

**LLM Legal Practice (SQE1&2)**

**Full and Part Time  
Blended Attendance and Online Study  
from March 2024**

## **Course Demands**

*02/01/24*

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## 1. 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 all modes of the University's LLM Legal Practice (SQE1&2) course commencing from March 2024, as appropriate. Students who enrol on the course will be subject to the course regulations in force at that time.

In order to be awarded your master's degree the required 180 credits for this course are derived as follows:

**90 credits from successfully passing the University's SQE Plus assessments**  
**60 credits from successfully passing the University's FLK 1 and 2 assessments**  
**30 credits from successfully passing the University's SQE2 skills assessments**

This programme will also prepare students to sit the SRA's SQE1 and 2 assessments which are centralised assessments delivered by the SRA's assessment provider Kaplan.

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

Information about

- Minimum IT requirements
- Disability and Inclusion Service information
- Study Skills information

is also available on the website (<https://www.law.ac.uk/study/course-demands/>).

## 2. Preliminary Knowledge

The SQE 1 assesses functioning legal knowledge (FLK) which is divided into two subject areas FLK1 and FLK2.

According to the SRA's SQE 1 Assessment Specification, the areas students are expected to have knowledge of and will be assessed in the FLK 1 assessment are: Business Law and Practice; Dispute Resolution; **Contract; Tort; Legal System of England and Wales; Constitutional and Administrative Law and EU Law** and Legal Services.

And the following areas students are expected to have knowledge of and will be assessed in FLK2 are: Property Practice; Wills and the Administration of Estates; Solicitors Accounts; **Land Law; Trusts; Criminal Law** and Criminal Practice.

The SRA has prescribed the level of knowledge to be that of a newly qualified solicitor in England and Wales. A student should be able to apply these fundamental legal principles and rules appropriately and effectively at the level required of a competent newly qualified solicitor in practice, to realistic client-based and ethical problems and situations. Each multiple choice/single best answer question is followed by five possible answers.

**Students will be expected to have prior knowledge before joining the course of the academic law subjects within FLK 1 and 2 highlighted in bold above either through completing a law degree, conversion course or some other course akin to the University's SQE Law Essentials course.**

The following skills are outlined in the SRA's SQE2 Assessment Specification:

Client interviewing and completion of attendance note/legal analysis – planning for and conducting an interview with a client, producing an attendance note recording a client interview and initial legal analysis.

Advocacy - planning for and conducting a piece of advocacy before a judge.

Case and matter analysis – producing a written report to a partner giving a legal analysis of a case and providing client-focused advice.

Legal Research – conducting legal research from a variety of paper and electronic resources, producing a written report.

Legal Writing – producing a letter or email as the solicitor acting in a matter, which clearly and correctly applies the law and is appropriate to the recipient.

Legal Drafting – drafting full or part legal documents, use of precedents.

All components of the LLM Legal Practice (SQE1&2) are taught at master's level.

All components of the course are taught at master's level.

A sufficient command of English to follow the course to a successful conclusion (an English Language level equivalent to IELTS 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component).

### **3. Pre-Course Demands**

The induction week consists of various sessions which introduce students to the different modules they will be studying, the basis upon which they will be assessed by the SRA's centralised SQE assessments and the University's own internal assessments.

Before joining the course, students will be asked to complete a pre-study diagnostic test on the academic law subjects which make up half of the syllabus in the SRA's SQE1 assessment specification, to identify any knowledge gaps in these subjects. Students who do not gain satisfactory results in these tests will be contacted and support/advice offered to them about progressing onto the course.

The course materials are made available on the VLE, 2 weeks prior to first teaching week. Students may also wish to refresh their knowledge of the academic law ahead of the diagnostic testing.

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

#### **4. Student Route Visa**

If you are an international student and are coming to the UK to study, then you must apply to the Home Office for a visa. In most cases you will need to obtain a [Student Route Visa](#). In order to apply for this visa you must be sponsored by an education provider which is licensed by the UK Home Office.

The University is a Student Sponsor approved by the UK Home Office. We are fully authorised by the UK Government to sponsor international students for a Student Route visa under the Points Based System.

