



# **LLM in Professional Legal Practice**

## **Programme Handbook**

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Version 5

## Introduction to the Programme

Welcome to the LLM in Professional Legal Practice! This programme is aimed at graduates from any discipline who wish to qualify as a solicitor. It has been developed in response to the new qualification route for solicitors that came into effect in September 2021.

Previously students were required to study either a qualifying Law degree (QLD) or complete a graduate diploma in law (GDL) after taking a non-law degree before studying the vocational stage of qualification known as a legal practice course (LPC). Under the new system, the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has made it a requirement to pass national assessments, the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE), which consists of two stages: a functioning legal knowledge assessment (SQE1); and a legal skills assessment (SQE2). As before, intending solicitors must also undertake a two-year period of qualifying work experience (QWE), currently referred to as a training contract. QWE may be undertaken at any time, before, after and/or between SQE1 and SQE2. It is the SRA's intention to make the qualification journey as flexible as possible, the only ordering being that candidates must pass SQE1 before taking SQE2. As part of this flexibility, there are no prescribed preparatory courses for the SQE, and the SRA will no longer regulate providers.

The new LLM programme will take advantage of this new environment and offer a practical approach to studying law that prepares candidates for both stages of the SQE. Because the programme is at master's level, it will produce 'work ready' graduates who are also reflective practitioners, essential in the light of the rapid pace of change in professions such as law. The LLM goes beyond the SQE and includes elements that are skills-based, requires the ability to conduct client-focused research and provides the opportunity for students to critically evaluate current law and proposed reforms. The LLM also offers students practice-based options. When applying to prospective employers, students will be able to make reference to a wide range of skills, knowledge and aptitudes that they have acquired from the programme.

## Modules

The programme is made up of the following modules; please note that to prepare for the LLM, all students, whether law or non-law graduates, will be required to complete a short, non-credit bearing, module on the English Legal System, which includes legal research skills, at the beginning of the programme. In the master's stage of the programme all modules are electives however students must study one or other of the 20-credit research report or the 40-credit research project.

A number of modules are assessed, or partly assessed, by multiple choice questions (MCQs). These reflect the assessment method for the SQE and so will help prepare you for this. These exams will be taken online through our online learning platform and will be marked automatically based on the answers you select. You will receive your provisional grade shortly after sitting the exam and your ratified grade after the subject assessment board meets to confirm the grades.

<i><b>Module Code</b></i>	<i><b>Module title</b></i>	<i><b>Compulsory (C) or Optional (O)</b></i>	<i><b>Credits</b></i>
<b>LAW7000</b>	English Legal System	<b>C</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>LAW7001</b>	Public Law and Legal Services	<b>C</b>	<b>20</b>

<b>LAW7002</b>	Criminal Law and Practice	<b>C</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LAW7003</b>	Contract and Business Law and Practice	<b>C</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LAW7004</b>	Trusts, Wills and Administration of Estates	<b>C</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LAW7005</b>	Tort and Dispute Resolution	<b>C</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LAW7006</b>	Land Law and Property Practice	<b>C</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LAW7012</b>	Legal Skills in Context	<b>O</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>LAW7008</b>	Employment Law and Practice	<b>O</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LAW7009</b>	Family Law and Practice	<b>O</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LAW7010</b>	Legal Practice Research Report	<b>O</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LAW7011</b>	Research Project	<b>O</b>	<b>40</b>

### Programme Overview

The SQE has two stages and the make-up of the LLM reflects this. SQE1 is an assessment of the functioning legal knowledge (FLK) expected for practice as a day 1 qualified solicitor. There are two SQE1 FLK assessments, which cover the following subject areas:

- Business Law and Practice; Dispute Resolution; Contract; Tort; Legal System of England and Wales; Constitutional and Administrative Law and EU Law and Legal Services (FLK 1).
- Property Practice; Wills and the Administration of Estates; Solicitors Accounts; Land Law; Trusts; Criminal Law and Practice (FLK 2).

