

Programme Specification

Award and title: LLM Legal Practice (LPC)

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Law
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2021-22
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate Legal Practice
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Not applicable
<i>Modes of study:</i>	full time for 1 year Postgraduate periods of study¹ for full time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

This programme is aimed at law graduates, or graduates of other disciplines who have completed a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), who wish to qualify as a solicitor in England & Wales or otherwise gain a valuable postgraduate qualification which will enhance employability in an increasingly competitive graduate recruitment market.

The programme incorporates the Legal Practice Course (LPC), the vocational qualification prescribed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, which is an alternative to the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) if you accepted a place on an undergraduate programme before 1 September 2021 *and* started your studies by 31 December 2021. Every student will gain legal work experience in York St John Law Clinic, a law firm, in house legal department or a legal advice centre, with a focus on developing transferable legal and professional skills.

In taking this programme at York St John University, you will:

- Acquire the knowledge and transferable legal skills needed for Day 1 of your qualifying work experience (QWE) or period of recognised training.
- Develop the ability to carry out tasks and transactions that will be encountered in the early part of a career in law.
- Develop into an independent, life-long learner.

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

- Be offered frequent, personal feedback to help you develop and improve.
- Experience a range of assessment mediums to enable you to demonstrate your ability.
- Gain legal work experience in York St John Law Clinic, a law firm, in house legal department or a legal advice centre counting towards your period of qualifying work experience as a solicitor.
- Develop skills and enhance your employability in a competitive employment market
- Satisfy the requirements of the Legal Practice Course, as prescribed by the Solicitors' Regulation Authority, enabling you to seek to qualify as a solicitor either by: -
 - Completing a period of recognised training, usually a 2-year paid 'training contract' with a law firm or other organisation authorised to provide training;
 - Qualifying through equivalent means by compiling a portfolio of work documenting at least 2 years' experience working under the supervision of a practising solicitor in a paid or voluntary role. This could be as a paralegal or equivalent; or
 - Taking the Solicitors Qualifying Examination 2 (SQE2) and completing qualifying work experience (QWE).

This programme builds on York St John University's commitment to social justice and our aim that is our students leave 'socially aware' and with a lifelong commitment to social justice and to making a positive contribution to our communities. Teaching on this programme will help you bridge the more technical aspects of legal practice to the evidential, financial, practical and personal realities of clients' cases and, in addition to developing the technical legal skills, having the opportunity to work with real people who have genuine legal problems will help you develop empathy and emotional intelligence which will enhance your effectiveness as a lawyer from the outset of your career.

The Legal Practice Course (LPC) element of the programme is prescribed by the Solicitors' Regulation Authority (SRA) and will give you the option of seeking to qualify as a solicitor in England & Wales by completing a training contract even after the introduction of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE). The qualification is also frequently an essential requirement of employers seeking to recruit to entry level positions, including paralegal roles, within the legal profession which offer further avenues into the profession.

The programme is vocational in nature and therefore the focus is on the acquisition of knowledge relating to the practice of law and development of core transferable legal skills, whilst also providing you with experience of working in a live client, professional legal environment. A core theme which pervades the programme is a working knowledge of professional conduct requirements of solicitors and law firms.

Our aim is that studying this programme will really help you stand out to small to medium-sized firms in particular, by preparing you to 'hit the ground running' and make a positive contribution to an employer from the outset.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage.

In addition, you must have at least:

- A 2:1 undergraduate degree classification in a Qualifying Law Degree (QLD) approved by the Solicitors' Regulation Authority.
- or**
- A 2:1 undergraduate degree classification in any discipline and a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL).

Admissions Process

Applicants who are yet to graduate

You will be required to attend an interview with the Course Leader before an offer of a place will be made. This is to assess your aptitude and identify your objectives in taking the programme. If successful at interview, a conditional offer of a place will be made.

Applicants who fail to meet the minimum requirements upon graduation

If, on graduation, you fail to meet the requirements of a conditional offer of a place, you will be invited to an interview with the Course Leader to analyse your academic achievement, and any subsequent experience, with the aim of identifying any barriers to your success so that you and the Course Leader can make an informed decision as to whether this programme is right for you. If successful at interview, an unconditional offer of a place will be made.

Applicants who have already graduated

If you already meet the minimum entry requirements, you will be required to attend an interview with the Course Leader before an offer of a place will be made. This is to assess your aptitude and identify your objectives in taking the programme. If successful at interview, an unconditional offer of a place will be made.

