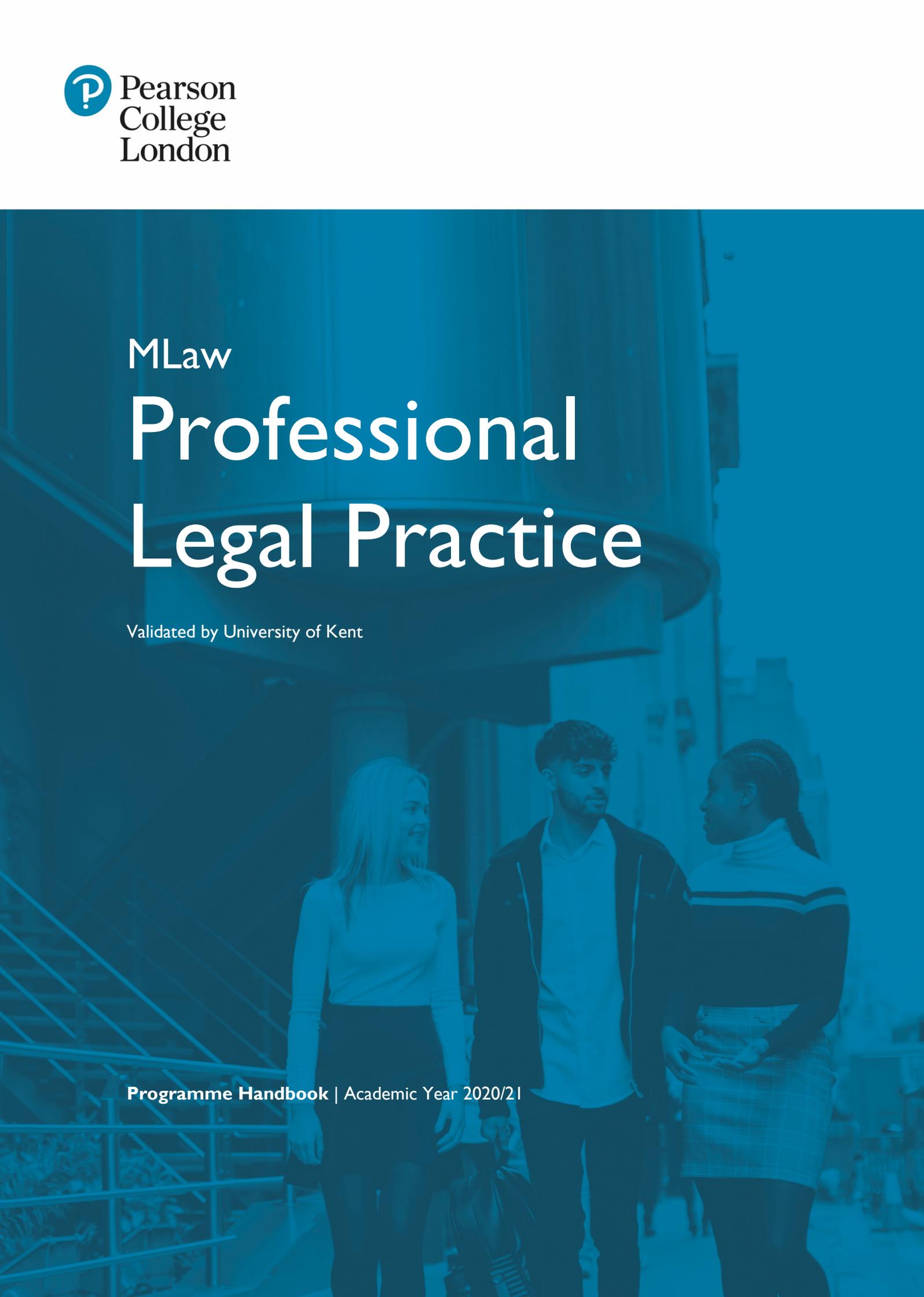


MLaw

# Professional Legal Practice

Validated by University of Kent



Programme Handbook | Academic Year 2020/21

Published August 2020. Information correct and up to date at time of publication. This handbook contains general information and students should refer to the Pearson College website for further information including full details of all College policies, processes and regulations, which may be updated in the course of the academic year. If you would like to provide any feedback on this handbook, please contact our Quality Assurance Officer on: [branslav.kotoc@pearson.com](mailto:branslav.kotoc@pearson.com).

