

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1.	Awarding Institution:	The University of Law
2.	Final Award:	Postgraduate Diploma
3.	Programme Title(s):	Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Legal Practice (LPC)
4.	Accredited by:	The University of Law (Academic Board)
5.	Level	Master's (level 7) within the FHEQ
6.	Mode of Study:	Full-time and part-time
7.	Language of Study	English
8.	Length of Programme:	Maximum 5 Years
9.	Total Credits:	150 credits
10.	Date of Production/Revision:	January 2019
<p>11. Aims and Rationale of the Programme</p> <p>The Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Legal Practice programme is designed for those who seek to practise as a lawyer (either in England and Wales or in other jurisdictions) and/or wish to develop further their practical skills in broader business and commercial matters. The programme will therefore build on skills, experience and techniques initially acquired during academic study and vocational training or experience, which could be applied in the workplace.</p> <p>In particular the aims are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a systematic understanding of the law and practice on the part of learners, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, at the forefront of the areas of professional practice studied. • To develop an understanding of the impact of business issues in the functioning of both law firms and client businesses. • To provide learners with a programme of study that satisfies Stages 1 and 2 of the Legal Practice Course Outcomes specified by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and enhances their prospects of legally-related professional, commercial, business or academic employment. • To enhance learners' intellectual, technical and professional skills as well as developing the postgraduate skills of the exercise of initiative and autonomy in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level. • To develop further a comprehensive understanding of legal research techniques and methodology and their application. • To provide flexibility in delivery modes to increase learner access to the award(s). • To cater for a range of learning preferences through a variety of learner-centred activities and using a variety of learning opportunities. <p>12. Programme Outcomes</p>		

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

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate a high level of knowledge and of conceptual understanding at the forefront of the areas of professional practice studied;
- Demonstrate a conceptual understanding of principles of business and management so as to understand, anticipate and respond to the needs of business clients; and
- Apply detailed and comprehensive knowledge of the relevant law and legal practice to progress transactions or matters relevant to the area of the professional practice studied to achieve the client's objectives in accordance with any rules of professional conduct or ethics.

Intellectual

- Evaluate critically current knowledge, research and advanced scholarship in the areas of professional and business practice studied, including research and professional methodologies where appropriate;
- Analyse complex legal issues and client matters both systematically and creatively, making sound judgments in the absence of complete data in complex and unpredictable situations; and
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing strategies to take a client matter to a resolution.

Transferable

- Plan and implement, with a high degree of autonomy, a range of complex practice-related tasks;
- Demonstrate a high level of competence in the practitioner skills appropriate to the area of professional practice studied;
- Identify and address, where relevant, the business, commercial and ethical aspects of the areas of professional practice studied;
- Where applicable, demonstrate self-analysis and an ability to reflect on their learning; and
- Assume responsibility for the continued development of their own learning.

Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other reference points to inform programme outcomes

The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ)

QAA Master's Degree Characteristics

13. Programme Structure, Levels, Modules and Credits

The programme will be delivered on a full-time basis over one academic year (including an accelerated version delivered over six months) and part-time over two years. The full-time course delivered over one academic year runs over a period of 41 weeks, commencing in mid-September and ending in June each year. There is also a January start programme which runs over 40 weeks, commencing in early January and ending in October. The full-time course is divided into two parts. During the first part, which runs from week 1 to week 27 (week 26 on the January start programme), students study the necessary modules for Stage 1, i.e. compulsory and core subjects and the course skills. During the second, which runs from week 28 to week 41 (weeks 27 to 40 on the January start course), students study their choice of three elective subjects for Stage 2. The modules within Stage 1 of the programme are designed to satisfy the requirements of Stage 1 of the Legal Practice Course Outcomes specified by the SRA. The modules within Stage 2 of the programme are designed to satisfy the vocational electives in Stage 2 of the SRA's Legal Practice Course Outcomes.

For the full-time mode, students will be studying four or three modules at any given time, delivered and assessed in parallel. For the part-time modes, for the most part two modules will be delivered and assessed in each term. Each CPA module will account for 30 credits, and the Introduction to Professional Practice module and each elective module will account for 15 credits, making a total of 150 credits for the programme as a whole.

Student choice of options on the programme takes the form of a selection of three electives from a menu of 15.

The modules and their respective credits, level and core or elective status are set out below:

Module Title	Credits	Level	Core/Elective
Stage 1			
Introduction to Professional Practice	15	6	Core
Business Law & Practice	30	7	Core
Dispute Resolution	30	7	Core
Real Estate	30	7	Core
Stage 2			
Vocational Elective 1	15	7	Elective
Vocational Elective 2	15	7	Elective
Vocational Elective 3	15	7	Elective
TOTAL	150:		
	4 Core Modules and 3 Elective Modules (135 credits at level 7)		

The available elective modules and their respective credits and awards are set out below:

Module Title	Credit	Level
Advanced Criminal Law & Practice	15	7
Advanced Real Estate Law & Practice	15	7
Banking and Debt Finance Law & Practice	15	7
Commercial Dispute Resolution Law & Practice	15	7
Commercial Law & Practice	15	7
Competition Law & Practice	15	7
Employment Law & Practice	15	7
Family Law & Practice	15	7
Immigration Law & Practice	15	7
Insurance Law & Practice	15	7
Intellectual Property Law & Practice	15	7
Mergers and Acquisitions Law & Practice	15	7
Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence Law & Practice	15	7
Private Client Law & Practice	15	7
Public Companies Law & Practice	15	7

