

Course Specification

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Produced By:	Laura Clode
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	Wolverhampton Law School		
Course Code(s):	LW040P06UD	Full time Distance Learning	12 Months
	LW040P35UD	Part-time Distance Learning	2 Years
Course Title:	LLM (Common Professional Examination) by Distance Learning		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Master of Laws Common Professional Examination by Distance Learning Postgraduate Diploma Common Professional Examination by Distance Learning Postgraduate Certificate Common Professional Examination by Distance Learning University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	05/May/2017		
Last Review:	2014/5		
Course Specification valid from:	2010/1		
Course Specification valid to:	2020/1		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Saidunnabi Piyal
Head of Department:	Mrs Mumtaz Hussain

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

Applicants must satisfy the requirements of the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) & Bar Standards Board (BSB) academic stage to gain entry onto the course

1. Applicants must therefore;

(i) hold a good degree (other than an honorary degree) conferred by an institution in England or Wales empowered by the Privy Council to award degrees or by a university in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland or by the Council for National Academic Awards before its dissolution on 31st March 1993 or a licence awarded by the University College of Buckingham before that college was granted university status;

or

(ii) hold a good degree (other than an honorary degree) conferred by a university outside the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland which the SRA or BSB considers to be of a

standard at least equivalent to that of a degree conferred by a university in the United

Kingdom; or

(iii) be accepted by the SRA for admission as a mature student; the applicant for such acceptance must:

(a) have had considerable experience or shown exceptional ability in an

academic, professional, business or administrative field;

(b) have attained the age of 25 years;

(c) have attained such standard of general education as the SRA or BSB may

consider sufficient;

(d) have satisfied the SRA or BSB as to character and suitability to become a solicitor;

and

(e) have a good knowledge of written and spoken English; or

(iv) be a Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Legal Executives ; or

(v) be a Member of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives who has three years' qualifying employment; or

(vi) have attained the age of 25 years and hold such qualification in Magisterial Law

awarded after successful completion of a relevant course as shall from time to time

be recognised by the SRA or BSB; or

(vii) have attained such academic and vocational qualifications as the SRA or BSB considers to be equivalent to a first degree under paragraph (i).

2. In exceptional circumstances notified to and accepted as such by the Master of the Rolls, the SRA and BSB may accept such other evidence of academic eligibility as it thinks fit in the case of a person who completes a course of study for a degree at an institution referred to in paragraphs (i) and (ii).

Students who wish to qualify as a solicitor should obtain a Certificate of Academic Standing from the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

Students who wish to qualify as a barrister should obtain a Certificate of Academic Standing from the Bar Standards Board.

A Certificate of Academic Standing issued by one professional body is not binding upon the other professional body.

The university will normally require a good degree from a UK university. Candidates from overseas institutions will be considered on an individual basis. Candidates must also have IELTS level 6.5 or equivalent. This is in line with the University requirement at postgraduate level.

There is normally no restriction on the subject matter of your degree.

Partial exemption from the seven foundations of legal knowledge subjects, and from one further area of legal study, may be granted if you have passed

corresponding subjects within a degree programme. Where exemptions are claimed and permitted, you will not be eligible for the Master's award.

Full exemption from the seven foundations of legal knowledge subjects, and from one further area of legal study, applications must be made directly to the SRA or BSB.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The LLM Common Professional Examination by distance learning, previously known as the Graduate Diploma in Law, is the route for non-law graduates wanting a fast-track pathway to a professional law qualification. Successful completion of the course provides you with a dual purpose qualification that completes the academic stage of legal training to progress onto the Legal Practice Course (LPC) or Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) and an LLM (Master in Laws). This combination is rarely offered elsewhere and may be completed in one year of full-time, or two years of part-time, study.

If you are looking for the chance to change career direction, this course provides the same opportunities open to those who have graduated with a qualifying LLB (Hons) degree – that gives exemption from the academic stage of training for progression to the final course for qualification as a solicitor or a barrister. In addition, this course gives you the opportunity to gain a Master's degree in law which will enhance your employability.

Educational Aims of the Course:

This course satisfies the academic stage of 'legal' training required by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and Bar Standards Board (BSB), and provides you with the essential knowledge and skills to succeed in the legal profession. The course is approved by the SRA and meets the 'Joint Statement' on legal academic qualification of the Bar Standards Board and the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

The course programme consists of seven compulsory 'foundation of legal knowledge' ('foundation') modules and one other area of legal study; a total of eight modules. The seven foundation modules are: - Constitutional and Administrative Law; Criminal Law; Equity and Trusts; European Union Law; Land Law; Law of Contract and the Law of Tort. In addition, you will also undertake a research dissertation in an area of law (for the eighth module) that is of interest to you, so that you will be able to deepen and broaden your legal knowledge in your chosen specific area. The research skills acquired through the dissertation module will provide you with transferable skills that can be applied to numerous areas of employment.

