you will need to provide a letter from your University to confirm your degree is a QLD.

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/courses/legal-practice-course-lpc-pg-dip>

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/courses/legal-practice-master-of-laws-llm>

Is this the right course for me?

If you are unsure whether the Legal Practice course is your best route to qualification as a Solicitor or Barrister, the Law Cabs site has a useful route checker here:

<https://www.lawcabs.ac.uk/route-checker>.

What will I study?

You will study LPC Stage 1 and LPC Stage 2. These two stages comprise 16 modules: 13 modules in Stage 1 and three modules in Stage 2. If you are a LLM student, you will also study an Independent Legal Research Project module which is assessed by a 12,000-word dissertation.

What is included in LPC Stage 1?

Stage 1 comprises the following modules which are compulsory:

Core practice areas:

- Business Law and Practice (PT Yr1)
- Property Law and Practice (PT Yr1)
- Litigation (Civil and Criminal) (PT Yr2)

Course skills:

- Practical Legal Research (PT Yr1)
- Writing (PT Yr1)
- Drafting (PT Yr1)
- Interviewing and Advising (PT Yr1)
- Advocacy (PT Yr2)

Other core areas:

- Wills and Administration of Estates (PT Yr1)
- Taxation (PT Yr1)
- Professional Conduct and Regulation (PT Yr1 and PT Yr2)
- Solicitors Accounts (PT Yr1)

What is included in LPC Stage 2?

Stage 2 comprises three elective modules and you should choose three from the following eight modules:

- Commercial Law
- Commercial Leases
- Commercial Dispute Resolution
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Mental Health Law
- Private Acquisitions
- Personal Injury Litigation

With the exception of the Research Project module, all LPC students study together, following either the full-time timetable or the part-time timetable, and take the same assessments.

How will the LPC differ from my undergraduate course?

The LPC is a postgraduate professional course designed to prepare you for Day 1 of your training contract. You will need to adopt a different learning style for the LPC. There are no lectures on the LPC and there is an emphasis on independent study. The course is a challenging course, particularly in terms of the volume of work, the intensity of delivery, the number of modules and the number of assessments.

The course is delivered via interactive three-hour workshops for which you **must** prepare. Workshops are not recorded. The average preparation time is 2-4 hours per workshop.

The LPC is a very practical course. It is not testing your ability to repeat legal knowledge. It is testing your ability to **apply** your legal knowledge to a factual scenario.

Workshops are not free-standing. They often build on work covered in previous workshops and so it is important that you do not fall behind. Workshops move quickly and due to the intensity of the course there is no time for areas to be revisited.

When does the course begin?

If you are a full-time student, your course is scheduled to begin on Monday 16 September 2024 (time TBC) and you will be required to attend up to six workshops, each of three hours, per week.

Workshops are likely to be scheduled 9.00-12.00 and 13.00-16.00.

If you are a part-time student, you will be required to attend two workshops, each of three

hours, per week (likely to be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 17.30-20.30 but TBC). Please note that during the seven-week Stage 2 elective period you will continue to have up to two workshops per week but to accommodate choices, workshops are likely to be spread across Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays evenings.

What is expected from me on the course?

You are expected to take responsibility for your learning and to engage fully in the course. As a minimum you must attend all workshops; engage with learning resources; participate in all learning activities; and submit all assessments as stipulated in your module and course information, meeting all deadlines required of you. If you are attending workshops online using MS Teams you **must** have a working camera and microphone. Your camera **must** always be switched on during workshops.

Is attendance at workshops compulsory?

Attendance and punctuality at workshops are compulsory. This is prescribed by the SRA. If you are unable to attend a workshop, due to illness or some other exceptional circumstance, you must email the Module Tutor and the Course Administrator (LPC@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) to inform them and explain the reason for your absence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you catch up on any work that you miss.

As a full-time student will I be able to work part time?

Our experience is that it is best to treat the full-time LPC as if it were a full-time job, ensuring that you can commit the necessary hours to your reading, preparation, attendance of all workshops and follow-up. Whilst it may be possible to balance this with some part time work, the advice is to limit the number of hours. Full-time students who do not commit fully to the course tend not to succeed or, if they do, their assessment results may not be as good as they might have been.

The recruitment market for Trainee Solicitors is fiercely competitive so it is in your interests to do as well as you can on the course. Please therefore give serious consideration to how much paid part-time work you will be able to do on top of this full-time intensive professional course. You may have to work for financial reasons in which case it may be that the two-year part-time course would be better suited to you.

On campus or distance learning?

You can choose to apply to study our Legal Practice courses on campus or via distance learning. For Distance Learning students, attendance at live online workshops is required, as above. There will also be opportunities to attend on-campus sessions at key points - for example induction, revision and certain employability events and students will be given the option to sit assessments online or on campus.

