



Professional Legal Training Prospectus

Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)

Legal Practice Course (LPC)

Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC)



www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk

Welcome to Northumbria School of Law

Northumbria is justifiably renowned for its unique undergraduate programmes, and for the excellence of its range of postgraduate and vocational law programmes which include the Graduate Diploma in Law, the Legal Practice Course and the Bar Professional Training Course.

What makes Northumbria School of Law so special is its focus on Law in Practice – the learning of law through the understanding of law as it operates in practice. Out of almost 100 academic staff, more than 70 are qualified as solicitors or barristers – with considerable (often continuing) experience of practice. All of us are committed to ensuring that our students learn Law and Legal Practice in a way that equips them for careers as legal professionals in the huge range of different roles that lawyers can occupy in our society.

The School is not only distinctive for the excellence of our teaching – and our commitment to the highest standards of student experience – but for the outstanding quality of our resources. The School is part of the award-winning City Campus East, in the heart of Newcastle.

Based in a £70 million building, we are justifiably proud of our facilities, with stunning state-of-the-art lecture theatres, dedicated courtroom, our skills suites, and our superb Law Practice Library.

The intake of students across all of our courses reflects the national and international reputation of the School – with students from across the UK and from all the major common law jurisdictions. The students comment on the high levels of support and encouragement from the staff, and the commitment by the School to supporting their studies. By making full use of e-Learning and other modes of distance learning provision, we have designed courses that support full-time students, while opening



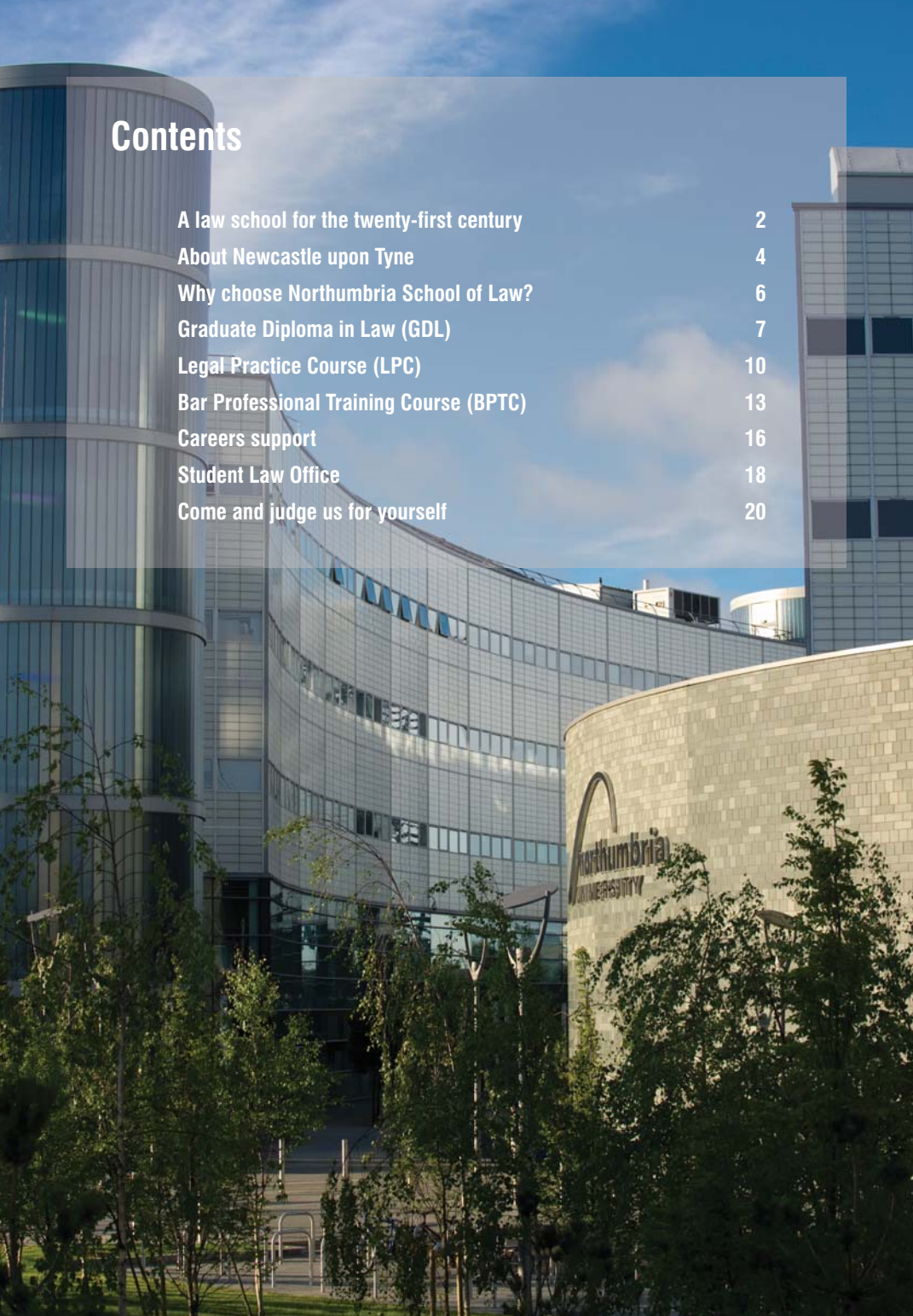
up access to qualifications for students who have work or life commitments which mean that they need the flexibility of part-time and distance-learning studies.

I look forward to welcoming you onto our professional law courses.

Professor Philip Plowden (Dean)

Contents

A law school for the twenty-first century	2
About Newcastle upon Tyne	4
Why choose Northumbria School of Law?	6
Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)	7
Legal Practice Course (LPC)	10
Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC)	13
Careers support	16
Student Law Office	18
Come and judge us for yourself	20



A law school for the twenty-first century

Northumbria School of Law is located on a modern, state-of-the-art £70 million development in central Newcastle – City Campus East. The development was officially opened in 2008 in a ceremony which marked one of the most significant developments in the history of Northumbria University. The development has now massed 20 awards and continues to be enthusiastically received by both students and staff.