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## I. Introduction

### Welcome from the Dean of Pearson Business School

This handbook is designed to give you a good understanding of your programme and the support available to you during your studies. It's also here to help you understand the key regulations and policies that impact on your student and learning experience here.

Taking responsibility for your own learning and development is a crucial part of doing well in higher and professional education. However there is plenty of support available here. Compared to most HE institutions we are a relatively small, boutique business school – one of the great benefits of this is that there are plenty of friendly faces who you can reach out to if you need guidance, including myself.

Industry engagement is at the heart of everything we do. We design our programmes with industry, students and academics. Industry partners work alongside our academic tutors to help deliver our programmes. We actively encourage initiative by our students. Whether you're interested in setting up a new business, study group, society or something else relevant to PBS's burgeoning community, our doors are always open and we will endeavour to support you as much as we can. I would strongly encourage you to make the most of the fantastic resources, opportunities and support available both within Pearson Business School and through our industry and academic partners.

Success on our programmes is not easy but our results and employment data to date show that, with endeavour and proactivity, it is eminently achievable. I would urge you to take some time to read this handbook in detail as the first step in your learning journey with us – together we will achieve great things over the next few years.

*Will Holt*

Dean of Pearson Business School

### A Message from your Lead Tutor, Ayshea O'Brien

Our mission at Pearson College London is to help you develop the knowledge, intellectual capacity and professional experience that you will need as a foundation for building a successful long-term career. Beginning a degree (and specifically, one that leads to a postgraduate qualification) can be a daunting time but there is plenty of support available to you through Pearson Business School (PSB).

The MLaw programme is delivered by practising lawyers, business experts and academics through workshops, moots (practice trials), student exercises, guest lectures and problem based scenarios, as well as the more traditional lectures and seminars. The aim throughout is to combine legal theory with practice, to place the law in context wherever and whenever possible. In this respect, the MLaw is distinct from a traditional LLB programme. The MLaw combines theoretical law, professional knowledge and practice in legal skills all in one programme (thus covering both the academic and vocational stages of training to qualify as a solicitor, i.e. the LLB and Legal Practice Course (LPC)).

In designing the MLaw we have worked closely with relevant professional bodies, such as the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) alongside various law firms to ensure all modules are aligned to their requirements wherever and whenever possible. The MLaw is both a Qualifying Law Degree (QLD) (meeting the academic stage of solicitor and barrister training) and a Legal Practice Course (compliant with the vocational stage of solicitor training). (Please refer to the careers section, below, for further details).

Fundamentally, the course has been designed to be both academically and practically challenging and, at the same time, extremely rewarding. Our tutors will be on hand to give you all the assistance and support that you need throughout your studies within Pearson Business School.

I sincerely hope you enjoy your studies on the MLaw programme.

***Ayshea O'Brien***  
**LLB/MLaw Lead Tutor**

## COVID-19 Arrangements

Measures are in place to keep students and staff safe as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Although we are very pleased that our campus is open under controlled conditions, it remains the case that government guidelines and other regulatory expectations change frequently.

All the plans are based on what is permitted by government guidelines as of today and may be subject to change. If this is the case, we will be in touch. Please ensure that you frequently check both the OLE and your student email account for these communications.

## Our Validating Partner

The programme is validated by the University of Kent, which means that your degree will be delivered by Pearson Business School (part of Pearson College London and the Pearson PLC group) but you will graduate with a degree from the University of Kent.

Known as the UK's European University, the University of Kent is ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the Times Higher Education (THE) 'Table of Tables' 2017 and based on the most recent Research Excellence Framework, was ranked in the top 20 for research intensity in the *Times Higher Education* (THE). 97% of their research was judged to be of international quality in the Research Excellence Framework (REF). It has also been ranked in the top 10% of the world's universities for international outlook, by the THE World University Rankings 2018.

Further information on University of Kent's policies and regulations can be found on the Pearson College London website:

Go to: Students > Current Students > Policies and regulations > University of Kent Regulations.

## Our Teaching Staff

All staff delivering the MLaw programme are either fully qualified lawyers (many still in practice) and/or leading academics with research interests covering practitioner-based law. Staff have trained as both barristers and solicitors (including the Principal at Pearson College, Roxanne Stockwell) in a wide array of practice areas including: common law, civil litigation, commercial agreements, company formation and insolvency, employment disputes, criminal practice, etc. Expert staff in other areas of the Business School, such as accountancy, logistics management and HR, will be utilised as and when required. The emphasis in all classes will be on the application of law within a professional and commercial environment.

Further details of our teaching staff can be found on both the OLE, and the Pearson College London website. Staff contact details can be found at the end of this Handbook under Section 7.

Go to: Pearson Business School > Meet your tutors.

## 2. The Student Experience

You will be supported by a variety of people throughout your time at Pearson College including: John Clifford (Programme Leader), your personal tutor and the Student Experience team.

Contact details for all these roles can be found in Section 7.

They are available to you to offer support, guidance, feedback and to answer any questions that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact any of these people – we all have questions that need to be answered and times when we feel unsure of things. They are there for you to speak to and would welcome the chance to get to know you and make your studies as enjoyable and rewarding as possible.

Allacademic enquiries should be directed towards your module tutor or the MLaw Programme Lead Tutor.

Additionally, there is a variety of information available to you in the get ready get settled Zone on the OLE which you can find under the organisations tab. Take an early opportunity to familiarise yourself with this – it contains a wealth of resources that you will find useful.

### Our Online Learning Environment (OLE)

In this handbook you will see numerous references to our Blackboard Online Learning Environment (OLE). This is our comprehensive learning platform where you will find all the key information and learning resources, including lecture slides and access to our extensive online library, needed for your course.

When you complete enrolment you will automatically have a personal OLE account and a Pearson College London email address created for you. You will then receive login details by email. **You are strongly advised to regularly read your Pearson College emails. Email represents one of the principal modes of communication the College utilises in conveying important information to you.**

## 3. All about your Programme

### Structure of the MLaw Programme

This programme may be studied over four years full-time. There is also an accelerated option which facilitates completion in three years (achieved by studying over the summer months (the Summer Semester) traditionally used as vacation time) (see below for details on the criteria for acceptance on the acceleration programme).

The programme is divided into four levels, each level comprising modules totalling 120 credits (a typical module having 15 or 30 credits):

Credits	Level

120	4 (Certificate in Higher Education)(CertHE)
120	5 (Diploma in Higher Education)(DipHE)
120	6 (Bachelor Degree)(LLB)
120	7 (Masters Degree)(MLaw)

Students must successfully complete each module in order to be awarded the specified number of credits for that module. One credit corresponds to approximately ten notional learning hours (including classes and all private study and research). Thus obtaining 120 credits in an academic year requires 1200 learning hours overall. Students usually study 60 credits per semester; 120 credits for the academic year.

For further information on modules and credits refer to the Credit Framework at: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfo.html>

Each module and programme is designed to be at a specific level. For the descriptors of each of these academic levels, refer to Annex 2 of the Credit Framework at: <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfoannex2.html>.

Students successfully completing Level 4 and meeting Credit Framework requirements but who do not successfully complete Level 5 will be eligible for the award of CertHE (Law). Students successfully completing Levels 4 and 5 and meeting Credit Framework requirements but who do not successfully complete Level 6 will be eligible for the award of the DipHE (Law). Students successfully completing Levels 4, 5 and 6 who do not successfully complete Level 7 will be eligible for the award of an LLB Honours degree.

### Compulsory and Optional Modules

**Compulsory** modules are core to the programme and must be taken by all students. **Optional** or **elective** modules in law or business provide a choice of subject areas, from which students will select a number of modules in order to accumulate the required number of credits. Where modules are compulsory this is usually because either they are required by the Joint Statement of the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)/Bar Standards Board (BSB) for the academic stage of training, or because they form part of the professional requirements of the SRA to allow exemption from the Legal Practice Course (LPC). Given the number of compulsory credits devoted to legal subjects (and in particular to the Foundation subjects identified by the SRA and BSB), students who successfully complete Levels 4, 5 and 6 will obtain a Qualifying Law Degree, regardless of their elective choices.

**Optional Modules can be either law or business focused (many law firms seek law graduates with an appreciation of the commercial and industrial sector). Note: there is no guarantee that any specific optional module will be offered in any one semester. Much is dependent upon timetable logistics and the availability of expert staff.**

At levels 4, 5 and 6, students complete the academic law modules in semester 1, followed by compulsory professional and other optional modules in semester 2.

At Level 7, students complete three of the compulsory professional modules in semester 1, before ending with their final optional choices and dissertation in semester 2.

A distinctive feature of the programme is that students may demonstrate that they have achieved the Learning Outcomes for any of the above modules by passing the relevant assessments and having undertaken an approved period of relevant work experience e.g. work experience as a paralegal or relevant internship experience that fulfils the learning outcomes for that module.

