

LPC award choices – Student FAQs

This document contains information about the award choices for the LPC.

1. What awards are available to me?

The University offers three different ways for you to obtain the necessary Legal Practice Course qualifications to satisfy the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) requirements necessary to complete your training contract. You can either obtain a postgraduate diploma, or one of two master's degrees as follows:

- Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) in Professional Legal Practice
- LPC MSc in Law, Business and Management [not available to students starting in January 2025 onwards]
- LPC LLM in Professional Legal Practice

2. What does the SRA require?

In order to complete your training contract, the SRA requires all LPC students to study:

- three compulsory core practice area (“CPA”) subjects: Business, Dispute Resolution and Real Estate
- a number of core skills and other topics such as Solicitors’ Accounts and Professional Conduct and Regulation (on the University’s courses these are grouped together in our Introduction to Professional Practice (IPP) module)
- three elective subjects.

Each of the three awards above covers these essential elements.

3. What modules are covered on each award?

3.1. Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) in Professional Legal Practice

For this award, which covers the SRA requirements for trainees outlined above, students study seven modules, covering the three CPAs, Introduction to Professional Practice, and three electives. The CPAs and elective subjects are taught and assessed at Level 7. IPP is at level 6.

3.2. LPC MSc in Law, Business and Management (only available to students starting in September 2024)

On the MSc, you will study the seven modules covered on the PgDip, plus two additional modules:

- Law and Business (a “taught” module)
- Case Study Project (an independent learning module)

3.3. LPC LLM in Professional Legal Practice

On the LLM, you will study the seven modules covered on the PgDip, plus two additional modules:

- EITHER Law and Business (only available to students starting in September 2024) OR a 4th elective subject (a “taught” module)
- Professional Practice Research Report (an independent learning module)

The 3 awards are compared in the diagram below:

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice (LPC PgDip) | 4 Core + 3 Elective Modules | | |
| MSc in Law, Business and Management (LPC MSc) | 4 Core + 3 Elective Modules | Law & Business | Case Study |
| LLM in Professional Legal Practice (LPC LLM) | 4 Core + 3 Elective Modules | Law & Business OR additional elective | Professional Practice Research Report |

4. What do the additional modules for the master’s degrees involve?

4.1. MSc modules (only available to students starting in September 2024)

4.1.1. Law and Business

This is a taught module which covers the key features of business, management and finance and places emphasis on a range of skills to enable students to become better equipped business advisors. The module provides a foundation for understanding business concepts and the environment within which businesses, including law firms, operate. It aims to increase your commercial awareness and as a result your confidence and ability to engage with clients at the very outset of your career. Please note that the module is not about business law – this is covered in your Business Law and Practice CPA.

Law and Business encompasses the following topics:

- The economy, business environment and globalisation

- The functioning of the City
- Management
- Financial analysis
- Corporate finance
- Business Development
- Strategy

For further information on the Law and Business module, please see the appendix to this document.

4.1.2. Case Study Project

This is a self-study module to be completed by you. This Case Study Project represents an opportunity to integrate the legal and business skills underpinning the course. The module will be assessed by a 3,000 word written report supported by an oral presentation.

You will choose from a range of case studies which address different scenarios. It will augment the Law and Business module by giving you the opportunity to apply the commercial skills taught in the context of a business scenario.

The emphasis will be on you working independently without supervision and making commercial and business judgements which are presented in writing and justified in an oral presentation.

4.2. LLM additional modules

4.2.1. Either Law and Business (only available to students starting in September 2024) or a 4th elective

The details of the Law and Business module appear at 4.1.1 above.

As an alternative, LLM students can choose to do a 4th elective subject as their taught master's module.

The University offers the following electives and students can either combine electives appropriate for corporate and commercial practice, or they can choose electives for commercial and private client practice.