If you have already graduated with a 2:2 degree classification you may still apply for a place and you will be invited to an interview with the Course Leader to analyse your academic achievement, and any subsequent experience, with the aim of identifying any barriers to your success so that you and the Course Leader can make an informed decision as to whether this programme is right for you. If successful at interview, an unconditional offer of a place will be made.

Under no circumstances will applicants with less than a 2:2 degree classification in any discipline be considered.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Important – Changes to the route to qualification as a solicitor in England & Wales

You must have accepted a place on any undergraduate programme, at any institution, on or before 21 September 2021 **and** started your studies by 31 December 2021 to have the option of taking a Legal Practice Course (LPC) as an alternative to the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE). If you accept a place on an undergraduate programme on or after 21 September 2021 you may still apply to this programme, however you would be required to successfully complete the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE), in addition, to be able to qualify as a solicitor in England & Wales.

Programme aims

In completing this programme, you will:

- Satisfy the requirements of the Legal Practice Course as prescribed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.
- Develop practical legal skills and knowledge which will make you stand out from the crowd in a competitive graduate recruitment market and make an immediate valuable contribution to your employer's business; and
- Gain experience in York St John Law Clinic, a law firm, in house legal department or a legal advice centre providing legal advice and assistance, which will add value to your qualification.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 research and apply knowledge of the law and legal practice accurately and effectively
- 7.2 identify the client's objectives and different means of achieving those objectives and be aware of:
 - a. the financial, commercial and personal priorities and constraints to be taken into account; and
 - b. the costs, benefits and risks involved in transactions or courses of action
- 7.3 perform the tasks required to advance transactions or matters
- 7.4 understand the key ethical requirements contained in the SRA Principles of Regulation and Code of Conduct, understand where these may impact and be able to apply them in context
- 7.5 demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and skills in the areas of: -
 - a. Professional Conduct and Regulation.
 - b. 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; and
 - c. the course skills of Practical Legal Research, Writing, Drafting, Interviewing and Advising, and Advocacy with an ability to transfer skills learnt in one context to another.
- 7.6 demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and skills in the three areas covered by your choice of optional modules.
- 7.7 reflect on your learning and identify your learning needs.
- 7.8 demonstrate your knowledge and ability to apply legal theory in practice by producing a significant piece of independent research addressing a topical issue in the field of legal practice.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	LPC Stage	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
LAW7001M	7	1	Business Law & Practice	1	20	C	NC
LAW7002M	7	1	Property Law & Practice	1	15	C	NC
LAW7003M	7	1	Professional Conduct & Regulation	1	5	C	NC
LAW7016M	7	1-2	Legal Skills – Law Clinic	1	20	C	NC
Select one optional 10 credit module from below for semester 1							
LAW7007M	7	1	Commercial Law & Practice	2	10	O	NC
LAW7008M	7	1	Family Law & Practice	2	10	O	NC
LAW7011M	7	1	Mental Health Law & Practice*	2	10	O	NC
LAW7004M	7	2	Litigation & Advocacy	1	15	C	NC
LAW7005M	7	2	Wills & Administration of Estates	1	10	C	NC
LAW7006M	7	2	Solicitors' Accounts	1	5	C	NC
LAW7017M	7	Year	Legal Practice Project	-	60	C	NC
Select two optional 10 credit modules from below for semester 2							
LAW7009M	7	2	Employment Law & Practice	2	10	O	NC
LAW7010M	7	2	Immigration Law & Practice	2	10	O	NC
LAW7012M	7	2	Commercial Dispute Resolution	2	10	O	NC
LAW7013M	7	2	Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence	2	10	O	NC
LAW7014M	7	2	Acquisitions*	2	10	O	NC
LAW7015M	7	2	Commercial Property	2	10	O	NC

Please note that not all options may be available every year as they depend on student demand and staff availability.

*These modules will not be offered in the 2021/22 academic year and will be offered in subsequent years subject to student demand and staff availability.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensatable. A non-compensatable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level with at least a mark of 50 to progress.

The following table provides another view of the programme structure and indicates how contact time, learning hours and assessment are balanced across the programme. It also indicates the context in which the Course Skills are delivered, all of which are assessed towards the end of the programme to allow as much time as possible for you to develop your ability in these skills.

