

Programme Specification for Programme Leading to: Graduate Diploma in Law (CPE)



Applicable for all undergraduate students starting on or after 1st September 2018

Version No.	Date	Notes – QA USE ONLY	QA
1	July 2019	New Programme Specification created for 2019/20	SB/RJC

Undergraduate programme	
1. Awarding institution	Brunel University London
2. Teaching institution(s)	Brunel University London
3. Home college/department/division	College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences / Brunel Law School
4. Contributing college/department/division/associated institution	N/A
5. Programme exemptions/accredited by	Solicitors Regulation Authority & Bar Standards Board
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	Graduate Diploma in Law (FHEQ 6)
7. Programme title	Graduate Diploma in Law (CPE)
8. Programme type (Single honours/joint)	Graduate Diploma
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	12 months (full-time)
10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study	36 months (full-time)
11. Variation(s) to September start	N/A
12. Modes of study	Full-time
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles with FHEQ Level of Award	N/A
15. UCAS Code	N/A
16. JACS Code	M100
17. Route Code	M100UCPELAW
18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design	<p>QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education which includes the English Framework for Higher Education Qualifications within Part A on Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards.</p> <p>QAA most recent Subject Benchmark Statements - Law</p> <p>Brunel 2030</p> <p>Bar Standards Board and the Solicitors Regulation Authority (Joint Statement Issued by the Bar Council and the Law Society on the Academic Stage of Training)</p>
19. Admission Requirements	<p>For details of the admissions requirements visit:</p> <p>http://www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/cpe-in-law</p> <p>Further details of entry requirements are provided on the University's and College website.</p> <p>Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's language requirements pages.</p>
20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)	Candidates who pass the CPE are eligible to apply for immediate entry onto professional legal training through the Legal Practice Course of the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Professional Training Course of the Bar Standards Board

	<p><u>Induction Programme</u></p> <p>Students are required to attend an induction course at the beginning of the programme. Students who do not pass the Induction Course assessment will not be permitted to continue on the programme until they have successfully passed, and will be withdrawn if they fail at the second attempt. For more information please refer to the Graduate Diploma in Law (CPE) Regulations, Policies and Processes supplement.</p>
21. Programme regulations not specified in Senate Regulation 2. Any departure from regulations specified in Senate Regulation 2 must be stated here and approved by Senate.	<p>Students are permitted three attempts at any assessment except with respect to the Induction Course where the third attempt is subject to the approval of the CPE Director.</p> <p>Further information on regulations, policies and processes that are of variance to Senate Regulation 2, and pertain to this programme only, are presented in a supplement to this programme specification.</p> <p>The CPE is governed by national regulations set by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board. The latest regulations, the Academic Stage Handbook is available here: http://www.sra.org.uk/students/academic-stage.page</p>
22. Further information about the programme is available from the College website.	<p>Link to programme information on the College website: http://www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/cpe-in-law</p>

23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

A. Academic Study of Law

1. For students to acquire a sound understanding of the essential elements of the UK legal system (all modules)
2. For students to be able to locate, accurately describe and critically reflect on the primary subjects in the study of the English legal system (all modules)

B. Professional Qualification and Further Study

3. Enable students to gain exemptions for the professional training stage of the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board
4. Enable students to pursue further postgraduate study in Law

24. PROGRAMME AND INTERMEDIATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding (K) cognitive (thinking) skills (C) and other skills and attributes (S) in the following areas:

FHEQ Level	Category (K = knowledge and understanding, C = cognitive (thinking) skills, S = other skills and attributes)	Learning Outcome	Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s)	Associated Study Blocks Code(s)	Associated Modular Blocks Code(s)
6					
	K	The rationale underlying the English legal system			ALL MODULES
	K	The concepts, principles, and rules of Foundation Subjects in the English Legal System.			ALL MODULES
	K	The means to ascertain the law from legislation, case law and secondary literature.			ALL MODULES
	K	The methods and techniques appropriate to undertaking research in English law			ALL MODULES
	K	The key concepts relating to rules of Evidence			LX3908 Evidence Law
	C	Collate and integrate information from a variety of different sources, synthesise a variety of different legal materials in meaningful ways and evaluate, express, and solve problems in an appropriate manner.			ALL MODULES
	C	Demonstrate skills of analysis and evaluation and other advanced thinking skills (e.g., reasoning, judgement etc.)			ALL MODULES
	C	Analyse the relevant law and assess critically, where relevant, the policy underlying it.			ALL MODULES
	C	Utilise skills in identifying, retrieving and applying to primary legal sources secondary assessments of same.			ALL MODULES
	C	Apply knowledge of the main types of intellectual property rights to complex problem and essay questions.			ALL MODULES
	S	Independently research issues on intellectual property law applying various research tools and the manage their learning.			ALL MODULES
	S	Communicate effectively in writing with appropriate use of legal citation, and by the use of computer word processing; Communicate effectively through oral argument.			ALL MODULES

Learning/teaching strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be achieved, including formative assessments

The classes are taught via a combination of lectures, small group work, directed private study, office hours and online supported study as appropriate:

- Lectures are (generally) used to deliver core material.
- Small group work, including mock trial exercises, is (generally) used to apply acquired knowledge via exercises and/or to develop critical insight and reflect on material.
- Directed private study is used to (a) supplement and consolidate the points above and (b) broaden individual knowledge and understanding the subject matter.
- Provision of online resources via the University VLE

Summative assessment strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be demonstrated.

The assessment of the above learning outcomes is achieved via a combination of unseen examinations and coursework.

25. Programme Structure, progression and award requirements

Programme structures and features: levels, assessment blocks, credit and progression and award requirements

- **Compulsory block:** one which all students registered for the award are required to take as part of their programme of study. These will be listed in the left hand column;
- **Optional block:** one which students choose from an 'option range'. These will be listed in the right hand column;
- A **core assessment** is an assessment identified within an assessment block or modular block (either compulsory or optional) which must be passed (at grade D- or better) in order to be eligible to progress and to be eligible for the final award. All core assessments must be specified on the programme specification next to the appropriate assessment or modular block:

Where students are expected to pass the block at D- or better, but not necessarily all elements, then the block itself is core.

e.g. AB5500 Project (40)
Core: Block

Where only some elements of assessments are required to be passed at D- or better, these will be identified by listing each element that is core

e.g. ABXXX1 Title (XX credits)
Core: 1 & 4

Where students are expected to pass all assessments in a block then this will be identified. By setting the assessment this way, students are also required to pass the block by default. This will be identified thus:

e.g. ABXXXX Title (XX credits)
Core: All, Block

- A **non-core assessment** does not have to be passed at grade D- or better, but must E- or better in order to be eligible for the final award.

FHEQ Level 6	
Compulsory study block codes, titles and credits	Optional study block codes, titles and credits
Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits	Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits
<p>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</p> <p>All modules are 20 credits unless otherwise specified</p> <p>LX3901 Contract Law Core: Block</p> <p>LX3902 Tort Law Core: Block</p> <p>LX3903 Criminal Law Core: Block</p> <p>LX3904 Public Law Core: Block</p> <p>LX3905 EU Law Core: Block</p> <p>LX3906 Land Law Core: Block</p> <p>LX3907 Trusts Core: Block</p> <p>LX3908 Evidence Core: Block</p>	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits
<p>FHEQ Level 6 Progression and Award Requirements</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 2 and variations presented in supplementary Common Professional Examination/Graduate Diploma in Law Regulations, Policies and Processes</p> <p>And the Academic Stage Handbook: http://www.sra.org.uk/students/academic-stage.page</p>	

Please note: this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods can be found in the study, assessment and modular block outlines and other programme and block information. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University from time to time and whenever a modification occurs.



Graduate Diploma in Law **(CPE)**

Regulations, Policies and Processes

Award and scheme of studies

1. The Programme is a full-time or part-time programme leading to the award of a Graduate Diploma in Law. It meets the conditions laid down by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and Bar Standards Board (BSB) for the Common Professional Examination (CPE). It is run by the Division of Law (referred to as the 'Law School' in these Regulations) within the Department of Politics, History and Law, part of the College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences at Brunel University London.
2. The Programme consists of eight assessment blocks of 20 credits each, amounting to 160 credits, leading to the award of a Graduate Diploma. All assessment blocks are at Brunel Level 3, corresponding to Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) in England. Seven assessment blocks cover the Seven Foundations of Legal Knowledge Subjects specified in the Joint Statement, and an eighth module as identified in the programme specification. In addition, there is a compulsory induction course covering the English Legal System, which students must pass in order to proceed, but which does not attract credits and does not contribute to the final assessment of the Programme. The full scheme of studies is set out in the Programme Specification.