The six modules of the first, diploma, stage of the LLM (120 credits) incorporate coverage of the FLK, each module covering academic law first, then the related practice area (e.g. Trusts and Wills). Module content goes further than SQE1, offering students the opportunity to formulate and critique legal argument, evaluate areas of law and practice, and develop written and oral presentation skills.

The second, master's, stage of the LLM (60 credits) consists of optional modules, which include preparation for SQE2. SQE2 assesses the following legal skills in the context of areas of the FLK:

- client interview and attendance note; advocacy; case and matter analysis; legal research; legal writing; and legal drafting

The LLM masters stage takes things further than SQE2, allowing students to conduct extended practice-based legal research and/or take an elective subject.

The 12-month calendar for the LLM is designed to allow students to take the SQE1 assessments at the end of the diploma stage; if successful they can sit SQE2 at the end of the master's stage, or they can re-sit SQE1, having completed a portable reflective skills portfolio for SQE2.

The new LLM will be taught by way of distance learning, augmented by virtual study weekends. Distance learning at Arden takes place over four study blocks per academic year. The first two diploma blocks require study of three modules. There is a third block before SQE1, focussing on candidate professional development, providing for structured and guided SQE revision, module re-sits, development of research methods, proposals and choice of master's projects as well as career planning and micro-credentialling. In addition, students will be able to source and complete Qualifying Work Experience (QWE). Master's options are covered in the fourth block.

Delivery is therefore as follows:

<b>Block 1</b>	Public Law and Legal Services; Criminal Law and Practice; Contract and Business Law and Practice
<b>Block 2</b>	Trusts, Wills and Estates; Tort and Dispute Resolution; Land Law and Property
<b>Block 3</b>	Guided SQE1 revision; Module re-sits; Master's options prep/proposals; career planning, micro-credentialling, QWE
<i>SQE1 assessments</i>	
<b>Block 4</b>	Legal Skills in Context; Research Project/Report; Electives
<i>SQE2 assessments; SQE1 resits</i>	

There will be two virtual study weekends in each study block. These will be delivered by synchronous videoconference and will be intensive workshops designed to ensure that students have fully understood their self-directed online study. They are placed at weekends to acknowledge the fact that many of the students are working. This also means that they do not give rise to any physical space requirements at Study Centres. They will be a required part of the programme but students who, for good reason, cannot be present at the time will be able to access recordings of the sessions.

#### **Block 4 options**

A maximum of 60 credits is studied in Block 4 and one of the options chosen must be either the Research Project or Legal Practice Research Report. Therefore, if a student chooses to study LAW7012 Legal Skills in Context (40 credits), the other option must be to study LAW7010 Legal Practice Research Report (20 credits).

Similarly, if a student chooses to study LAW7011 Research Project (40 credits), they will not be able to choose LAW7012 Legal Skills in Context.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE DOCUMENT QA3 – PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

<b>1. Programme Code</b>						
<b>2. Programme Title</b>	LLM in Professional Legal Practice					
<b>3. Target Award Title</b>	LLM in Professional Legal Practice					
<b>4. Exit Award Title(s)</b>	LLM in Professional Legal Practice Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Legal Practice Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Legal Practice					
<b>5. Subject area</b>	Law					
<b>6. School</b>	School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Law					
<b>7. Programme Team Leader(s)</b>	Harriet Jones (HoD), Catherine Lucas (PTL)					
<b>8. Programme Type</b>						
<b>9. Delivery Model</b>	DL F/T	x	BL F/T		Apprenticeship	
	DL P/T		BL P/T		Other	
<b>Where delivery model identified as 'Other' please provide details</b>						
<b>10. Location of delivery</b>	Online (Distance Learning)					
<b>11. Proposed Start date</b>	April 2022					
<b>12. Reference points</b>	<a href="#">QAA Subject Benchmarks: Law</a>  <a href="#">QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree</a>  <a href="#">Solicitors Qualifying Examination Stage 1 Assessment Specification</a>  <a href="#">Solicitors Qualifying Examination Stage 2 Assessment Specification</a>  <a href="#">Kaplan SQE1 Pilot Report 2020</a>  <a href="#">Kaplan SQE2 Pilot Report 2020</a>					
<b>13. Professional, Statutory &amp; Regulatory Bodies (PSRB)</b>	Solicitors Regulation Authority					

