

**Legal Practice Course (LPC) – Postgraduate Diploma in
Professional Legal Practice
LPC MSc Law Business and Management
LPC LLM Professional Legal Practice**

**Part-time Study Online
from September 2024 onwards**

Course Demands

26/02/24

1. Introduction

This information is provided by The University of Law (the University) to provide information about the demands of the course for prospective students.

Please note that students successfully completing the LPC requirements may elect for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Legal Practice. Alternatively they may elect for the award of (a) MSc in Law, Business & Management if, in addition to the LPC, they successfully complete the Law and Business module and Case-study Project; or (b) the award of LL.M in Professional Legal Practice if, in addition to the LPC, they successfully complete either the Law and Business module or a fourth elective, along with a Professional Practice Research Report.

The information included is an indicative guide for the part-time LPC Online commencing in September 2024. Students who enrol on the course will be subject to the Programme regulations in force at that time.

Information about

- Minimum IT requirements
- Disability and Inclusion Service information
- Study Skills information

is also available on the website (<https://www.law.ac.uk/study/course-demands/>).

2. Preliminary Knowledge

The Solicitors Regulation Authority expects students starting the LPC to have a basic knowledge of Contract, Tort, Land Law, Equity and Trusts, Public Law, Criminal Law, the structure of the court system, remedies, offences, causes of action and defences, property interests and EU law. It is also assumed that students should be able to:

- Listen effectively
- Engage in oral or online discussion in a clear and concise fashion
- Record or summarise a discussion in clear and concise notes
- Write clearly and precisely with attention to grammar, structure, style, organisation, bibliographies and citations
- Work co-operatively with others in small groups or through the Virtual Learning Environment
- Extract, analyse and apply up to date law from primary sources, including case reports, primary and delegated legislation.

All variants of the LPC are taught at master's level, including the postgraduate diploma. The LL.M and MSc programmes are consistent with the QAA's Category 3: professional or practice master's

degrees.

As such, “all master's degree graduates have in-depth and advanced knowledge and understanding of their subject and/or profession, informed by current practice, scholarship and research. This will include a critical awareness of current issues and developments in the subject and/or profession; critical skills; knowledge of professional responsibility, integrity and ethics; and the ability to reflect on their own progress as a learner.” QAA Characteristics Statement, Master's Degree, February 2020, page 4.

A sufficient command of English to follow the course to a successful conclusion (overall band score of 6.5 with no component below 6.0.in the IELTS test).

3. Pre-Course Demands

The pre-course preparation will take between 20 – 30 hours. The course materials are made available on the VLE four weeks prior to induction. Students may also wish to refresh their knowledge of the law, and multiple choice tests to assist with this are provided on the VLE a month before induction.

In addition, it is recommended that all students who are returning to learning complete the *Getting Ready for Academic Study* module which is available in the Skills4Study package available through ELITE / The Skills Academy

4. Modes of Study and Attendance Requirements

Our courses are delivered using the Prepare – Engage – Consolidate (PEC) Model.

- **Prepare:** at the start of each unit of study you will become familiar with the core principles of your study through self-guided activities, this is 'Learning input'; **then**
- **Engage:** discuss, evaluate, and challenge that study through active engagement; this is 'Learning use'; **and then**
- **Consolidate:** reach your conclusions and/or investigate alternative application of your study through self-guided activities; this is 'Learning enhancement'.

This model encourages your independent and deep learning. The framework of PEC is shared across both Attendance and Online modes of learning.

You can find more information about how the PEC model translates into the LPC Online in this short presentation

An explanation of the PEC learning model used for LPC Online (15 minutes 30 seconds)

[**PEC and the LPC Online**](#)

4.1 Learning Model and Time Commitment

Online Time Demand – Part-Time study

Learning format	Hours Part-Time (Indicative)
Prepare - consisting of independent learning and preparation for Engage activities	12
Engage activities - carried out asynchronously (to deadlines) including occasional lectures and weekly Live Subject Support Sessions	6
Consolidate – completing further tasks to bring together your learning and check your understanding	4
Total	22-23

The online course requires the same level of commitment as a course you attend in person – the only difference is you do not have to travel to a campus to attend the course. This remains a rigorous course of study and will require your active engagement with your study in the region of 23 hours per week.

For the online course the time recommended for Prepare and Consolidate remains a minimum requirement of 12 hours per week for Prepare and 4 for Consolidate but some weeks this may be less or slightly more. The overall time demand remains 22-23 hours per week across the Prepare, Engage and Consolidate stages.

