



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

**PG Diploma Law**

**Course Code: PDLWO**

**2020/21**

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Award & Title

## PG Diploma Law

### Material Information Summary for 2020/21 Postgraduate Applicants

Confirmed at August 2019

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#### General Information

<b>Award</b>	Postgraduate Diploma Law
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Postgraduate Certificate Law
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification &amp; Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 160 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
<b>Course Lengths &amp; Standard</b>	
<b>Timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 year (full time, online distance learning)</li><li>• 2 years (part time, online distance learning)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent.
<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	Online Distance Learning
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: <a href="http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning">www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning</a> .  Admissions enquiries may be directed to:  <a href="mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .

**Course Fees**

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to [Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

**Timetable Information**

The Course timetable will be made available to students during the induction period. Module timetables will be made available to students at the start of each module.

**Policies, Standards and Regulations** [www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information)

There are non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

Exemptions from certain University Academic Regulations apply to this course to account for Professional Body provision in relation to the pass mark, the maximum number of assessment opportunities, the credit value of the Postgraduate Diploma and award classification. Information can be found in the PG Dip Law course handbook.

**Key Contacts**

<b>Your Course Leader</b>	Rebecca Hopkinson
<b>Your Online Tutor</b>	TBC
<b>Your Course Administrator</b>	<a href="mailto:pgdl@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">pgdl@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a>
<b>Your Academic Librarian</b>	<a href="mailto:parkin.park@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">parkin.park@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a>

**Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course**

<b>Professional Body</b>	Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)
	Bar Standards Board (BSB)

**Accreditation/ Recognition Summary**

Solicitors Regulation Authority

Students who successfully complete the programme of study will have completed the academic stage of education and training as specified by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA).

Bar Standards Board

From the 19/20 academic year the Bar Standards Board (BSB) will reduce its regulatory involvement in the academic stage of legal training. This course is compliant with the BSB's continuing requirement that 'law degrees are compliant with the QAA subject benchmark statement for law and that the degree contains the seven "Foundations of Legal Knowledge"' subjects as well as the skills associated with graduate legal work such as legal research.'

[https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/media/1983635/bqm\\_part\\_2a -  
\\_a3 completing the academic component - conversion courses.pdf](https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/media/1983635/bqm_part_2a_-_a3_completing_the_academic_component_-_conversion_courses.pdf)

## **Course Overview**

### **Aims**

The Postgraduate Diploma in Law forms the academic stage of training (as determined by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board) for those who wish to qualify as solicitors and barristers in England and Wales and who hold a non-law undergraduate degree (or hold a law degree which is insufficient for the regulatory bodies' requirements).

The course covers the seven foundations of law, namely:

- Public Law, including Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights;
- Law of the European Union;
- Criminal Law;
- Obligations, including Contract, Restitution and Tort;
- Property Law; and
- Equity and the Law of Trusts.

In addition, students will receive training in legal research.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate a critical awareness and systematic evaluation of the areas of law studied, the legal process, and the interrelationship between different areas of law in a national and European context
- 2 Critically evaluate and apply a range of sources of legal information to assist in legal study and to extract the essential points of that information
- 3 Demonstrate a critical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to model and synthesise original academic legal theory
- 4 Critically evaluate, synthesise and apply advanced and contemporary theoretical principles and emergent primary sources of law to a range of complex and open ended issues, problems and situations

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

The Virtual Learning Environment (MyBeckett) is the delivery method used for the course. Each module (and the course) has its own area on MyBeckett to present relevant teaching, learning and assessment information (e.g., slides, activities, receive announcements, receive course information, locate course materials and assessments). In addition, discussion boards and multi-media materials are available to support learning and communication between students, teaching teams and support teams.

The course commences with a non-credit bearing induction programme on legal skills and methods to orientate students to the study of law at postgraduate level and to underpin the taught modules. The induction will identify a base-line set of skills and knowledge that students will need to develop to fully benefit from the taught modules. The induction will cover: identifying and locating relevant legal sources; using the library and online materials; reading and understanding legal and other relevant materials; critical approaches to legal study; the principles of problem analysis; and commercial awareness.