The School of Law, which shares its building with Newcastle Business School, incorporates 16,000 square metres of purpose-built accommodation including three large state-of-the-art lecture theatres and workshop rooms equipped with the latest technology, as well as student hub areas. There are courtrooms modelled on those that students will experience as qualified practitioners, with the ability to use technological developments to be found in a modern court. The School's original courtroom, installed courtesy of South East Northumberland Magistrates, has been reconstructed in the futuristic building.

A specialist Law Practice Library contains practitioner materials, journals and law reports and, in addition, students have access to IT and wireless facilities throughout the building and both study and social space, including a cafeteria.

The building also houses the School's internationally renowned Student Law Office, which continues to provide students with the opportunity to provide legal advice and representation to members of the public and thus experience life as a professional lawyer.





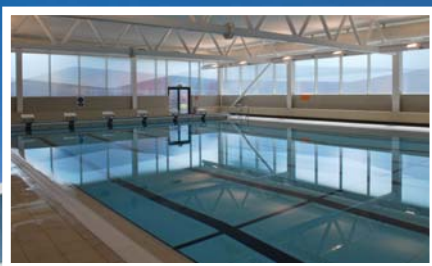
The futuristic and environmentally friendly design includes a light well in the middle of the building allowing natural light to flood in, reducing the need for artificial lighting. Solar panels shade the building and reduce the need for heating by 50%. The building's carbon emissions have been reduced by 40% of the current standard, and 95% of the original cinema which previously stood on the site was recycled during construction.

The University's overall £135 million campus redevelopment, including a £5 million update – of the Students' Union, landscaped pedestrian walkways across City Campus West, and Sport Central – is its largest investment programme to date and demonstrates Northumbria's commitment to its future success and that of its students.

Sport Central

The new sports facility provides some of the most outstanding fitness and training facilities in the country. The centre offers a 25-metre pool with a variable depth floor, a sports hall provision equivalent to the size of four netball courts, a Health and Fitness suite with more than 150 pieces of the highest spec Technogym equipment, a climbing wall, glass-backed squash courts, a dedicated strength and conditioning suite, a 60-metre sprint track and specialised training environments for a number of different sports. At the heart of the facility is an indoor arena, fully media-enabled and with 3,000 seats.

The striking new development opened to students, staff and members of the community in September 2010.



About Newcastle upon Tyne

Newcastle is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city – making it the perfect place to be a student. Newcastle has been voted one of the friendliest places in the UK and you will see why once you get in to the city and see how helpful and friendly the 'Geordies' really are.



Northumbria University is located in the heart of Newcastle. It's right on the doorstep of everything, including some of the best shops, bars, parks, galleries and museums. Once you arrive it's not hard to see why over 42,000 students choose to study in this passionate city.

Socialising

There are endless things to keep you occupied in Newcastle, such as The Gate, an entertainment complex which contains a variety of bars, restaurants, nightclubs, a cinema and a casino, open day and night.

Throughout the city you will find a multitude of bars and clubs catering to everyone. Whether you are looking for a quiet pub for relaxing drinks or a bustling bar for a dance with friends, you will be sure to find it; which is why Newcastle was voted seventh in the world for nightlife.

The Quayside is something very special in Newcastle. There you can find a number of the more sophisticated bars and restaurants, as well as relaxed pubs serving local ales and showing live music, overlooking the river and the famous bridges which cross it.

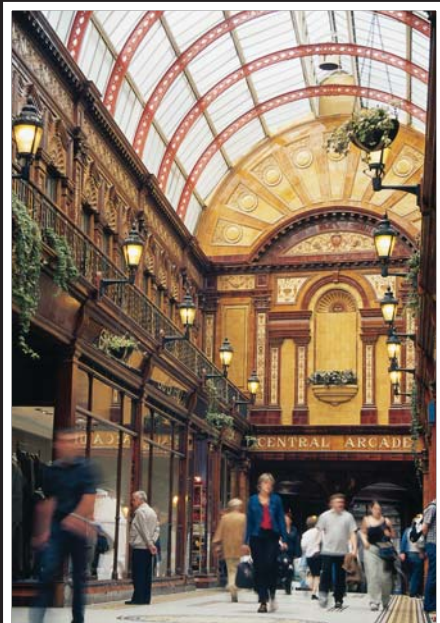
Sports and events

In the city you can find a number of places to watch sporting and music events. In terms of sport, there is the world famous Premier League football team, Newcastle United. There are many opportunities to catch a basketball or ice hockey match or if you're into rugby, head over to the University-owned Kingston Park to watch the Newcastle Falcons in action. The biggest sporting event in the North East is the Great North Run with over 50,000 taking part each year.

Music venues include the Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle City Hall and the O2 Academy, which has gigs and club nights almost every night of the week, catering for almost all genres of music. Over the Tyne, there is the Sage Gateshead, an outstanding music venue offering a variety of live music and a pioneering centre for music education.

Shop till you drop

If shopping is what you do best, Newcastle is the place for you. You can take a stroll up Northumberland Street, lined with High Street stores, or browse Eldon Square, a huge shopping centre, until you find exactly what you're looking for. And if that isn't enough you can browse the chic boutiques and even visit the monthly farmers' market. Just over the river there is the MetroCentre, one of the largest shopping centres in Europe, in which you can find endless shops, restaurants and even a cinema.



Getting around

Newcastle has excellent transport links and is very easy to get to. It's only three hours from London by train and an hour and a half from Edinburgh. Newcastle has its own International Airport, which provides both domestic and international flights.

Newcastle has a modern Metro rail system which is the envy of the rest of the UK. Linked with a reliable and regular bus service, getting around Newcastle is cheap and fast. Northumbria School of Law is located right next to Manors Metro station.

