

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	LLM Legal Practice
2	BCU Course Code	PT1189/PT1190
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)

6	Course Description
	<p>Want to study a Masters in Legal Practice?</p> <p>This course is specifically designed to provide the final part of the vocational stage of training towards the qualification as a solicitor in England and Wales. The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) is the professional body who authorise the initial validation, revalidation and ongoing monitoring and periodic review of such courses.</p> <p>This course covers all SRA required modules for Stage 1 and a range of Stage 2 Vocational Elective modules. You will develop the core cognitive, professional and transferable skills necessary to succeed in the legal workplace. At the end of Stage 2 (Semester 2) you will start the academic stage of this course in Semester 3. You will complete a research module followed by either a dissertation, a live project or a placement.</p> <p>Following successful completion of this course you will be eligible to proceed to the next vocational stage of training by completing a 2 year Training Contract with an employer in legal practice.</p> <p>Our first-class facilities include two mock courtrooms and a comprehensive law library (with many resources accessible online). There are extensive opportunities available with a variety of agencies throughout Birmingham and our Law Clinic. The LPC is taught by a team of professional staff with extensive practice experience and a friendly, open door policy giving you all the support you will need.</p>

7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	LLM Legal Practice	7	180
	LLM Legal Practice with Professional Placement	7	240
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Postgraduate Diploma Legal Practice	7	120
	Postgraduate Certificate Legal Practice	7	60

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compensation of marginally failed modules is not permitted (except LAW130: Advanced Legal Research Methods) 2. Condonement of failed modules is not permitted (except LAW130: Advanced Legal Research Methods) 3. The maximum registration period within which students must complete the course is five years 4. The final mark for each assessment other than in the Course Skills will be expressed as a percentage and in whole numbers. Marks ending in a fraction of 0.5 or more are rounded up to the next whole number. Marks ending in a fraction of less than 0.5 are rounded down to the next whole number. Where an assessment comprises two or more parts this applies to the mark for each part 5. Students are permitted up to a maximum of three attempts at assessment 6. Students are required, before the start of each assessment, to confirm that there are no reasons why they should not sit the assessment at that time or why they might subsequently submit a request for a concession.

9	Delivery Patterns		
Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
Full Time	City Centre	1 year	PT1189
Part Time	City Centre	2 years	PT1190
Full Time September with Professional Placement	City Centre (and placement provider)	18 months	PT1374

10	Entry Requirements
	<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/.</p>

11a	Course Learning Outcomes
1	Research and apply critical knowledge of the law and legal practice accurately and effectively.
2	Identify: the client's objectives and different means of achieving those objectives and be aware of; the financial, commercial and personal priorities and constraints to be taken into account; the costs, benefits and risks involved in transaction or courses of action; the tasks required to advance transactions or matter; how the rules of professional conduct may impact and be able to apply them in context.
3	Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in the areas of: Professional Conduct and Regulation; the core practice areas of Business law and Practice, Property Law and Practice, Litigation and the areas of wills and administration of estates and taxation; the Course skills of Practical Legal Research (PLR), Writing, Drafting, Interviewing and Advising and Advocacy. Students should be able to transfer skills learnt in one context to another; the three areas covered by their Electives.
4	Employ strategic transferable skills to underpin: advising clients; interacting with professional colleagues; continuing professional development and practice and to develop a range of other pervasive skills, including: conducting electronic research and appropriate use of the internet to locate relevant information, producing work which is properly referenced and presented and formatted using standard software packages, working co-operatively, ethically and professionally with others.
5	Develop enhanced research and reflective skills; gain a sophisticated level of knowledge and critical awareness of a chosen area of legal practice; and have the opportunity to demonstrate originality in tackling and solving problems, acting autonomously in planning and implementing tasks, advancing your own knowledge and understanding and the independent learning required for continuing professional development through studying the Masters element of the course.

11	Course Learning Outcomes
1	A qualification accredited by the relevant professional body;

2	A curriculum which provides coverage of the LPC Outcomes;
3	The knowledge and skills required to enable them to enter a training contract with the aim of becoming a solicitor;
4	An opportunity to acquire, or build upon, the self-discipline and self-motivation necessary to maximise their continuing professional development after completion of the programme;
5	An understanding of principles of substantive law and an ability to apply those principles to legal problems;
6	A sound appreciation and understanding of the need to act at all times in a manner which accords with both the letter and the spirit of the Solicitors' Conduct Rules and the Solicitors' Accounts Rules;
7	An ability to deal professionally with members of the public, colleagues and officials;
8	A sound appreciation and understanding of professional practice and the appropriate professional behaviour and attitudes expected of a practising solicitor;
9	An opportunity to participate in teaching and learning techniques which emphasise active and participative education;
10	Transferable and marketable skills, leading to employment opportunities in the legal profession and in a range of other careers.