4.2.1.1 Electives available to students starting the LPC in September 2024:

Corporate and Commercial Practice Electives

- Banking and Debt Finance Law & Practice
- Mergers and Acquisitions Law & Practice
- Advanced Real Estate Law & Practice
- Commercial Dispute Resolution Law & Practice
- Commercial Law & Practice
- Employment Law & Practice

- Intellectual Property Law & Practice

Commercial and Private Client Practice Electives

- Advanced Real Estate Law & Practice
- Commercial Dispute Resolution Law & Practice
- Commercial Law & Practice
- Employment Law & Practice
- Intellectual Property Law & Practice
- Advanced Criminal Law and Practice
- Family Law & Practice
- Immigration Law & Practice
- Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence Law & Practice
- Private Client Law & Practice

4.2.1.2 Electives available to students starting the LPC in or after January 2025:

Corporate and Commercial Practice Electives

- Mergers and Acquisitions Law & Practice
- Commercial Law & Practice
- Employment Law & Practice
- Intellectual Property Law & Practice

Commercial and Private Client Practice Electives

- Commercial Law & Practice
- Employment Law & Practice
- Intellectual Property Law & Practice
- Advanced Criminal Law and Practice
- Family Law & Practice
- Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence Law & Practice
- Private Client Law & Practice

Please note that all choices on all modes are subject to demand and timetabling constraints, and we cannot guarantee that all subjects will be available at any campus, including the online campus. To enable us to run appropriate transactional style activities the minimum number of students required for a class is usually 10.

4.2.2. Professional Practice Research Report (PPRR)

This is a self-study module to be completed by you. It represents an opportunity for you to integrate the legal and professional skills underpinning the course by compiling a practice-based report of a maximum of 3,000 words following research on a specialist area of legal practice chosen by you from a list of titles. It is not necessary to have studied the subject area to attempt each title. For example, you can choose to do the PPRR title on employment law whether or not you are studying the employment elective. The PPRR will also be supported by an oral presentation.

The emphasis will be on you working independently without supervision and making reasoned legal judgments based on your research which are presented in writing and justified in an oral presentation.

5. What is the difference between the LPC MSc and the LPC LLM?

In addition to the difference in content between the additional modules outlined above, there is also a difference in focus.

The LPC MSc is in Law, Business and Management and, as the name suggests, the focus of the 2 additional modules is on business and management. It is therefore likely to suit students who plan to work for a law firm or other employer with a corporate/commercial focus or those who are generally interested in understanding business from both the commercial as well as the legal perspective.

The LPC LLM offers students the opportunity to gain a broader insight into the law by taking an additional elective and undertaking the Professional Practice Research Report. That is not to say that it does not cover business and management, as students will still benefit from the embedded content within the LPC and can, if they wish still take the Law and Business module, or choose elective subjects with a commercial bias, but this is not its focus. It is therefore likely to suit students who have a deeper interest in a specialist area of the law that they would like to develop through completing the Professional Practice Research Report and/or those who wish to keep their options open by choosing a 4th elective.

Please note that if you choose the Law and Business module, the course is identical whether you are an LLM or an MSc student, as is the assessment. Law and Business does involve calculations, and as a result a basic knowledge of maths is required. For more information about the content of the module and the level of maths required please see the appendix at the end of these FAQs.

6. If I decide to do one of the master's degrees, when would I study the additional modules?

Indicative year outlines appear below. However, in summary, on the Postgraduate Diploma, full-time students on the 10 month course study 4 modules in the first term up to November (March for the Jan start) and then 3 modules at a time thereafter. Master's students study 4 modules concurrently in each term. On the accelerated 6 month course, master's students do the equivalent of 5 modules in each term, whereas PgDip students only do 4 in the second term. For part-time courses, the additional master's modules are spread over the 2 years, with the taught module in year one and the independent learning module in year two.

6.1. Full-time 10 Month

| LPC Full-time | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | July/Oct~ | |
| Business Law & Practice | Business Law & Practice | Elective 1 | | |
| Dispute Resolution | Dispute Resolution | Elective 2 | | |
| Real Estate | Real Estate | Elective 3 | | |
| Introduction to Professional Practice | [Law and Business]* | [Elective 4]* | | |
| | [Professional Practice Research Report]* | [Case Study Project / Professional Practice Research Report]* | | |
| Assessments | Assessments | Assessments | | [Master's oral assessments] |

*The subjects in brackets are the optional subjects which will be taken by students who opt to do one of the master's qualifications. For LLM students, those studying Law and Business are expected to spend more time on their Professional Practice Research Report in term 3, whereas those studying a fourth elective are expected to work on their PPRR in term 2.