Legal community

The North East legal community has a justified reputation for the breadth and depth of its work and provides a comprehensive range of legal services of the highest standard. The work of the firms and chambers in the region is viewed as both progressive and innovative. The North East provides the prospective trainee or qualified practitioner with a wide range of opportunities. There are firms with regional, national and international reputations which have clients across the whole of the UK and internationally. There are also smaller practices that have developed niche specialism and expertise to rival the best available. Whether you are looking to gain experience in the corporate or the public sectors, with private clients, with financial institutions or with educational establishments, there is work for you in the North East.

For those with an eye on the Bar, the North East has a number of leading chambers and several smaller sets, covering all of the main areas of practice, in addition to a number of important specialist areas. Indeed, the busy Crown Court on Newcastle's Quayside presents opportunities to study leading and junior counsel in action on both high profile and mainstream cases, whilst the various sets of chambers allow for practical experience to be gained in a supportive yet challenging environment. Whichever way you look at it, the opportunities are here in the North East and in its thriving legal community.

Why choose

Northumbria School of Law?



- We are the largest Law School in the North East of England and have a national and international reputation for excellence in legal education.
- We are based in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne – a first class student city – and have invested £70m on a futuristic new building which opened in September 2007.
- Our LPC received the highest possible rating across all of the monitoring categories in the most recent Solicitors Regulation Authority visit.
- We have specially designed courtrooms equipped with DVD recording facilities, enabling students to gain real-life exposure to what they can expect to experience in a courtroom scenario.
- You will be taught by professionally qualified academic tutors with experience in corporate and high street practice in a School which maintains close links with the legal profession.
- We have a philosophy of combining academic development with practical experience.
- We provide an extensive careers and employability programme and our graduates are sought after by employers both regionally and nationally.
- You will have the opportunity to complete an LLM in Advanced Legal Practice whilst studying the LPC or BPTC.
- We have a groundbreaking Student Law Office – the largest scheme of its kind in the UK where law students advise and represent members of the public with real legal problems.
- You will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities including moots or mock trials.
- We have the largest student society in the University, the Grey Society.

The Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)

Full-time (1 year)

Distance Learning (2 years)

e-Learning (2 years)

Also known as the Common Professional Exam (CPE), the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) provides the academic stage for non-law graduates who intend to practise law. Completion of the GDL allows entry to the Legal Practice Course (LPC) to train as a solicitor or the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) to train as a barrister. Both the LPC and BPTC programmes are offered at Northumbria.

Students who pass the GDL first time are guaranteed a place on Northumbria's LPC. Although the Bar Standards Board does not permit institutions to guarantee places on the BPTC, favourable consideration is given to internal candidates. In addition, internal candidates on both vocational programmes receive a discount of £1,000.

The GDL is available full-time, via distance learning or an e-Learning route.

The Full-time programme

The full-time programme is a one year academic course. It begins with a pre-attendance study package completed by students prior to enrolment at the University in September, when full-time attendance begins. The programme runs until June of the following year, a total of 36 weeks. Students receive lectures and seminars on a weekly basis. Students are required to attend the University five days per week and receive weekly tuition of between 10 and 18 hours. In addition, students must prepare for seminars and coursework and should anticipate a workload of 45 hours per week. Students are provided with comprehensive step-by-step study materials and textbooks.

The Distance Learning programme

This mode is designed for those unable to attend full-time. The distance learning programme is ideally suited for those in employment or with family commitments. Students are required to attend 12 study days per academic year for two years. The study days (9am – 6pm) are grouped in six pairs, normally a Wednesday and Thursday, which fall approximately every six weeks during September, October, December, February, March and May. Timetables are issued in advance



of each set of study days. It is recommended that students allow 15– 20 hours per week for independent study. Each subject has a detailed study guide textbook, and a weekly study schedule which together, set out what work is required in advance of the study days. Distance learning students may contact teaching staff during the normal working week for guidance and advice.

The e-Learning programme

The School of Law has many years of experience in delivering full, part-time and distance learning programmes and is now able to offer an alternative route to qualification: the GDL by e-Learning, designed to widen access to legal education for those with work and family commitments. This mode runs for two years and reduces the attendance requirement to just one week of induction at the beginning of Year 1 and Year 2. However, students also have the option to attend study days. The development of this route has been made possible by advances in IT so that tuition can be delivered effectively through specially designed electronic materials.

Northumbria University is a leader in the application of IT to teaching and in recent years, won a major award for excellence as the most IT-enabled organisation. Features of IT provision include the desktop anywhere initiative which provides web access to email, files and software from anywhere in the world and the Blackboard Virtual Learning Environment.

Students receive detailed study guides, study schedules, lectures and other specially designed study materials in each of the foundation subjects.

Programme content

On all routes, students are required to study the following subject at the beginning of the programme by means of a pre-attendance study package and induction programme:

- English Legal System

In addition, students must study the following seven subjects, which are stipulated by the professional bodies as being the foundations for legal knowledge. They are:

- Contract Law
- Criminal Law
- Equity and Trusts
- European Union Law
- Property Law
- Public Law
- Law of Tort

These subjects are taught through the programme by means of lectures and seminars (lectures and independent practice exercises on the GDL e-Learning). The syllabus for each of the foundation subjects is the same regardless of the study mode. Students on the distance learning and e-Learning programmes study Criminal, Contract, EU and Property Law in the first year and Equity and Trusts, Public Law and Tort in the second year.

- Further Area of Law

All students are required to undertake research into a further area of law culminating in a written submission and oral presentation. The area is chosen by students from a range of options including Company, Commercial, Employment, Evidence, Family Law and Legal History among others. Students receive initial guidance on the subject and advice on how to conduct legal research.