## Programme Structure

The MLaw programme comprises modules in three different categories:

- Academic modules, most of which are required by the professional bodies, as part of a Qualifying Law Degree (indicated in the description below with “A”). Such compulsory modules are sometimes referred to as core or foundation modules.
- Professional modules which are required for exemption from Legal Practice Course; the vocational stage of training as a solicitor (indicated in the description below with “LP”).
- Additional elective modules, which may be additional law modules, or non-law modules such as economics or project management.

### Level 4

#### Compulsory Modules:

- English Legal System I (A) (15 credits)
- English Legal System II (A) (15 credits)
- Law of Contract (A) (15 credits)
- Law of Tort (A) (15 credits)
- Civil Litigation (LP) (15 credits)
- Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence (LP) (15 credits)

#### Optional Modules (two from the following)

- International Business Regions I (15 credits)
- Introduction to Business Economics (15 credits)
- Industry Studies I (15 credits)
- Self-Managed Learning (15 credits)

### Level 5

#### Compulsory Modules:

- Criminal Law (A) (15 credits)
- Constitutional and Administrative Law (A) (15 credits)
- Law of the European Union (A) (15 credits)
- Employment Law (A) (15 credits)
- Criminal Litigation (LP) (15 credits)
- Advocacy and Negotiation (LP) 15 credits

#### Optional Modules (two from the following):

- Operations and Project Management (15 credits)

- People Management and Leadership (15 credits)
- Family Law (15 credits)
- Self-Managed Learning (15 credits)
- Intellectual Property (15 credits)

## Level 6

### Compulsory Modules:

- Land Law (A) (15 credits)
- Law of Equity and Trusts (A) (15 credits)
- Research Project (A) (30 credits)
- Property Law and Practice (LP) (20 credits)
- Wills and Administration of Estates (LP) (15 credits)
- Client Management (incorporating interviewing and advising) (LP) (15 credits)
- Professional Conduct and Regulation (LP) (10 credits)

## Level 7

### Compulsory Modules:

- Dissertation (A) (30 credits)
- Business Law and Practice (LP) (30 credits)
- Practical Legal Research, Writing and Drafting (PLRWD) (LP) (15 credits)
- Accounting for Solicitors (LP) (15 credits)

### Optional Modules (two from the following):

- Listed Company Finance and Governance (LP) (15 credits)
- Private Company Acquisitions (LP) (15 credits)
- Debt Finance (LP) (15 credits)
- Self-Managed Learning (SML) (15 credits)

## Special Rules for Professional Modules

In accordance with the requirements of the SRA, there are special rules for the modules which give exemption for the LPC (the LP marked modules). **They have a pass mark of 50%, instead of the usual 40%** for Level 4 to 6 programmes (see further details in the Assessment section below). The SRA also operate a 'fit to sit' policy, which affects any student who may have extenuating circumstances in relation to a timed examination. In all such examinations, you will be required to sign a 'fit to sit' form, certifying that you are fit to sit the examination and do not have any extenuating circumstances. This means that if, after the examination, you submit an application for extenuating circumstances it is unlikely to be granted unless there is evidence that you became ill suddenly in the course of the examination.

## Participation

This is, quite simply, vital to your studies!

You are expected to participate in all modules within the MLaw Programme (including the ones you find difficult or challenging). All the modules have been designed to be interactive and therefore it is essential that you actively engage and participate in discussions and activities. This is specifically important with modules covering professional skills and knowledge.

**You should note that attendance is recorded in all seminars. Attendance records are often required for employment references, etc.**

Employers and professionals are actively involved in the design and delivery of modules; for example, providing industry-led workshop days during the programme or delivering a guest lecture on recent

changes in the law. You are strongly encouraged to get involved in as many of these activities as you can. Not only will they enhance and strengthen your CV but they also facilitate the learning of legal theory.

In many classes, you will be required to practise the theory you have learned in particular law based problem scenarios. For example, learning the main provisions of the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and then advising a client as to their shopping rights, or completing a Part 36 claim form for a simple road accident personal injury claim or seeking a Judicial Review of a local authority's decision to compulsorily purchase a client's property. Likewise, many of the assessments are designed to replicate the sort of legal work you will encounter in the initial stages of practice as a (day one) trainee solicitor.

### How are you taught?

The course has been designed to ensure that you are provided with the knowledge, skills and experience to work as a professional within a legal environment and is delivered in the most appropriate and applicable way to achieve this. This means that you will be learning through industry-led classes, guest lectures, internships, group discussions, workshops, exercises, moots (practice trials) as well as traditional lectures and seminars.

