

Civil Litigation

Welfare Benefits and Immigration Law

Civil Litigation

"My first degree was a Business and Management BA in Lithuania, and then I did a Commercial law LLM in Lithuania, but coming to Westminster was my first experience of studying in the UK. The learning environment for studying towards a Law PhD at Westminster was good, and the location was excellent. The main library I needed to use was the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies Library, which was just a ten-minute walk away in Russell Square, and there were many other facilities that were so close.

"I arrived in London a few months before my PhD started, so that I could earn some money and get used to the city. Professor Jason Chugh became one of my supervisors, and he was very good and very supportive, and the other PhD students were also really helpful – in the end it was like a big family. I'm a lecturer now, and without my PhD from my time at Westminster, I wouldn't have the job I'm doing. I teach competition law, which is the area I specialised in for my PhD, and I'm also a visiting lecturer at Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania."



JURGITA MALINAUSKAITE, LAW PhD, LAW LECTURER AT BRUNEL UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH AT THE SCHOOL OF LAW

RESEARCH REPUTATION

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise 85 per cent of the School's research was judged to be international quality, with 35 per cent of that containing areas of international excellence. We have built on our top five rating in the 2001 exercise, based on a submission of nine staff, by submitting almost 29 staff this time around. Sixty seven law schools from all over the United Kingdom submitted staff in the RAE. Many law schools submitted a lower proportion of their staff and only 20 institutions submitted more than Westminster in Law. The result means that Westminster's School of Law will improve our research funding position. We are therefore strongly placed to build on our growing reputation for quality research.

RESEARCH APPROACH

We offer both MPhil and PhD research degrees in law and law-related topics, with training and supervision in these two research degrees on both full-time and part-time tracks. We currently have over 25 registered research students, one of the biggest law research degree programmes in London. The PhD programme is administered by the Graduate Centre in the Department of Advanced Legal Studies. Supervisors are allocated to students and the Centre oversees the supervision process and monitors the progress of all students. In all cases students have more than one supervisor and this team may include experts from other institutions. There is a minimum of one supervision meeting a month.

Research students have their own dedicated office space with computing and telephone facilities and a community area. A research seminar series is run weekly for all staff and researchers during term time; this is devoted to speakers from both within and outside the University. Research students are strongly encouraged to attend. In addition a research methodology seminar series specifically for graduate research students runs throughout the year. Where possible we attempt to involve research students in teaching. This enables them to graduate with a rounded portfolio of skills.

PHD OPPORTUNITIES

Our research programmes and centres produce a wide range of work within core areas of law, including international law, commercial, banking and corporate law, European Union law, criminal and comparative law, maritime and transport law; but also within interdisciplinary fields such as law and philosophy, law and society, law, gender and sexuality, law and literature, law and geography, and so on. We welcome applications from prospective research students who are interested in any aspect of law and legal institutions, encouraging in particular interdisciplinary and critical approaches. From time to time, the School will also offer PhD studentships to highly qualified applicants. More information is available at westminster.ac.uk/law

Continued next page...

RESEARCH CENTRES AND GROUPS

AHRC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR LAW, GENDER AND SEXUALITY (CENTRELGS)

Founded in 2004, this Centre involves a partnership between the universities of Kent – the main physical base for the Centre – Keele and Westminster. The overall aim of CentreLGS is to pioneer work that analyses, investigates and deepens understanding of the relationship between law, gender and sexuality.

CENTRE FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT STUDIES (CCPS)

Formed in 1993, CCPS has established a forum for research and debate on the death penalty. This forum aims to encourage students, scholars and practitioners worldwide to participate in the work of the Centre. CCPS has maintained a programme of lectures, seminars and conferences and is engaged in a number of research projects.

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL LAW STUDIES

During 2010 a new research centre on International Commercial and Financial Law studies will be established. As well as providing a research presence in this field in London, the Centre will manage the teaching of our highly successful LLM degrees in Corporate Finance Law and International Commercial Law.