Conversion to a Law Degree

Students who successfully complete the GDL programme are eligible to convert their Diploma into an LLB (Hons) degree. This requires the study of two additional legal subjects and submission of a project of 10,000 – 15,000 words on a legal subject chosen from the following list:

- Company Law
- Medical Law
- Evidence
- Employment Law
- Intellectual Property Law (available by open learning only)
- Family Law (available on a part-time evening basis only).

Assessment

Assessment is by a combination of coursework and unseen examination or unseen examination only.

Why choose Northumbria's GDL?

- Over 30 years' experience of delivering the GDL
- Guaranteed places on Northumbria's LPC for successful internal GDL students
- Favourable consideration given to internal GDL students for the BPTC
- £1,000 discount on LPC or BPTC fees for continuing Northumbria GDL students
- Comprehensive study materials, textbooks and step-by-step workbooks
- Opportunity to gain experience through the Student Law Office
- GDL students will undertake their studies in our purpose-built, £70m School of Law offering excellent learning and teaching facilities

How to apply

Applications for a place on the full-time Graduate Diploma in Law can only be made online through the Central Applications Board (contact details are listed at the back of this brochure).

Applications for full-time study for the first round of applications can be made through the Central Applications Board until early February.

Offers will be sent out in early March. Applications received after the first round closes will be considered in early April.

Applications for places on the distance learning or e-Learning GDL should be made on a standard University application form for return to Law Admissions.

Fees for the GDL programme can be obtained by visiting our website www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk

Entry requirements

Applicants must hold a degree in any subject from a UK or Republic of Ireland Higher Education Institution or a Certificate of Academic Standing from the Solicitors Regulation Authority or the Bar Standards Board (please see the useful contacts page at the back of this brochure). The Certificate of Academic Standing must be obtained by the applicant before the start of the programme and must be shown to us at enrolment.

Applicants who have previously studied four or more of the foundation subjects may obtain an exemption from those subjects. If you are granted a certificate of exemption, the certificate must be shown to us at enrolment. Applications for exemption should be made to the Solicitors Regulation Authority or Bar Standards Board. Please note that students with exemptions who pass the outstanding subjects will pass the programme, but will not generally be awarded the Diploma.

Victoria Smith GDL student

I am currently studying on the GDL course here at Northumbria. I have a degree in French from Leeds University, but want to be a solicitor so the GDL was the next step. I am from the North East and want to practice here in the future, so I decided to move home to do the GDL, and Northumbria was my first choice. I visited the School of Law for an Open Day and I was very impressed with the new building and facilities, and the course seemed to be exactly what I was wanting; not just academic, but also business orientated and geared to a career in law.

I have not been disappointed. The School of Law is such a modern environment to work in, I feel privileged to be studying here. The lecturers and tutors are really friendly and encourage you to go and see them with any problems. We study seven core subjects over the year, but there is the opportunity to study a further area of law, which gives you the freedom to research an area individually in more depth. Smaller seminar groups give everyone the opportunity to interact, dealing with problems that you would encounter in practice. Everyone warns you about how intense the course is which is true – there is no getting away from the fact that you will have to work hard – but the quality of teaching is of a very high standard, you are so engrossed that the year is nearly over before you know it. I have found the study of the law itself fascinating, we have learnt so much in such a short space of time. I am really looking forward to staying here next year to study the LPC.



Laura McIlduff GDL student

Deciding whether a career in law is right for you can seem like a daunting experience. There are so many considerations to be taken into account from job prospects to funding to finding the right university to suit your needs. Last year, I was in exactly the same position. As I researched countless universities I was immediately attracted to Northumbria, not only for its high standards of teaching and recommendations from various law firms but also for the impressive and modern facilities. The law school is situated in one of Northumbria's newest buildings at the heart of Newcastle's city centre with close access to transport. Growing up in Newcastle, I know how student friendly the city is, with so much to do from shopping to bars and restaurants, life outside university could never be boring.

The course itself can appear to be pretty intense but it has been structured in such a way that the workload never feels too overwhelming. The students are actively encouraged to give feedback in regular student/staff meetings, ensuring the best possible programme for present and future students. Unlike some other degrees, the nature of the Graduate Diploma in Law means that everyone on the course knows each other and regularly socialise which is handy when you need help with seminar preparation or even just a stiff drink! After completing the GDL, I hope to continue at Northumbria on the Legal Practice Course in order to become a solicitor. From a personal point of view, the biggest advantage Northumbria University can offer is a friendly and approachable environment in which everyone is encouraged to be the best they can be.



Legal Practice Course (LPC)

Full-time (1 year)

Part-time (2 years)

The programme

The Legal Practice Course (LPC) is the required training for all students who wish to qualify as solicitors. The programme provides vocational training across a range of subjects and practical skills, enabling students to learn how to apply their legal knowledge in a practical context. In April 2007, the LPC was awarded the highest possible rating in all areas of assessment by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

This course is taught in two blocks, Stage 1 from September to January and Stage 2 from February to May. The core practice areas of Business Law and Practice, Property Law and Practice and Litigation are taught and assessed during Stage 1, as are the skills of legal writing, interviewing and advising, drafting, research and advocacy. Solicitors accounts and professional conduct and regulation are also taught and assessed during Stage 1.

Students will have the opportunity to tailor their Legal Practice Course to their preferred career path as Stage 1 of the LPC is offered in two routes, general practice and commercial practice. Guidance as to the appropriate choice and on the contents of each route will be given prior to enrolment.

Stage 2 of the course is a 10-week elective block during which three electives from the School's extensive range are chosen and studied. This provides a further opportunity for students to tailor their qualification to either general or commercial

practice and enjoy the experience of being taught by subject specialists.

The LPC offers flexibility to students who can choose to delay commencement of Stage 2 until a later point in time to fit in with career plans or other opportunities (subject to complying with the overall time limit for completion of Stages 1 and 2).

Part-time students study the Stage 1 and Stage 2 core and elective subjects over a two year period, attending the School one day per week.