<b>14. Programme aims</b>
<p>The aim of our new LLM in Professional Legal Practice is to offer a practical and rigorous approach to studying law that prepares graduates to become solicitors; specifically, to present themselves as candidates for both stages of the new Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE1 and SQE2) during and on completion of the programme. In addition, the programme will provide opportunities for students to take a critical approach to law and practice, and it will allow them to develop research skills by completing reports or projects. Students will also be able to take elective options to gain expertise in areas to which they might be attracted as intending legal practitioners.</p>

The programme aims are:

1. To provide students with an understanding of the key areas of legal knowledge and practice that will enable them to pursue professional qualification as a solicitor.
2. To ensure that students have a critical appreciation of the wider application of law in a socio-political, institutional, and cultural context.
3. To develop students' ability to manage their own learning independently and to foster a culture of lifelong learning.
4. To prepare students for the workplace by developing legal skills in context, as well as transferrable personal skills and professional attitudes required for employment.

## 15. Programme Entry Requirements

### Proposed LLM Entry Requirements

- An undergraduate degree at minimum of class 2.1 (or equivalent) from a recognised university.
- English Language proficiency equivalent to IELTS 6.5, with no less than 6.0 in each component if English is not the applicant's first language (or appropriate previous study in English).
- Exemptions may be granted in respect of other prior qualifications subject to Arden's APCL regulations.

## 16. Graduate Attributes

Graduate attributes are embedded within each module as well as key legal and employability skills that will enable students to enter the professional workplace on completion of the programme. Students will gain and develop these skills through:

- Case studies
- Reflective exercises
- Synchronous and asynchronous interactive group activities
- Self-directed independent study
- Oral and written skills instruction and peer/instructor review

Throughout the programme, students will also have opportunity to consider the wider ethical and legal frameworks that impact upon the legal and associated professions. Students will be encouraged to reflect on their own learning and to identify areas for development.

### **Graduate Attributes**

*The Graduate Attributes are the same across all programmes and for both UG and PG and are listed below.*

#### **GA1. Discipline Expertise: Knowledge and understanding of chosen field**

*Students will possess a range of skills to operate within this sector, have a keen awareness of current developments in working practice and be well positioned to respond to change.*

#### **GA2. Effective Communication**

*Students will communicate effectively both verbally and in writing, using a range of media widely used in relevant professional context. They will be IT, digitally and information literate.*

**GA3. Responsible Global Citizenship**

*Students will understand global issues and their place in a globalised economy, ethical decision-making and accountability. They will adopt self-awareness, openness and sensitivity to diversity in culture.*

**GA4. Professional Skills**

*Students will perform effectively within the professional environment. They will work within a team, demonstrating interpersonal skills such as effective listening, negotiating, persuading and presentation. They will be flexible and adaptable to changes within the professional environment.*

**GA5. Reflective Practitioner**

*Students will undertake critical analysis and reach reasoned and evidenced decisions. They will contribute problem-solving skills to find innovative solutions.*

**GA6. Lifelong Learning**

*Students will manage employability, utilising the skills of personal development and planning in different contexts to contribute to society and the workplace.*

## **17. Learning, teaching and assessment methods and strategies**

The overall programme Learning and Teaching strategy is based on the premise that the best way to learn law, especially for would-be professionals, is by developing the key skills of critical analysis through authentic, highly experiential learning opportunities.