Please note – The last entry point for this programme will be September 2024. Taught sessions will not be offered after the 2024/25 academic year.

Title	Assessed Credits	Weekly Contact Time	Total Contact Time/NLH	Supervised Assessment Hrs	Course Skills/Notes
Semester 1 – September to January					
Business Law & Practice (inc. Taxation & Business Accounts)	20	4	48/285	4.5	
Property Law & Practice	15	3	36/220	3	
Professional Conduct & Regulation	5	1	12/50	2	
1 Elective	10	2	24/100	3	
Legal Skills – Law Clinic	-	2	24/100	-	
Legal Practice Project	-	3 x 2hr w/shop	8/100	-	+2hrs supervision
Sub Total	50	12.5 (weekly average)	152/855	12.5	
Semester 2 – January to May					
Litigation & Advocacy	15	3	36/255	4.5	Advocacy
Wills & Administration of Estates	10	2	24/120	N/A	Drafting
Solicitors' Accounts	5	1	12/50	2	
1 Elective	10	2	24/100	3	
1 Elective	10	2	24/100	3	
Legal Skills – Law Clinic	20*	2	24/100	-	Interviewing & Advising Legal Writing Practical Legal Research
Legal Practice Project	-	3 x 2hr w/shop	8/100	-	+2hrs supervision
Sub Total	70	12.5 (weekly average)	152/825	12.5	
Semester 3 – May to August (workshops across Sem 1 & 2)					
Legal Practice Project	60**		4/120	N/A	+4hrs supervision
Total	180		308/1800	24	

**Contact and study time in Legal Skills – Law Clinic and Legal Practice Project occurs across the

programme as indicated in the table above, however assessments are submitted, and credits are awarded only in the final semester in which these modules are delivered.

Learning, teaching and assessment

Learning and teaching

In the Core Practice Areas of Business Law & Practice (including business accounts and taxation), Property Law & Practice and Litigation & Advocacy you will receive a 1-hour lecture and 2-hour workshop each week, with the lecture in one week being used to prepare for the workshop the following week, for which there will be advance preparation. In Business Law & Practice you will receive an additional 1-hour socratic lecture each week addressing business accounts and taxation; this will be practical in nature and there will be advance preparation.

In each optional module, along with Wills & Administration of Estates which incorporates the Course Skill of Drafting, you will take part in a weekly 2-hour workshop.

In Professional Conduct & Regulation and Solicitors' Accounts you will have a weekly 1-hour socratic lecture which will be practical and interactive. There will be advance preparation for these sessions.

In Legal Skills – Law Clinic you will work in York St John Law Clinic, a law firm, in house legal department or a legal advice centre providing legal advice and assistance, under appropriate supervision, , thereby developing your skills and experience in an authentic context and adding real value to your degree. You will have a 1-hour socratic lecture and take part in a 1 hour 'firm meeting' with your colleagues and supervisor to discuss the progress of your cases, plan your work and address professional and ethical issues that have arisen. You will then be required to spend an additional 4 hours each week in clinic progressing your casework at a time of your choice. In this module, you will develop a reflective portfolio incorporating the three Course Skills of Interviewing & Advising, Practical Legal Research and Legal Writing.

As regards your Legal Practice Project, you will benefit from six 2-hour workshops spread across Semesters 1 & 2 which will introduce you to advanced legal research methods and assist you in developing your ideas, planning and carrying out your research, taking account of ethical considerations, conducting your literature review and writing up your project. You will also receive a further 8 hours one to one supervision which will focus on supporting you with planning, time management, data gathering (if applicable), complying with ethical requirements and offering you feedback on your draft work.

Induction will take place over one full week. Thereafter, teaching will be delivered on a condensed timetable over three days to afford you the opportunity for private study, paid employment and work experience. Taught sessions will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays, and you will be required to undertake your law clinic casework over a further half day of your choice. Where taught sessions are displaced by public holidays, they will be rearranged for later that same week, and you will be advised of this at the outset of the programme.

Lectures, which will incorporate the whole group, aim to help you understand key concepts, how they apply in practice and signpost you in terms of private study. Socratic lectures, used in Professional Conduct & Regulation, Business Accounts and Taxation (delivered as part of Business Law & Practice) and Solicitors' Accounts, are practical in nature and will require some directed advance preparation. Workshops, which are small group sessions, are practical in nature and allow you to work through common transactions which you will encounter early in your career. These sessions will require some directed advanced preparation.