Lecture slides, recorded lectures, seminar preparation information and notes, reading lists and announcements are all provided on the OLE. Seminar sessions involve a mixture of group and individual work, presentations and discussions. Students will be encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities that facilitate their studies including court visits, debating, marshalling (following the work of a judge), vocational placement schemes and trips to legal institutions such as the EU, Parliament and various prisons.

Please note that we expect you to spend a minimum of 15 hours a week on self-study. This time should be primarily spent researching, practising questions and preparing for seminars, e.g. drafting outline answers to legal problems. Remember, the more preparation you undertake, the more successful your studies will be.

### Academic Writing

Accuracy in legal writing is essential. As you can appreciate, drafting mistakes in law documents can have serious repercussions (not least being a claim of professional negligence against you). For this reason, all classes will emphasize the need for accuracy, consistency and clarity in your written work.

Likewise, in all your written work, you will be required to appropriately and accurately cite all sources to which you make reference. Producing a full bibliography/reference list will indicate the array of published books, journal articles, research papers and internet sites you have researched both in presenting and supporting your arguments.

You will be taught how to accurately cite case law, including appropriate referencing, and the use of statutory provisions. Much emphasis will be placed on the practical stages in commencing legal actions and, specifically, litigation.

You will receive ongoing support on how to research, types of referencing and how to plan an academic piece of work, whether that be an essay, a report or the answer to a problem question.

Guidance on referencing and academic writing can be found in the Study Skills area of Library Services on the Student Portal. You are strongly advised to attend the additional study support classes offered throughout the academic year. Details will be available on the OLE. There will be opportunities to undertake training in the various software research packages used in legal practice such as Westlaw and Lexis UK (see below for details). Keep an eye out for emails advertising such events.

## Reading Lists

Recommended reading for each of the modules in the MLaw programme is detailed on the OLE. Much of the recommended reading will be available in an electronic format, which can be read online or downloaded to devices for offline reading.

Early in the programme, training sessions will be provided on the use of specific law databases such as WestLaw and LexisNexis. Attendance will be compulsory as an inability to navigate such sites will seriously hamper your studies. (These databases are commonly used in practice.). Further details can be obtained by contacting Chris Wares, Head of Library Services.

## Acceleration of Studies

Full-time students have the opportunity to request to accelerate to a three-year MLaw programme (rather than four years). This means that you will attend classes and sit assessments over a summer term in both the first and second year of the programme.

Studying under the accelerated route is very intensive and the decision should not be taken lightly. Students are permitted to accelerate on the basis that they have performed satisfactorily on the first two terms of the programme. The decision on whether or not you are eligible to accelerate your studies will be made by an internal exam board.

The specific criteria for meeting the requirements to accelerate in the programme are:

- Commitment to engagement in seminars as evidenced by:
  - good attendance;
  - supporting reference from a tutor focusing on participation in class.
- Passed all assessments at first attempt with average of 2:1 or above.

Please note that the accelerated programme is subject to numbers and therefore might not run should there be insufficient number of eligible students. If you are considering applying to accelerate your studies you should first discuss this with your Personal Tutor. Programme Leader's support is needed for any application to accelerate. Further information on the acceleration policy and process can be found on the Pearson College London website:

Go to: Students > Policies > Acceleration Policy.

## Attendance

There is a very high correlation between attendance and success on your degree programme. Basically, those who regularly attend are, statistically, far more likely to pass their assessments - and pass well.

As part of your studies, you are expected to:

- Attend all taught classes and participate appropriately
- Take part in all scheduled online activities outside the taught classes
- Undertake all assessments within the time frames set
- Attend all meetings and other activities as required by the College

If you are unable to attend a class or activity, you should complete the necessary forms (for details see the College Handbook). The College will monitor your attendance, participation and progress throughout the programme in order to offer you the appropriate academic and pastoral support necessary.

**You should note that attendance is recorded in all seminars. Attendance records are often required for employment references, etc.**

For further information on our attendance policy, please refer to the Pearson College London website;

Go to: Students > Policies > Pearson College Attendance Policy and Procedure.

## Transfer between Programmes

Should you wish to transfer between programmes, for example, from the MLaw to the LLB, you should consult Student Services and complete the relevant documentation on the OLE. As a rule, such transfers are permissible providing the relevant Programme Leaders give permission. Transfers usually take place at the end of academic years.