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THEORY

This Centre brings together diverse yet overlapping strands in the study of international law, with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinarity and critical theoretical analysis. The focus of the Centre's activities is firmly on the link between the applied and the theoretical, as it seeks to facilitate common scholarly activities and projects, thus acting as a bridge between the applied and the theoretical, and providing the sort of supportive context within which radical new research can flourish. Drawing on our strengths in international law, governance, criminology, economics, human rights and legal theory, the Centre encourages collaboration both at a national and international level, through public guest lectures, open fora such as conferences, workshops and seminars, internships, guest invitations, and online publications, which draw together established academics, young researchers, practitioners, activists and international research networks.

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH INTO THE DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES

Westminster's School of Law has been at the forefront of research into the legal profession and related areas. This group builds on the School's strongest bodies of research in the legal profession, access to justice, dispute resolution, globalisation, legal ethics and legal education. Funders include the ESRC, the ACLEC, the Nuffield Foundation, ACCA and the Law Society.

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF LAW, SOCIETY AND POPULAR CULTURE

We have an established reputation in the broad field of law and popular culture, which includes sport, film, media and music. This reputation has been achieved through curriculum development, academic publications, conference papers and links with a broad range of professionals. The Centre has recently secured funding for a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Brentford Football Club.

LONDON UNIVERSITIES MARITIME LAW AND POLICY GROUP (LUMLP)

This is a non-profit-making collaborative network of London academic institutions with research interests in Maritime Law and Policy, which discusses, disseminates and develops research in this area. LUMLP members are drawn from a wide range of academic and research institutions, professional groups, commercial organisations and individuals sharing a common interest in maritime law and policy.

For further information about PhD study and opportunities, please contact Dr Oliver Phillips (o.phillips01@westminster.ac.uk) or Professor Reza Banakar (r.banakar@westminster.ac.uk).

SHORT COURSES/CPD

The School has well-established CPD courses, including the Certificate of Higher Education in Licensing Law and Practice, one of only two such courses in England, which is available part-time over two years. A Diploma, or Diploma of Special Study, is available and may be awarded for fewer credits. Please contact Guy Osborn (g.osborn@westminster.ac.uk).

We collaborate with Central Law Training for the provision of Immigration and Asylum Accreditation. For further information please visit clt.co.uk

The School provides (in association with the British Institute of Law Librarians) the Legal Foundation Course, which provides an introduction to law for law librarians. Please contact Avis Whyte (whytea@westminster.ac.uk) or visit westminster.ac.uk/law/lfc

Our Residential Weekend Programme on International Project Finance Law forms part of the LLM Corporate Finance Law, and is also available to those seeking CPD in this area. Contact Joe Tanega (j.tanega@westminster.ac.uk).

There is also an occasional programme of lectures attracting CPD points for solicitors. Contact Guy Osborn (g.osborn@westminster.ac.uk).

Most of our LLM modules are also available on an occasional study programme for those who are able to attend at least one semester of classes. Some modules will have prerequisites for admission. For more details about our specialist modules please consult westminster.ac.uk/law/page-254 and write to the appropriate course leaders.

Continued next page...

For further information about Law courses visit the School of Law website at westminster.ac.uk/law

Corporate Finance Law LLM

Knowledge of corporate finance law is essential for lawyers, bankers and financiers who are keen to develop professional skills in fundraising, deal structures and transactional management. You will gain an enhanced qualification for professionals working or planning to work in a technically demanding and dynamic global industry. This course will appeal to both recent graduates and practitioners considering various fields of work, including law, investment banking, corporate finance, private equity, securities and investments. The emphasis is to learn how the financial markets work, from the primary markets involving the issuance of equity, debt and derivatives, to the secondary markets involving trading and investments, as well as very large financial transactions in the international capital markets.

Course content

This course aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the practical processes and innovative products of the international corporate finance market, including equity and debt capital, derivatives, structured finance, risk management and investment portfolio products. It also seeks to develop the soft skills relevant to this area of practice, including negotiations and network building, with meetings with senior lawyers and directors of major companies. Two 18-hour executive residential weekend programmes are taught by 12 professionals and University academics.