Note – the 6 hours for “Engage” is mostly delivered asynchronously, meaning that online students are not scheduled for a specific 6-hour block of time per week, to allow for flexible study, with support provided by Live Subject Support Sessions (1 hour per Unit per week) that will be scheduled.

4.2 Engagement Requirements

Our data shows that students who engage with at least 90% of their online units have significantly better prospects of success.

- **(Online)** In a standard week you will have two units to complete.
- **(Online)** Online students may attend, if they wish, for Employability events and Library access although there is no obligation to do so.

- **(Online)** Online involvement in all “Engage” tasks is compulsory and is a measure of engagement with the course, which is used to track progress and provide an evidence base for e.g. references.
- **(Online)** All students must “attend” their scheduled examinations / assessments in exam weeks, whether you are due to sit online or in a campus. Note that exams and assessments will require you to be available during the day on weekdays and Saturdays.

5. Summary of Key Learning Outcomes

Development of the legal knowledge and skills required to commence legal practice.

6. Learning Environment

- Students study 7 modules required by the SRA (4 core areas plus 3 electives), plus 2 additional modules studied by those wanting a master’s award.
- Students start off studying 2 modules. Master’s students continue studying 2 modules at a time throughout the course, whereas postgraduate diploma students have a period in year 1 when they only study 1 module.
- The Online learning environment is predominately asynchronous, meaning that students will study in their own time to a series of deadlines that correspond to the weeks in which parallel events occur on the attendance course. It is important that students appreciate that the LPC is not a “lectured” course in any format, attendance or online. Where the occasional lecture is provided for the attendance variant of the course, the same material is provided as a recorded lecture for Online study.
- There are real-time Live Subject Support Sessions with tutors and regular “drop-ins” to provide academic guidance, conducted online through the VLE. These are not lectures. The majority of the initial learning that will enable participation in tasks, as with the attendance variant, is through online tools and reading.
- The Units are delivered on the University’s Virtual Learning Environment (‘VLE’) and in a staged format – **Prepare** (including automated feedback on any preparatory task for the Unit); **Engage** (which will involve a variety of learning tools, including occasionally working with other students online to produce documentation) and **Consolidate**, containing important supplementary exercises. All stages can and will include reading and online content and other media which is recorded and available on the VLE.

Students are expected to participate fully in all Engage activities and carry out independent learning and preparation as directed.

7. Assessments

A summary of the assessment schedule for this programme is explained below.

7.1 Assessment and learning adjustments

If you have any queries regarding support or adjustments whilst studying at the University of Law please contact the Disability and Inclusion Service on disabilitysupportservice@law.ac.uk or 01483 216657.

7.2 Professional Body Assessment Requirements

Some assessments on the Legal Practice Course (LPC) are subject to regulatory requirements from the Solicitors' Regulation Authority (LPC) particularly in terms of supervision of the assessments. The University is not able to waive any such regulatory requirements.

7.3 Summary of Assessment Demands

The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has authorised the University to offer students a choice of being assessed online or in a campus for subjects that are assessed by examination (Core Practice Area Subjects, Solicitors' Accounts, Professional Conduct, Wills and the Administration of Estates and Electives). Students can sit these exams either in campus as traditional invigilated exams using pen and paper, or in the form of online exams with remote proctoring.

Students will be asked to make a provisional choice of assessment method on enrolment but will be able to change or confirm that choice after having had the opportunity to sit a mock assessment online in proctored exam conditions.

You will also be able to choose whether to sit your oral skills assessments in Interviewing and Advocacy on campus or online. If you choose to sit them online the assessment will be conducted remotely using Collaborate, whereas if you elect to attend exams, your oral skills assessments will be conducted face-to-face in campus.