## 4. Assessments

### Where can you find information about your module assessments?

Information on assessments for each of the modules that you will undertake as part of the MLaw programme can be found under the Assessment section of each module on the OLE. In particular, you should carefully note any assessment dates and ensure that you do not have any conflicting engagements.

Assessment sections on the OLE include detailed information about the nature of the assignment, the assessment task itself, formatting and details on the submission procedure.

For further information about assessment rules and regulations, penalties for late submission, and guidance for students with additional learning needs, please consult the College Handbook, visit the Pearson College London website under Policies and Regulations or contact Student Services.

### What is the MLaw Assessment Strategy?

The aim of the programme assessment strategy is to enable students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills developed during their time on the programme. This includes the ability to apply their knowledge and skills to the solution of practical legal problems in a professional context.

The assessment strategy further aims to secure the following outcomes for students:

- That they are able to state the law accurately and apply it to the solution of practical legal problems
- That they are able to deploy professional legal and analytical skills towards the resolution of practical problems, which are intellectually challenging and reflective of legal practice
- That they are able to demonstrate commercial awareness in addition to legal knowledge and skills

The assessment strategy has been designed with reference to the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, and to ensure compliance with the Solicitors Regulation Authority's (SRA) Legal Practice Course Assessment Requirements. Further details can be found on the SRA website at:

<https://www.sra.org.uk/students/students.page>

As a requirement of the SRA, no compensation or condonement is permitted for **core** modules on this programme (further details on this can be found on the OLE Assessments page)

### How is your Programme Assessed?

A variety of methods of assessment are used on the MLaw programme. These have been designed to be the most appropriate assessment techniques to assess learning outcomes for each of the modules and to comply with SRA requirements.

The methods employed are:

- Formal written examinations
- Coursework
- Presentations
- Advocacy
- Group assessments
- Law scenario problem questions
- Multiple Choice Tests (MCTs)
- Practical Exercises such as moots and negotiations
- Document drafting
- Mini-trials
- Research exercises

Using a multi-dimensional approach is beneficial as it assesses both oral and written communication skills, alongside your capacity to work in a team and individually (often whilst under pressure). Therefore, a combination of assessments will normally be adopted for each of the modules. Wherever possible, assessments will replicate the type of work a trainee solicitor would encounter in general practice.

There is a very high proportion of written exam assessment on these programmes due to the professional accreditation requirements of the SRA and other professional bodies. Almost all of your modules will be at least partly assessed by a written exam or drafting exercise.

All assessments which involve an oral component will be recorded for purposes of moderation and external scrutiny.

#### Formal Written Examinations

For certain modules, you will be required to produce work in time pressured conditions (which may be online subject to current Covid-19 restrictions) under the supervision of an invigilator. The examinations are usually closed book, although appropriate resource material selected by tutors may be provided; for example, copies of statutory provisions, the Civil Procedure Rules (CPRs), etc.

Written assessments in the professional skills modules, such as drafting, negotiations, etc. will take the form of real scenarios. For example, being handed a case brief and instructed to prepare a draft response within a specific time, provided with commercial factors in a negotiation exercise, etc.

You will have the opportunity to practise both exam style questions and skills based assessments with appropriate tutor feedback being provided. You will also be required to sit a formative (mock) exam in advance of your summative (real) exam for each module. The mock exam or practical assessed scenario will be marked by your tutor and appropriate feedback provided. This will assist you in preparation for the summative (final) assessment.

#### Coursework

Assessments for certain modules may also take the form of work produced in non-time pressured conditions. Details on the coursework assignment can be found for each of the relevant modules on the OLE. Tutors will provide additional information and support to students during the completion period of this assessment.

#### Note on Coursework Submissions

Coursework submissions on completed electronically via and plagiarism software package known as Turnitin (available on the OLE).

*Please note that it may take up to 1 hour to upload your coursework onto Turnitin. It is your responsibility to ensure that your coursework has been uploaded before the coursework submission deadline. Late submissions may be penalised as per Pearson College's Assessment Policy (available on the OLE).*

## Presentations

It is important that you develop high quality oral presentation and communication skills. Law firms expect you to have excellent communication skills, and therefore we ensure that, as part of the MLaw programme, you have numerous opportunities to develop and practise these.

