



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

PG Cert

Professional Legal Practice Skills

Course Code: PCPLP

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

PG Cert Professional Legal Practice Skills (PCPLP)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at October 2025

General Information

Award	Postgraduate Certificate Professional Legal Practice Skills
Contained awards	Not applicable
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 60 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 months (full time, campus based)• 12 months (part time, campus based)
Part time study	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 from that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that a work placement option is not generally available to PT students
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus
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 SQE1, Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Legal Practice, or equivalent
Course fees	Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course

Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Policies, Standards and Regulations

www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations

Standard regulations apply to this course.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

Not applicable.

Accreditation/recognition summary

Not applicable.

Timetable

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Key Contacts

Your course director

Rebecca Oglethorpe: R.K.Oglethorpe@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your course administrator

lpc@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

This Postgraduate Certificate engages students in pursuing and acquiring a dynamic and practical understanding of the application of legal skills and practice-based research. A key aim of this course is to support aspiring solicitors to prepare for working in legal practice, or for those already working in legal practice to further develop and consolidate their legal and research skills, and to undertake the externally set SQE2 (Solicitors Qualifying Examination), for which there is a separate fee payable to the SRA (Solicitors Regulation Authority). Those wishing to qualify as a solicitor in England and Wales must pass SQE1 before being eligible to sit SQE2, and also complete a period of qualifying work experience (QWE). The SRA regulates the qualification of solicitors and full details can be found on the [SRA website](#). For the avoidance of doubt, Leeds Beckett does not award the SQE1 or SQE2 as part of this, or any other, programme – the SQE comprises externally set assessments overseen by the SRA.

The curriculum and structure of the course has been designed to develop practical, digital and employability skills. Students will participate in a range of learning activities and assessment tasks over the course of their studies. At each stage they will be supported to become independent learners in the discipline of professional legal practice skills and have the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and competencies required for ultimate qualification as a solicitor. In doing so, the PG Cert prepares students for work-based learning, it allows them to understand and explore concepts of professionalism and the

demands of professional practice. Students who successfully complete the PG Cert will have a range of skills and attributes on graduation as a solid foundation upon which to build their professional legal career.

Course learning outcomes

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

1	Analyse and synthesise concepts in order to devise realistic and coherent strategic solutions to legal problems, conflicts and tensions in law
2	Evaluate how the rule of law applies within legal, social, economic, commercial, political, historical, ethical (including professional conduct) and/or cultural contexts
3	Synthesise knowledge, skills and attributes in the context of employability and/or study including communication skills and the effective use of legal terminology
4	Demonstrate competence in the performance of written and oral legal skills, applying the law correctly and comprehensively to a given situation to meet the client's needs
5	Demonstrate self-direction and autonomy in planning and managing study and research tasks with limited guidance and with an ability to identify and utilise relevant resources effectively

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

The student cohort for PG Cert Professional Legal Practice Skills will typically be diverse - students studying Law at Leeds Law School come from a wide range of backgrounds. As level 7 students, support is provided during the course to develop the students' capacity to be sophisticated, independent, critical thinkers, able to apply their knowledge with originality within advanced academic and professional contexts.

Learning and teaching activities may include recorded material, lectures, and seminars. Learning tasks and assessments are aligned to the SRA's approach to assessment under SQE2 (practice-based legal skills), and practice-based research. In addition, module materials provide a framework for experiential and practice-based learning. Seminar preparation and activities are designed to challenge students, requiring them to adapt to different situations, employ different skills and perform similar tasks to those they might be required to do in the workplace. Students are encouraged to reflect on tasks and be more mindful of what they are doing and why, and of how the skills they are learning might be used in different situations to practically apply knowledge and theory to a legal working environment and the conduct of realistic practice-based transactions.

Your modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. There are no option modules for this programme given it is only 60 credits. 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 timetable.

Level 7

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Legal Skills	30	1
Practice-Based Research Project	30	1
Number of credits of compulsory modules	60	

Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard 20-credit module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

Level 7

The course is assessed by a combination of written legal skills assignments, oral legal skills assessments and an extended practice-based research project.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	50 hours
Independent study	550 hours