Core modules: Investment Banking Principles and Practices • Legal Aspects of Corporate Finance • Project or Dissertation

Option modules include: Corporate Strategy and Competition Law • Deal Mechanics, Financial Markets and Operations • Derivatives and Structured Finance Law • International Corporate Governance • International Energy Finance Law • International Finance Law and Economics • International Project Finance Law • International Taxation • Investments for Managers, Theory, Regulations and Social Responsibility • Islamic Finance and Securitisation • Legal Aspects of International Finance • Money Laundering and Corporate Fraud • Multinational Corporate Entities • Payment and Trade Finance

Length of course

One-year, full-time or a minimum of two years, part-time (January start available)

Location

Central London (Regent)

Fee band

Fee band 5, see p34

Associated careers

The course will benefit those seeking to work in any of the range of disciplines involved in corporate finance law, including corporate finance, corporate law, investment banking, private equity, venture capital, corporate banking, and accountancy, as well as in related fields.

Entry requirements

You will need to hold an Upper or Lower Second Honours degree (or non-UK equivalent) with an average of 55 per cent or above in law or related subject. We will also consider applicants who lack standard qualifications but have significant professional or managerial experience in a relevant field. If your first language is not English, you will need an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent. The University offers pre-sessional summer programmes if you need to improve your English before starting your course.

Dispute Prevention and Resolution LLM

This course embraces a wide range of public, private and domestic issues relevant to the prevention and resolution of conflicts and disputes, including justice and risk. The course includes negotiation, litigation and arbitration, and also the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes such as mediation and conciliation. You will be able to mix with students on other LLM courses, and classes are usually small in size, allowing for an interactive approach to learning. The course combines academic and practical approaches to teaching and learning. There are personal tutors for all, and additional support for EU and international students is available through our International Education Office.

Course content

The course aims to give you the opportunity for in-depth study of the issues and the practices involved in the field, including the mechanisms of prevention, emergence, avoidance, resolution and regulation.

Core modules: Dissertation in Law • Perspectives on Conflicts and Disputes • Research Theory and Practice

The length of the dissertation is 15,000 words on an agreed relevant topic. You will be assigned a supervisor who will provide appropriate guidance.

Option modules include: Commercial Conflict of Laws (private international law) • Comparative Law • Conflict Resolution: Negotiation • International Commercial Arbitration • International Commercial Mediation • Negotiation: Theory, Contexts and Practice • Regulating Risk Environments

Related courses

International and Commercial Dispute Resolution LLM

Length of course

One-year, full-time or two-year, part-time

Location

Central London (Regent)

Fee band

Fee band 1, see p34

Associated careers

This course is designed to benefit a wide range of individuals including graduates progressing towards a PhD programme; practising lawyers wanting to further their knowledge and skills; other graduates and practitioners, such as judges, arbitrators, mediators, civil servants, insurers, linguists; and anyone managing people and risks. The course is ideal for those with a gap year between career stages, and for those from the European Union and other countries who want to improve their English for personal and career purposes.

Entry requirements

You are expected to have a good UK Honours degree in law or a non-law subject (such as politics, psychology, and management), or equivalent from a non-UK university, and satisfactory references. Other qualification or experiential routes can sometimes be agreed. If your first language is not English, you will need a score of 6.5 in each IELTS element or equivalent. The University offers pre-sessional summer programmes in English if you need to improve your English before starting your course.

Entertainment Law LLM

This course combines the academic analysis and commercial practice elements of entertainment law. The diverse nature of entertainment law will enable you to follow a number of specialisations, with key underpinnings being the issues of contract and intellectual property. The course will suit graduates from a law background, or those from a non-law background who have significant relevant experience.

Course content

The course aims to instil a knowledge of the operation of key fields within the entertainment industries, to assess the impact of the law upon them, and to develop the practical skills necessary to succeed in a career in entertainment law.

Core modules: Dissertation • Entertainment Contracts • Intellectual Property in the Entertainment Industries • Research Theory and Practice

Option modules include: Censorship in the Entertainment Industry • Sports Law • Technology Rights and the Law • The Media, Ownership, Control and Regulation

Length of course

One-year, full-time or a minimum of two years, part-time

Location

Central London (Regent)

Fee band

Fee band 1, see p34

Associated careers

Entertainment Law graduates develop careers in a whole range of professions within the entertainment industry. Perhaps the most popular of these are roles in sports, music, and media and communications law. The subject gives a modern edge to traditional law subjects and is well respected by employers.

Entry requirements

You should hold an Honours degree (Upper or Lower Second Honours degree, with average of 55 per cent or above) in law, but we will consider mature applicants without standard qualifications who have significant professional experience in the relevant field. Please contact us for an informal discussion if you fall outside the standard category. If law is not the subject of your first degree, evidence of law-based modules or relevant experience should be supplied. If your first language is not English, you will need an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent. The University offers pre-session summer programmes if you need to improve your English before starting your course.

European Union Law LLM

This specialist course in European Union (EU) law aims to equip you with a deep, critical knowledge and understanding of EU law as well as specific areas of this unique legal system. The variety of options will allow you to follow areas that are of most academic and professional interest to you. One of the aims of this course is to develop your critical analytical skills and your ability to apply EU law in everyday domestic and judicial practice.

Course content

As a graduate of the course, you will have enhanced knowledge of EU institutional and substantive law. Tailor-made option modules allow you to study all major areas of EU law, ranging from internal market, through EU criminal law and human rights, to external relations (with particular emphasis on the legal aspects of recent EU enlargements).

Core modules: Dissertation • Foundations of European Union Law • Research Theory and Practice

Option modules include: Criminal Law of the European Union

• Enlargement of the European Union • External Relations of the European Union • Internal Market of the European Union • International and European Refugee Law • International Environmental Law • Introduction to EU Competition Law • Judicial Co-operation in Civil Matters • Procedural Law of the European Union • Protecting Human Rights in Europe

Length of course

One-year, full-time or a minimum of two years, part-time

Location

Central London (Regent)

Fee band

Fee band 1, see p34

Associated careers

The course will equip you with the knowledge and skills which are expected to give you a better chance of being employed in the Bar, consultancy, the public sector, legal and professional training, the diplomatic service, international organisations, and national and EU institutions.

Entry requirements

You are required (other than in exceptional circumstances) to hold an Upper Second Class Honours degree (or equivalent) in law or a relevant field. Foreign students (unless their first degree was taken in English) are required to have an IELTS score of 6.5, a TOEFL score of 600 (92 for internet-based test), or a University of Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (Grade B) or Certificate of Advanced English (Grade A). The University offers pre-session summer programmes if you need to improve your English before starting your course.

International and Commercial Dispute Resolution LLM

This course takes a broad approach to the study of substance and procedure, order and disorder, uncertainty and risk, and justice and injustice in the public and private international and commercial spheres. It includes modules on negotiation, mediation and arbitration among many others, with a primary focus on the laws, customs, rules and practices which are relevant to potential and actual conflicts and disputes. You will be able to take academic, practical and professional approaches to the issues, processes and skills in the field, including containment, management, negotiation, resolution and other processes, systems, and institutions, and you will be able to mix with students on other LLM courses.

Course content

The course aims to give you the opportunity for in-depth study of the substantive and procedural issues involved in the field. It is centrally concerned with law and other rules of international and commercial conduct in the context of prevention and resolution of conflicts and disputes, including the relevance of democracy, regulation, and governance.

Core modules: Dissertation in Law • Perspectives on Conflicts and Disputes • Research Theory and Practice

The length of the dissertation is 15,000 words on an agreed relevant topic. You will be assigned a supervisor who will provide appropriate guidance.

Option modules include: Commercial Conflict of Laws (private international law) • Comparative Law • Conflict Resolution: Negotiation • EU Competition Law • International Commercial Arbitration • International Commercial Mediation • International Corporate Law and Governance • International Economic Law • International Law and Development • International Tax Law • Multinational Corporate Entities • Negotiation: Theory, Context and Practice • Public International Law • Regulating Risk Environments • Reparations in International Law

Related courses

Dispute Prevention and Resolution LLM

Length of course

One-year, full-time or two-year, part-time

Location

Central London (Regent)

Fee band

Fee band 1, see p34

Associated careers

The course is designed to benefit a wide range of individuals, including graduates progressing towards PhD programmes; practising lawyers; other graduates and practitioners such as judges, arbitrators, mediators, insurers, diplomats, civil servants and linguists; and commercial directors and managers. The course is ideal for anyone with a gap year between career stages, and for anyone from the European Union and other countries wanting to improve their English for career purposes.