For certain modules, you will be required to present your research findings and conclusions orally on set topics, either individually or with members of your peer group. You will have the opportunity to practise your oral communication skills in the relevant module before you are assessed on them. In some modules, such as advocacy, a component of the assessment portfolio is an oral submission within a real setting; for example a plea in mitigation in the Magistrates Court. Such assessments aim to test both your professional knowledge of the law but also your ability to apply rules of court procedure, etiquette and evidence. As with the written assessments, you will have opportunities to practise these skills.

In some cases, the oral presentation may be supported by other materials, which may take the form of standard text, drafting documents, presentation slides or other visual aids. These will be graded in accordance with the general criteria for oral presentations and the requirements of the SRA.

## Group Assessments

In order to give you the chance to develop team working skills and demonstrate your ability to work collaboratively, for certain modules you will be assessed on group projects.

The ability to work collaboratively in a team is one of the key skills that employers look for, and therefore it is important that you have experience of this as part of your studies. For each of the modules where a group assessment is part of the assessment criteria, you will receive regular feedback and improvement suggestions from your tutors on your performance in contact sessions.

## Marking criteria

All of your coursework and presentations will be marked and graded using the University of Kent Marking Criteria. To pass the module assessment you will need to demonstrate that you have addressed each learning outcome in the module. You can view the learning outcomes of a module by viewing the module specification. To access these:

On the website go to: Students > Current Students > Module specifications

Your grade for each assessment will then be determined by the University of Kent Marking Criteria. When you receive feedback from tutors and markers it will be given in the context of this document. You can access the University of Kent Marking Criteria in:

On OLE go to: Communities > Business School > Marking Criteria

## Word Count Regulations

The word count will include everything in the body of the text, such as quotations, citations, footnotes and subheadings. It does not include the coursework title, bibliography, references, appendices, case or statute lists, or other supplementary material, which does not form an essential part of the text. Footnotes encompasses additional explanatory text included at the bottom of a page to amplify specific sections of text in the main body of the work. The Harvard Referencing System is used throughout the College in all academic work; unless you are specifically directed otherwise. Training sessions on how to use this system will be provided throughout your studies with specific guidance available on the Library pages on the OLE. Unless stated otherwise, there is an allowance of 10% deviation over the stated maximum word count.

Please carefully ensure that you comply with the above word count regulations. Keeping within the word limit is part of the marking criteria and an excessive word count beyond the allowed 10% may be taken into account in marking your work.

**Please note;** for specific professional skills based assessments there are strict rules as to the formatting, pagination and referencing of legal documents. These rules will be comprehensively covered as and when appropriate.

### Pass Marks

The pass mark for all of the academic (A) and non-law modules at levels 4-6 is **40%**. The pass mark for all of the professional (LP) modules, and all other modules at level 7, is **50%**. Some of the professional (LP) modules teach practical professional skills, such as writing and drafting or advocacy. The SRA require students to be graded as Competent in order to obtain exemption for LPC purposes. A pass (50%) in these modules is equivalent to Competent. Students achieving less than 50% will be deemed Not Yet Competent and will have an opportunity to resit the assessment in question in accordance with the usual regulations (details of which can be found the College Handbook and on the OLE).

### Feedback

Throughout the programme, you will be provided with relevant, timely and comprehensive feedback from your module tutors on your academic progress and achievements to help you progress and enhance the quality of your work. The feedback process varies slightly between Levels 4/5 (first and second year) and Levels 6/7 (third and fourth year). The full Formative Feedback Policy is available on the OLE.

### Level 4/5

As a level 4 or 5 student, you may submit a coursework plan of no more than 500 words that summarises the main content and structure of your work using Turnitin. You may submit one coursework plan for each assessment during the course of a module. This must be submitted on Turnitin no later than the Friday of the 7<sup>th</sup> week of tuition (week 9 of term).

You will receive written feedback via Turnitin.

### Level 6

If you are a student completing level 6 modules, you can additionally submit a draft of your summative assignment for formative feedback using Turnitin. Again, you may only submit one full draft for each assessment during the course of a module.

Across all levels, feedback will be provided to you in a written format that links directly to the generic grading criteria. This will be provided in a standard formative feedback form, and will include detailed feedback points that highlight specific areas for improvement. You will receive written formative feedback via Turnitin.

The last opportunity to submit for feedback is by the Friday in the 7<sup>th</sup> teaching week (week 9 of term). It is your responsibility to seek feedback in a timely manner to allow sufficient time for your tutor to provide feedback and for you to act on this feedback before the submission deadline.