The distance learning course begins with an induction programme that includes an introduction to using the on-line learning platform – CANVAS, and to ensure that you are familiar with the University's systems. The induction programme is designed to introduce you to techniques for the study of law such as using the law library, research methodology, and an introduction to the English Legal System and skills which provides a background on the law-making processes of England and Wales.

The whole course itself is designed to enable you to develop knowledge on the law, legal research skills and application of the law. You will develop skills of legal analysis, critical thinking and application.

The course is taught over one year full-time and two years part-time. Although you will have some flexibility on the pace at which you wish to study, the course must be completed within the SRA's and BSB's stipulated time frame for completion of full-time and part-time study for the award to be recognised as qualification and completion of the academic stage of training, as stipulated in the Academic Stage Handbook (July 2014, v1.4) published jointly by the SRA and BSB. It is your responsibility to refer to the Academic Stage Handbook and contact the SRA or BSB, as appropriate, to satisfy yourself that you are meeting all their requirements to complete the 'academic stage' of training.

Exemptions from undertaking the whole course

If you have studied and passed at degree level a few 'foundation' modules, you may apply for partial exemption from undertaking the full course programme, see reference to this in the Academic Stage Handbook. However, where exemptions are granted, so that you do not study the full course programme, you will not be eligible for the Master's award. You will only be eligible for postgraduate credits for the modules you have successfully completed.

Intakes:

September
January

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2017/8	H	Full Time	£7440.00
2017/8	EU	Full Time	£7440.00
2017/8	Overseas	Full Time	£7440.00
2018/9	H	Full Time	£7600.00
2018/9	EU	Full Time	£7600.00
2018/9	Overseas	Full Time	£7600.00
2019/0	H	Full time distance learning	£7450.00
2019/0	EU	Full time distance learning	£7450.00
2019/0	Overseas	Full time distance learning	£7450.00
2020/1	H	Part time distance learning	£3825.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part time distance learning	£3825.00

PSRB:

LW040P35UD (Part-time Distance Learning)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)

Accrediting Body:
Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)

Accreditation Statement:

The qualifying law degree is recognised by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) for the purposes of satisfying the academic stage of training.

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
26/Jan/2017	26/Jan/2017		

LW040P06UD (Full time Distance Learning)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)

Accrediting Body:
Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)

Accreditation Statement:

The qualifying law degree is recognised by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) for the purposes of satisfying the academic stage of training.

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
26/Jan/2017	26/Jan/2017		

LW040P35UD (Part-time Distance Learning)

Professional Accreditation Body:
Bar Standards Board

Accrediting Body:

Bar Standards Board

Accreditation Statement:

Accredited by the Bar Standards Board for the purpose of a Qualifying Law Degree.

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
26/Jan/2017	26/Jan/2017		

LW040P06UD (Full time Distance Learning)

Professional Accreditation Body:

Bar Standards Board

Accrediting Body:

Bar Standards Board

Accreditation Statement:

Accredited by the Bar Standards Board for the purpose of a Qualifying Law Degree.

Approved	Start	Expected End	Renewal
26/Jan/2017	26/Jan/2017		

Course Structure:

January (Full time Distance Learning)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 1

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7LW019	English Legal System and Legal Skills	0	IN YR	Core
7LW011	Law of the European Union	20	IN YR	Core
7LW014	Contract Law	20	IN YR	Core
7LW016	Equity and Trusts	20	IN YR	Core
7LW017	Research Methods and Dissertation	40	CRYRA	Core
7LW008	Criminal Law	20	IN YR	Core
7LW015	Land Law	20	IN YR	Core
7LW020	Constitutional and Administrative Law	20	IN YR	Core
7LW021	Law of Tort	20	IN YR	Core

January (Part-time)

Year 2

Part-time students normally study 60 credits per academic year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7LW017	Research Methods and Dissertation	40	IN YR	Core
7LW014	Contract Law	20	IN YR	Core
7LW011	Law of the European Union	20	IN YR	Core

Continuing students will follow the programme indicated below:

7LW008	Criminal Law	20	IN YR	Core
7LW015	Land Law	20	IN YR	Core

September (Full time Distance Learning)

Year 1

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7LW019	English Legal System and Legal Skills	0	IN YR	Core
7LW008	Criminal Law	20	IN YR	Core
7LW015	Land Law	20	SEM1	Core
7LW020	Constitutional and Administrative Law	20	IN YR	Core
7LW021	Law of Tort	20	IN YR	Core
7LW011	Law of the European Union	20	IN YR	Core
7LW014	Contract Law	20	IN YR	Core
7LW016	Equity and Trusts	20	IN YR	Core
7LW017	Research Methods and Dissertation	40	IN YR	Core

Continuing students will follow the programme indicated below:

September (Part-time Distance Learning)

Year 2

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7LW008	Criminal Law	20	IN YR	Core
7LW016	Equity and Trusts	20	IN YR	Core

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

Section 1.2.3 - The Professional Body which accredits this course stipulates the number of hours over a given

number of weeks students must spend studying each of the foundation subjects. In order to accommodate this, the LLM (CPE) is taught outside of the standard University Academic Calendar. This course starts earlier in the semester than other postgraduate courses. The course will start in early September and complete in June with re-sits in July.

Section 1.2.8 - Exemption in order to fulfil the requirements of the Professional Body. Students must study 7 foundation subjects and complete a piece of independent study. It was agreed that, in order to accommodate this within the University's Academic Framework, students would study 7 subject modules and one independent study/project module. The 7 subject modules carry 20 credits and the Dissertation module covers the remaining 40 credit

Section 4.2.4 - The course is regulated by the Professional Body in accordance with the Joint Statement and the assessment regulations prescribed for the Common Professional Examination (CPE) course by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and Bar Standards Board (BSB). Accordingly, the minimum pass mark for modules on this course is 40%. Re-sit pass marks are capped at 40% (maximum) per the PSRB's Academic Stage Handbook, July 2014 (attached), Appendix 4, 2.16 to 2.25, p.39-40.

Section 3.4.2 - The maximum period over which an award governed by Section P of the Regulations may be studied.

Time-limit for completion of the CPE is as provided in the Academic Stage Handbook, July 2014 (attached), appendix 4, 2.9-2.11, p.39.

A full-time CPE programme should normally be completed, with all assessments passed, in not less than one year and not more than three years.

A part-time CPE programme should normally be completed, with all assessments passed, in not less than two years and in not more than four years.

Section 4.3.5 - Modules may be repeated once. Where award regulations permit, replacement of a failed option module will be permitted for one attempt only. The maximum number of attempts permitted for each CPE subject is normally three. If a student fails any subject three times, they are required to re-take a full CPE course in order to complete the academic stage of training. This may be re-taken at the same or a different provider institution. No credit can be granted for subjects previously passed.

Section 4.4.3 - The Professional Body requirements for compensation and the number of attempts at assessment which are available are in line with the Academic Stage Handbook, July 2014 (attached), provisions, appendix 4, 2.13 – 2.14, p39. In relation to compensation, see the Academic Stage Handbook, July 14 (attached) p.8, 'assessment and progression regulations', this is permissible for a maximum of one marginal fail in an element of coursework or an examination, where:-

- i. the examination board has considered the marks of all of the elements of the assessments; and
- ii. the student has obtained a minimum of 35% in one and only one element of an assessment; and
- iii. the examination board is satisfied that there is strength elsewhere in the student's performance to justify compensation of the marginal fail.

CPE providers are permitted to compensate a marginal fail of one element of an assessment at the end of the first year of a part-time course. Condonation is not permitted on the CPE course, per the Academic Stage Handbook, July 14 (attached) p.8, 'assessment and progression regulations'.

Section 5.6.1 - The Common Professional Examination award may be classified with distinction, commendation or pass. How this is calculated is set out in the Academic Stage Handbook, July 2014 (attached) appendix 4, 2.16 to 2.22, p.39-40.

Section 5.10.1 - An 'aegrotat' pass is not permitted on the CPE, per the Academic Stage Handbook, July 2014 (attached) appendix 4, 2.24, p.40.

Approved by AFRSC on 25 September 2015.

Reference Points:

Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) & Bar Standards Board (BSB) Joint Statement on the Academic Stage of Training and the Academic Stage Handbook July 2014, SRA and BSB Training Regulations 2014 - Qualification Regulations.

Quality Code - [Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards](#). Including :

[Qualifications Frameworks](#)

[Characteristics Statements](#)

[Credit Frameworks](#)

[Subject Benchmark Statements – Master's level](#)

Quality Code - [Part B: Assuring and Enhancing Academic Quality](#)

[University Policies and Regulations](#)

Equality Act (2010).

Learning Outcomes:

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGCCL01)

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice with a conceptual understanding that enables the student: 1. to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline. 2. to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGCCL02)

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGCCL03)

Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGCCL04)

Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGCCL05)

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 6 (PGCCL06)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: 1. the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility 2. decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations 3. the

independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGDCLO1)

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice with a conceptual understanding that enables the student: 1. to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline 2. to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGDCLO2)

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGDCLO3)

Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGDCLO4)

Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGDCLO5)

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 6 (PGDCLO6)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: 1. the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility 2. decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations 3. the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 1 (MACLO1)

Demonstrate a systematic knowledge, understanding and application of the doctrines and principles underpinning the law of England and Wales.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 2 (MACLO2)

Demonstrate a critical awareness of the sources of law and how that is made and developed; of the institutions within which that law is administered and the personnel who practice law.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 3 (MACLO3)

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the intellectual, practical and electronic skills and techniques applicable to legal research together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in law, and apply these skills in order to make personal and reasoned judgments in the areas of law studied, including through self-directed study

Masters Course Learning Outcome 4 (MACLO4)

Deal with complex legal issues systematically, making sound judgements and communicate your findings clearly and accurately in English using appropriate legal terminology.

