



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

PG Dip Law

Course Code: PDLWO

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

PG Dip Law (PDLWO)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at October 2025

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 months (full time, online distance learning)• 24 months (part time, online distance learning)
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 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/
Course fees	Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk . 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

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.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

Not applicable.

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.'

Timetable

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.

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 online learning tutor LawOLT@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
Your course administrator Academic Services Team: pgdl@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

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:

- GDL Public Law, including Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights;
- GDL European Law in Context;
- GDL Criminal Law;
- GDL Contract Law;
- GDL Tort Law;
- GDL Property Law; and
- GDL Equity and Trusts Law.

In addition, students will undertake a non-credit bearing module 'GDL 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 mandatory 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, 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 baseline 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 tutors drop in sessions (by appointment).
- Formative assessment opportunities

Your modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. 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.

The course commences with the GDL Law, Institutions and Skills module, a non-credit bearing module introducing students to the basic learning techniques particular to the study of law. GDL 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.

Level 7 – September Full-time Cohort

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
GDL Law, Institutions and Skills	0	1
GDL Contract Law	20	1
GDL Criminal Law	20	1
GDL Public Law	20	1
GDL Property Law	20	1
GDL Equity & Trusts Law	20	2
GDL European Law in Context	20	2
GDL Tort Law	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	140	

Level 7 – January Full-time Cohort

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
GDL Law, Institutions and Skills	0	1
GDL Tort Law	20	1
GDL Equity & Trusts Law	20	1
GDL European Law in Context	20	1
GDL Contract Law	20	1
GDL Criminal Law	20	2
GDL Public Law	20	2
GDL Property Law	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	140	

Level 7 – September Part-time Cohort

Compulsory modules

YEAR ONE

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
GDL Law, Institutions and Skills	0	1
GDL Contract Law	20	1
GDL Public Law	20	1
GDL Equity & Trusts Law	20	2
GDL Tort Law	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	80	

YEAR TWO

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
GDL Criminal Law	20	1
GDL Property Law	20	1
GDL European Law in Context	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	60	

Level 7 – January Part-time Cohort

Compulsory modules

YEAR ONE

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
GDL Law, Institutions and Skills	0	1
GDL Equity & Trusts Law	20	1
GDL Tort Law	20	1
GDL Criminal Law	20	2
GDL Public Law	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	80	

YEAR TWO

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
GDL Contract Law	20	1
GDL European Law in Context	20	1
GDL Property Law	20	2
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 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

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

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	648 hours
Independent study	752 hours