Any questions or issues surrounding feedback should be directed to your module tutors or to Alphonse de Kluyver, Head of Assessments at Pearson Business School on:  
[alphonse.dekluyver@pearson.com](mailto:alphonse.dekluyver@pearson.com)

## Professional Accreditation

The MLaw programme is fully recognised as covering both the academic and vocational stages of training for students wishing to practise as a solicitor in England and Wales. On completion of the programme students (under current SRA regulations) are still required to undergo two years training (i.e. under a training contract), before they are fully qualified to practice. (Students on the LLB may transfer, subject to the Programme Leader's permission, to the MLaw programme.) The MLaw programme includes the Legal Practice Course and, on graduation, students only need to complete the trainee stage of training to become a solicitor.

For further details on training as a solicitor please refer to:

<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/law-careers/becoming-a-solicitor/qualifying-as-a-solicitor>

## Higher Diploma in Para Legal Practice (Level 6)

Students can also be awarded a Higher Diploma in Para Legal Practice from the National Association of Licensed Paralegals (NALP) on successful completion of the Level 6 modules, individual registration and payment of an Association fee. Further details on the Diploma will be disseminated during level 5 of the programme.

For details on para legal work go to:

<https://www.nationalparalegals.co.uk/>

## Suitability and Misconduct for Professional Practice

To qualify as a solicitor all applicants must pass a Suitability Test. This is administered and adjudicated by the SRA. Certain criminal offences, police cautions, and warnings will be taken into account when determining the outcome of this test. Likewise, the SRA require all Assessment Misconduct offences, committed by students at higher education institutes, to be reported to them. In compliance, Pearson College automatically report any findings of student misconduct to the SRA.

## 5. Practical Experience/Internships/Civic Engagement

We strongly encourage, as a participant on the MLaw programme that you observe or work for some form of law firm or legal department (in-house counsel) or barrister. This allows you to see how law works in practice and apply the knowledge you have learned on the programme. Many law firms offer vacation placement and training schemes and these are often used to identify potential trainee solicitors. A number of firms offer to cover the cost of training should a student be selected as a Trainee Solicitor.

We also encourage you to participate in our internship scheme. Internships are a great way to gain valuable industry experience, explore your career options, build connections and put what you've learned into practice. Even the process of finding and applying for internships will help you develop your job hunting skills in a highly competitive market. We recommend you try to do at least one internship while you are studying for your degree, and our talent development team will work with you to help you find opportunities. There are all sorts of internships, and you should try to do as many as you can while you are with us.

In fact, we consider internships to be so important we even guarantee you will have one provided you have met the academic criteria and engaged appropriately and proactively with the talent development scheme. This is all about working with you to help you find opportunities and successfully apply for roles – exactly what you will need to do once you graduate.

Further information on internships can be found in the Guide to Internships on the Talent Development Centre on the Pearson Business School portal.

Students are also encouraged to undertake civic engagement activities whenever possible. Such activities include, *inter alia*: becoming a school governor, joining the Citizen Advice Bureau as an advisor and volunteering to be a trustee or prison lay visitor.

Full details on how to apply for such positions will be available during your first year or you can contact Amy Moore ([amy.moore@pearson.com](mailto:amy.moore@pearson.com))

## 6. Conclusion

### What kind of career can you expect?

A career in law is not only stimulating and challenging but also varied. The legal system in the UK is highly respected across the world. Many international disputes are settled in British courts and tribunals or are dealt with via arbitration. For this reason, good law graduates and qualified lawyers are in high demand with a variety of opportunities on offer.

There are many different career paths open to those who graduate with an MLaw. Obviously, the vast majority of graduates from the MLaw programme will want to enter practice as a solicitor, either in high street or regional practice or in one of the major law firms, e.g. Clifford Chance. However, there are many other opportunities including graduate entry programmes, such as those operated by the police service, or the prison service or via regulatory bodies such as the Financial Conduct Authority. Qualified solicitors often act as Company Secretaries or in-house counsel in large commercial firms (many MLaw students have worked as interns in Pearson's Legal office) or within the civil service. For those who are politically ambitious, more Prime Ministers have been lawyers than any other profession.

### Good Luck!

The MLaw programme is academically challenging, yet extremely rewarding. Successful completion of the programme will, potentially, open a variety of challenging and stimulating opportunities to you.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your peer group, tutors and Programme Leader for support or to answer any questions you may have.

Finally, from all the staff here at Pearson Business School, we wish you every success in your studies.

## 7. Contact Details

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