



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

PG Dip Law

Course Code: PDLWO

2024/25

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Award and Title

PG Dip Law (PDLWO)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2024/25 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed at Dec/ 2023

General Information

Award	Postgraduate Diploma Law
Contained Awards	Postgraduate Diploma, Legal Studies Postgraduate Certificate in Law
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification and Credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 140 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
Course Lengths and Standard Timescales	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">• 1 year (full time, online distance learning)• 2 years (full time, online distance learning)
Part Time Study	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.
Location(s) of Delivery	Asynchronous Online distance learning
Entry Requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/ Admissions enquiries may be directed to: 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.

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)

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.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director

Rebecca Oglethorpe, r.k.oglethorpe@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your Online Learning Tutor

LawOLT@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your Course Administrator

Postgraduate law administration, pgdl@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional Body

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 was introduced in September 2021 by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). 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 (SQE) Stage 1 and Stage 2, and have completed at least two years full time (or equivalent) qualifying work experience. This course provides students with substantive legal knowledge to support future study and preparation for the SQE. For the avoidance of doubt, this course is not an SQE preparation course, but is a key component in preparing non-law graduates for the next step towards becoming a solicitor or a barrister. A prospective solicitor who completes this course may then seek to undertake a separate SQE preparation course prior to sitting the SQE stage 1 and SQE 2, which are assessments required and governed by the SRA.

Applicants and prospective applicants are invited to find out more about the changes and our courses at our open days and applicant days. Students are invited to access information via the course team and obtain more information about qualifying as a solicitor or a barrister from the SRA and BSB's websites respectively.

Solicitors Regulation Authority

As stated above, students aspiring to be a solicitor who successfully complete the programme of study will need to proceed and successfully pass the SQE stage 1 and 2 externally set assessments and two years qualifying work experience.

Bar Standards Board

This course satisfies 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.'

Course Overview

Aims

The Postgraduate Diploma Law forms the academic stage of training as determined by the Bar Standards Board for those who wish to qualify as barristers in England and Wales and who hold a non-law undergraduate degree (or hold a law degree which is insufficient for the BSB's requirements). In addition, the course provides a prospective solicitor with academic knowledge which addresses aspects of the SRA's SQE Assessment Specification (but is not an SQE preparation course).

The course covers the seven foundations of law, namely:

- Public Law, including Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights;
- European Law in Context;
- Criminal Law;
- Obligations, including Contract, Restitution and Tort;

- Property Law; and
- Equity and the Law of Trusts.

In addition, students will undertake a non-credit bearing module 'Law, Institution and Skills' (LIS) that addresses the legal system of England and Wales, its institutions and sources of law, and legal research skills.

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 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 primary delivery method used for the course. The course is entirely online and asynchronous, in that there are no live online sessions, all activities and resources are accessible at any time, including pre-recorded lectures. 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; research skills; the principles of problem analysis; and commercial awareness.

Each substantive module carries 20 credit points representing 200 hours of activity (excluding LIS). 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' 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, 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).
- Formative assessment opportunities

Your Modules

Full Time delivery

The course commences with the Law, Institutions and Skills module, a non credit bearing module introducing students to the basic learning techniques particular to the study of law. Law, Institutions & Skills is delivered in the first three weeks of the course. Full time students progress to study four taught modules in parallel during semester 1. Students will study three modules in parallel in semester 2.

September Full Time cohort

Level 7			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Law, Institutions and Skills (non credit bearing)	Y	Foundations of Equity & Trusts (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Contract Law (20 credits)	Y	European Law in Context (20 credits)	Y

Level 7			
Foundations of Criminal Law (20 credits)	Y	Foundations of Tort Law (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Public law (20 credits)	Y		
Foundations of Property Law (20 credits)	Y		

January Full Time cohort

Level 7			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Law, Institutions and Skills (non credit bearing)	Y	Foundations of Criminal Law (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Tort Law (20 credits)	Y	Foundations of Public law (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Equity & Trusts (20 credits)	Y	Foundations of Property Law (20 credits)	Y
European Law in Context (20 credits)	Y		
Foundations of Contract Law (20 credits)			

Part Time Delivery

Year 1 of the course commences with the Law, Institutions and Skills module, a non credit bearing module introducing students to the basic learning techniques particular to the study of law. Law Institutions and Skills is delivered in the first three weeks of the course. Students progress to study two modules in parallel during Semester 1 and two modules in Semester 2. The part time course is undertaken over two years.

September cohort

September PT delivery

Year 1

Level 7			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Law, Institutions and Skills (none credit bearing)	Y	Foundations of Equity & Trusts (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Contract Law (20 credits)	Y	Foundations of Tort Law (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Public Law (20 credits)	Y		

Year 2

Level 7			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Foundations of Criminal Law (20 credits)	Y	European Law in Context (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Property Law (20 credits)	Y		

January PT Delivery

Year 1

Level 7			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Law, Institutions and Skills (none credit bearing)	Y	Foundations of Criminal (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Equity & Trust Law (20 credits)	Y	Foundations of Public Law (20 credits)	Y
Foundations of Tort Law (20 credits)	Y		

Level 7			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Foundations of Contract Law (20 credits)	Y	Foundations of Property Law (20 credits)	Y
European Law in Context (20 credits)	Y		

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 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 and time-release examinations.

Two of the legal foundation modules are assessed by way of timed-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 examinations.

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

The remaining two legal foundation modules 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.

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	648 hours
Independent Study	752 hours
Placement	Not applicable

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 Learning Tutor (OLT), Module Leaders and tutors and the student's Academic Advisor when appropriate).

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

Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus, if you are local or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers 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. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. All services are also accessible online. The team can also be contacted via email at studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk, telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

Support and opportunities

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, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.