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# course factfile



## Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)

### Introduction

The Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) is a one year full time programme that allows non-law graduates to gain exemptions in respect of qualifying as a solicitor or barrister.

### Entry requirements

Applicants should have or expect to gain a good second class honours degree or above. Exceptionally, the requirements of a second class honours degree may be waived where past experience has made the applicant suitable for the GDL programme. International students and other non-standard applications will require a certificate of academic standing from either the Solicitors' Regulation Authority (SRA) or the Bar Standards Board (BSB).

### Validated Numbers

60

### Why do a GDL?

Successful completion of the GDL provides exemptions which will allow you to progress to the Legal Practice Course, if you wish to become a solicitor, or the Bar Vocational Course, for those wishing to become a barrister.

Staff are a mixture of full- and part-time members of the academic staff of the School of Law. Some are qualified practitioners and run the course with the support and assistance from local practitioners and occasional guest lecturers.

Staff maintain strong links with the legal profession via consultancies and placements, presentation of papers and attendance at conferences, and writing books, journal articles and reviews for academic publications. Some staff members also deliver Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses for legal practitioners. Staff also deliver modules on the very successful LLM in Business and Commercial Law (Masters), which has full CPD recognition from the SRA and BSB.

LJMU also offers a very well respected Legal Practice Course and other postgraduate programmes, and is involved in extensive research activity. The result is a broad mix of staff experience – professional, academic, managerial and consultancy.

The LJMU Legal Practice Course (LPC) was reviewed by the SRA in February 2008 and was highly commended. The LPC is the qualifying, vocational course for all solicitors.

Student Lawyers at LJMU have done very well over the years in National Mooting Competitions, Client Interviewing, Mediation and National Negotiation Competitions. The teams won the 2007 English Speaking Union – Essex Court Chambers National Mooting Competition and 2008 National Negotiation Championship, reaching the final of the 2009 Client Interviewing and Mediation Competitions, the latter of which was held in Chicago.

### How will you spend your study time?

A broad range of teaching styles, methodologies and technologies is employed at LJMU, including increasing use of IT at all levels.

The course is presented via a mix of Large Group Sessions (LGS) and Small Group Sessions (SGSs)/workshops. The LGS's provide opportunities for tutors to introduce legal topics, with opportunities for much more in depth discussion and analysis in SGS's/workshops. The format of SGS's/workshops will vary according to learning outcomes, with some being tutor led, while others may be student led. Seminars, role-plays and presentations also may be used where appropriate. Directed study and reading will also play a role in the learning experience.

### What will you study?

The course objective is to deliver the seven foundations of legal knowledge integral to a career in law, namely :

- Public Law (Constitutional and Administrative Law and Human Rights)
- Law of the European Union

- Criminal Law
- Contract
- Tort
- Property Law
- Equity and Trusts

Students will also study two 'front loaded' modules, designed to support the study of the foundational subjects:

- English Legal System
- Legal Research.

In addition to these core and foundational subjects students will have the option to study either of the following additional legal subjects:

- Employment Law and Dispute Resolution
- Supervised Research Project

### How will you be assessed?

Assessment is integrated with the learning and teaching strategy in line with professional accreditation requirements. The foundational subjects are formally assessed by means of an examination, however, students will have ongoing informal assessment throughout the duration of the programme in preparation for the examinations. Assessment for the supporting and additional legal subjects will be via coursework/presentations.

### What facilities are available?

The GDL is delivered within the School of Law which is based in the John Foster Building and Modular Building within the Mount Pleasant Campus. They offer a broad range of facilities, including 'Hi-Tech' lecture and seminar rooms, fully equipped with audio-visual and computing facilities. The buildings also boast a moot room, reading rooms, a fully equipped IT Suite, café and prayer room. The Building is fully integrated with the LJMU network and has Wi-Fi coverage throughout. Access to the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is available via the network. All LJMU students are given access to the network, including their own e-mail address.

The John Foster Building is an 19<sup>th</sup> Century Listed building, and along with the Aldham Roberts Learning Resource Centre, and the Aquinas Campus Centre, is built around an enclosed garden with lawns and benches offering a peaceful retreat in between study. Students will also have the benefit of an independent study area based within the modular building which will be solely for the use of GDL and LPC students.

The Aldham Roberts Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is open 24 hours, seven days a week during term time for computer access. A state-of-the-art, award-winning building, it offers networked computer workstations, printing and photocopy facilities, quiet and silent study areas, books, journals, periodicals and law reports. Many legal sources are available in both print and electronic format, and the collection of legal journals

and law reports is extensive. A Law resource librarian is situated in the LRC to assist with any enquiries.

### What career opportunities are available?

While the focus of the programme is on preparation for a professional legal career, the study of law provides access to an extremely broad range of careers, such as public service, management, and beyond.

### Why LJMU?

LJMU, one of the most progressive universities, is aiming to become the UK's number one university for employability. All of our courses are designed to help you realise success, and by choosing to study here, you will be giving yourself the best possible chance in your chosen career.

