

## **Bar Practice Course**

**Full-Time / Part-Time Study from September 2023**

## **Course Demands**

1.8.23

## Introduction

This document is produced by The University of Law (the University) to provide information about the demands of the course for prospective students.

The information included is an indicative guide for the full-time and part-time courses commencing in September 2023 and January 2024. Students who enrol on the course will be subject to the course regulations in force at that time.

Details of the course/s including subject coverage and the learning environment, can be found on the University's website.

## Preliminary Knowledge

The Bar Standards Board expects students starting the Bar Practice Course (BPC) to have a basic knowledge of crime, contract, tort, property, equity and trusts, the structure of the court system, remedies, offences, causes of action and defences, property interests and EU law and constitutional law. It is also assumed that students should be able to:

- Listen effectively
- Engage in oral discussion in a clear and concise fashion
- Record or summarise a discussion in clear and concise notes
- Write clearly and precisely with attention to spelling, grammar, style, organisation, bibliographies and citations
- Work co-operatively with others in small groups
- Work effectively alone
- Extract, analyse and apply up to date law from primary sources, including case reports, primary and delegated legislation.
- Use electronic means to produce work, complete research and for the purpose of email.

All variants of the BPC are taught at master's level, including the postgraduate diploma. The LLM programmes are consistent with the QAA's Category 3: professional or practice master's degrees. As such, "all master's degree graduates have in-depth and advanced knowledge and understanding of their subject and/or profession, informed by current practice, scholarship and research. This will include a critical awareness of current issues and developments in the subject and/or profession; critical skills; knowledge of professional responsibility, integrity and ethics; and the ability to reflect on their own progress as a learner." QAA Characteristics Statement, Master's Degree, September 2015, page 3.

A sufficient command of English to follow the course to a successful conclusion (a score of 7.5 or above in all subjects of the academic IELTS test or 73 in the Pearson test).

## Pre-Course Demands

The Bar Standards Board expects students starting the Bar Practice Course to have a basic knowledge of crime, contract, tort, property, equity and trusts, the structure of the court system, remedies, offences, causes of action and defences, property interests and EU law and constitutional law. As a result, students should refresh their memory of these areas and in particular, crime, contract and tort.

There are also some reading materials included in the Foundation Course which students can read in advance of the course or during the Foundation Course, which is the first week of the course.

In addition, it is recommended that all students who are returning to learning complete the *Getting Ready for Academic Study* module which is available in the Skills4Study package available through ELITE / The Skills Academy

## Modes of Study and Attendance Requirements

Our courses are delivered using the Prepare – Engage – Consolidate (PEC) Model. You can find more information about the PEC model of learning below.

This learning model effectively contains three learning stages which can be explained as set out here:

### Stages

- 1) **Prepare:** All learning resources and activities relevant to the theme are prepared in a manner that encourages you to be reflective about prior and on-going learning achievements.
- 2) **Engage:** Active learning is furthered in all areas of the micro-learning. This could be a face-to-face workshop for most of the BPC but could be a synchronous online workshop session or an asynchronous online activity.
- 3) **Consolidate:** this represents the ultimate area in the micro-learning and empowers you to check your understanding of the acquired knowledge. You transition from this unit of learning to the next by using your accumulative reflective thinking on your achievements and areas of where further support may be required.

## Campus Attendance

Learning format	Hours Full Time (Indicative)	Hours Part Time (Indicative)
Prepare - consisting of independent learning and preparation for Engage activities	26	9
Engage activities - lectures, workshops and small group sessions	8	6/10
Consolidate – completing further tasks to bring together your learning and check your understanding	8	6/10
<b>Total</b>	42	21/29

Number of days attendance on campus usually required:

Attendance Mode	Number of Days of Attendance per week required for Engage (teaching) sessions
Full-time	2-3
Part-time (weekend)	2 days (approx. every 3 weekends)

## Attendance Requirements

The attendance requirement is strictly enforced and is recommended by the regulator (the BSB). Students are expected to attend all classes and timetabled activities and must attend a minimum of 80% of sessions to achieve a pass on the BPC. A student who falls below 80% attendance shall fail the BPC and/or may be required to withdraw from the course. This requirement may be relaxed or adjusted in an individual case where this is necessary in order to comply with the Equality Act 2010 (or any replacement of that Act).