~ Oral assessments take place in July for September start students and in October/early November for January start students.

6.2. Accelerated 6 month course

| Accelerated LPC | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 – post course |
| Introduction to Professional Practice | Real Estate | Real Estate | [Case Study Project OR Professional Practice Research Report] * |
| | Business Law & Practice <i>(double module)</i> | Elective 1 | |
| | Assessments | Elective 2 | |
| | Dispute Resolution <i>(double module)</i> | Elective 3 | |
| | | [Law and Business OR Elective 4]* | |

*The subjects in brackets are the optional subjects which will be taken by students who opt to do one of the master's qualifications. Master's students on the accelerated course will then do a self-study Case Study Project or Professional Practice Research Report in the 3 months after the course ends.

6.3. LPC Part-time

| Part-time Year 1 | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 |
| Introduction to Professional Practice | Business Law & Practice | Elective 1 |
| Business Law & Practice | [Law and Business]* | [Elective 4]* |
| Assessments | Assessments | Assessments |

Part-time Year 2

| Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | July/Oct~ |
|---|--------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Dispute Resolution | Dispute Resolution | Elective 2 | [Masters oral assessments] |
| Real Estate | Real Estate | Elective 3 | |
| [Case Study Project / Professional Practice Research Report]* | | | |

*The subjects in brackets are the optional subjects which will be taken by students who opt to do one of the master's qualifications. Part time students will be able to work on their research project throughout Year 2.

~ Oral assessments take place in July for September start students and in October/ early November for January start students.

7. When do I have to choose my elective subjects?

All students will be asked to confirm their elective choices a few weeks after starting their courses, including those doing 4 electives for the LLM.

8. When do I have to make my choice of award?

All students will be invited to choose their award before they start the course and you will have to make your choice no later than the end of the second week of your course (including induction week). If you are applying for funding from the Student Loan Company, this is only available once you have selected a master's award.

We will need to know which of the following awards you intend to undertake:

- 8.1. PgDip in Professional Legal Practice;
- 8.2. LPC MSc in Law, Business and Management;
- 8.3. LPC LLM in Professional Legal Practice:
 - 8.3.1. with Law & Business;
 - 8.3.2. with 4th elective.

9. How do I notify ULaw of my choice of award?

Students now can add the additional master's upon acceptance of their LPC offer. Please look out for the LPC Award choices email that will be sent to you once you accept your place, as this will contain full instructions.

10. Will I be able to change my mind?

It is possible to change your award selection until the deadline expires at the end of the second week of the course so you are not committed to any decision that you make prior

to starting the course. Bear in mind though the terms of any funding, as funding from the Student Loan Company will require you to be on one of the two master's programmes.

Please note that if you are an international student who requires sponsorship by the University under the Home Office's Student Route, you will have been issued with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number to make your visa application. This is subject to you meeting the requirements for Student visa sponsorship.

The University does not ordinarily allow LPC students to change their award route after their CAS has been issued. This is because the Home Office has issued the student's visa not only on the basis of the course they will be studying, but the award they will receive at the end of their studies. The University is required to declare your award to the Home Office and this appears on your immigration record and cannot be changed once your CAS is issued.

If you believe there are exceptional circumstances for you to change your award, please write to the Visa Compliance Team at visacompliance@law.ac.uk. Please note that the Visa Compliance Team may ask you to submit evidence to support your request and all decisions made by the Visa Compliance Team are final.

11. How do I notify ULaw of my choice of electives?

The student information team will email you after you have commenced the course to explain what steps you need to take to choose your electives.

12. Where can I find further information?

A couple of weeks before you start the course you will be enrolled onto ELITE, our virtual learning environment. In the Student Handbook and Course Information folder you will be able to access a recording about awards and electives, and you will also be able to look at the module guides for all the electives and for Law and Business. For more details on the Law and Business module, please see the appendix to this document.