Entry requirements

You should have a good UK Honours degree in law or a non-law subject (such as international relations, international politics, and business management), or equivalent from a non-UK university, and satisfactory references. Other qualifications or experiential routes can sometimes be agreed. If your first language is not English, you will need an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent. The University offers pre-sessional summer programmes if you need to improve your English before starting your course.

International Banking Law LLM

This intensely intellectual and rigorous course (which is subject to approval) is highly practical, and provides you with a critical understanding of the context and institutional framework of international banking and finance law. The course also explores the role of regulation in international banking and finance, the relevance of banking contracts and relationships, the wider financial law framework, and the role of banks in international trade and investments. There is much emphasis on developing your transferable skills, including effective learning, communication skills, written presentation, analysis and problem solving, independent study, research and time management.

Course content

Core modules: Dissertation or Project Paper • International Banking Law and Regulation

Option modules: Commercial Conflict of Laws • Deal Mechanics: Financial Markets and Operations • Derivatives and Structured Finance Law • EU Competition Law • EU Internal Market Law • International Project Finance Law • International Tax Law • Islamic Finance and Securitisation • Investment Banking Principles and Practice • Law of International Sales • Legal Aspects of Corporate Finance • Legal Aspects of International Finance • Money Laundering and Corporate Fraud • Payment and Trade Finance • World Trade Organization (WTO) Law

Length of course

One-year, full-time or two-year, part-time

Location

Central London (Regent)

Fee band

Fee band 4, see p34

Associated careers

This course will benefit those seeking legal, professional, managerial, operational or research opportunities in asset management, capital markets, commodities, compliance/legal consultancy, corporate banking, derivatives, foreign exchange and money markets, insurance, acquisitions, private banking/wealth management, private equity/venture capital, retail banking, risk management, trade finance, central banks and international financial organisations.

Entry requirements

The minimum qualification is a Lower Second Honours degree, or equivalent from a non-UK institution, with an average of 55 per cent or above in law or a related subject. We will consider mature applicants who lack standard qualifications but have significant professional or managerial experience in a relevant field. If your first language is not English, you will need an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent. The University offers pre-sessional summer programmes if you need to improve your English before starting your course.

International Law LLM

This specialist international law course provides an innovative focus on contemporary legal and political issues in the international community. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to international law, exploring both social science and legal perspectives. The diverse range of subjects means it is appropriate for students from a range of subject backgrounds, including law, social sciences, humanities and international relations.

Course content

The course will enhance your understanding of the key principles of public international law, the key developments within the public international law framework with specific reference to human rights, humanitarian law and international crime, and the process of globalisation and its significance for international law.

Core modules: Dissertation • Public International Law • Research Theory and Practice

Option modules include: International Approaches to Sexuality and the Politics of Rights • International Criminal Law • International Environmental Law • International Human Rights Law • International Humanitarian Law • International Law and Development • International Law of the Sea • Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes • Policing the New Europe • The Right to Reparation for Serious Violations of Human Rights and Humanitarian Norms • Transnational Crime • United Nations Law

Related courses

International Relations MA

Length of course

One-year, full-time or two-year, part-time

Location

Central London (Regent)

Fee band

Fee band 1, see p34

Associated careers

On completion of the course, you will be able to specialise in a wide range of careers or academia. Graduates have worked for organisations such as Amnesty International, the United Nations or in legal departments within international organisations. Opportunities for further research or teaching are also available.

Entry requirements

You should hold a Lower Second Honours degree (or equivalent from a non-UK institution) with an average of 55 per cent or above, in law, social science, international relations or a related subject. Applicants who lack standard qualifications but have significant professional experience in the relevant field or related professional qualifications may be considered. If your first language is not English, you will need an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent. The University offers pre-sessional summer programmes if you need to improve your English before starting your course.

International Commercial Law LLM

This course offers you the opportunity to develop strong academic and practical skills in a highly competitive and intellectually satisfying area of law. We study the importance of international contracts, the workings of the multinational company, the financial backdrop to international commerce, international disputes, and the regulation of international business. It is ideally suited to those who come from a law, business, management, economics, or social science background.

You will benefit from a strong visiting speakers programme, excellent online materials and learning resources, and a professional and practical focus in a department with a strong research profile. There is also an exciting programme of social and educational visits, and greater flexibility for part-time students.

Course content

All students are required to offer 180 credits to qualify for the degree.