14. Programme Outcomes, Learning & Teaching and Assessment Strategies

A. Knowledge and Understanding

- Demonstrate a high level of knowledge and of conceptual understanding at the forefront of the areas of professional practice studied;
- Demonstrate a conceptual understanding of principles of business and management so as to understand, anticipate and respond to the needs of business clients; and
- Apply detailed and comprehensive knowledge of the relevant law and legal practice to progress transactions or matters relevant to the area of the professional practice studied to achieve the client's objectives in accordance with any rules of professional conduct or ethics

Learning and Teaching Methods

The learning and teaching methods are predominantly learner-centred. Each taught module will be divided into a number of units which comprise specified reading of a range of primary sources or practitioner texts; computer-assisted learning including and test and feedback activities, and will culminate in supervised activities and tasks (which will be delivered using classroom workshop sessions, supplemented by a number of large group sessions.

The learner will be expected to develop self-study skills and to use technology as appropriate to the specialist practice area.

Within each of the modules, the learner will be expected to demonstrate an ability to complete a complex set of tasks and activities autonomously.

Assessment Methods

Assessment of achievement of the learning outcomes is assessed by a range of assessment methods. The CPA modules will be assessed by way of an examination in 2 parts; a closed-book, unseen examination of 1 hour's duration

	<p>comprising multiple choice questions to test candidates' knowledge, and a 3 hour open book, unseen examination containing short and long form questions to enable candidates to demonstrate both knowledge and skills. The prescribed legal skills will be assessed by a range of written and oral skills assessments, including real time practical tasks completed over a period of 24 hours for the skills of Writing and Drafting.</p> <p>The electives will be summatively assessed by a 3 hour open book unseen paper containing short and long form questions to enable candidates to demonstrate both knowledge and skills, and multiple choice questions to enable breadth of coverage.</p> <p>Learners should demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, and a practical understanding of how law and practice is used in the solution of complex legal problems.</p>
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<p>B. Intellectual Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate critically current knowledge, research and advanced scholarship in the areas of professional practice studied, including research and professional methodologies where appropriate; • Analyse complex legal issues and client matters both systematically and creatively, making sound judgments in the absence of complete data in complex and unpredictable situations; and • Demonstrate self-direction and originality in solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing strategies to take a client matter to a resolution. 	<p>Learning and Teaching Methods</p> <p>Cognitive skills are developed through the teaching and learning methods and strategies outlined above. In particular, analysis, critical judgement, evaluation and problem-solving skills are further developed through the use of case-studies which mirror transactions and matters relevant to the specialist area of professional practice for that module.</p> <p>The learners will be expected to analyse the facts and technical legal issues underpinning a client's position in a case-study; to identify solutions which are specific (and therefore original) to that client's position; and to provide the client with a thorough and balanced view of the outcome and options available.</p> <hr/> <p>Assessment Methods</p> <p>Cognitive skills are assessed in the module and skills assessments through the tasks and activities required to be carried out.</p> <p>The real-time practical tasks provide particular opportunity to demonstrate the analysis of complex legal and technical issues, the exercise of sound judgment along with self-direction and autonomy in planning and implementing strategies.</p>
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<p>C. General Transferable Skills, Professional Skills and Attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and implement, with a high degree of autonomy, a range of complex practice-related tasks; • Demonstrate a high level of competence in the practitioner skills appropriate to the area of professional practice studied; • Identify and address, where relevant, the business, commercial and ethical aspects of the areas of professional practice studied; • Where applicable, demonstrate self-analysis and an ability to reflect on their learning and/or experience in practice; and • Assume responsibility for the continued development of their own learning; 	<p>Learning and Teaching Methods</p> <p>As for the intellectual skills above, within the established learning model the general transferable skills will be primarily developed both in preparation for, and through the activities inherent in, the workshops.</p> <p>The professional practice ethos of the course means that learners will be required to demonstrate a high level of competence in the practitioner skills, particularly research, writing and drafting.</p> <p>The real time assessments will also provide the opportunity to demonstrate skills in relation to the planning and implementation of a range of complex practice-related tasks.</p> <p>Finally, the essence of the University's learner-centred approach is that from the outset learners will be expected to assume responsibility for their learning and develop self-analysis.</p> <hr/> <p>Assessment Methods</p> <p>The general transferable skills will generally be assessed within the formative and summative assessment methods outlined in paragraph B. above.</p> <p>In particular, the output of the skills, in addition to the written and oral skills assessments, will all feed through into the relevant assessment points, whether formative or summative, for example the product of the research, and ability to formulate and communicate the results.</p>
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<p>16. Admissions Criteria</p>	<p>Applicants must satisfy the SRA's eligibility requirements for the Legal Practice Course, namely completion the Academic Stage of Training.</p> <p>Note: completion of the Academic Stage of Training is achieved through successful completion of either a Qualifying Law Degree or, for graduates in subject disciplines other than law, the completion of the Common Professional Examination (CPE) or Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL).</p>
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Document Version Control

Version No.	Amended by	Revision Summary	Date
1.0	Head of Quality Assurance	Approval of a minor modification of the assessment methodology for the Stage 2 electives modules	January 2019