We recommend that you read the information on the University of Law [visa webpage](#) alongside [Appendix ST: Student](#) of the Immigration Rules, which contains the Home Office's regulations for the Student immigration route. You must also read our [Student Visa Policy](#).

#### **5. Modes of Study and Attendance Requirements**

Our courses are delivered using the Prepare – Engage – Consolidate (PEC) Model. This is summarised in the diagram below:



## 5.1 Learning Model and Time Commitment

The LLM Legal Practice (SQE1&2) is delivered both online and by blended attendance learning. It is envisaged that each course will be delivered via both modes, and in full and part time study options.

The blended delivery course is studied on the VLE and using timetabled classes, usually 4 to 5 workshops per week typically timetabled over 2 or 3 days for full time students; or two workshops per week for part time students, typically timetabled over two evenings, one day for day mode, or at the weekend, depending on the part time study option selected.

The online course is studied on the VLE asynchronously with usually 4 to 5 units per week to complete for full time students and two units per week for part time students. Asynchronous learning is supported by timetabled Live Subject Support Sessions (LSSS) which give online students an opportunity to interact with their subject tutors in an online session in Collaborate and raise any queries they have about the unit they are studying in that week. In addition, there are a number of Mock Review Sessions (MRSs) following the mock assessments.

Online study will not require campus attendance although online students are able to use campus facilities, such as the library, if they chose to do so. Unfortunately, we cannot offer this facility at our satellite campuses so please do check with the Campus before arrival.

Blended delivery study will be available full time at all campuses and selected satellite locations depending on student demand. Part time blended delivery study will be available at most campuses, subject to student demand.

<b>Learning format</b>	<b>Hours Full Time (Indicative)</b>	<b>Hours Part Time (Indicative)</b>
Prepare consisting of independent learning and preparation for Engage activities	20-25	12
Engage activities	10	4
Consolidate	10	4
<b>Total</b>	40-45	20

## 5.2 Attendance Requirements

- For students studying on the blended attendance delivery mode, you must attend at the relevant University campus on the days per week timetabled in your teaching weeks and for any scheduled mocks, MRSs and any assessments timetabled which require your attendance on campus.
- For blended delivery mode students, attendance at all timetabled activities and workshops is compulsory.
- Online students are expected to engage with all their learning activities on the VLE and will have a number of timetabled LSSSs scheduled each week, the number depending on whether they are studying on the part time or full time mode. In addition, there will be timetabled MRSs.
- Online students are encouraged to take advantage of these scheduled opportunities to interact with tutors.

## 6. Summary of Key Learning Outcomes

Development of the legal knowledge required to successfully pass the University's FLK1 and 2 internal assessments as well as the SRA's SQE1 assessment in FLK 1 and 2, comprising 360 multiple choice and single best answer questions.

Development of the legal skills required to successfully pass the University's internal SQE2 skills assessments as well as the SRA's SQE2 assessment comprising assessments in the 6 legal skills of client interviewing, advocacy, case and matter analysis, legal research, legal writing and legal drafting.

Development of legal knowledge and skills in further SQE Plus modules providing students with an

opportunity to study a range of practice areas in greater depth.

## 7. Learning Pattern and Environment

- In SQE1, there are 2 modules, one in FLK 1 comprising Business Law and Practice, Dispute Resolution and Legal Services and one in FLK 2 comprising Property Practice, Criminal Practice, Wills and the Administration of Estates, and Solicitors Accounts. Ethics and Professional Conduct is taught pervasively across FLK 1 and 2.
- In SQE2, there is 1 module comprising client interviewing, advocacy, case and matter analysis, legal research, legal writing and legal drafting.
- In SQE plus students will study 3 modules in Key Practice Areas (KPAs) (45 credits) together with a compulsory Preparation for Practice module (15 credits). Students will also choose either a Professional Practice Report module (30 credits) or a Business of Law module where students will study Professional Effectiveness and Law Firms and their Clients (Business of Law 1) (20 credits) and one elective (Business of Law 2) (10 credits). The elective must be selected in a subject not being studied as a KPA.
- Preparation for each unit is around 5-6 hours in the University's VLE. This can include manual reading, bite sized lecture content and other media which is recorded and available on the VLE.
- Engage activities for blended delivery students take place in face-to-face workshop sessions of up to 24 students and for online students through participating in online learning activities in the VLE and attending a timetabled LSSS.
- Consolidate exercises of up to 2 hours at the end of each unit on the VLE and/or through the ULawSQE revision app.
- Test your knowledge exercises are available as part of your preparation and/or consolidation via the VLE.
- In SQE1 there is regular use of the ULawSQE revision app where you will be expected to take compulsory weekly practice tests. Taking additional practice tests is strongly encouraged.
- The ULawSQE revision app is also used for mock assessments in SQE1.