How will I be assessed on the LPC?

There is a varied diet of assessments on the LPC including oral assessments examinations, time-constrained open book examinations, closed book examinations, multiple choice questions and assignments. Full details of how modules are assessed are set out in their respective Module Handbooks. You will be provided with a module handbook at the start of the module or one will be made available to you In My Beckett. (MyBeckett is the University's virtual learning environment).

When will the assessments take place?

The assessments take place at different times throughout the academic year. Please refer to the Module Handbooks and Course Assessment timetable for further information. To give you a flavour of the intensity of the course, please see below for a typical assessment programme for full-time students:

- **October:** Practical Legal Research (assignment)
- **November:**
 - ▶ Wills and Administration of Estates (MCQ Multiple Choice Question exam)
 - ▶ Interviewing and Advising (time constrained oral examination)
 - ▶ Writing (assignment)
 - ▶ Practical Legal Research (assignment)
- **January:** Advocacy (oral examination) and Drafting (assignment)
- **February:**
 - ▶ Civil and Criminal Litigation (written examination papers)
 - ▶ Professional Conduct & Regulation (written examination paper)
 - ▶ Drafting (assignment)
 - ▶ Solicitors Accounts (written examination paper)
 - ▶ Property Law and Practice (written examination papers)
 - ▶ Business Law and Practice (written examination papers)
- **May:** elective assessments x 3 (written examination paper per elective)
- **October:** Independent Legal Research Project (12,000 words) – for LLM students only

What advice would you give me to succeed on the LPC?

The best advice would be to use the acronym **PADLOCK** below as your key to success on the LPC:

P -Prepare for all workshops

A -Attend all workshops

D -Deepen your understanding by asking and answering questions in workshops

L -Look ahead to see upcoming workshops/assessments

O -Organise yourself e.g., use your calendar to carve out time for workshop prep/consolidation

C -Consolidate your notes after each workshop

K -Keep on top of your work

Below are **Top 10 Tips for Success** devised by a former LPC part-time student who worked as a paralegal in a Leeds law firm whilst studying:

1. **Preparation for workshops:** It's a different learning style to the one you've used previously in that the LPC doesn't have any lectures; instead there are three hour interactive workshops. In order to get the most out of each workshop and be able to engage properly, you'll need to have at least a basic understanding of the contents for the workshop in hand. I use a diary to pick out days where I'm busy in order to identify the times where I would be able to study and find this to be the most effective way to keep organised.
2. **Organisation:** This is key. I used my diary to assign time for reading and prep tasks for workshops.
3. **Keep on top of your work:** The workshops move quickly and nothing will be revisited. It is easy to get behind with your notes, however, it is then extremely difficult to catch up with a week once you have missed it. There is too much content to learn the week before an exam.
4. **Attendance:** Linked to keeping up with your work is your attendance. As previously said, nothing is revisited in detail, so it is vital that you attend every workshop. I only missed a very few workshops due to work commitments. Even if you're going to be late, it's better to attend most of the workshop than to not go at all.
5. **Be honest** - If you've had a stressful week at work, life got in the way or you have had a particularly heavy week in one of your other modules, let your tutors know. Whilst that is by no means a get out clause for being lazy, they're understanding if there are workshops where you have struggled to do all of the necessary pre-workshop tasks, provided there is a good reason, of course. It's better to be upfront than pretend you know what you're talking about.
6. **Consolidate** - I found that the best way to keep my notes exam ready was to consolidate what I did in each workshop every week. Quite often the materials contain mock exam questions and so clarifying my notes, adding the extra detail and re-writing my answers in a succinct way was a technique that helped me.
7. **Formatives** - Formatives are a great way to test what you know and identify areas for improvement. Make the most of this as it's the main time when you are able to

get detailed feedback from tutors. They won't chase you for your formatives so it's on your head to complete it by the deadline.

8. **Feedback** - Tutors will give feedback in the workshops, however, they also offer feedback on formatives and oral feedback on your summative assessments. It's easy to contact them about this and again, it's on your head to do it. I always found going through my paper with my tutor helpful as I could often quickly identify where I had gone wrong and talk through what a better answer would have been.
9. **Electives** - Choose ones you enjoy. Whilst they're shorter than the core modules, you're more likely to want to engage with the materials and revise if it's something in which you're genuinely interested and/or you like to practise in the future.
10. **Enjoy yourself** - Whether you're completing the course full-time or working alongside your studies, try to enjoy yourself and the time you have with your course friends. I've made some great friends on the LPC. The year(s) will quickly fly and before you know it, it'll be over and your graduation will soon be upon you.