We encourage students to develop a learning atmosphere, which is friendly, supportive and non-competitive. Students are actively encouraged at a very early stage in the course to form study groups and support networks. Teamwork is an important part of the GDL ethos here at LJMU, both amongst students and between students and staff. The Course Leader and GDL teaching team operate an 'open door' policy and students are supported by a Pastoral and Careers Tutor and Personal Tutors. Help and guidance are at hand and student care and welfare is a high priority. We encourage students to approach us with concerns at an early stage and welcome feedback on all aspects of the course so that we continue to develop and improve the course.

Following extensive research and consultation with employers, we have radically adapted our teaching and learning strategy. Graduate skills development and work-related learning are now embedded in all of our programmes, helping you gain the essential skills and experience demanded by today's employers.

In addition to the programme, you will have the opportunity to gain, and have validated, a range of high-level 'World of Work' or WOW skills. All of these have been carefully developed in consultation with leading organisations, such as Marks & Spencer, the CBI, Shell International and Sony. We've done this in order to meet both the demands of employers for skilled graduates, and your right to expect a high-quality learning experience in return for your investment.

By choosing to study with us, not only will you get an excellent qualification but you'll have access to state-of-the-art facilities. We have embarked on a major campus redevelopment programme and this will ensure that LJMU truly is a 21st century university. The £24 million Art & Design Academy - the biggest investment in arts education in the UK today - will be the first of our major projects to be completed. The Academy opened in 2008 and played a significant role in Liverpool's celebrations as the Capital of Culture.

But, as the saying goes, it isn't all about work, and no play, and at LJMU we think it's important that you enjoy your leisure time too. Our students come from 80 countries around the world and there's no better place to kick back with your new friends than in the very popular Liverpool Students' Union. Run by, and for, students the LSU has three bars, shops, a lifestyle and fitness centre, its own radio station, and over 50 clubs and societies. It's also the place where advice and support are available seven days a week. So, whether you want to refuel, revive, or simply socialise, LSU has it all.

Additionally the LSU's Student Law Society is a vibrant organisation of law students supporting law students. The Society organises a wide variety of events, such as meet and greets with local legal professionals, public speaking courses and mooted competitions, alongside their social events.

### Why Liverpool?

With a population of 476,000, including an estimated 50,000 students, Liverpool is a bustling student city and it's not hard to see why. The city is a vibrant metropolis famous for its pulsating nightlife and contribution to music, its sporting achievements and friendly people who are intent on making you feel at home.

It's also a great place to be a graduate. The £900 million retail-led regeneration of Liverpool's city centre and waterfront has created a real buzz within the business community, ensuring that Liverpool has one of the fastest growing economies of any UK city. **If you want to have a great university experience, graduate with a respected qualification and secure the skills and 'know-how' that will help you climb the professional career ladder, then you should choose LJMU.**

### Application and Selection

#### What are we looking for?

We are looking for students who are keen to learn new skills and develop those they already possess. Your personal statement should be concise and to the point. We want to see a systematic approach behind your submission with evidence that you have 'organisational ability'. Explain why you want to do the course at LJMU, show you've done some research into it and be aware of the career pathways. Work experience or contact with the legal system would be advantageous along with individual achievements.

#### Entry Requirements

A good second class honours degree or above;

Or

A Certificate of Academic Standing.

### Fees

The programme fees for 2010/2011 are yet to be finalised. However, the fees for 2009/10 were £5,300 and the fees usually only increase annually by a modest amount.

### How to apply / Further Information

For entry onto the 2010 full-time GDL course, applications are made via the Central Applications Board at [www.lawcabs.ac.uk](http://www.lawcabs.ac.uk). The closing date for the first round is 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010. Applications received after this date will be considered but not until the end of April 2010.

If you require further information, advice or guidance please contact any of the following who will be pleased to take your call or deal with your enquiry:

Carmel Mair (Admissions Information Officer)  
Faculty of Business and Law  
Liverpool John Moores University  
John Foster Building  
98 Mount Pleasant  
Liverpool  
L3 5UZ

Tel: +44(0)151 231 3906  
Fax: +44(0)151 707 0423  
Email: [c.flanagan@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:c.flanagan@ljmu.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.ljmu.ac.uk](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk)

Further information about the course can be obtained from:

Anita Ellis – Programme Leader  
0151 231 3936  
[a.ellis@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:a.ellis@ljmu.ac.uk)  
Andrew Baker – Admissions Tutor  
0151 231 3949  
[a.h.baker@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:a.h.baker@ljmu.ac.uk)

If you have any queries relating to LJMU or university life in general please contact:

Student Recruitment Team  
Liverpool John Moores University  
Roscoe Court  
4 Rodney Street  
Liverpool  
L1 2TZ  
Tel: +44(0)151 231 5090  
Fax: +44(0)151 231 3462  
Email: [recruitment@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@ljmu.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.ljmu.ac.uk](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk)

N.B. All modules and information about this course are subject to change.

**Links:**

The Law Society:-

[www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

The Solicitors Regulation Authority:-

[www.sra.org.uk](http://www.sra.org.uk)

The Bar Council:-

[www.barcouncil.org.uk](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk)

Bar Standards Board:-

[www.barstandardsboard.org.uk](http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk)