Programme Specification

1. **Awarding Institution:** The University of Law
2. **Final Award:** Graduate Diploma in Law
3. **Programme Title:** Graduate Diploma in Law
4. **Accredited by:** The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)
5. **UCAS Code:** N/A
6. **Mode of Study:** Full-time or Part-time (attendance or online)
7. **Language of Study** English
8. **Length of Programme:** One year for full-time study, two years for part-time study
9. **Total Credits:** 180
10. **Date of Production/Revision:** May 2019

**11. Aims and Rationale of the Programme**

Overall, the programme is designed to enable students to satisfy the requirements of the academic stage of legal education and proceed to the vocational stage of legal training with the knowledge and skills required to become effective legal practitioners. In particular the aims are as follows:

- To develop students’ knowledge and understanding of the fundamental doctrines and principles which underpin the law of England and Wales, particularly in the workings of the English Legal System, the law of Obligations (Contract and Tort) Criminal Law, Public Law, EU Law, Land Law and Equity and Trusts;

- To provide students with the key intellectual skills (analysis, synthesis, problem-solving) and practical skills necessary for either practice as a lawyer or legally-related employment;

- To equip students with legal research techniques and the ability to analyse and effectively communicate legal research;

- To equip students with the transferable skills of communication, team-work and autonomous learning;

- To develop students' awareness of the social, business and commercial context within the UK and global legal services market; and
To equip students with a qualification that satisfies the academic stage of training as prescribed by the Bar Standards Board and Solicitors Regulation Authority for legal practice in England and Wales.

12. Programme Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme learners should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate sound knowledge and understanding of the legal principles relevant to the areas studied on the programme and the contexts that shape such principles;

Intellectual

- Analyse complex practical problems and accurately apply legal knowledge with supporting reasons;
- Approach a problem logically, analyse complex factual situations, evaluate a range of solutions in the light of the legal issues raised and make critical judgments on the merits of particular assertions;

Skills

- Conduct independent legal research into familiar and unfamiliar areas, retrieve relevant data, using a variety of primary and secondary sources (both hard copy and online), providing accurate and precise conclusions;
- Use language proficiently and present knowledge or an opinion in a way that is succinct, accurate, grammatically correct and comprehensible to others, both orally and in writing;
- Utilise information technology effectively for the purposes of research and the presentation or communication of information;
- Demonstrate a basic ability to use, present and evaluate data presented in numerical or statistical form and derive appropriate conclusions
- Work capably within groups and become an effective participant who is able to contribute to the group's task;
- Demonstrate self-analysis and active personal development planning; and
- Assume responsibility for the continued development of their own learning.
13. Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other reference points to inform programme outcomes

The Joint Announcement of The Law Society and General Council of the Bar 1999

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

14. Programme Structure, Levels, Modules and Credits

The award is available for students who have completed a first degree.

The programme is offered for study by attendance at a University Campus or online either full time (1 year), part time (2 years).

The programme consists of a pre course study and induction followed by nine modules comprising of an introductory module on ethics, a module for each of the seven core subject areas (the Foundation Subjects) and a choice of research module either researching and writing an essay in an area of law beyond the Foundation Subjects (Research Project) or as part of a taught module on the law of organisations.

All modules are at FHEQ level 6

The modules and respective credits are set out below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Core/Option</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethics and Professional Legal Practice</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law of Contract</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law of Tort</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Law</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union Law</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Law</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity and Trusts</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law of Organisations</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL CREDITS** 180: (8 Core Modules and one Option)
## Programme Outcomes, Learning & Teaching and Assessment Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Knowledge and Understanding</th>
<th>Learning and Teaching Methods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the legal principles relevant to the areas studied on the programme and the contexts that shape such principles;</td>
<td>For all modules, the learning model incorporates a blend of learner-centred activities. In addition to completing and receiving feedback on a range of activities, learners will be part of a community with many opportunities for peer learning including participation in discussion and provision of peer feedback as well as participation in teaching sessions.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment Methods</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students will be assessed by a combination of invigilated unseen examinations and written coursework. In each module students will have the benefit of a formative assessment aligned to the methodology of the particular summative assessment. Additional formative assessment of knowledge and understanding will take place through the feedback received on activities undertaken.</td>
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<tr>
<th>B. Intellectual Skills</th>
<th>Learning and Teaching Methods</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Analyse complex practical problems and accurately apply legal knowledge with supporting reasons;</td>
<td>Within the learning model outlined above, the intellectual skills will be primarily developed both in preparation for, and taking part in, the activities in workshops or online units. Many of the activities will involve the performance of the intellectual skills of analysis, synthesis and the exercise of critical judgment. Students will receive feedback on each activity. Substantial preparation and research will be required from primary and other sources.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment Methods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the intellectual skills, these outcomes will be formatively assessed through the activities undertaken and also via a formal formative assessment aligned to the methodology of the summative assessment.</td>
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</table>
### C. General Skills

- Conduct independent legal research into familiar and unfamiliar areas, retrieve relevant data, using a variety of primary and secondary sources (both hard copy and online), providing accurate and precise conclusions;

- Use language proficiently and present knowledge or an opinion in a way that is succinct, accurate, grammatically correct and comprehensible to others, both orally and in writing;

- Utilise information technology effectively for the purposes of research and the presentation or communication of information;

- Work capably within groups and become an effective participant who is able to contribute to the group's task.

### Learning and Teaching Methods

As for the intellectual skills above, within the established learning model the general skills will be primarily developed both in preparation for, and through the activities undertaken. In preparation for each activity, students will be required to conduct comprehensive preparation often involving the undertaking of research accompanied by the evaluation of the data and its presentation as part of the task. The research will invariably involve the use of information technology and occasionally require the evaluation and presentation of numerical data.

### Assessment Methods

The general skills will be assessed within the formative and summative assessment methods outlined in paragraph A. above.

The output of the skills (for example the product of the research, ability to formulate and communicate the results) will all feed through into the relevant assessment points, whether formative or summative.

### 16. Admissions Criteria

The minimum qualification for admission to the programme is the possession of a first degree or equivalent level of qualification.

International students whose first language is not English will be required to pass the IELTS test at with an average of 6.5 and at least 6.0 in each of the four heads.