On that basis, all students will complete a short pre-programme self-study module on English Legal System and an induction, designed to familiarise them in legal thinking. The LLM programme will then be delivered using a variety of flexible teaching methods with an emphasis on practical application. This will include but is not limited to:

- Workshops
- Simulations
- Guided research
- Supported self-directed learning

Facilitated workshops will give students a highly interactive learning experience. These will be held synchronously and asynchronously. Workshops will be supported by digital materials and audio-visual content which will cover key concepts and principles. Tutors will supplement this with guided further reading and associated activities including guided research which encourages students to pursue self-directed critical enquiry.

Simulations enable students to learn through an immersive experiential approach. Students will have the opportunity to interact with specific modules through the medium of a virtual law firm (VLF). Students will be able to interact asynchronously with the VLF as if they were employees of a law firm, completing training and assignments that will enable them to apply their knowledge to a practical scenario.

The LLM programme assessment strategy has been created with reference to the QAA Law and Master's benchmarks, as well as the SRA-published assessment specifications and pilot studies for SQE1 and SQE2. To assess the different programme learning outcomes, a diverse assessment

strategy has been adopted. For the diploma stage, each module's assessment contains two parts. The first is an MCQ examination to assess a student's comprehension of key module content, based on the SQE1 assessments. Depending on the module, the second part can be a timed written exam, a presentation or a coursework. Each of the three modules offered in a study block provides for a different form of part two assessment. For the master's stage modules, assessments range from an e-portfolio of skills to a research project.

Students will receive assessment guidance for each item of assessment and where appropriate, assessment criteria. Formative feedback opportunities will be embedded within each module so that students are able to reflect upon their learning and identify areas for development.



18. Intended programme learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated		
Learning outcomes	The means by which these outcomes are achieved	The means by which these outcomes are assessed
At the end of this course you will be able to: (No more than 10 programme learning outcomes are permitted per programme.)		
1. Critically analyse and apply principles of law and legal practice in England and Wales	Students will learn how to apply their knowledge and understanding to problem questions and authentic scenarios through engaging in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Guided research</li> <li>• Supported self-directed learning</li> </ul> Students will be exposed to problem-based learning techniques from the beginning of the LLM.	Across all assessments.
2. Apply key graduate skills and methods to complex professional practice situations	Each module will contain elements that will enable students to build and develop their skills base. Students will be encouraged to identify gaps in their skillset and to undertake personal development to develop a culture of lifelong learning. Students will learn how to approach complex legal problems at the standard of the day 1 qualified solicitor.	Across all assessments.
3. Critically evaluate substantive theoretical and practical issues encountered in legal practice	Students will study the programme from both an academic and a professional perspective. This will allow for the introduction of practical and ethical considerations in the context of legal practice.	Across all diploma stage modules, in part two assessments. Across all master's stage module assessments, save Legal Skills in Context.
4. Plan and manage learning	Throughout the programme, students will be encouraged in this by the programme tutors as well as having access to wider University resources such as careers, personal academic tutors and academic skills tutors.	Across all assessments.

5. Produce appropriate legal communication	Students will have regular opportunities to receive feedback and to develop transferrable communication skills through synchronous and asynchronous activities.	Across all diploma stage modules, in part two assessments. Across all master's stage module assessments.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the functioning legal knowledge expected of a day 1 qualified solicitor	Students will encounter formative and summative assessments in the same format and at the same standard as SQE1.	Across all diploma stage modules, in part one assessments.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the legal skills expected of a day 1 qualified solicitor	Students will encounter formative and summative assessments in the same format and at the same standard as SQE2.	Across all diploma stage modules, in part two assessments. In the Legal Skills in Context assessments in the master's stage.
8. Apply legal research skills to complex professional practice situations	Students will receive training in how to conduct legal research including how to use legal databases such as Westlaw and LexisNexis.	Across all diploma stage modules, in part two assessments. Across all master's stage module assessments.
9. Critically reflect on learning	Throughout the programme students will be taught how to reflect on their learning experiences and encouraged to utilise their conclusions in improving and managing their ongoing learning.	Across all assessments.

