



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## PG Dip Law

**Course Code: PDLWO**

**2021/22**

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

## Award & Title

## PG Dip Law (PDLWO)

### Material Information Summary for 2021/22 Postgraduate Applicants

Confirmed at APR/2021

#### General Information

<b>Award</b>	Postgraduate Diploma Law
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Postgraduate Diploma, Legal Studies Postgraduate Certificate Laws of England and Wales
<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 Timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length of the course is confirmed below and modes of delivery will be confirmed prior to the start date in line with Government guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 year (full time)</li><li>• 2 year (part time)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. 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:

[www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning).

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:  
[AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

### **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**

Designed to be as flexible as possible to meet the distance learner's needs, this course and its assessments are delivered entirely online with no live classes for students to attend.

Although your course does not require attendance in a physical classroom, you are advised to follow the structure of modules, often denoted as teaching weeks, outlined in this course handbook. You will be given details of assessment dates and the structure of learning activities during induction via the Virtual Learning Environment where you will encounter the course.

### **Policies, Standards and Regulations ([www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations))**

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 and award classification. Information can be found in the PG Dip Law course handbook.

Students who fail to meet the Professional Body requirements will not be eligible to receive the target award PG Dip Law. They may be eligible to receive a contained award.

### **Key Contacts**

**Your Course Director**

Rebecca Oglethorpe

**Your Online Learning Tutor**

LawOLT@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

**Your Course Administrator**

PGDL@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

## Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)

Bar Standards Board (BSB)

### Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

Legal education and training has been subject to a detailed review by professional regulators in the legal sector. The review has examined the routes to qualification as a solicitor or barrister.

The Bar Standards Board (BSB) no longer requires the study of a 'Qualifying Law Degree' (QLD), however, the study of what are referred to as the 'legal foundations of knowledge' is still required before the vocational stage of bar training. Our GDL courses meet this requirement. A change to the route to qualification as a solicitor proposed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) received final approval from the Legal Services Board in Autumn 2020. The new route does not require individuals to have a law degree, but they must have a degree or equivalent qualification or work experience and pass an externally set Solicitors Qualifying Examination (Stage 1 and Stage 2), and have completed at least two years full time (or equivalent) work qualifying experience. Transitional provisions will apply for a number of years.

Applicants and prospective applicants are invited to find out more about the changes at our open days and applicant days. Students are invited to access information via the course team - in addition, the SRA and the Bar Standards Board (BSB) have issued a common protocol for guidance which continues to be relevant during the transitional provisions for those qualifying as a solicitor. This can be found by visiting the SRA web pages [Solicitors Qualifying Examination](#) and [Common Protocol on the Academic Stage of training](#).

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) prior to and during the transitional provisions referred to above, **only** if they have accepted an offer no later than 31 August 2021 and have started the course by 31 December 2021, as stipulated by the SRA <https://www.sra.org.uk/students/sqe/transitional-arrangements/>.

Bar Standards Board

Since the 19/20 academic year the Bar Standards Board (BSB) has reduced 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/training-qualification/bar-qualification-manual-new.html>

## Course Overview

Aims

Incorporating the GDL, the Postgraduate Diploma Law course 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.

Independent legal research project

In addition, students will receive training in legal research and undertake a 20 credit independent legal research project.

### **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**

Designed to be as flexible as possible to meet the distance learner's needs, this course and its assessments are delivered entirely online with no live classes for students to attend. 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 channels using MS Teams 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.

Each credit bearing 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. This module content is delivered entirely online with no live classes for the student to attend to allow for flexibility in learning. 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' experiences 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,
- 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.

## Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your MyBeckett timetable.

<b>Full time</b> <b>Level 7, September enrolment:</b> <b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Law, Institutions and Skills (0 credit)	Y	Foundations of Contract Law (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Criminal Law (20 credits)	Y	Foundations of Equity and Trusts (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Property Law (20 credits)	Y	Foundations of the Law of the European Union (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Public Law (20 credits)	Y		
Foundations of Tort Law (20 credits)	Y		
Independent Legal Research Project (20 credits), Core	Y	Independent Legal Research Project (20 credits), Core <i>*Continued from Semester 1</i>	Y

<b>Part time, year 1:</b> <b>Level 7, September enrolment</b> <b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Law, Institutions and Skills (0 credit)	Y	Foundations of Contract Law (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Tort Law (20 credits)	Y	Foundations of Equity and Trusts (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Public Law (20 credits)	Y		

<b>Part time, year 2</b> <b>Level 7, September enrolment</b> <b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Foundations of Criminal Law (20 credits)	Y	Foundations of the Law of the European Union (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Property Law (20 credits)	Y		
Independent Legal Research Project (20 credits)		Independent Legal Research Project (20 credits), Core <i>*Continued from Semester 1</i>	

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

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

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours. This entails 90 hours of core directed learning as students are expected to spend a minimum of 10 hours on core study per week, over a nine week period, for each unit. In addition, there are 110 hours devoted to supplementary guided learning and assessment completion. Modules have one component of assessment.

### 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 timed-release open book online examination, where the examination is available to students during a certain period. Students are not required to attend the campus to sit their examinations.

Three of the legal foundation modules are assessed by a portfolio, consisting of various pieces of work, completed during the module, together with one previously unseen question.

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

### Overall Workload for the Course

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

Teaching, Learning and Assessment	643 hours
Independent Study	957 hours

### Learning Support

In line with the Student Support Framework, the team will provide an environment for our students, which encompasses all aspects of their academic needs (offering support by the Course Director, Online Tutor, Module Leaders and the Academic Advisor when appropriate).

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Online Tutor or 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 services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of engagement letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Student Course Representative or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, contact the Student Advice Hub on either campus. 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 [studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvicehub@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.