

LLM LPC Course and Module information

Pre-enrolment

Prior to enrolment, students will be issued with pre-reading for the Course. The pre-reading is designed to refresh and reinforce the foundations of knowledge that students are assumed to have acquired during the completion of their academic legal studies and to provide an introduction to the CPAs in preparation for attendance of these modules.

Introductory programme

Students will begin the Course by undertaking an introductory programme which is designed to provide orientation to the Course and foundation delivery in the form of the following:

- Introductory presentation by the Course Leader;
- IT training (including use of NOW) and library workshop;
- Introduction to the Skills;
- Introduction to Research;
- Foundation tax;
- Foundation in Business Accounts;
- Introduction to the Additional Module;
- Pro bono and careers talks.

CORE MODULES

The core modules include the three Core Practice Areas (CPAs), the five Skills, PC&R, Solicitors' Accounts and Wills.

Business Law and Practice (CPA)

The aim of this module is to prepare you for a career in professional legal practice by studying business law in a professional and commercial context. The course deals with not only the legal, regulatory and procedural aspects of such work, but also further develops the necessary skills to enable you to carry out independent study and research at an advanced level. As a result you will be equipped with the relevant skills to be able to solve clients' complex legal problems in a commercial context.

The module is designed to build on knowledge and understanding of substantive law acquired during your undergraduate legal studies, and to develop more advanced skills that can be applied in a number of different contexts including the study of elective modules when you progress to Stage 2 of the course.

Module content

Choice of business media

- Examination of different business media including sole trader, partnership and company.
- Comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of each along with a consideration of key commercial issues.

Company incorporation and developing the business

- Incorporation of a company limited by shares.
- Review and interpretation of model articles and consideration of necessary amendments to reflect client requirements.
- Review of the relevant law and commercial issues relating to the day to day running and expansion of a company including:
 - allotment and pre-emption;
 - raising finance;
 - transfer of shares;
 - directors – exec and non-exec;
 - taxation;
 - dealings with Directors – loans;
 - buy back of shares; and
 - service contracts, s190 and procedure planning.

The Decline of the Business

The module concludes with a case study which deals with the financial deterioration of a company.

Stage 1

- Advising the board of directors of their potential liability under the Insolvency Act 1986 and their duties under the Companies Act 2006.

Stage 2

- Advising the board of directors on the most appropriate insolvency procedure and antecedent transactions.

Stage 3

- Administration and payment of creditors
- Order of priority
- Liquidation
- Dissolution.

Business Accounts

- Preparation of sole trader, partnership and company accounts.
- Analysis of company performance from accounts.

Tax

- Main principles of income tax, CGT and corporation tax.

Litigation (CPA)

The Litigation module consists of two elements: Civil Litigation and Criminal Litigation.

The module aims to prepare you for the distinct fields of Civil and Criminal Litigation practice. You will examine in detail the rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure and, through the use of practical case studies, you will learn about case management, apply the law in context and will have the opportunity to practice and develop the many skills required of a litigator including advocacy, interviewing, drafting, writing, research, and negotiation.

The module builds upon the knowledge and understanding of substantive law acquired during your undergraduate legal studies, in particular, contract, tort and criminal law, and also aims to further develop problem-solving skills and your commercial and professional awareness.

The module will provide the foundations for you to undertake further study of advanced litigation modules in Stage 2 of the course.

Module content

CIVIL COMPONENT

Pre-action

- Taking initial instructions and consideration of funding options
- Fact investigation, consideration of strategy, benefits and risks and courses of action, good facts/bad facts analysis of the facts and evidence in a contractual and professional negligence case study.
- Pre-action Protocols & other Pre-action considerations

Court procedure

- Consideration of the Overriding Objective and application of the Civil Procedure Rules
- Statements of Case & Commencement of Proceedings; issue, service and response to claim forms
- Strategies and tactics for civil litigation
- Interim Applications; preparation for and consideration of interim hearings and possible outcomes
- Part 36 Settlement & Alternative Dispute Resolution; consideration of different Part 36 outcomes and ADR options open to the client
- Allocation & Case Management; consideration of the court's case management powers and duties and case management conferences

Evidence

- Proofs of evidence
- Disclosure and Privilege
- Witness Statements and Hearsay
- Expert reports and evidential issues

Trial and enforcement

- Trial & Preparation for Trial
- Costs; costs consequences for different outcomes, the effect of the costs rules and likely costs orders that may be made throughout the course of proceedings.
- Enforcement of Judgments