## 19. Summary of modules and mapped programme learning outcomes

Level	Module title	Module type <i>Compulsory (C) or Optional (O)</i>	Identified pinned modules	LO 1	LO 2	LO 3	LO 4	LO 5	LO 6	LO 7	LO 8	LO 9	GA1	GA2	GA3	GA4	GA5	GA6
7	Public Law and Legal Services	C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	Contract and Business Law and Practice	C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
7	Tort and Dispute Resolution	C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	Land Law and Property Practice	C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
7	Trusts, Wills and Administration of Estates	C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
7	Criminal Law and Practice	C		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	Legal Skills in Context	O		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X
7	Legal Practice Research Report	O*		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
7	Research Project	O*		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
7	Family Law and Practice	O		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
7	Employment Law and Practice	O		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	

\*Students must complete either of the two asterisked modules.

## 20. Mapping of Modules to the SQE assessment outcomes

While the content for each LLM diploma stage module (MDF Panel 16) is matched to the Functioning Legal Knowledge set out in the SQE1 Assessment Specification, the learning outcomes for each module (MDF Panel 14) may be mapped against the Assessment Objectives for each subject area in the SQE Assessment Specification. The SQE1 Assessment Objectives refer to subject areas in which candidates must apply legal principles to client-based situations and problems. The general statement from the SQE1 Assessment Specification that candidates must demonstrate their ability to act honestly and with integrity and in accordance with the Statement of Solicitor Competence, the SRA Principles and the Code of Conduct is pervasive content for each module. For SQE2, the Assessment Specification provides for an Assessment Objectives for each skill, and the learning outcomes for the relevant LLM master's stage module may be mapped against these.

### Module: English Legal System (pre-programme)

SQE1 Assessment Objectives:	Module LO1	Module LO2	Module LO3	Module LO4	Module LO5
1. Legal System of England and Wales and Sources of law.	X	X			X

### Module: Public Law and Legal Services

SQE1 Assessment Objectives:	Module LO1	Module LO2	Module LO3	Module LO4	Module LO5
1. Constitutional and Administrative law and EU law.	X	X			X
2. Legal Services	X		X	X	
Specifically, Solicitors Accounts:					
1. Transactions involving client money and money belonging to the authorised body.				X	
2. Operation of ledgers and bank accounts; the payment of interest.			X		
3. Breaches of the SRA Accounts Rules.	X				
4. Accounting entries required; bills; obtaining and delivery of accountants' reports; obligations regarding record-keeping.			X		

5. Transactions involving client money and money belonging to the authorised body.				X	
6. Operation of ledgers and bank accounts; the payment of interest.	X		X		

### Module: Criminal Law and Practice

SQE1 Assessment Objectives:	Module LO1	Module LO2	Module LO3	Module LO4	Module LO5
1. The core principles of criminal liability including actus reus and mens rea, specific and general defences, and participation.	X	X		X	X
2. The law, procedure and processes involved in advising a client at the police station.		X	X		
3. The law, procedure and processes involved in pre-trial considerations	X			X	X
4. The law, procedure and processes involved to meet the client's objectives.	X	X	X		
5. The law, procedure and processes involved in magistrates' court and Crown Court trials, including sentencing and appeals.			X	X	X

### Module: Contract and Business Law & Practice

SQE1 Assessment Objectives:	Module LO1	Module LO2	Module LO3	Module LO4	Module LO5
1. Existence/formation of a contract.	X				
2. Contents of a contract.	X			X	
3. Causation and remoteness.		X			
4. Vitiating elements.		X			
5. Discharge of contract and remedies.		X		X	
6. Unjust enrichment.					X

7. Starting a new business through the vehicle of a company, partnership, LLP or as a sole trader.	X				
8. The management of a business and company decision making to ensure compliance with statutory and other legal requirements.			X		X
9. The interests, rights, obligations and powers of stakeholders in a business.	X				
10. Financing a business.				X	
11. Taxation of a business and its stakeholders.			X		
12. The termination of a solvent business, corporate insolvency and personal bankruptcy			X		