You can expect sessions to be informal with participation, discussion and questions actively encouraged.

We offer a high level of flexibility and comprehensive personal support with your studies. Whilst it is intended that all sessions take place in person on campus, we do design our provision such that, if required, sessions can take place online. Equally, all sessions will be recorded so that they remain available to everyone for revision purposes or to assist you in catching up if you have missed a session. We make use of Microsoft Teams to broadcast (where required) and record sessions and facilitate collaboration between tutors and students. Materials, exercises, and quizzes will also be made available via Moodle which is where unsupervised assessment will be submitted.

A key feature of this programme is that you will get repeated opportunity to develop transferable professional skills and the five Course Skills in each module across the year and not just those modules in which these skills are assessed at the end of the programme. In this way, the programme will enable you to make rapid progress in the development of these skills. In Legal Skills – Law Clinic, which runs across the programme, you will receive weekly formative feedback from your supervisor which will help you make progress across all modules.

With our support, you will need to take responsibility for your own learning so that you develop as a reflective and conscientious practitioner. You will be encouraged to think critically and develop problem solving skills which are essential to employers, and you should be prepared to give and receive feedback from tutors and peers as part of your development. You are expected to prepare for, and participate fully in, all sessions.

Core texts for each module are included in the course fee and will be supplied at the start of each year. Additional texts will be available online through your module reading lists with an additional collection of hard copy texts available in the dedicated law library.

In Legal Skills – Law Clinic, you will analyse cases using Problem Based Learning techniques, which require you to follow a prescribed process to enable you to unpick the legal and factual issues which may be unfamiliar to you, explore the subject matter through research of those issues before arriving at reasoned conclusions and producing advice or work for the client. This will develop your analytical and problem-solving skills and gives you a scaffold with which to approach new areas of law in practice.

In optional modules, significant use will be made of authentic, simulated case studies both in taught sessions and assessments. Use of case studies in this way will require you to: -

- Identify accurately the issues in need of research and to bring that information together
- Apply subject specific legal knowledge to a realistic and/or practical context
- Make critical judgments of the merits of a particular argument
- Present and make reasoned choices between alternative solutions
- Present that information in an appropriate manner according to the intended audience.

In Legal Skills - Law Clinic you will work with our case management software, Clio, so that you become accustomed to the technology and working practices you will encounter in legal practice. This will include carrying out conflict checks, ensuring records are kept accurate and up to date, recording time and generating 'bills'.

Teaching in all modules aims to expose you to skills and knowledge in a realistic and relevant way. For example, you will put knowledge acquired in Wills & Administration of Estates into practice through drafting a will for a simulated client during your Legal Drafting assessment. In Property Law & Practice you will run two simulated client files as you work through conveyancing transactions from the perspective of both the buyer and seller. In Litigation & Advocacy you can expect to develop your advocacy skills in a range of civil and criminal contexts. Across all modules there will be a focus on practical legal research and in the Legal Practice Project at the culmination of the programme you will draw on all you have learned to carry out an extended piece of research exploring a topical issue in legal practice.

Formative Assessment and Support

The programme is designed so that you get plenty of opportunity to develop your skills across all modules. You will be given preparation ahead of each workshop. This preparation, and the classroom activity that follows, will allow you to develop your skills and you are invited to submit any preparatory or classroom work to your tutor for feedback. In the classroom, tutors will ask questions and observe activities to see how you are getting on and will offer feedback as appropriate. Activities are designed to enable you to practise and receive feedback on the kinds of tasks you can expect to encounter in assessments.

You will have a formal opportunity to attempt mock assessments in each module and to receive feedback to help you improve. In Semester 1, these will take the form of mock examinations, during a dedicated Mock Assessment Week in which no other teaching will take place, to give you the chance to practise under the same conditions you will encounter in the summative assessments. In Semester 2 you will be given the opportunity to attempt and submit past papers, along with a Drafting exercise in the context of

Wills & Administration of Estates, during the Easter vacation. You will practise Advocacy in both a civil and criminal context during Litigation & Advocacy.

In Legal Skills – Law Clinic, you will have weekly contact with your supervisor who will provide regular detailed feedback on your casework (incorporating the skills of Writing, Interviewing & Advising and Practical Legal Research) to help you improve. There will be a formal opportunity for formative feedback during your mid-term appraisal which will take place in January. Your clinic supervisor also acts as your personal tutor, ensuring very regular and accessible pastoral support should you encounter any difficulties whilst studying.