The part-time route provides the added benefit of enabling students to undertake a training contract with a solicitor whilst completing the LPC.

Programme content

Students on the LPC study three core practice areas in Stage 1:

- Business Law and Practice
- Property Law and Practice
- Civil and Criminal Litigation

There are over 100 academic staff in the School of Law, many of whom have been, or are still in practice. As such, we are able to offer a uniquely wide range of electives in Stage 2, with an excellent balance between the general and commercial areas of legal practice so that students are able to study aspects of the law which are appropriate to their chosen legal career. We also continue to develop new electives that focus on growth areas in legal practice, as well as offering the innovative Student Law Office elective, which allows students the opportunity to undertake live client work through the School's own award-winning legal practice.



Students are asked to choose three electives from the following lists:

General Practice Electives

- Advanced Advocacy*
- Child Care Law
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Housing Law
- Law and the Elderly Client
- Mental Health Law
- Planning and Environmental Law
- Student Law Office*

Commercial Practice Electives

- Advanced Insolvency
- Commercial Law
- Commercial Leases
- Corporate Finance
- Intellectual Property
- Sales and Acquisitions

*Subject to maximum numbers

Guidance as to appropriate choice of electives is given by subject tutors during the early part of Stage 1. Students may choose electives from either or both of the above lists regardless of the Stage 1 route chosen.

Teaching and assessment

Teaching is primarily delivered through workshops, supported by a lecture programme. Compulsory subjects and electives are assessed through examination by open book and closed book multiple choice questions.

A unique opportunity to gain an LLM while completing the LPC at Northumbria

Students on Northumbria's LPC are able to complete an LLM in Advanced Legal Practice whilst studying on the full or part-time LPC route. The LLM is available at a discounted rate when studied alongside the LPC and can be completed in 12–18 months. The specialist expertise gained upon completing the LLM programme alongside the LPC will undoubtedly benefit students when they embark upon their training contract.

Any student who enrolls on the LPC at the same time as the LLM must satisfactorily complete their LPC before they can be awarded the LLM.

Entry requirements

Applicants must either have obtained a qualifying law degree, passed the Graduate Diploma in Law or otherwise have satisfied the SRA requirements to embark on the vocational stage of training.

How to apply

Applications for a place on the full-time Legal Practice Course can only be made online through the Central Applications Board (contact details are listed at the back of this brochure).

Applications for full-time study for the first round of applications can be made through the Central Applications Board between October and early December of the year prior to entry. Applications received after the first round closes will be considered at the end of March.

Applications for places on the part-time LPC should be made on the standard University application form for return to Law Admissions.

All students are required to register with the Solicitors Regulation Authority before enrolling on the LPC.

Fees for the LPC programme can be obtained by visiting our website www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk

Why choose Northumbria's LPC?

- Highest rating in all six areas of assessment from the Solicitors Regulation Authority
- Wide range of specialist electives tailored to both commercial and general practices
- An opportunity to complete an LLM in Advanced Legal Practice alongside the LPC
- Unique opportunity to gain experience of live client work on the Student Law Office elective*
- Strong careers programme including presentations from local practitioners and practical advice on careers, applications and interviewing
- Flexible learning
- Subjects taught by staff with extensive experience from practice
- LPC students undertake their studies in our modern £70m building benefiting from first class learning and teaching facilities

*Subject to maximum numbers

Michael Mallon LPC student

I chose Northumbria because of its strong reputation in the North East, excellent ties to local firms and superb teaching staff. After taking a gap year upon completing my undergraduate Law Degree at Durham University I started Northumbria with initial trepidation. I needn't have worried. Firstly, there is an extremely diverse student population in what is an extremely vibrant modern city, Newcastle.

Secondly, the course has surpassed all expectations. The teaching is outstanding. All the tutors are really friendly and want everyone on the course to succeed and do well. There is a genuine open-door policy which has certainly helped me throughout the year. My personal tutor has been especially helpful and kind.

The course content, compared to my undergraduate experience, has been extremely practical and hands-on. Northumbria has fully equipped me to confidently start life as a trainee solicitor through learning practical skills like interviewing, drafting and advocacy. All intrinsic to the life of a solicitor.

Because I have the same group of people in all my classes friendships have been made very quickly and there is a very supportive collegiate atmosphere. It's also very good for the nights out!

The careers support is second to none. Because nearly all of the tutors and lecturers practice as solicitors or barristers there is real inside knowledge to help with applications. There are also links with local firms and training contracts are advertised throughout the year.

So, in summary, a brilliant year with lots of happy memories.



Rachel Sykes LPC student

I am currently studying the LPC at Northumbria after completing the GDL here last year. Northumbria was my first choice for the GDL after being impressed with the excellent facilities and friendly teaching staff I encountered during an open day, and I was rewarded with a fantastic year. My experiences were so positive I chose to remain at Northumbria to study the LPC.

The LPC is all about learning to apply your legal knowledge in a practical setting, and this is mainly achieved through participating in short group sessions and workshops. These sessions involve group work in 'firms' which provides a useful opportunity to interact with other students. Most importantly, the teaching staff at Northumbria are really supportive and approachable, and their experience in legal practice means they can explain how tasks fit into the context of life as a solicitor.

The course is designed to equip students for practice and is complemented by a good careers programme to help students achieve their career goals. There is support and advice with CV writing and a practice interview scheme, as well as a careers fair and regular presentations by firms. A bonus is that Northumbria also offers the opportunity to complete an LLM in Advanced Legal Practice whilst studying on the LPC, an option I have chosen to undertake.

The quality of teaching and the support on offer at Northumbria are fantastic. I would thoroughly recommend their LPC to anyone.





“The facilities at Northumbria are second to none, particularly the large courtroom with special measures room”

BSB Comment 2010

Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC)

Full-time (1 year)

Part-time (2 years – day release)

The programme

Students who wish to qualify as barristers are required to complete the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), formerly known as the Bar Vocational Course (BVC). This comprehensive programme provides vocational training across a range of subjects and skills necessary to enter pupillage.