Masters Course Learning Outcome 5 (MACLO5)

Demonstrate knowledge and conceptual understanding of a range of legal concepts, values, principles and rules of law, critically evaluating the relationships between them

Masters Course Learning Outcome 6 (MACLO6)

Demonstrate transferable skills for employment requiring the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, independent learning, and the exercise of initiative in complex and unpredictable situations

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
7LW008	Criminal Law	MACLO1, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6
7LW011	Law of the European Union	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6
7LW014	Contract Law	MACLO1, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6
7LW015	Land Law	MACLO1, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6
7LW016	Equity and Trusts	MACLO1, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6
7LW017	Research Methods and Dissertation	MACLO1, MACLO3, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6
7LW019	English Legal System and Legal Skills	MACLO1, MACLO2
7LW020	Constitutional and Administrative Law	MACLO1, MACLO2, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6
7LW021	Law of Tort	MACLO1, MACLO4, MACLO5, MACLO6

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

You will be engaged with a variety of learning activities designed for distance learning mode which will support you in your studies and enable you to meet the learning outcomes of the course. These learning activities will be accessed on-line with further support from module tutors. You may also wish to engage with on-line study forums with other students on the course. On-line learning activities may include: -

- Lectures available on-line (via podcasts and recorded lectures) where appropriate.
- Self-study materials including access to e-books with guided seminar preparation via the University's virtual learning environment (VLE).
- On-line discussion forums.
- Collaborative on-line activities overseen by tutors who will provide guidance and comments.

You will be using the University's virtual learning platform for a variety of formative assessment activities overseen by tutor who will provide feedback to the group and individuals, as appropriate.

You will be required to undertake research activities with individuals and/or a group and feedback from the tutor, your peers and you, as appropriate.

You will have access to one-to-one tutorials through use of skype (or other similar mode of communication) and email to deal with any specific queries or study support need that you may have. There may also be on-line Personal Blogs facilities for reflective work, where appropriate. Our distance learning course is designed to provide course content and standard as the on campus mode of study.

The legal professional bodies under the 'Joint Statement' require that each of the seven foundation subjects is assessed by a minimum of 70% closed book examination, therefore each module will be assessed by 70%

examination and 30% coursework. The English Legal System module as noted above is assessed by coursework at the start of the course following the induction period. You must pass the induction assessment (in accordance with the Award assessment regulations) to continue the course. Coursework are undertaken at different dates during the course and examinations are usually scheduled in January and June (per the University's academic calendar). Formative assessments will also be administered, where appropriate, to allow you to benefit from feedback to improve your performance in formally assessed work. You will also be required to undertake a postgraduate level dissertation for the Master's award.

The Law School's assessment strategy complies with both the University and Faculty policies which reflect the required national standards. The principles underpinning the School's assessment strategy are explained in the following subsections:

- The assessment in law modules is designed so that it impartially measures student learning and achievement throughout the course.
- All assessment set must go through internal and external processes which are designed to ensure that such assessment is reliable and valid.
- The assessment in all law modules follows the University's guidance in matters relating to reassessment, extenuating circumstances and the Equality Act 2010.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

The distance learning mode of study provides the opportunity for students around the world to undertake this course. The course will be delivered using e-learning study materials with on-line support from academic staff. In addition, you will be able to access the electronic learning resources provided by the University's Directorate of Academic Support (DAS). Therefore, it is essential that you have the use of a computer with 'broadband' internet access. You will also need to set aside time and arrange quiet study space to undertake your studies on the course.

Employability in the Curriculum:

Successful completion of the LLM CPE course will mean that you have met the academic stage of legal training and can then progress onto the vocational course for qualification as a solicitor and barrister. Therefore, you will be able to progress onto the Legal Practice Course (LPC) to train as a solicitor, or the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) to train as a barrister. Successful completion of the LLM CPE at the University of Wolverhampton leads to a guaranteed place on our Legal Practice Course.

Although most students who undertake this qualification will go on to complete either the LPC or the BPTC, this qualification does not restrict your career opportunities. The award of an LLM will enhance your career prospects and employability, as the qualification is recognised by a variety of non-practising law and law-related areas in both the private and public sectors. Examples of such career opportunities include working as

legal advisors for the in-house legal departments of companies, banks, insurance sector, government departments or other private or public sector organisations such as the NHS. Students could also progress to a career in teaching or continue with the study of law by undertaking a Ph.D.



THE UNIVERSITY OF OPPORTUNITY