Core modules: Dissertation (60 credits) or Project Paper (40 credits)
• Foundations of International Commercial Law (20 credits)

Option modules (20 credits each) include: Commercial Conflict of Laws • EU Competition Law • Financial Markets and Operations • International Carriage of Goods • International Commercial Arbitration • International Commercial Mediation • International Corporate Governance • International Sale of Goods • International Tax Law • Investment Banking • Law of the EU Internal Market • Law of Marine Insurance • Legal Aspects of Corporate Finance • Legal Aspects of Electronic Commerce • Legal Aspects of International Finance • Money Laundering and Corporate Fraud • Multinational Corporate Entities • Payment and International Trade Finance Law • Protection of Industrial Property Rights (including Intellectual Property) Law • Research Theory and Practice • World Trade Organization (WTO) Law

Length of course

One-year, full-time or a minimum of two years, part-time

Location

Central London (Regent)

Fee band

Fee band 4, see p34

Associated careers

Former students have found employment in corporate and commercial law, shipping and freight, banking and finance, accountancy, export-import, insurance, commodities, information technology, tax, international and national trade and marketing bodies, the public sector and international organisations.

Entry requirements

You will be expected to have an Upper Second Honours (or equivalent) degree in law, social sciences, economics and other related fields. You will also be considered without standard qualifications provided you are sufficiently motivated to study effectively on a Masters programme and/or have had a significant amount of relevant experience. If your first language is not English, you will need an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent. The University offers pre-sessional summer programmes if you need to improve your English before starting your course.

Legal Practice LLM

This course enables you to make further use of your Legal Practice Postgraduate Diploma (LPC). It will interest LPC graduates wishing to enhance their qualifications and practitioners wishing to gain a more in-depth understanding of the principles underlying their daily work. Two pathways are available, allowing you to utilise credits from the LPC and obtain 60 additional credits to achieve a Masters qualification. You can tailor the course to particular interests, choosing to focus either on producing a dissertation or incorporate some element of teaching. The course also enables you to obtain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points for your study.

Course content

Pathway 1 – Dissertation only

You begin with introductory sessions on practical research skills. The dissertation allows extended study in an area of your choice, provided it is linked to legal practice or is relevant to legal practitioners. Following the submission of your final research outline, you will have regular meetings with your dissertation supervisor, who will provide guidance on the direction of study, comment upon your methods and approach, and on the content of the developing work and final presentation. You then build upon your research to develop knowledge, concepts and theories which you will explore in a 15,000-word dissertation. This pathway is entirely assessed on the basis of the dissertation.

Pathway 2 – Dissertation and taught module

You begin with introductory sessions on practical research skills, before choosing one 20-credit module from our LLM modules and attending LLM classes. Formal lectures develop a framework of essential knowledge within each module, while tutorial sessions might include small group work, problem-based tutorials, review sessions, workshops or debates, as well as student presentations. You will be assessed in your chosen module. In Semester Two you plan, research, write-up and submit an 8,000-word dissertation worth 40 credits. You will be expected to choose a topic for your research dissertation linked to the areas covered in your option module, and to ensure that your topic is relevant to legal practice. You must pass the dissertation and the option module to be awarded the LLM.

Related courses

Legal Practice Postgraduate Diploma (LPC)

Length of course

One-year, part-time

Location

Central London (Regent)

Fee band

Fee band 1, see p34

Associated careers

LPC graduates will conclude their studies with enhanced qualifications and advanced research skills. Pathway 2 will provide specialist knowledge of an area of legal practice. Both pathways are therefore intended to enhance your employability. The experience of advanced research may offer alternative careers outside legal practice. Practitioners will be able to gain a more in-depth understanding of the principles underlying their daily work.

Entry requirements

Applicants would normally have passed the LPC. If you do not have the LPC you must demonstrate equivalent qualifications and practical experience to achieve credits required for admission. If you have passed the Law Society Finals or Bar Vocational Course and can demonstrate evidence of recent practice together with CPD, you may be considered for admission. If you follow Pathway 1 you will need to demonstrate that you have given some consideration to your intended dissertation. If you follow Pathway 2 you should demonstrate your interest in a particular LLM course. If your first language is not English, you will need an IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent. The University offers pre-sessional summer programmes if you need to improve your English before starting your course.