With the exception of the Independent Legal Research Project, each module carries 20 credit points representing 200 hours of activity. A standard structure is applied to the modules which cover the seven foundations of law. Each module is divided into nine units with each unit generally being studied over a week. Within the unit students can work at their own pace. Students are expected to spend a minimum of 90 hours of core directed learning per unit with a minimum of 10 hours on core study per week for each unit. In addition, there are 110 hours devoted to supplementary guided learning and assessment completion, arranged as described in each module specification to reflect the subject matter involved.

Students will access online materials in a variety of media, contribute to discussion groups and participate in problem-based, interactive, application based exercises. The learning and teaching strategy used by each module is articulated in its respective module specification. Generally preparation will steer students to both the knowledge and critical components of the module and the online learning activities will stress student-led identification, evaluation and critique of issues. The integration of students is seen as an important opportunity for students to learn by sharing their and their peers' experience via online discussions.

Learning activities have been selected to represent a challenging and stimulating diet of activities for the students. A variety of learning and teaching activities are used across the modules and will include:

- reading;
- audio embedded pre-recorded presentations/lectures;
- participating in e-activities, sometimes in small groups to engage with learning activities;
- guided and peer group discussions;
- questions and quizzes to check understanding
- working independently to research relevant topics, predominantly using electronic databases and search engines;
- completing directed activities and formative assessments, providing opportunities for feedback;
- regular tutor drop in sessions (by appointment).

The 20 credit Independent Legal Research Project module has a more distinctive pattern of study and supervision. It is an exercise in independent student learning involving research and a substantial piece of writing, which is supported by a dissertation supervisor.

## **Modules**

### **Level 7 Core Modules**

Law Institutions and Skills

Foundations of Criminal Law

Foundations of Contract Law

Foundations of Equity and Trusts Law

Foundations of the Law of the European Union

Foundations of Property Law

Foundations of Public Law

Foundations of Tort Law

Independent Legal Research Project (20 credits)

## **Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities**

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director.

A standard 20 credit module equates to 200 notional learning hours. This entails 90 hours of core directed learning as students are expected to spend 10 hours on core study per week for each unit. In addition, there are 110 hours devoted to supplementary guided learning and assessment completion. Modules have one component of assessment with the exception of the independent legal research module.

### **Assessment**

On this course students will be assessed by a range of assessment types. Assessment tasks include portfolios, coursework, time-release examinations and a research project.

Two of the legal foundation modules are assessed by way of time-release online examination, where the examination is available to students during a certain period. Students are not required to attend the campus to sit their examination.

Three of the legal foundation modules are assessed by a portfolio, consisting of various pieces of work, completed during the module.

The remaining two legal foundation modules and the Independent Legal Research Project are assessed by coursework.

### **Workload**

This is an intensive conversion course. Students are expected to commit to the teaching and learning activities as stated above.

<b>Overall Workload for the Course</b>	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	643 hours
Independent Study	957 hours
Placement	Not applicable

### **Learning Support**

In line with the Student Support Framework, the team will provide an environment for our students, which encompass all aspects of their academic needs (offering support by the Course Director/Course Leader, Online Tutor, Module Leaders and the Academic Advisor when appropriate). Students will have a clear understanding of who to go to for help and advice, and staff will also be able to call on the support of the distance learning team in our University.

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional support services as appropriate. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

The Library provides access to the industry leading legal databases Westlaw, Lexis Library and a wide range of journals and books to support your learning. If you have a question relating to finding information, academic skills, writing assignments or referencing you can contact your Academic Librarians for assistance. Library help is available 24/7/365 from [http://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/contact\\_us](http://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/contact_us)

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, contact the Student Hub to speak to our Student Experience Team. This team, consisting of recent graduates and permanent staff, are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. Email enquiries may be directed to [studentexperience@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentexperience@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability

advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role or take part in an international project.