Students who miss more than 10% of classes or other timetabled activities should ensure that they have made up the work missed. Our data shows that student success is clearly linked to attendance and engagement.

## Summary of Key Learning Outcomes

The Learning Outcomes for the Bar Practice Course are set out in the Bar Standards Board's Professional Statement. See link below:

<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/uploads/assets/a4556161-bd81-448d-874d40f3baaf8fe2/bsbprofessionalstatementandcompetences2016.pdf>

## Learning Environment

The learning environment is classroom based for the majority of the Engage sessions. Teaching is in groups of 18 and then further broken down into groups of 9,6,4 and 2 for small group sessions. There is court room furniture and set up for advocacy units. A few units are fully online with activities for students to complete in their own time.

**NB Visa-sponsored students must attend all sessions in person. Live streamed sessions are not available to visa-sponsored students.**

## Assessments (Coursework and Examinations)

A summary of the assessment schedule for this programme is explained below.

The University operates a fit to sit policy, which means that students who attend an assessment are deeming themselves to be fit to sit that assessment. It is therefore not possible to submit a concession or mitigating circumstances application for impaired performance for an assessment that has been sat, unless there was a procedural defect in the conduct of the assessment.

## Professional Body Assessment Requirements

Some assessments on the Bar Practice Course (BPC) are set centrally by the Bar Standards Board and are subject to specific regulatory assessment requirements. The University is not able to waive any such regulatory requirements.

## Assessment and learning adjustments

If you have any queries regarding support or adjustments whilst studying at the University of Law please contact the Disability and Inclusion Service on [disabilitysupportservice@law.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitysupportservice@law.ac.uk) or 01483 216657.

## Summary of Assessment Demands

This course typically contains the following types of assessment:

### Coursework

Type of Coursework	Detail (eg Word limit, coursework format)	Timing of the coursework
Opinion Writing and Legal Research. Written assignment.	4000 word limit for the Opinion Writing. No word limit for the linked (but separately assessed) Legal Research trail.	7 days. Takes place towards the end of the FT course and in Year 2 of the PT course.

### Oral Assessments

Type of Oral Assessment	Detail of Assessment – including expected preparation time, assessment duration	Timing of the oral assessment
Civil Advocacy, Criminal Advocacy – Examination in Chief and Cross Examination, Conference skills	Papers are released in advance of the assessment (minimum release of 7 days in advance).	Timing ranges from 15 to 20 minutes for performing the skill. Take place throughout the course.

## Formal examinations

<b>Examination</b>	<b>Number of exams, type of exam and standard duration</b>	<b>Timing – when during the course do these exams take place</b>
Litigation – Criminal and Civil	3 MCQ invigilated exams. The Criminal Litigation (3 hours) and Civil Litigation 1 (2 hours) are both closed book. Civil Litigation 2 is open book (The White Book only) is 2.5 hours long.	Take place towards the end of the FT course and towards the end of each PT year.
Professional Ethics	1 MCQ invigilated exam. 1.5 hours long, closed book.	During the latter part of the FT course and in year 1 of the PT course.
Drafting	1 written invigilated or proctored exam. 3 hours long, Open book. Can be taken online or on campus (handwritten, if the latter).	Midway through the FT course and in year 2 of the PT course.

The table shows the “standard” length of the exam. If you have a University of Law Inclusion Plan (ULIP) with an “additional time” allowance, this will be shown as a percentage.

For example, if the “standard” time for an exam is 2 hours and you have 25% additional time, your exam will last 2 hours 30 minutes.

**Please note – in line with UKVI requirements, visa-sponsored students must sit all written examinations on campus.**

### **Time limits for Completion**

Irrespective of any adjustments made, in order successfully to complete this programme all full-time students are required under the regulations to pass all elements of the course within four years of commencing the course. Exceptionally, applications can be made to extend the time limit.

[Course Title]  
[Mode of Study] [Course Start Date]

Course Demands