Students are expected to participate fully in all Engage activities and carry out independent learning and preparation as directed.

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



## **8. Assessments**

A summary of the assessment schedule for this course 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.

### **8.1 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.

### **8.2 Professional Body Assessment Requirements**

Assessments on the Solicitors' Qualifying Examination (SQE) are administered and delivered by Kaplan on behalf of the SRA. Requests for examination adjustments need to be made directly to Kaplan. Further information about the SQE assessments and adjustment applications can be found at <https://www.sra.org.uk/students/sqe/supporting-sit-sqe/>

The University will attempt to replicate the adjustments put in place by Kaplan for mock assessments and any University-organised assessments, however we are unable to guarantee that Kaplan will grant the same adjustments that the University would usually provide.

### **8.3 Summary of Assessment Demands**

The University's assessments for SQE1 consist of two assessments, one in FLK1 and one in FLK2, each assessment comprising 90 single best answer style questions. The centralised SQE1 assessments are under the control of the SRA's chosen assessment provider Kaplan. This programme will prepare students for the University's own internal SQE1 assessments as well as the SRA's SQE1 assessment.

The University's assessments for SQE2 skills will consist of one composite written skills takeaway assessment consisting of an assessment in each of the written skills of legal research, writing, drafting and case and matter analysis and one MCQ style assessment on the two oral skills of interviewing and advocacy where students will watch online demonstrations of interviewing and advocacy and answer a number of MCQs on each skill and the relevant practice areas. The centralised SQE2 assessments are under the control of the SRA's chosen assessment provider Kaplan. This programme will prepare students for the University's own internal SQE2 skills assessments as well as the SRA's SQE2 assessment.

At present we have limited information about the length and structure of the SRA's assessments, but our current understanding is as follows:

SQE1 – Two papers one in FLK1 and one in FLK2, each paper will last around 5 hours, comprising: Part 1 90 questions in just over 2.5 hours, Part 2 90 questions in just over 2.5 hours and a break of approximately 1 hour in the middle.

SQE2 – oral skills two half days, written skills three half days.

Total estimated assessment time 24 hours and 45 minutes for SQE1 and 2.

In addition, there will be University assessments for the SQE plus modules as follows:

*Key Practice Areas (KPAs)*

- Open book coursework assessments based on problem solving questions for each KPA subject area.

*Preparation for Practice module*

- Open book coursework and slide deck researching related developments in the legal practice of one of the Key Practice Areas being studied.
- One oral assessment on the Preparation for Practice coursework using the related slide deck presentation.

*Business of Law 1*

- Open book coursework based on research questions

*Business of Law 2*

- Open book coursework based on problem solving questions in that elective subject

*Professional Practice Report*

Open book research project producing an extended research report on a subject title related to a KPA.

**8.4 Time Limits**

For purpose of the LLM, every assessment (including any reassessment) must be taken within a five year period, commencing on the date on which the candidate commenced the LLM.

**8.5 SRA Time limits for Completion of SQE**

Irrespective of any adjustments made, in order successfully to complete the SQE, all students are required under the SRA regulations to pass all elements of the assessment within 6 years of the date of the first assessment.

### **9. Additional digital and technological resources and requirements**

The learning model will require you to collaborate and interact online. Therefore, if you are using a laptop we would recommend that you are able to connect this to your Internet Router and use an Ethernet cable.