

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London							
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College							
3	Programme Title(s)	Graduate Diploma in Law							
4	Programme Code(s)	GDGLAWCN_C							
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	N/A							
6	Home Department	Law							
7	Exit Award(s)	Graduate Diploma in Law - Core							
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	1 Year FT; 2 Years PT							
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL - FT	X	DL - PT	X
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6							
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A							
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	Solicitor's Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board – The programme contains the seven foundations of law as required by the Academic Stage Handbook, jointly overseen by the SRA and BSB							
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u>								

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>Rationale: The Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) is specifically designed to enable students who have already achieved an undergraduate degree in a subject other than law to learn the foundational aspects of law, which will prepare them for entry onto vocational training courses. We currently offer two other full degree routes that fulfil the academic stage (LLB and LLM QLD); however, the GDL is situated differently in the market. First, LLB students typically do not have a first degree, so the vast majority of them will not be eligible to complete a GDL. Second, the LLM QLD is a full postgraduate degree, and while there are significant advantages to choosing a full postgraduate degree, this depends on applicants' priorities, and the GDL is quicker, less expensive and taught at level 6 rather than level 7.</p> <p>Aims: This programme is designed for students who have completed an undergraduate degree and wish to quickly pivot and retrain as lawyers. This programme features a mixture of degree-level teaching of law-in-context, characteristic of Birkbeck Law's research-informed teaching, alongside skills-based teaching of legal doctrine and the application of legal rules. The programme will give students a firm grounding in the principles and application of law, while enabling them to engage in contemporary legal, social and political debates.</p>

15	Entry Criteria
	Applicants need to have attained a 2:2 in their undergraduate degree (BA or equivalent). Applicants who have earned a mark below 2:2 will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Upon completion of this programme of study, students will be able to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good knowledge of the seven foundations of legal knowledge, in addition to two specialist areas of law • An ability to critically engage with sources of law, including cases, and scholarship from law and related fields • An ability to apply principles of law • An ability to engage in basic legal research using specific legal resources • Knowledge of the routes to vocational qualification • Knowledge of career possibilities that follow on from legal qualification
17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Teaching and learning on this programme entails a blended approach, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-recorded lecture material, to be viewed asynchronously but prior to live sessions • The provision of online materials, including readings, exercises and prompts • Regular interactive seminar sessions • Co-curricular career-related sessions and law research and legal practice events <p>The assessments on this programme consists of a mixture of the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative quizzes administered in seminars • Summative exams in the form of single best answer questions • Summative exams in the form of problem-questions and/or essay questions <p>The mix of assessment types allows for the tailoring of assessment method to each specific legal topic, as some areas of law are most suitably assessed in open-ended essays that allow for expansive articulation of law-in-context, while other areas may be best assessed in the form of single-base-answer questions (e.g., assessments wherein the aim is to test the application of specific legal rules).</p>
18	Programme Description
	<p>This programme is comprised of ten modules, each worth 15 credits. Eight of these modules are compulsory modules that give students an in-depth knowledge of the main areas of legal study. Two modules are optional modules, which allow students to select specialised areas of law.</p> <p>Alongside formal studies, students will be encouraged to participate in co-curricular activities, including Career information evenings with practitioners, open evenings with law firms, and talks on substantive law by expert practitioners and legal scholars.</p> <p>Full Time Schedule:</p> <p>Students will begin with a condensed module than runs in September on Legal Systems and Methods, where they will learn the basic principles of the English Legal System. In the Autumn Term, from October to December, they will study three elemental modules –</p>

<p>contract, public law and criminal law – which will introduce them to very important aspects of substantive law. In the Spring Term, they will study Tort, Land, Equity & Trusts and Option 1. In the Summer Term, they will study European Union Law and Option 2.</p> <p>Part Time Schedule:</p> <p>In their first year, students will complete five modules. They will begin with a condensed module than runs in September on Legal Systems and Methods, where they will learn the basic principles of the English Legal System. In the Autumn Term, they will complete Public Law and Contract Law. In the Spring Term, they will complete Criminal Law and in the Summer term, they will complete Tort Law.</p> <p>In their second year, students will complete five modules. In the Autumn Term, they will complete Land Law and Equity & Trusts. In the Spring Term, they will complete Law of the European Union and Option 1. In the Summer Term, they will complete Option 2.</p> <p>Online Route:</p> <p>Students will be able to elect to do the programme online at the same pace as the normally-run full time and part time in-person programmes. Students will attend online seminar sessions. They will also be able to select online optional modules, although their choice of optional modules will be restricted to those modules that are run online.</p> <p>Optional Modules:</p> <p>In addition to the compulsory modules, students select two optional modules as part of their programme. These modules are required, but they are designated as optional because students can choose which ones they take.</p>

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	LALW111H6	Legal Methods and Skills (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW112H6	Contract Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW113H6	Public Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW114H6	Criminal Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW115H6	Tort Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW116H6	Land Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW117H6	Equity and Trusts (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW118H6	European Union Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6		Option 1	15	Optional
6		Option 2	15	Optional

Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	LALW111H6	Legal Methods and Skills (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW112H6	Contract Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW113H6	Public Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW118H6	European Union Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW115H6	Tort Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6		Option 1 (either in year 1 or in 2 nd year)	15	Optional
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	LALW116H6	Land Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW117H6	Equity and Trusts (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6	LALW114H6	Criminal Law (GDL)	15	Compulsory
6		Option 1 (if not taken in 1 st year)	15	Optional
6		Option 2	15	Optional
Indicative options list				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	LALW076H6	Evidence	15	Option
6	LALW055H6	Mooting and Trial Skills	15	Option
6	LADD065H6	Private International Law	15	Option
6	LALW026H6	Legal Argument and Language in Law (Level 6)	15	Option

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Additional Programme Specific Information	
	<p>Exit Award: Graduate Diploma in Law - Core</p> <p>If students do not successfully complete (pass) the two optional modules required by the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) but pass all required compulsory modules they may be eligible, at the discretion of the Sub-Board of Examiners, for the award of a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) - Core. The GDL – Core consists of 120 credits and retains all 7 foundational areas of legal knowledge as well as the introduction to law's basic principles (Legal Methods and Skills). Therefore, the GDL – Core will still fulfil the practical vocational use of educating students to be able to gain a place on SQE and Bar Training Courses.</p>	
21	Programme Director	Maria Aristodemou
22	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2022
23	Date approved by Education Committee	Spring 2022
24	Date approved by Academic Board	Spring 2022
25	Date(s) updated/amended	30 September 2022