Programme content

The Bar Professional Training Course is offered through both full and part-time study. All core subjects and skills are taught by barristers, many of whom practice on the North Eastern circuit. During the programme students develop a range of essential skills, which include:

- Advocacy
- Drafting
- Opinion Writing
- Conference Skills (Interviewing)
- Resolution of Disputes Out of Court

Evidence, criminal litigation and civil litigation are also taught as discrete subjects, as well as being integrated with the main skill areas.

All Advocacy tutors are accredited by the Advocacy Training Committee to train students. Many are also accredited to deliver advanced advocacy training to junior practitioners and to train others to teach advocacy.

All subjects and skills are developed through practical sessions, in which students work on case studies and carry out a range of tasks typical of work in pupillage.

All students choose two specialist options. Current options include:

- Civil Practice
- Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury
- Chancery Practice
- Commercial Practice
- Criminal Practice
- Employment Practice
- Family Practice
- Landlord and Tenant
- Law Office – students spend six months working in Northumbria’s Student Law Office, which is the largest student law clinic in the country working on real legal problems for members of the public.*

**Subject to maximum numbers.*

Why choose Northumbria's BPTC?

- There is an excellent standard of teaching on the BPTC. Staff are constantly commended on the levels of support given to students
- The Northumbria BPTC currently offers more advocacy training than any other provider
- Regular talks are delivered by experienced practitioners and Judges
- The School of Law has three mock courtrooms, the main courtroom is modelled on a circuit court
- There are close links with the local Bar and the North Eastern circuit. Each year, the School of Law hosts a number of dinners and social evenings with local practitioners
- All books required for study are included in the tuition fees (retailing in excess of £1,000)
- The school has a Mock Trial Society and regularly organises mooting competitions

The BPTC is student-centred with skills taught in small groups. Students are provided with individual feedback on each skill from BPTC tutors and Northumbria promotes the use of critical self-reflection, which can dramatically improve student performance. BPTC students will undertake their legal education in a modern building using state-of-the-art teaching and learning technologies.

The BPTC Part-time

The BPTC Part-time programme follows a flexible day release pattern with students choosing which day of the week they wish to attend. Part-time students benefit from electronic lectures and all of the latest e-Learning developments.

A unique opportunity to gain an LLM while completing the BPTC at Northumbria

Uniquely, students while on Northumbria's full or part-time BPTC are able to enrol on the LLM in Advanced Legal Practice. This has the advantage of allowing, with hard work, both programmes to be completed in one academic year, thereby enhancing the chance of obtaining pupillage.

Northumbria is currently negotiating to allow LLM students to undertake funded placements in European Legal Offices as part of our Masters' programme. Full details of the LLM are available by contacting:

la.marketingenquiries@northumbria.ac.uk

Entry requirements

Applicants must either have obtained a qualifying law degree, passed the Graduate Diploma in Law or otherwise have satisfied the Bar Standards Board requirements to embark on the vocational stage of training. All students are required to join one of the four Inns of Court before they commence the BPTC. Further information on the Inns of Court and qualification as a Barrister can be obtained from the websites listed at the back of this brochure.

BPTC scholarships

Northumbria School of Law offers a number of BPTC scholarships between £5000 and £1000 each intake.

These scholarships are open to students who have applied to Northumbria in the first round of applications for either the full time or part time BPTC. Students must have selected Northumbria as either their first, second or third choice and have applied via BPTC Online by the January deadline.

The Bar Professional Training Course is designed to prepare students for pupillage in England and Wales. Therefore, a simulated pupillage application is used as a selection method, closely followed by an interview for those shortlisted applicants. All students who apply for the scholarship will receive individual feedback on their application.

How to apply

All applications for the Bar Professional Training Course whether full or part-time, are made through a central application system accessed via the Internet:

www.barprofessionaltraining.org.uk

Students are advised to submit their application as early as possible due to strong competition for places on the BPTC. The BPTC Online system goes live in early November of the year prior to entry with the first round of applications closing in early January.

If you would like to:

- ask a specific question about our BPTC programme
- meet us at one of the law fairs we attend around the country
- register for one of our Open Days or arrange a personal tour

please telephone 0191 243 7035 or contact us by email at **la.marketingenquiries@northumbria.ac.uk**

Fees for the BPTC programme can be obtained by visiting our website **www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk**



Matthew Maddison **BPTC graduate**

Prior to undertaking the BPTC at Northumbria University, I graduated in July 2009 with a First Class degree in Law. I have been a resident of the North East since birth and therefore, when deciding at which institution to complete the BPTC, Northumbria University appealed to me from the outset. Upon reading the prospectus, speaking to local members of the Bar, attending the BPTC Open Day and meeting a number of the teachers, I felt confident that the BPTC at Northumbria University would provide an excellent standard of vocational training in preparation for pupillage, and I was not disappointed.

The course is interesting and well-structured, feedback from tutors is constructive and detailed, and the facilities in the recently-constructed law school particularly accommodate the needs of BPTC students. I would encourage all those who are considering Northumbria University to apply for the scholarship, which not only provides a useful deduction to the course fees if candidates are successful, but also serves as useful preparation for pupillage applications in any event.

I have now graduated from Northumbria University and I am very much looking forward to beginning my pupillage at Enterprise Chambers.

Emily Bardsley BPTC graduate

Having lived in the North East for most of my life, Northumbria was obviously one of my first choices for the BPTC. After attending the open day and having a look around the new building and facilities, my mind was made up. The School of Law at Northumbria is the largest in the North East and is full of up-to-date technology. The School has its own mock courtroom in which students practice their criminal advocacy skills, and the majority of classrooms contain recording technology so students can record their skills lessons, and watch their DVDs at home to assess their performance. The Law Practice Library provides everything a law student could need to help with work throughout university.