### Module: Trusts, Wills & Administration of Estates

SQE1 Assessment Objectives:	Module LO1	Module LO2	Module LO3	Module LO4	Module LO5
1. Express and implied trusts.		X		X	
2. The fiduciary relationship.	X			X	
3. Trustees' duties, powers and liability.		X		X	
4. Equitable remedies.	X	X			
5. The validity of a will and interpretation of the contents of a will. The distribution of testate, intestate and partially intestate estates.			X		
6. The law and practice in connection with an application for a grant of representation.			X		X
7. The law and practice of Inheritance Tax in the context of lifetime gifts and transfers on death.					X
8. The planning, management and progression of the administration of an estate including claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975.	X		X		
9. The law and practice relating to personal representatives and trustees in the administration of estates and consequent trusts.					X

The rights, powers and remedies of beneficiaries of wills and consequent trusts.					
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### Module: Tort and Dispute Resolution

SQE1 Assessment Objectives:	Module LO1	Module LO2	Module LO3	Module LO4	Module LO5
1. Negligence.	X	X		X	
2. Remedies and defences.		X	X		
3. Occupiers' liability.	X			X	
4. Product liability.		X			X
5. Nuisance and the rule in Rylands v Fletcher.	X	X		X	
6. Analysis of merits of claim or defence.					X
7. Arbitration, mediation and litigation as an appropriate mechanism to resolve a dispute.					X
8. Pre-action considerations and steps.			X		
9. Commencing, responding to or progressing a claim.					X
10. Case management and any interim applications relevant to a claim.			X		
11. The evidence needed and disclosure steps required in commencing, responding to, progressing or defending a claim.					X
12. Preparation of a case for a trial, the trial and any post trial steps.			X		
13. Procedures and processes relevant to costs involved in dispute resolution.			X		

### Module: Land Law and Property Practice

SQE1 Assessment Objectives:	Module LO1	Module LO2	Module LO3	Module LO4	Module LO5
1. Registered and unregistered land.	X	X			
2. Freehold and leasehold estates, and legal and equitable interests in land.			X		X

3. Landlord and tenant.	X	X		X	
4. Co-ownership.		X			
5. The key elements of a freehold and/or leasehold residential or commercial property transaction.	X		X		
6. Investigation of a registered or an unregistered freehold and/or leasehold title.					X
7. Pre-contract searches and enquiries undertaken when acquiring a freehold and/or leasehold property.		X			X
8. Steps in progressing a freehold and/or leasehold property transaction to exchange of contracts.	X				X
9. Pre-completion steps relevant to a freehold and/or leasehold property transaction.	X				
10. Completion and post-completion steps relevant to a freehold and/or leasehold property transaction including remedies for delayed completion.	X				
11. The grant and the assignment of a commercial lease and/or underlease.		X	X		
12. The key lease covenants in a commercial lease and the law relating to their breach.				X	
13. Security of tenure under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 Part II.			X	X	
14. Taxation of property transactions through Stamp Duty Land Tax, Land Transaction Tax, Value Added Tax and Capital Gains Tax.			X		X

### Module: Legal Skills in Context

SQE2 Assessment Objectives Candidates can demonstrate they are able to:	Module LO1	Module LO2	Module LO3	Module LO4	Module LO5
1. conduct an interview with a client.	X			X	X
2. produce an attendance note recording a client interview and initial legal analysis.	X		X	X	X



3. conduct a piece of advocacy before a judge.	X		X		X
4. produce a written report to a partner giving a legal analysis of the case and client-focused advice.	X	X	X	X	X
5. conduct legal research from a variety of resources provided and produce a written report.	X	X	X	X	X
6. produce a letter or an email as the solicitor acting in a matter.	X		X	X	X
7. draft a legal document or parts of a legal document for a client.	X	X	X		X