12	Course Requirements																																																																									
12a	<p>Level 7:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 156 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>LPC7302</td><td>Business Law and Practice</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7309</td><td>Property Law and Practice</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7303</td><td>Litigation</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7321</td><td>Professional Conduct and Regulation</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7320</td><td>Taxation</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7311</td><td>Wills and the Administration of Estates</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7304</td><td>Drafting</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7301</td><td>Advocacy</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7306</td><td>Interviewing and Advising</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7305</td><td>Writing</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7307</td><td>Practical Legal Research</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7310</td><td>Solicitors Accounts</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LAW7130</td><td>Advanced Legal Research Methods</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>LAW7140</td><td>Dissertation</td><td>40</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete three modules (totalling 24 credits) from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>LPC7322</td><td>Commercial Law and Practice</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7323</td><td>Commercial Property</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7324</td><td>Immigration Law</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7317</td><td>Employment Law</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7318</td><td>Family Law</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>LPC7319</td><td>Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence</td><td>8</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>In order to qualify for the award of LLM Legal Practice with Professional Placement, a student must successfully complete all of the Level 7 modules listed above as well as the following Level 6 module:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ffffcc;">PLA6001</td> <td style="background-color: #ffffcc;">Professional Placement</td> <td style="background-color: #ffffcc;">60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	LPC7302	Business Law and Practice	8	LPC7309	Property Law and Practice	8	LPC7303	Litigation	8	LPC7321	Professional Conduct and Regulation	8	LPC7320	Taxation	8	LPC7311	Wills and the Administration of Estates	8	LPC7304	Drafting	8	LPC7301	Advocacy	8	LPC7306	Interviewing and Advising	8	LPC7305	Writing	8	LPC7307	Practical Legal Research	8	LPC7310	Solicitors Accounts	8	LAW7130	Advanced Legal Research Methods	20	LAW7140	Dissertation	40	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	LPC7322	Commercial Law and Practice	8	LPC7323	Commercial Property	8	LPC7324	Immigration Law	8	LPC7317	Employment Law	8	LPC7318	Family Law	8	LPC7319	Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence	8	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	PLA6001	Professional Placement	60
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12b Structure Diagram

Full Time

Semester 1 Stage 1 Core Modules	Business Law and Practice (8 credits)	Litigation (8 credits)	Property Law and Practice (8 credits)	Wills & the Administration of Estates (8 credits)	Professional Conduct & Regulation (8 credits)	Solicitors Accounts (8 credits)
	Writing (8 credits)	Advocacy (8 credits)	Interviewing & Advising (8 credits)	Drafting (8 credits)	Taxation (8 credits)	Practical Legal Research (8 credits)
Semester 2 Stage 2 Optional Modules	*1 x Optional Module (8 credits)		*1 x Optional Module (8 credits)		*1 x Optional Module (8 credits)	
Semester 3 Core Modules	LAW7130 Advanced Legal Research Methods (20 credits)		LAW7140 Dissertation (no teaching sessions but supervisor meetings) (40 credits)			
Professional Placement <i>(if opted for LLM Legal Practice with Professional Placement)</i>	Professional Placement (60 credits)					

Part Time

Year One

Semester 1	Business Law and Practice (8 credits)	Professional Conduct & Regulation (8 credits)	Practical Legal Research (8 credits)
	Writing (8 credits)	Solicitors Accounts (8 credits)	
Semester 2	Wills & the Administration of Estates (8 credits)	Taxation (8 credits)	
	Drafting (8 credits)	*1 x Optional Module (8 credits)	

Year Two

Semester 1	Property Law and Practice (8 credits)	Litigation (8 credits)
	Advocacy (8 credits)	Interviewing & Advising (8 credits)
Semester 2	*1 x Optional Module (8 credits)	*1 x Optional Module (8 credits)
Semester 3	Advanced Legal Research Methods (20 credits)	(no teaching sessions but supervisor meetings) (40 credits)

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Workload

20% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	358
Directed Learning	157
Private Study	1285
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	23%
Exam	65%
In-Person	12%