Another reason I chose to attend Northumbria was that the BPTC students are offered the opportunity to study an LLM in Advanced Legal Practice, therefore gaining an extra qualification alongside the BPTC and providing another chance to make your CV stand out from the rest.

My decision to attend Northumbria was finally swayed by the opportunity to apply for the BPTC scholarship. To apply for the scholarship, students had to fill in a mock pupillage application form (good practice in itself) and attend an interview. Being awarded the scholarship allowed me to do both the BPTC and LLM courses together, taking away the stress of paying the full fees.

All in all I feel I made the right decision in choosing Northumbria's BPTC, and would recommend it to anyone looking to study the BPTC in the future.



Careers support

Enrolling on one of our professional courses may be the first step you take towards a career in law, but it should not be the only step. From day one you need to plan your career and find out how best to progress it. Whichever course you enrol on at Northumbria, we provide a careers support programme to assist you:

Our extensive careers programme offers regular sessions throughout your course

Information regarding these events is shown on the individual programme e-Learning sites, together with notification of any placement/training contract opportunities. Each of the programme sites provide general careers information as well as focusing on course specific information. For example, the BPTC site includes sample pupillage interviews for you to watch and improve your interviewing technique.

Talks by a wide range of legal practitioners about the different careers available in law

If you are undecided as to which of the many types of legal work you would like to go into, we provide numerous sessions from practitioners explaining more about the type of work they do. So whether you are interested in

commercial work, high street practice, legal aid work, in house or local authority practice you can come and find out more about the job and ask questions of experienced lawyers in the field. Local firms hold open evenings where our students can attend their offices, participate in a range of skills sessions and gain a flavour of what they do.

Practical sessions to assist you with applications and interviews

Legal recruitment is a specialised area. We arrange talks by a range of employers and recruitment experts to explain how to navigate this process successfully. We provide guidance on completing applications for training contracts, vacation placements and pupillages (through the PACH system) as well as assisting you to prepare for interviews or typical assessment centre exercises.

One-to-one assistance with preparation of application forms, CVs and interviews

All students on our professional courses have their own guidance tutor. You will have regular meetings with your guidance tutor and will be able to discuss with them your plans and application forms. Your guidance tutor keeps track of your progress, plans and interests through the year and will be able to write an informed and detailed reference for you if requested to do so.



Contacts with local and national firms and Chambers

We have extensive links with local and national firms and Chambers. Many of the teaching staff continue to practise and many more maintain links with the profession, with practitioners regularly contributing to the teaching sessions. You will be able to approach staff members who are up-to-date with the main issues facing legal practice and who have an extensive knowledge of the firms and Chambers you may be making applications to.

Experience of practice through the Student Law Office and its associated programmes

If you enrol on the BPTC or LPC you will have an opportunity, as part of your course, to try out legal practice for real through the School's own Legal Practice – the Student Law Office. You will be advising and representing members of the public under the supervision of qualified members of staff and may even need to represent your client at court or tribunal. All professional course students can participate in the Street Law programme which gives you an opportunity to present legal information to interested community or business groups in the Newcastle area.

The practice interview scheme

When you are called for an interview we can offer you a practice interview geared to the sort of firm you have applied to and offer feedback to help you improve your performance. This will give you the chance to refine your interview technique and to see how you handle unexpected questions.

Support from specialist careers advisers in the University Careers and Employment Service

We work closely with the University Careers and Employment Team which provides specialist support in the form of up to date information and one-to-one advice. They can also check through CVs and applications and can provide samples of the sorts of tests routinely used in the selection process for legal work.

Northumbria Careers in Law Fair

As well as specific sessions provided by employers we host a Law Fair in which local and national firms and Chambers are represented. It is a chance to find out more about a range of different firms and start networking. Exhibitors at our most recent fair included Allen and Overy, Ben Hoare Bell, Broad Chare Chambers, David Gray Solicitors, Dickinson Dees, Beecham Peacock, Irwin Mitchell, Ward Hadaway and Trinity Chambers. In addition to the Northumbria fair, Newcastle and Durham Universities also have law fairs that you are encouraged to attend.

The professional contact scheme

We maintain a register of trainees and qualified solicitors and barristers who have volunteered to offer advice and support to Northumbria students considering legal careers.

Continuing information after you complete your course

When you have finished your course you can remain on our careers register and we will inform you of any vacancies we are notified of and any relevant careers events.



Graduate employment

Graduates have obtained employment with a range of legal firms both regionally and nationally as well as in barristers' Chambers. Examples include:

Addleshaw Goddard LLP

Allen & Overy LLP

Beacham Peacock

Ben Hoare Bell

Broadchare Chambers

Burnetts

Cartmell Shepherd

College Chambers

Crown Prosecution Service

Crutes LLP

David Gray Solicitors

Dickinson Dees LLP

DLA Piper UK LLP

Durham Chambers

Eversheds LLP

Hay & Kilner Solicitors

Irwin Mitchell

Kings Bench Chambers

Legal Services Commission

Lovells

Lupton Fawcett

Meikles Solicitors

Mincoffs

Muckle LLP

Nabarro Nathanson

New Court Chambers

No 8 Chambers

Osborne Clarke

Pinsent Masons

Plowden Chambers

Sintons

Tilly Bailey & Irvine

Trinity Chambers

Trowers and Hamlin

Walker Morris

Ward Hadaway Solicitors

Watson Burton LLP

York Chambers

Law graduates are also well placed to compete for a variety of jobs in commerce, industry, financial services and the public sector, where they can use their intellectual and practical skills in a more general context.

Student Law Office

Northumbria's award-winning Student Law Office is at the heart of our law programmes. In this unique environment the students work as lawyers, running real cases for real people, as an integral part of their studies.