The programme calendar and handbook will make clear when mock assessments will take place and what the arrangements are for submission and feedback.

Assessment

The SRA requires that LPC assessments are transactional in nature and use an appropriate variety of mostly supervised assessment methods. Any assessments (including re-sits) will be based on the law in force at the time of the assessment, regardless of the law taught during the course, and you will be advised of any changes.

The pass mark for all assessments is 50 (on a scale of 0-100). Each of the five Course Skills will be assessed on a Competent/Not Yet Competent basis, and you must achieve a pass mark of 50 in the respective modules in addition.

You will develop and achieve each of the Learning Outcomes through your studies. Module specifications make clear which Learning Outcomes are addressed in that module and each of these will be assessed.

The Core Practice Areas of Business Law & Practice, Property Law & Practice and Litigation & Advocacy will each be assessed by way of a 3-hour unseen, open-book supervised assessment which will make use of computers. A minimum of 5/100 marks in each Core Practice Area assessment will be allocated to the pervasive topic of Professional Conduct & Regulation.

In addition, Professional Conduct & Regulation will be assessed by way of a 2-hour unseen, open-book supervised assessment making use of computers.

Solicitors' Accounts will be assessed by way of a 2-hour unseen, open-book supervised assessment.

Each of the five Course Skills of Practical Legal Research, Legal Writing, Drafting, Interviewing and Advising, and Advocacy shall be assessed once on a Competent/Not Yet Competent basis in specified modules, however you can expect to encounter tasks requiring these skills in assessments across the programme.

Advocacy will be assessed in the context of the Litigation module by way of supervised oral submissions in a bail or interim application.

Practical Legal Research, Legal Writing and Interviewing & Advising will be assessed by way of reflective portfolio in the context of the live client Legal Skills – Law Clinic module and will be unsupervised.

Each optional module will be assessed by way of a single 3-hour unseen, open-book supervised assessment making use of computers.

Wills & Administration of Estates will be assessed along with the Course Skill of Drafting by way of unsupervised coursework.

Business Accounts and Taxation will be assessed in the context of Business Law & Practice by way of a separate 1-hour unseen, open book supervised assessment.

The assessment methods adopted on this programme satisfy the provisions of the QAA Framework and the University's Academic Strategy and the requirements of the SRA in that they:

- Indicate the Programme Learning Outcomes being assessed and ensure that you demonstrate your achievement each of them
- Assess your achievement, both formatively and summatively, over the whole programme
- Distinguish between levels of achievement and reward attainment of objectives
- Utilise a range of assessment methods and techniques which are valid, reliable, educationally impactful and which help you engage and satisfy your enthusiasm for the subject
- Avoid/limit the possibility of cheating, plagiarism and collusion, through the design of innovative assessment tasks and through the use of available plagiarism detection software and effective assessment supervision through the use of proctoring and/or invigilation, as appropriate

You will be informed at the outset of the programme, in class and via Module Handbooks, of the nature, timing and criteria for each assessment.

You can expect to receive feedback on your assessments, along with your provisional mark, within 15 working days (excluding any public holidays and university closure days over Christmas) of the date of submission. Most feedback will be provided by way of personalised video narrating the strengths of your work and opportunities for future improvement, with the opportunity to meet your tutors if you have any questions following your feedback.

Extra-curricular opportunities

In addition to the considerable opportunities to develop your knowledge, skills and experience that this programme provides, you will also have extra-curricular opportunities to help you develop even further.

In induction week, you will take part in a mock 'recruitment centre' enabling you to practice the kind of tasks and activities you can expect to encounter when applying for legal jobs. This will include preparing a CV and covering letter aimed at a particular firm and going through a mock interview with representatives of that firm who will offer you rich, personal feedback to help you improve. We will also take a professional photograph of you in induction week, whilst you are 'dressed to impress' for your mock interview, and help you foster the right image on your professional profiles in an increasingly digital world.

You will also benefit from linking with an Early Career Mentor; a junior practitioner at one of our partner law firms who has recently completed the journey you are one and who can offer you confidential advice, hints and tips to support your career development. Your Early Career Mentor can also support you with further interview preparation at the time you are looking to make applications.