CRIMINAL COMPONENT**Advising at the police station**

- Consideration of the role of the solicitor at the police station, including matters to attend to on arrival at the police station
- Conduct issues
- Consideration of the PACE codes and the role of the Custody Officer
- Taking instructions from a client
- Evaluation of advice to client whether or not to answer police questions during interview including case analysis
- Consideration of identification procedures

Funding

- Understanding the different ways of funding litigation
- Consideration of legal representation including identification of the steps involved in making an application for a representation order

Court Procedure

- Consideration of the Criminal Procedure Rules and the court's role in the litigation process
- Conduct issues
- Identifying steps to be taken before the first hearing
- Evaluation of prosecution initial details (case analysis) and advice on plea
- Plea before venue
- Advising on Allocation and assessment of benefits and risks
- Consideration of a contested bail application
- Evaluation of prosecution unused material
- Drafting a defence statement
- Preparation for trial

Evidence

- Case analysis - evaluation of the prosecution evidence and strength of defence case, including advising on the admissibility and relevance of evidence
- Evaluation of witness requirements

Sentencing

- Evaluation of sentencing options
- Use of a sentencing guideline
- Preparation of plea in mitigation
- Conduct issues

Property Law and Practice (CPA)

The aim of this module is to prepare you for the professional stage of legal training by equipping you with the knowledge and skills required for legal practice in a property department. The module focuses on commercial property, both freehold and leasehold, but also aims to provide you with sound knowledge and understanding of residential property conveyancing.

Property Law and Practice is taught on a case study basis, to expose you to the type of issues and documents that you will meet in practice, including property related tax issues. This approach to learning requires the application of learning to realistic scenarios, such as sale and purchase transactions and providing practical legal advice on specific issues to clients (freehold owners, landlords and tenants).

The module is designed to build on knowledge and understanding of substantive law acquired during undergraduate legal studies, and to develop more advanced skills that can be applied in a number of different contexts including the study of LPC elective modules where students progress to Stage 2 of the course.

The skills of interviewing, research, writing and drafting are all integrated into the module at various stages.

Module content

Case Study 1: Sale and purchase of registered freehold land

Many of the fundamental aspects of working as a property lawyer are covered in this case study, which takes students through a typical commercial property sale and purchase transaction from start to finish:

- Taking instructions from a new client; this includes professional conduct issues such as conflicts of interest, money laundering risks and advising on relevant tax issues.
- Investigating a registered title, identifying issues and providing solutions.
- Drafting and negotiating the sale and purchase contract (acting for Seller/Buyer).
- Dealing with pre-contract enquiries and searches when acting for buyer.
- Effecting exchange, proceeding to completion and registration;

Case Study 2: Sale and purchase of unregistered freehold land

This builds on some of the transactional issues first encountered in Case Study 1, but also enables students to learn and apply the specific rules and practice required when dealing with unregistered title. The transaction starts as a proposed sale and purchase of a field for development by a house builder and concludes with the plot sale of one of the newly built houses:

- Investigating unregistered title, identifying issues and providing solutions.
- First registration rules and procedures.
- Acting for Lenders and complying with the professional conduct principles relating to mortgages.
- Problems and delays relating to the plot sale (such as misrepresentation issues and delays in completion)
- Issues of professional conduct relating to undertakings

Case Study 3

This case study revolves around a lease of commercial property and allows students to examine and analyse the various clauses. Students must give advice to either the landlord or tenant in different scenarios. There is also a transactional element towards the end of the case study, involving the assignment of the leasehold interest. This transaction involves an element of revision from the earlier case studies but also provides an opportunity to gain and apply new knowledge relating specifically to leasehold transactions

Topics covered are:

- Repairs, service charges and alterations;
- Rent and rent review;
- Insurance and alienation clauses;
- Alienation (the sale and purchase transaction);
- Enforcement and liability
- Professional conduct issues regarding request for references for a prospective tenant.

Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 Part II

This is a "leasehold" topic but falls outside of Case Study 3. Students learn about and give legal and practical advice to landlord and tenant clients about the application of the statutory protection given to business tenants for lease renewals.

Solicitors' Accounts

The module aims to give you a thorough understanding of the Solicitors' Accounts Rules concerning the handling by solicitors of clients' money and of the accounting procedures appropriate to dealing with a variety of transactions. These rules are taught in the context of practical exercises involving application of the rules and accounting principles in the preparation of ledger accounts and statements of account

Module content

- Undertaking basic ledger and cash sheet postings relating to simple handling of clients' money;
- Posting costs;
- Undertaking simple transfers both between client and office and between the ledger accounts of different clients;
- Undertaking postings (including VAT) relating to the purchase and sale of goods and services on both on behalf of the firm and on behalf of clients;
- Recording more complicated transactions involving property transactions;
- Preparing statements of account sent to clients;
- Recording interest payments using both the Interest Payable and Designated Deposit Account method;
- Understanding operation of the Solicitors' Accounts Rules in dealing with client money including trust money.

Wills and Administration of Estates

This module will be based on a case study involving the administration of an estate, and will allow you to follow the whole process from post death to completion in a practical and realistic context. You will acquire knowledge of the relevant law together with an understanding of and exposure to the relevant documentation, forms and procedures required in administering estates. Module learning will include the study of inheritance tax.

The knowledge and understanding acquired during this module will be highly relevant to those who wish to consider further study of Private Client Law in Stage 2 of the course.

Module Content

Testamentary dispositions/Intestacy

- Validity, revocation and alteration of wills and codicils
- Content and format of a will and types of legacy
- Total and partial intestacy
- Identification of property passing by will, intestacy or outside of the estate

Oaths and Grants

- The necessity for and main types of a grant
- The main types of oath for executors or administrators

The powers and duties of personal representatives

- Protection of personal representatives
- collection and realisation of assets, and claims on the estate
- Valuation of assets and liabilities and the taxable estate.
- Vesting of gifted property in the beneficiaries entitled and distribution of the residuary estate.
- Raising funds and the payment of inheritance tax and debts
- Vesting of gifted property in the beneficiaries entitled and distribution of the residuary estate.

Inheritance Tax

The charge to tax: on death; on immediately chargeable lifetime transfers; in relation to potentially exempt transfers; on gifts with the reservation of benefit
Payment of tax due; exemptions and reliefs; the principle of cumulation; valuation; accountability and burden; anti-avoidance provisions.

Professional Conduct and Regulation

The module content is taught in all three core practice areas which form part of the Legal Practice Course elements of the course within the context of typical scenarios encountered in practice and within discrete teaching sessions on the specific areas covered in the module. Content covers the areas identified in the learning outcomes below.

Module content

The module content is taught in all three core practice areas which form part of the Legal Practice Course elements of the course within the context of typical scenarios encountered in practice and within discrete teaching sessions on the specific areas covered in the module.

- Recognition, appreciation of, and application in context of the key ethical requirements of the SRA Principles of Regulation and Code of Conduct;
- The key legislative provisions that relate to money laundering, including the international context, and how to recognise the circumstances that would give rise to the necessity for reporting money laundering;
- The purpose and scope of financial services regulation and its application to solicitors' firms and how to apply its provisions in context of professional legal transactions.

Skills Modules

Advocacy

Advocacy is one of the core skills required to equip you for professional legal practice. The module aims to provide you with the knowledge and skills to formulate a coherent submission based upon facts and legal authority in a structured and persuasive manner.

The module will build upon presentation skills acquired during your undergraduate legal studies to allow you to make effective presentation in Court, follow the rules of Court and apply the correct etiquette.

Module content

The module will provide the foundation in this skill that you will be able to develop upon and practice in your study of other modules on the course.

Case analysis and preparation

- identification and analysis of relevant facts, the legal context in which the factual issues arise, and how they relate to each other
- summarising the strengths and weakness of the case from each party's perspective
- preparation of the legal framework of a case, and a simple narrative outline of the facts
- preparation of submissions based on evidence
- identify, analyse and assess the purpose of examination, cross-examination and re-examination

Oral presentations

- identification, analysis and assessment of the specific communication skills and techniques employed by a presenting advocate
- ethics, etiquette and conventions of advocacy

Drafting

This module forms part of a suite of required skills (known as 'the Course Skills') which seek to equip the students for professional practice within the area of the skill designated in this module and which are prescribed by the SRA.

Drafting is a core skill for the course and for professional legal practice. The module aims to give you the opportunity to practice and develop your legal drafting skills and apply the skill in multiple contexts including the study of other modules on the course.

Module content

- Introduction to the basic principles of legal drafting.
- Use of language, grammar, spelling and sentence/paragraph structure and understanding structure of a legal document.
- Drafting legal documents.
- Understanding client's instructions and amending and critiquing legal documents in accordance with drafting principles and those instructions.
- Identifying errors, understanding the function of a legal document and drafting with and without the use of precedents.

Writing

Writing is a core skill for the course and for professional legal practice. The module aims to give you the opportunity to practice and develop the skill of writing in the context of legal practice, and to provide a foundation in the skill that can be further developed in study of other modules on the course.

Module content

Module content will include:

- Use of language, grammar, spelling and sentence/paragraph structure.
- Letter writing
- Note-taking in a client meeting and attendance notes.
- Interviewing a client and writing a follow-up letter of advice to that client.

Combined research and writing exercises.

Interviewing and Advising

Interviewing and Advising are core skills required within professional legal practice. The module aims to give you the opportunity to develop client focussed interviewing skills and the ability to give clear and structured advice.

The module will provide the foundation in this skill that you will be able to develop upon and practice in your study of other modules on the course.

Module content

The skill is taught within the context of typical scenarios encountered in practice.

Key features include:

Interviewing

- planning for the interview
- structure of an effective interview
- objectives of the client
- styles and tactics in asking questions

Advice and follow up

- answering and responding to client questions
- progression of the issue including the evaluation of client options
- interview behaviours
- closures
- next steps/additional research/advice from supervisor

Research

Research is a core skill for the course and for professional legal practice. The module aims to give you the opportunity to practice and develop your legal research skills using an appropriate range of resources, and apply the skill in multiple contexts including the study of other modules on the course.

Module content

- Location and use of primary and secondary research sources.
- Development of research strategies and using key words.
- Recording research findings.
- Application of law to facts and answering the client's questions.
- Dealing with both focused and unfocused problems.

ELECTIVE MODULES

Advanced Commercial Property

During this module, you will build upon and develop the knowledge and skills acquired during their study of the compulsory Property Law and Practice module in Stage 1 of the course, and will have the opportunity to study new areas of law relevant to the practice of a commercial property lawyer.

The module will provide opportunities to develop more specialist knowledge of commercial property law and practice, and will involve more advanced consideration of the complexities and commercial and practical considerations involved in the property transactions studied.

The elective is designed for students with a particular interest in property practice and offers the opportunity to further develop skills in research, writing, drafting and negotiation.

Module content

- Introduction and overview: introducing the course and the case study to be followed throughout the course.
- Commercial property agreements for sale: identifying the key issues that can arise out of a sale contract for a complex commercial transaction.
- Planning issues: explaining aspects of the planning system in England and Wales.
- Environmental issues: explaining aspects of the contaminated land regime in England and Wales.
- Overage: explaining the meaning of overage and the various ways sellers could seek to secure such a payment.
- Construction, collateral warranties and agreements for lease: explaining the roles and liabilities of various parties involved in the construction process and the key issues that can arise in a development agreement for lease.
- Commercial lease clauses: explaining why landlords draft certain clauses as they do, what issues these clauses raise for tenants, how tenants' solicitors might amend those clauses and how landlords' solicitors might react to those amendments.
- The Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 – ten traps for the unwary: explaining various traps that parties can fall into under the 1954 Act.
- Tenant default and insolvency: explaining the various options available to landlords where their tenants default or become insolvent.

Advanced Civil Litigation

During this module you will build upon and further develop the knowledge and skills involved in litigation and case management acquired during the study of the Civil Litigation Module in Stage 1. You will run a caseload and will examine more specialist strategies and procedures both in areas previously studied and in new areas of practice and procedure, in particular, litigation in the context of personal injury, disclosure, insolvency and injunctions.

The elective is designed for students intending to emphasise litigation in their careers and offers the opportunity to further develop skills in advocacy and drafting.

Module Content

- Taking initial instructions and dispute resolution
- Personal Injury component: two case studies: Employers' Liability and a road traffic case study. Consideration of the different approaches in personal injury litigation. Funding and costs. Legal issues and limitation. Evidence gathering and case analysis. Pre action protocol and other pre action issues.
- Explanation and calculation of special and general damages. Lump sum and periodical payment orders. Drafting schedule and counter-schedule of loss and damage. Provisional damages.
- Drafting Claim Forms and Particulars of claim, and defences, in a road traffic accident case, and an employers' liability case.
- Substantive law and practice including the use of the pre action protocol, the needs of the client, funding the claim, use of experts, disclosure issues, statements of case.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution: Negotiation of RTA case study.
- Civil litigation – advanced component: Disclosure and Inspection of evidence. Procedural and tactic aspects of both pre and post-action disclosure. Drafting evidence in support of an interim application for specific disclosure. Interim Hearing – Advocacy.
- Insolvency. Consideration of both Company winding up and Bankruptcy procedures and drafting associated documentation. Bankruptcy Hearing- Advocacy.
- Freezing Injunctions. Drafting documentation and evaluation of both the criteria and procedure for obtaining such an application.

Advanced Criminal Practice

This elective aims to prepare students - who have an interest in practising Criminal Litigation - for practice in this area. The module builds on the knowledge and understanding acquired during the study of Criminal Litigation in Stage 1 of the course, and the practice and development of advocacy skills will be a core part of the module.

Students will continue to develop a problem-solving approach to the legal problems of criminal clients through the use of practical case studies. These will either raise more complex issues than have been dealt with during the compulsory course (e.g. making appropriate interventions/representations during the police interview of a suspect) or will be set within more specialised areas of criminal practice not considered in the compulsory course, such as youth justice. Other new areas of practice considered include advising business clients in relation to regulatory prosecutions, road traffic and sexual offences.

A professional and ethical approach to practice will continue to be inculcated and an emphasis will be placed on providing a practical insight into this area of professional practice.

Module Content

Client at the Police station

- The solicitor's role and aims at the police station
- Making effective representations at the police station
- Taking instructions and advising the client (including client care)
- Intervening appropriately during the police interview
- Conduct issues

Funding

- Understanding the different ways of funding Criminal Litigation
- Completing both the merits and means test forms to apply for a representation order

Youth Justice

- The aims of the youth justice system
- Defending a juvenile client at the police station including understanding the additional rights of those aged under 18
- Diversion
- The jurisdiction of the courts for those aged under 18
- Court procedure
- Bail and Youth remand
- Conduct issues
- Sentencing disposals for youths (including restorative justice disposals)

Road Traffic Law

- Law and procedure in relation to the private and corporate client
- Driving licence endorsement

Regulatory Offences

- Money laundering regulations and due diligence checks
- Understanding the steps involved in a regulatory prosecution and advising a corporate client on the appropriate steps to take in response
- Research and case analysis
- Understanding the importance of a regulatory body's enforcement and sanctions guidance
- Sentencing

Sexual Offences

- Court Procedure - including additional protections for witnesses, e.g. special measures
- Additional sentencing considerations, e.g. dangerous offender provisions, notification

Trial advocacy

- Analysis and evaluation of prosecution and defence evidence
- Pre-trial applications and the law and procedure in relation to an application under s.101 Criminal Justice Act 2003
- Drafting a Trial Strategy Plan
- Developing and practicing advocacy skills in relation to examination in chief, cross examination, re-examination and speeches

Advanced Advocacy

This module aims to introduce you to the skill of courtroom advocacy as practised in both the civil and criminal courts. The module will build upon the skills introduced in Stage 1 of the course, and will combine a theoretical understanding of the role and duties of advocates with practical exercises and feedback which will give you the opportunity to acquire a skill which is increasingly required in practice.

Emphasis is on practising the skill of advocacy through regular simulations based on real life case studies, but will also equip you with an understanding of the areas of law which are relevant to the practice of advocacy.

Module content

- Trial Strategy Plans: an introduction to trial strategy plans – Drafting and use of trial strategy plans. Analysis and presentation of a case.
- Ethics: ethical problems in advocacy –Prioritising duties owed to the court and duties owed to the client. Duty of confidentiality. Dealing with inadvertent disclosures. Conflicts of interest and means of resolution. Understanding professional embarrassment. Understanding the importance of acting on instructions.
- Case management: the role of case management in the civil and criminal litigation systems. The advocate’s duties of case management under the Civil Procedure Rules and the Criminal Procedure Rules. Sanctions for non compliance with the rules of case management. Client care in compliance with case management rules.
- Skeleton arguments and legal submissions: the use of legal submissions. Drafting and using cogent skeleton arguments in legal submissions. Presentation of legal submissions which are accurate and persuasive.
- Opening and closing speeches: role and function of opening and closing speeches in trials.
- Witness handling: rules and techniques of examination in chief and cross examination. Dealing with difficult witnesses. Questioning vulnerable and sensitive witnesses. Questioning expert witnesses.
- Appeals: appellate advocacy

Commercial Law

The aim of this elective is to replicate the experience of a commercial lawyer by introducing you to as wide a range of areas of commercial practice as is possible. This will be done both through the study of the relevant substantive law and through considering the interaction of the various legal elements that may impact upon commercial transactions.

You will build upon and develop the knowledge, understanding Your study of the module will involve the continued development and practise of many of the professional skills studied in Stage 1, with particular emphasis on advocacy, research, writing, drafting.

acquired both during your undergraduate legal studies in contract and your study of the compulsory Business Law & Practice module, and will develop understanding of the terminology, concepts, practices and procedures in the areas of practice.

You will learn in the context of transactions in order which will allow you the opportunity to manipulate primary sources and relevant legal documentation including specialist commercial contracts, as well as developing the practical and client-led issues relevant in the commercial context.

This elective is particularly suitable for students with an interest in general commercial legal practice, but also provides a knowledge and skills base that is of broader application and could be applied to a number of different careers.

Module content

Competition law in a commercial context

- EU and UK Competition law in a transactional context
- Key problem areas arising in relation to commercial issues covered on the course.
- Block Exemptions and their importance in practice.

Intellectual Property

- Key IP rights: patents, trademarks, passing off, copyright, registered design and unregistered design.
- The pervasive nature of IP rights and an appreciation of the importance of IP rights in any commercial transaction.
- Competition issues relating to IP rights.

Company & Business sales

Initial Stages of an Acquisition

- Choice of format
- Taxation considerations
- Company valuation of company
- Review of the different forms of consideration including completion accounts and retention funds.

The Acquisition Process

- The chronology and structure of a transaction.
- Purpose of each key document in the sale process.
- Due diligence – the purpose, types and common problems which arise.
- Contractual provisions for the protection of the buyer and seller – warranties, indemnities, disclosure and seller protection provisions.
- The completion process.

Franchising

- What is a franchise?
- Commercial, competition and contractual considerations.

- Documentation for dealings with franchised businesses.

Commercial agency and distributorship

- What is a commercial agent/ distributor?
- Factors influence choice
- Competition and regulatory provisions affecting these types of contractual relationships.
- Advising clients on the application of these issues to their agreements.

Corporate finance

This elective introduces you to the ways in which companies are funded through the use of debt and/or equity finance. A transactional approach is taken to the subject so that you obtain an overview of the role of the lawyer in putting the transaction together. This approach enables you to consider legal, practical and commercial issues in the context in which they are likely to arise during the course of a transaction.

The module will build upon knowledge and understanding of the law acquired during Stage 1 of the course, in particular, in the study of the compulsory Business Law and Practice module (including Business Accounts and Tax).

The module provides the opportunity to develop and refine transferable skills practised and assessed in Stage 1, with particular emphasis being placed upon the skills of legal research, negotiation, writing and drafting, and will also allow involve you in the further practise of skills in documentary interpretation.

The elective is particularly suitable for students with an interest in pursuing a corporate career path, but will also provide valuable learning opportunities for those who wish to keep their career choices open.

Module content

- Debt as a source of funds: the role of banks; banking regulation and capital adequacy; risk
- The loan agreement: the term sheet; due diligence; the main operative provisions of a loan agreement; interest; syndicated lending
- Security: types of security; the debenture; registration of security; guarantees
- Going public: introduction to public companies; how public companies come into existence; reasons for listing; CREST
- Getting Listed: methods of listing, the parties and documentation; key stages in an initial public offering
- Due Diligence and Verification: the due diligence process, regulation, timetable/key stages and documentation; the verification process; how to draft verification questions and answers; problems in verification.
- Continuing Obligations: the range of continuing obligations, disclosure of information and control of dealings & transactions; the role of corporate governance; the issue of post IPO equity.

Employment Law

The module includes the study of the foundation and operation of contracts of employment, employment protection rights and discrimination issues from both an employee and employer perspective.

The module builds upon your prior knowledge and understanding of the law of contract and integrates learning of substantive law with relevant procedure, in the context of employment law transactions.

The module prepares you for employment law practice through a problem solving approach that allows you to develop a detailed understanding of the law and a practical and commercial insight into the resolution of employment law actions.

Your study of the module will involve the continued development and practise of many of the professional skills studied in Stage 1, with particular emphasis on advocacy, research, writing, drafting.

This module is particularly suitable for those interested in practising employment law, but also provides a knowledge and skills base that could be applied to a number of different careers.

Module content

- Introduction/employment status: sources of contract and employment protection rights. Effect of statutory/common law/European influences. Distinction between employees and independent contractors. Impact of recent legislation.
- Unfair dismissal: statutory protection from unfair dismissal including, nature of protection, how it arises, procedural steps to achieve a fair dismissal, reasonableness in relation to reasons and pre dismissal processes and circumstances in which protection may be lost.
- Forum and Procedure: hearings before the Employment Tribunal. Commencing an action. Time periods to present a claim. The purpose of the originating application and the employer's response.
- Redundancy: eligibility and dismissal for reason of redundancy. Identifying the redundancy situation, consideration of suitable alternative employment, achieving a fair dismissal collectively and individually.
- TUPE: consideration of the European influence and the aim of the directive and regulations. Analysing when the regulations apply in detail and what constitutes a relevant transfer. Consideration of the position in relation to change of service provider, business/asset/share sales. The effect of TUPE where no dismissal occurs.
- Sex discrimination: the law of sex discrimination. Examination of the statutory basis of protection. Direct and indirect discrimination including discussion of sexual harassment within the workplace.
- Disability Discrimination: comprehensive consideration of the extent and impact of this piece of legislation. Consider the obligations, which arise under the Act and the rights and remedies available.

Family and Child Protection Law

This elective is designed for students with a particular interest in the practice of family law and child protection. The module aims to enable you to develop a comprehensive understanding of family and child protection law and a critical awareness of current problems and the practical insights that are relevant to this field of professional practice.

Module learning is delivered through case studies and scenarios that allows the integration of learning of the substantive law and procedure with the practical application of the law in realistic contexts.

Throughout the module there is an emphasis on the wide range of professional skills required by the family lawyer and you will build upon the skills base you have acquired in Stage 1. You will have opportunities to undertake exercises in interviewing, drafting, negotiation, advocacy and case analysis in the context of the practical case studies.

Module content

Funding

- Considering assessment information.
- Discussing the options and identifying appropriate methods of funding in family law cases, including consideration of the statutory charge.
- Considering the availability of welfare benefits for family law clients.

Domestic violence

- Considering the law and the criteria applied by the courts in cases of domestic violence.
- Understanding the procedure to be followed if an application is made to the court.

Divorce

- Considering the law in respect of divorce and understanding the procedure which must be complied with to obtain a decree of divorce.
- Considering the limited availability of public funding in divorce and financial relief proceedings.

Private Children

- Children Act 1989 proceedings.
- Identification of the orders available under Children Act 1989.

Public Children

- Considering child care and child protection issues.
- Considering the law under the Children Act 1989 in respect of safeguarding the welfare of children.
- Understanding the procedure to be followed if an application to the court is made.

Unmarried family

- Considering the position of the unmarried family including property rights.
- Understanding the law in respect of Civil Partnerships and same sex marriage.

Financial relief

- Financial relief: the law
- Understanding the decision in Miller v McFarlane
- Considering conduct issues
- Looking at all of the options available to a client in financial relief proceedings
- Calculating entitlement/liability for Child maintenance
- Considering the financial relief procedure, including the Pre Action Protocol.
- Taxation
- Enforcement of financial relief orders
- Fraudulent disposals of property
- Financial provision during marriage
- Separation and maintenance agreements

Private acquisitions

The elective introduces you to the mechanics by which private companies and businesses are bought and sold, the role the lawyer plays in private acquisition transactions and the key legal issues which impact upon such transactions, including the practical and commercial considerations involved.

During the module you will build upon knowledge and understanding of the law acquired during Stage 1 of the course, in particular, in the study of the compulsory Business Law and Practice module, and the Tax Foundation course.

You will also have the opportunity to develop and refine the transferable skills practised and assessed in Stage 1, with particular emphasis being placed upon the skills of legal research, negotiation, writing and drafting.

The elective is particularly suitable for students set on a corporate career path but will also offer valuable learning opportunities for those who wish to keep their career choices open.

Module content

Fundamentals of acquisitions

- What is a private acquisition? Analysis of a fact pattern to consider whether to advise a client to acquire shares or assets.
- A consideration of the timetable and the key stages of the acquisition process.

Price and payment issues

- An exercise to demonstrate the mechanics of valuing a company and a consideration of the different types of consideration from both parties' perspectives.

Due diligence issues on a company acquisition

- The purpose of due diligence.
- The types of investigations carried out into target.
- Some common issues thrown up during a due diligence.

Warranties and indemnities

- What is their purpose?
- Other possible claims the purchaser could make.
- Entire agreement clauses.
- Vendor protection.

Groups of companies

- What are they and why are they formed?
- Advantages and disadvantages.
- Directors duties.
- The impact of sale and purchase within a group.
- Effects of internal reorganisations.

Private equity transactions

- What are they?
- What is the reason for them?
- Structure.
- Parties.
- Documentation.