This course typically contains the following types of assessment:

Coursework

Type of Coursework	Detail	Timing of the coursework Sept intake
Practical Legal Research	Take away written assessment done over one week	Year 1 - Late October / November alongside teaching

Type of Coursework	Detail	Timing of the coursework Sept intake
	Estimated time to complete: 6 - 8 hours	
Legal Writing	24 hour real time take away written assessment Estimated time to complete: 4 - 6 hours	Year 1 - Mid March – part of a two week assessment period
Drafting	24 hour real time take away written assessment Estimated time to complete: 4 - 6 hours	Year 2 - March – part of a two week assessment period

Oral Assessments

Type of Oral Assessment	Detail of Assessment – including expected preparation time, assessment duration	Timing of the oral assessment – Sept intake
Interviewing and Advising	Closed book 30-minute oral assessment Assessed online using Collaborate, or face to face Students have access to the client scenario one hour before the interview	Year 1 - Mid-December / early January during a two week assessment period
Advocacy	Closed book 30-minute oral assessment for two students. Advocacy is assessed by way of a contested two party hearing with a student representing each party. Assessed online using Collaborate, or face to face	Year 2 - March as part of a one week assessment period

Type of Oral Assessment	Detail of Assessment – including expected preparation time, assessment duration	Timing of the oral assessment – Sept intake
	Students have access to the advocacy papers 7 days before the assessment.	

Formal examinations

Examination	Number of exams, type of exam and standard duration	Timing – when during the course do these exams take place – Sept intake
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wills and Administration of Estates 	<p>Face to face or online supervised / proctored open-book examination made up of Multiple Choice Questions</p> <p>2 hours</p>	Year 1 - Mid-December/early January, as part of a two week period of assessments
Business Law and Practice	Face to face or online supervised / proctored open-book examination made up of Multiple Choice Questions and written questions based on short case study scenarios – 3 hours 15 minutes.	Year 1 - Early March, as part of a two-week period of assessments.
Solicitors' Accounts	Face to face or online supervised / proctored open-book examination, including Multiple Choice Questions, short answer	Year 2 - Mid-December/early January, as part of a two week period of assessments

Examination	Number of exams, type of exam and standard duration	Timing – when during the course do these exams take place – Sept intake
	<p>questions and accounts ledgers</p> <p>2 hours. If sat online, students have a total of 2 hours and 5 minutes to complete the paper.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispute Resolution Real Estate 	Each subject has a face to face or online supervised / proctored open-book examination made up of Multiple Choice Questions and written questions based on short case study scenarios – 3 hours 15 minutes.	Year 2 - Early March, as part of a two-week period of assessments.
Professional Conduct and Regulation	<p>Face to face or online supervised / proctored open-book examination made up of Multiple Choice Questions</p> <p>2 hours</p>	Year 2 - Early March, as part of a two week period of assessments
Each Elective	<p>Face to face or online supervised / proctored open-book examination including Multiple Choice Questions and written questions based on short case study scenarios</p> <p>3 hours</p>	<p>Mid-June, as part of a two week assessment period</p> <p>One elective sat in Year 1</p> <p>Two electives sat in Year 2</p>

The table shows the “standard” length of the exam. If you have a University of Law Inclusion Plan (ULIP) with an “additional time” allowance, this will be shown as a percentage.

For example, if the “standard” time for an exam is 2 hours and you have 25% additional time, your exam will last 2 hours 30 minutes.

Additional assessments for master’s students

MSc in Law, Business and Management	Number, style, and duration of assessments	Timing – September intake
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law and Business (taught module) 	3000 word coursework assessment completed over approximately 5 weeks	Year 1 Assessment made available in mid-March, handed in in late April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study report (research module) 	3000 word research report plus 500 word reflective statement plus 20 minute oral assessment conducted online	Students can write their report throughout year 2. Report and reflective statement submitted at end of exams in June of year 2 Oral assessment during June / July in the 3 weeks following submission

LLM in Professional Legal Practice	Number, style, and duration of assessments	Timing – September intake
EITHER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law and Business (taught module) 	3000 word coursework assessment completed over approximately 5 weeks	Year 1 Assessment made available in mid-March, handed in in late April

LLM in Professional Legal Practice	Number, style, and duration of assessments	Timing – September intake
OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional elective subject 	Face to face or online supervised / proctored open-book examination including Multiple Choice Questions and written questions based on short case study scenarios 3 hours	Year 1 Mid-June, as part of a three week assessment period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Practice Research Report (research module) 	3000 word research report plus 500 word reflective statement plus 20 minute oral assessment conducted online	Students can write their report throughout year 2. Report and reflective statement submitted at end of exams in June of year 2 Oral assessment during June / July in the 3 weeks following submission

7.4 SRA Time limits for Completion of the LPC

Irrespective of any adjustments made, in order successfully to complete the LPC, LPC MSc and LPC LLM, all students are required under the regulations to pass all elements of the course within 5 years of the date of the first assessment.