The Northumbria Student Law Office programme is unique in its size and its scope. Over 180 students on the undergraduate and vocational courses work in the Law Office, dealing with in excess of 1,000 enquiries and almost 700 cases every year. The programme is offered as an option on the LPC and BPTC.

In the Law Office law students have the opportunity to put their learning into real life practice – and to learn what it means to be a lawyer in the real world.

The kind of work the students do

The cases that the students deal with are in a wide range of different areas of legal practice. Some groups of students specialise in criminal appeals work and have had cases at both the Court of Appeal and the Criminal Cases Review Commission. Other students specialise in housing law, including advocacy at possession hearings in the County Court. Other categories of work include: civil disputes, including areas as diverse as family law, inquests, and criminal compensation; employment work, where we have conducted cases not only at the local employment tribunals, but at the Employment Appeal Tribunal and the Court of Appeal; human rights, where we have taken various cases to the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg; welfare benefits, where students not only run cases at local tribunals, but conduct judicial reviews and make applications to Strasbourg; and small business advice work.

In the Law Office students do all the work that lawyers would undertake in practice. They interview clients, research the law, provide advice – and where necessary they draft the court or tribunal documents and represent the clients at the court hearings. In doing this work, the students are supported by practitioner members of the School of Law staff who supervise every aspect of the work that is done, helping the students to learn from the experience.

The students will often find themselves working alongside solicitors and barristers in private practice, who are invariably enormously impressed by the work that the students do. As one leading QC put it following a successful Court of Appeal case:

“Their efforts were quite brilliant and utterly outstanding. All I did was present the facts – they did all the work.”

Examples of our recent successes

include:

- The overturning of an unsafe conviction for robbery and the award of £170,000 compensation
- A successful challenge in the Court of Appeal on the nature of modern apprenticeships, affecting over 300,000 people
- Friendly settlement at Strasbourg of challenges to the discriminatory welfare benefits regime for widowers

All of these were cases run by students – enabling them to enter into training contracts and pupillages able to show that they not only know and understand legal principles, but are already used to acting as practising lawyers.

Both students and their future employers tell us that it is the best possible training for entering into practice as a lawyer. And the clients tell us how impressed they are by the commitment and the energy of the students who handle their cases.

The Law Office resources

The Law Office has stunning premises – with 90 dedicated PCs, five client interview rooms with full recording facilities, and space for over a hundred students to be working on cases at any time. Over 20 members of academic staff, all practising solicitors or barristers, supervise the students' work – and the office is supported by a team of administrators, trainee solicitors and humanary students.

The role of the Student Law Office

The Student Law Office has an international reputation for excellence and in 2008 and 2010 was awarded the Attorney General's National Pro Bono prize for the Best Contribution by a Law School.

Through running real cases the students have the opportunity to develop skills as lawyers that most law students will not begin to learn until they enter into training contracts or pupillages. The Law Office enables Northumbria students to go into practice ready to work as lawyers – and understanding how to learn from their experiences.

The Student Law Office is the largest scheme of its kind in the UK. Northumbria School of Law has operated a programme of clinical legal education since 1980. The School of Law is one of the founding members of the Clinical Legal Education Organisation (CLEO) and publishes the *International Journal of Clinical Legal Education* – and the Law Office has an international visiting professor programme which brings clinicians from leading international universities to share their experiences with Northumbria students.

Come and judge us for yourself

Open days

Open Days give prospective GDL, LPC and BPTC students the opportunity to take a tour of the School of Law, meet our academic staff and current students and take part in professional panels and practitioner talks.

Visit our website for dates and further details about forthcoming Open Days.

www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk

Personal tours

If you are unable to make one of our Open Days, we are happy to give you a personal tour of the School of Law.

Please contact the School's Marketing Team on 0191 243 7035 or email la.marketingenquiries@northumbria.ac.uk to arrange a visit.

Northumbria School of Law is represented at several law fairs and careers events throughout the UK. To find out when we will next be in your area, visit our website www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk

Useful Contacts

Northumbria University School of Law

City Campus East
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8ST
Tel: 0191 227 4494
Email: la.marketingenquiries@northumbria.ac.uk
Web: www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk

Admissions

Northumbria University
Trinity Building
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8ST
Tel: 0191 227 4453
Email: et.admissions@northumbria.ac.uk

International Admissions

Northumbria University
21/22 Ellison Place
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8ST
Tel: 00 44 191 243 7906
Email: internationaladmissions@northumbria.ac.uk

Accommodation Office

Northumbria University
1 Ellison Terrace
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8ST
Tel: 0191 227 4209
Email: rc.accommodation@northumbria.ac.uk
Web: www.northumbria.ac.uk/accommodation

Solicitors Regulation Authority

Ipsley Court
Berrington Close
Redditch
Worcestershire
B98 0TD
Tel: 0870 606 2555
Web: www.sra.org.uk

The Bar Standards Board

289–293 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7HZ
Tel: 0207 611 1444
Web: www.barstandardsboard.org.uk

BPTC Online

(BPTC Applications)
Web: www.barprofessionaltraining.org.uk

The Central Applications Board

(GDL and LPC Applications)
PO Box 84
Guildford
Surrey GU3 1YX
Tel: 01483 451080 (GDL) 01483 301282 (LPC)
Web: www.lawcabs.ac.uk

Inns of Court

Inner Temple

Treasury Office
Inner Temple
London
EC4Y 7HL
Tel: 0207 797 8250
Web: www.innertemple.org.uk

Gray's Inn

Treasury Office
8 South Square
Gray's Inn
London
WC1R 5ET
Tel: 0207 458 7800
Web: www.graysinn.info

Middle Temple

Treasury Office
Middle Temple Lane
London
EC4Y 9AT
Tel: 0207 427 4800
Web: www.middletemple.org.uk

Lincoln's Inn

Treasury Office
Lincoln's Inn
London
WC2A 3TL
Tel: 0207 405 1393
Web: www.lincolnsinn.org.uk