Business sales

Private client

This elective is designed for students intending to practise in non-contentious fields and aims to expose them to the many topics that demonstrate the varied nature of private client practice, and its relevance to the wider public in a number of different contexts both within professional legal practice and beyond. Your study of the module will involve the continued development and practise of many of the professional skills studied in Stage 1, with particular emphasis on research and drafting.

During the study of this module you will draw on the knowledge, skills and understanding that you have acquired during your undergraduate legal studies in land law and trusts in the academic stage of training and Wills and Administration and tax in Stage 1 of the course. This elective will build on these foundations and introduce new areas of practice and procedure, in particular procedures for dealing with the affairs of those who lack capacity, will drafting and post death action.

Module content

Financial Planning

- Introduction to the principles of financial planning including factors such as attitude to risk.
- Introduction to financial products and their suitability to enable a client to achieve particular goals.
- Review of Financial Services regulation and Money Laundering regulations.

Tax planning

- Review of the relevant law relating to income tax; capital gains tax and inheritance tax with particular reference to exemptions and reliefs.
- Strategies for tax planning including lifetime tax planning, tax planning by will and post death tax planning.
- Tax planning for married and unmarried couples
- The use of trusts in tax planning

Elderly client matters

- Financial and tax planning issues re the elderly client.
- Maximising income and releasing capital from the home.
- Planning for and payment of nursing home fees including issues of deliberate deprivation.

Capacity

- Introduction to problems associated with loss of capacity.
- Overview of the Mental Capacity Act
- Lasting Powers of Attorney (property and affairs and welfare)
- Court of Protection procedure
- Outline of rules in relation to Enduring Powers of Attorney to enable students to deal with those created prior to 2007.

Will drafting

- Elements of a valid will;
- Taking instructions for a will
- Conduct issues
- Risk management and possible areas of negligence
- Introductory clauses in a will
- Clauses disposing of property – types of legacies
- Gifts of a house/right to live in a house.
- Drafting residuary legacies
- Gifts to charities and unincorporated associations
- Gifts to children
- Administrative clauses
- Powers of personal representatives
- Outline of statutory powers and when and how these may be restricted, widened or removed
- Express administrative powers

- Drafting administrative clauses
- Concluding clauses
- Execution of a will
- Alteration of wills
- Codicils

Post death action

- Variation under the terms of the will.
- Spouses rights on intestacy
- Variations and disclaimers: when each can be carried out and the taxation rules; planning and executing a variation
- Claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act.

Law and Legal Practice Dissertation

In this module you will undertake independent research relating to an area of law of your choice. You will build upon the research and writing skills that you have developed in the course of your legal studies, and will have the opportunity to expand upon an aspect of law that is of relevance to a professional legal audience, and is likely to be informed by prior legal learning of particular interest to you and may link to your intended field of practice

Students are provided with specific guidance on legal research methodology and legal writing as a part of the introductory parts of the module. This may include face-to-face lecture-based sessions as well as electronic learning materials.

Each student is provided with an academic supervisor who will act as a mentor and critical friend in the design, research and writing of the Dissertation.

Module content

The substantive content of the module will vary, dependent upon the chosen subject area of each individual student. Students will, however, receive specific guidance in respect of:

- identification and selection of a topic for study;
- choice of research title;
- design and deployment of a research strategy;
- legal research methodology;
- use of legal research resources;
- evaluation of research methodologies; and
- legal writing.

Professional Legal Practice

This module allows you to engage with issues that are of key relevance to professional legal practice in the broader sense. You will undertake workshops to develop your commercial awareness, enhance your knowledge and understanding of the legal profession as a whole and the challenges it faces, and you will have the opportunity to participate in activities that will provide a bridge from your academic and vocational legal learning to the reality of life as a practising lawyer.

The learning within the module will lead to a project that will involve you independently researching an aspect of legal practice of your choice. You will build upon the research and writing skills that you have developed in the course of your legal studies, and will be expected to expand upon learning that has taken place within this module and other modules on the course and to examine wider topics or concepts relevant to professional legal practice.

Module content

Introduction to the module

Writing and research skills

Bridge to Practice Workshops

- Activities to support the transition from vocational stage of learning to practice
- Focus on skills and competencies required of lawyers: research, communication, relationship management, team working, drafting, time management.
- Reporting to a supervisor and communicating with clients
- Evaluation of legal options in the context of the client's commercial objectives

Workshop on Commercial Awareness

- Economic concepts: raising finance for businesses, financial markets
- Operation of a law firm as a business
- Understanding a client's business

Workshop on Current State of the Legal Profession

- Challenges facing the legal profession from the perspective of a range of types of legal practice
- Overcoming the challenges