Law (CPE) Graduate Diploma

The course begins with a two-week foundation in the English Legal System and an introduction to the law and legal professions. You are then required to study this intensive conversion course designed for non-law graduates of any discipline, or overseas law graduates who wish to qualify as either barristers or solicitors. Those who successfully complete the course are eligible for entry on to the Legal Practice Course (LPC) or the Bar Vocational Course (BVC). We have been successfully running this conversion course since 1977, and our students have taken a variety of first degrees at a wide range of universities. This, together with the substantial number of staff who are solicitors and barristers, helps to produce a stimulating learning environment.

Course content

You are required to study the following foundation subjects: Contract • Criminal Law • Equity and the Law of Trusts • Land Law • Law of the European Union • Public Law • Tort

You will also study one additional area of law of your choice. To introduce you to some of the skills lawyers need, we run a series of weekly timetabled classes in Interviewing Skills, Mooting and Negotiating Skills.

Related courses

Legal Practice Postgraduate Diploma (LPC)

Length of course

One-year, full-time or two-year, part-time (two evenings a week)

Location

Central London (Regent)

Fee band

Fee band 2, see p34

Associated careers

The course is designed for those graduates who wish to qualify as a solicitor or barrister. The full-time course also enables overseas students to gain an English law qualification in one year.

Entry requirements

You will need a minimum of a Lower Second Honours degree in a non-law degree, or equivalent postgraduate degree.

Legal Practice Postgraduate Diploma (LPC)

This is the compulsory vocational course for intending solicitors which is regulated by the Solicitors' Regulation Authority. We have offered the LPC since its introduction in 1993, and under the previous grading regime adopted by the SRA we held six 'commendable practices' – the highest grades that were achievable by an LPC provider. The SRA has validated Westminster to deliver the latest version of the LPC with effect from September 2009 and we look forward to building on our proven track record in delivering a high-quality course at affordable rates. Fee discounts are offered to students with a strong academic record.

Course content

The full-time course begins with an intensive foundation course introducing underlying areas of law and practice such as Professional Conduct and Client Care, Taxation, Financial Services and Solicitors' Accounts. It also introduces the course skills of Writing, Drafting, Advocacy, Interviewing and Advising and Practical Legal Research. Students subsequently study the three Stage 1 LPC core practice areas – Business Law and Practice, Property Law and Practice and Civil and Criminal Litigation – together with Wills and Administration of Estates.

Students have the choice to remain with us in order to complete Stage 2 of the new course. This will involve completing three option modules (subject to availability) from: Clinical • Commercial Law • Commercial Litigation • Commercial Property • Corporate Finance • E-Commerce • Employment • Entertainment and Media • Family • Housing • Immigration • Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence • Private Acquisitions

Students who take the Immigration module can also seek exemption from Level One of the Legal Service Commission's Immigration and Asylum Accreditation Scheme. We are the only LPC provider currently authorised to recommend its students to the LSC for Level One exemption in this way. Students seeking Level One exemption through Westminster will need to pay an additional fee.

The part-time (evening) course mirrors the full-time course in content and provides a convenient and affordable route to becoming a solicitor. Students study Property and Litigation in Year 1 (as part of Stage 1 of the course), together with one Stage 2 module. Students complete both Stages 1 and 2 of the course in Year 2 by studying Business and Wills together with two further modules.

Westminster is also working in partnership with Central Law Training and the University of the West of England in providing a flexible learning, two-year, part-time course.

Related courses

Graduate Diploma in Law (CPE)

Length of course

One-year, full-time or two-year, part-time (evening), or two-year, flexible learning (in conjunction with Central Law Training and University of West of England)

Location

Central London (Regent)

Fee band

Visit westminster.ac.uk/fees

Associated careers

The Legal Practice Course (LPC) is the compulsory vocational course for intending solicitors.

Entry requirements

You must currently be enrolled as a student member of the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and hold a current Certificate of Completion of the academic stage of training. The latter is usually available where you have graduated with a qualifying law degree, passed a Common Professional Examination or a Diploma in Law. The SRA may accept other qualifications. The University requires a minimum of a Lower Second Class Honours in a qualifying law degree or equivalent postgraduate qualification.