13. I have further questions. Who can I contact?

In the first instance, please contact the admissions team on 0800 289997 or admissions@law.ac.uk

Appendix

Choosing the Law and Business module

The module syllabus can be summarised as follows:

- **The economy, business environment and globalisation:**
Exploring the functioning and structure of an economy, understanding the role of government and monetary authorities in managing the economy, looking at how businesses conduct international business and exploring issues in globalisation.
- **The functioning of the City:**
Examining the financial sector, how it channels funds within the economy, understanding the different markets and financial contracts and exploring issues of ethics and regulation of the financial system.
- **Management:**
Exploring the nature and role of managers and leaders in business, how organisations are structured and controlled, methods of motivating people and how culture influences organisational life.
- **Financial analysis:**
Examining the various types of financial reports produced by businesses and interpreting the financial performance of business.
- **Corporate finance:**
Examining how the business is financed, how it uses its funds, how it distributes them, how it is valued by investors and how it conducts mergers and acquisitions.
- **Business development:**
Appreciating the business' need to secure revenue and exploring how a business approaches marketing and business development including pitching for work and differentiating itself in a competitive field.
- **Strategy:**
Analysing the external and internal environments of a business, exploring the concepts of sustainable competitive position and appreciating different types of strategies.

In addition, you will pull these topics together by looking at the business of law firms in the final workshop. You will explore law firm performance and profitability and analyse the legal industry including disruptors to it.

During the module you are directed to work with a variety of resources and you are introduced to a number of real case studies to give context to the matters under discussion. In business there is rarely a "right" answer so you are encouraged to participate in discussion and appreciate the competing considerations.

You will be expected to participate in various activities including presentations, a negotiation on company valuation and delivering a tender for legal services.

Should I choose this module?

If you like what you have read so far, yes! The module will develop your commercial awareness and will be particularly valuable if you wish to work for a commercial firm or for business clients, or if you have your sights set on working in business and/or on internal progression at a law firm.

The module is quite different to other taught modules that you will study, however. This module doesn't suit everyone and if any of the following apply to you then the module may not be for you:

- **You have fear of working with numbers** – the level of maths required is not high and you will not need any mathematical skills above GCSE (or equivalent) but if you don't feel comfortable working with numbers, you may want to consider whether this is a good choice. For example, when we analyse profitability of a business we will use a ratio called Return on Capital Employed. This is calculated with the formula:

$$\text{Return on Capital Employed} = \frac{\text{operating profit}}{\text{capital employed}} \times 100$$

You will be provided with the figures for operating profit and capital employed but will need to insert those figures into the calculation to calculate the return on capital employed and then analyse how the return could be improved. There are three workshops where some maths is used but this is balanced against another six which are less technical and look at business concepts and tools more generally.

- **You have a need for a right/wrong answer** – in business there is rarely a definitive answer, just different ways of analysing and doing things to meet objectives. The same will be true of the coursework. There is no one definition of what is a successful business or what a business should do to be successful, for example. Some students find this unsettling, (particularly when assessed), but this module is more about exploring concepts and better equipping you to discuss business terminology and concepts with confidence.
- **You like to work from a core text** – the breadth of subject matter covered on the course is vast and we introduce you to concepts on a wide range of aspects of business. As a result there is no one single text or manual that addresses all of the issues we cover. Much of the subject matter is evolving too so we direct you to current articles and a variety of other resources. We encourage students to embrace the varied resources by reading them and using them to inform contributions in class rather than making detailed notes as you might for other modules.
- **You already have a number of competing commitments on your time** – the tuition of the module runs alongside those subjects specified by the Solicitors Regulation Authority for completion of the LPC. By choosing a master's award and taking this module you will be increasing your workload across the course and diluting the time available to devote to the required elements. In most cases this is manageable but if you have competing commitments or are concerned about being able to devote the time needed to do the required reading and preparatory tasks, again, you may want to consider whether this is a good choice.

For those of you that choose the module it covers topical and engaging subjects and it has been commended by students and employers for developing commercial awareness and better equipping you for vacation placements, training contracts and beyond.