

Programme Specification: Postgraduate Diploma Bar Practice

1.	Awarding Institution:	The University of Law
2.	Final Award:	Postgraduate Diploma in Bar Practice
3.	Interim/Exit Awards:	Postgraduate Certificate of Higher Education
4.	Programme Title(s):	Bar Practice Course
5.	Accredited by:	The Bar Standards Board
6.	Total Credits:	Postgraduate Diploma in Bar Practice – 120 credits Postgraduate Certificate of Higher Education – 60 credits
7.	Level:	Master's (Level 7) within the FHEQ
8.	Mode of Study:	Face to face: full-time and part-time
9.	Language of Study:	English
10.	Length of Programme:	Full-time: 1 year Part-time: 2 years
11.	Criteria for admission:	<p>Applicants must have enrolled on the BPC and have completed the Academic Stage of Training. Applicants must enrol on the whole programme and it is not possible to enrol on individual modules in ordinary circumstances. The Academic stage is achieved through successful completion of either a Qualifying Law Degree (at a minimum level of a lower second class honours) or, for graduates in subject disciplines other than law, the completion of the Common Professional Examination (CPE) or Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) or the formal completion of the core legal subjects in any other format.</p> <p>The admissions criteria are: that a student will have achieved good A levels and minimum of a 2:1 undergraduate degree and successful completion of BCAT. Prior to acceptance on the course students must also attend and pass one of our selection events comprising advocacy, interview and consideration of written ability.</p>
12.	UCAS code (if relevant):	N/A
13.	HECOS codes (if relevant):	100485 - Law
14.	Date of Production/Revision:	July 2020

15. Aims and Rationale of the Programme

The Bar Practice Course is designed for those who seek to practise as a barrister (either in England and Wales or in other jurisdictions) and/or wish to develop further their practical skills in a specialist area of legal practice. The programme will therefore build on skills, experience and techniques initially acquired during academic study and vocational training or experience, which can then be applied in the workplace.

In particular the programme aims are as follows:

- To develop a systematic understanding of the law and practice on the part of students, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, at the forefront of the areas of professional practice studied.
- To enhance students' intellectual, transferable and interpersonal skills as well as developing the postgraduate skills of the exercise of initiative and autonomy in 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 students with a programme of study that enhances their prospects of legally-related professional, commercial, business or academic employment.
- To cater for a range of learning preferences through a variety of learner-centred activities and using a variety of learning media.

16. Programme Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students should be able to [headings as appropriate for specific programme outcomes]:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate a high level of specialist knowledge and of conceptual understanding at the forefront of the areas of professional practice studied.
- 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 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.
- 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, an extended piece of work.
- 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.
- 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 in the United Kingdom (FHEQ)
- The Bar Standards Board Authorisation Framework December 2018
- Professional Statement for Barristers incorporating the Threshold Standards and Competencies

17. Programme Structure, Levels, Modules and Credits

The Postgraduate Diploma Bar Practice award is available for students who have successfully completed the BPC at the University, either through full-time or part-time attendance.

Advocacy 30 Credits	Civil Litigation & Evidence 30 Credits	Criminal Litigation & Sentencing 30 Credits
Skills 30 Credits		

The taught modules above form part of the compulsory 'core' of the BPC. The remaining knowledge and skills modules comprise the following elements: Conference Skills, Drafting, Opinion Writing and Remedies, Professional Ethics, and Legal Research. Resolution of Disputes out of Court is included within the Civil Litigation and Evidence module.

NB Where a student does not obtain sufficient credits to be awarded the LLM Bar Practice or the Postgraduate Diploma Bar Practice, they may on completion of 60 credits be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Bar Civil and Criminal Procedure (on successful completion of the Criminal and Civil litigation modules), a Postgraduate Certificate Bar Skills (on successful completion of the Advocacy and Skills modules) or a Postgraduate Certificate Bar Practice (for any other combination of modules totally a minimum of 60 credits).

18. Programme Outcomes, Learning & Teaching and Assessment Strategies	
<p>Knowledge and Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a high level of specialist knowledge and of conceptual understanding at the forefront of the areas of professional practice studied. • 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. 	<p>Learning and Teaching Methods</p> <p>Pure litigation sessions will be stripped out to provide a framework for developing the skills against the background of cumulative knowledge in practice and procedure.</p>
	<p>Assessment Methods</p> <p>Assessment of achievement of the learning outcomes is assessed by unseen open-book or closed book examinations of 2-4hours in duration throughout the course of the year commencing in November.</p> <p>Students 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>
<p>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. • 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 students 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>
	<p>Assessment Methods</p> <p>Cognitive skills are assessed in the module assessments through the tasks and activities required to be carried out. These include a range of skills assessments including formal assessment of oral skills in 3 separate Advocacy assessments and Conference Skills.</p>
<p>General Transferable Skills, Professional Skills and Attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and implement, with a 	<p>Learning and Teaching Methods</p> <p>As for the intellectual skills above, within the established learning model the general</p>

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<p>high degree of autonomy, an extended piece of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Assume responsibility for the continued development of their own learning. 	<p>transferable skills will be primarily developed both in preparation for, and through the activities inherent in, the workshops (for attendance mode) or task submissions (for the online modules).</p> <p>The professional practice ethos of the course means that students will be required to demonstrate a high level of competence in the practitioner skills, particularly research, opinion writing and drafting.</p> <p>Finally, the essence of the University's student-centred approach is that from the outset students will be expected to assume responsibility for their learning and develop self-analysis and peer review to an extent.</p> <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 (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.</p>
19. Inclusive Considerations	<p>As part of the curriculum design, we have a variety of flexible learning and delivery methods including a blended learning approach to programme design. Powerpoints are made available in advance of sessions and any lectures are recorded.</p> <p>Greater flexibility is employed in respect of the mode of assessment, subject to the constraints of the regulator in respect of centralised assessments.</p>
20. Prior Credits considered for RPL	<p>Prior credit may be recognised and will be considered on a case by case basis.</p>

Document Version Control

Version No.	Amended by	Revision Summary	Date
1.0	Head of Quality Assurance	First version post-programme approval.	March 2020
1.1	Head of Quality Assurance	Minor grammatical amendments	July 2020