You are encouraged to join York St John Law Society through which you can take part in mooting and debates. The society also provides you the opportunity to take part in a peer mentoring scheme whereby you can give and receive support to and from other students. Additionally, the society also provides opportunities for you to informally present your research to other students as you progress throughout the year; this provides excellent motivation to make progress, get constructive feedback and help develop your ideas further.

There will be a programme of guest lectures across the year giving you the opportunity to hear from and engage with practitioners and potential employers.

In addition to your required participation in York St John Law Clinic, a law firm, in house legal department or a legal advice centre as part of the Legal Skills – Law Clinic module, you will also have the opportunity to take on additional extra-curricular opportunities in clinic to gain further experience.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) postgraduate awards apply to this programme, subject to the programme-specific regulations below.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

The following programme-specific regulations apply in place of the University's general regulations:

General

Regulation 1.10 – Periods of Study

The standard period of study for the LLM is one year full-time. Subject to regulations governing extensions of time in, and deferrals of, assessments and regulations governing suspension of study and the number of permitted attempts at assessments, students will have five years from the date of their first attempt at the first assessment to successfully pass the programme.

Admissions

Regulation 3.9 – Recognition of Prior Learning

Applicants with 90 credits from another provider comprising all LPC Stage 1 assessments may apply to study LPC Stage 2 (three optional modules) and the Legal Practice Project at York St John University and may claim such prior credit towards this award.

Assessment

Regulation 3.31 - Reassessment

Where unsuccessful at a first attempt at an assessment, students may have a maximum of two further attempts to pass that assessment. If they are unsuccessful on the third attempt of an assessment in a compulsory module, they will have their enrolment for their programme of studies terminated. Students passing an assessment may not make any further attempts at that assessment.

If, exceptionally, an assessment board agrees that a student has mitigating circumstances that might have affected their performance in a particular assessment, despite their confirmation that it was appropriate for them to attempt the assessment, that attempt can be disregarded.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority requires that students complete all LPC Stage 1 assessments with one authorised provider. Any student who exhausts their attempts at any LPC Stage 1 assessment at this institution will be required to seek to complete LPC Stage 1, including all assessments, at another authorised provider. Students failing an LPC Stage 1 assessment for a third time must retake all LPC Stage 1 assessments, including those which have been passed with another provider.

Students required to withdraw from the programme at this institution and who may seek to complete the LPC elsewhere should note that the Solicitors Regulation Authority requires all student to pass all their assessments within a five-year period. The date used for determining the start of the five-year period is the date on which the student attempted their first assessment, whether or not they were successful.

Taught sessions will not be offered on this programme after the completion of the 2024/25 academic year.

Regulation 3.32 – Marks for reassessments

A student who successfully resits an assessment for a module will have the actual mark achieved noted on their stage transcript along with the number of attempts in which the mark was achieved. However, for the purposes of degree classification, the student will be considered to have achieved the pass mark for the module which will be capped at 50.

Regulation 3.33 – Failure of an optional module

A student who has failed an assessment for an optional module for the third time may either reenrol on that module at cost or withdraw from that module and substitute an alternative module at cost. The student will then have three further attempts to pass the module. This process may be repeated until the student passes the module, subject to the requirement that all assessments be passed within five years of the first attempt at the first assessment on the course. Students will have the actual mark achieved noted on their stage transcript along with the number of attempts (including in the first module attempted) in which the mark was achieved. However, for the purposes of degree classification, the student will be considered to have achieved the pass mark for the module which will be capped at 50.

Taught sessions will not be offered on this programme after the completion of the 2024/25 academic year.

Regulation 3.45 - Classification

Where a student has required more than one attempt to pass an assessment, the related module will receive a capped mark of 50 for the sole purpose of calculating the credit-weighted average across the award. The actual mark achieved, and the number of attempts in which a pass mark was achieved, will be recorded on the student's stage transcript.

Where a module includes any of the Course Skills of Advocacy, Drafting, Legal Writing, Interviewing & Advising or Practical Legal Research then the student must be judged as 'competent' on a 'competent/not yet competent' basis for the credits for that module to be awarded. This judgment will be recorded on the student's stage transcript, along with a numerical mark for the module which will be applied in the calculation of the award.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Solicitors Regulation Authority Legal Practice Outcomes 2019](#)
- [Solicitors Regulation Authority Legal Practice Course Information Pack](#)

Date written / revised: March 2021

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