Applicable regulations

3. (a) These regulations form an approved variation to Brunel University London Senate Regulation 2 on Undergraduate Study and a supplement to the Graduate Diploma in Law Programme Specification. They apply subject to and in conjunction with Senate Regulations, in particular Regulations 2 and 4 (on Assessment), 6 (on Misconduct and Professional Suitability) and 12 (on Academic Appeals).
- (b) These regulations are consistent with and give effect to the rules for CPE programmes issued by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board and are required to be incorporated in CPE programmes (the Academic Stage Handbook), and are to be construed in light of the Academic Stage Handbook.¹

¹ The version of the Academic Stage Handbook applicable alongside these Regulations at the time of publication is version 1.4, date July 2014, as published by the SRA at www.sra.org.uk/students/academic-stage.page. When new editions of the Handbook are published, these are expected to apply.

(c) Other key information about the Programme is provided in the approved Brunel Programme Specification. Additional information for registered students will be provided by the University and the College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences.

Partial exemption students

4. The Law School may, under the provisions for the recognition of prior learning in SR2.24-35, admit students who have obtained a partial exemption certificate in respect of one or more of the modules in the Programme (“partial exemption students”) as associate students taking individual modules on the Programme, but not registered for the Graduate Diploma in Law. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the partial exemption certificate and to give notice of it to the Law School. Special provisions apply concerning the assessment of partial exemption students, as provided in the relevant paragraph below. The Law School currently offers exemptions in not more than and not less than 4 subjects, in accordance with the CPE exemption policy.

Induction Course

5. The Induction Course at the start of the Programme is assessed but carries no credit, and the assessment does not count towards the final assessment of the Programme.
6. A student who fails the Induction Course assessment will have his or her assessed work referred to an External Examiner, to confirm the grading before any further decision is taken. All such students will be permitted a second attempt. However, students who do not pass the Induction Course assessment will not be permitted to continue on the Programme until they have successfully passed, and will be withdrawn if they fail at the second attempt. Only in exceptional circumstances, as determined by the CPE Director, will a third attempt be permitted. Students will have the right to appeal the decision of the CPE Director through the Appeals Process.

Admission to the Programme

7. The University will set out the admission criteria for the programme in accordance with its procedures and these shall be set out in the course web page. These criteria will reflect the minimum requirements of the SRA and/or BSB.
8. Admission to the Programme by way of a transfer from another CPE programme, or where the applicant has previously failed to complete another CPE programme, will not be allowed except as provided for under the Academic Stage Handbook and the CPE/GDL exemptions policy.

Assessment

9. Senate Regulations 2 and 4 apply with respect to the assessment and classification of students on the Programme, subject to the following amendments.
10. No P-grade (aegrotat pass) shall be awarded on the Programme.
11. Alongside the provision for reassessment defined in SR2.63 , the Programme adopts a compensation model based on the Academic Stage Handbook which is a variation to Senate Regulation 2. The Board of Examiners may compensate a maximum of one marginal fail in a modular block where
 - (i) the Board has considered the marks of all the elements of the assessments; and
 - (ii) the student has obtained a minimum of 35% in one and only one modular block; and
 - (iii) the Board is satisfied that there is strength elsewhere in the student's performance to justify compensation of the marginal fail.

As per the CPE exemptions policy, there will be no compensation for students undertaking the course with partial exemptions. **Classification**

12. A student shall be awarded a Pass when he or she has passed all modules.
13. (a) A student shall be awarded a Commendation where
 - (i) he or she has passed all assessments at the first attempt, without any module being compensated; AND
 - (ii) he or she has obtained an overall average of at least 60% of the modules counting towards the final award.

- (b) A student may be awarded a Commendation where
- (i) he or she has passed all elements of assessment at the first attempt, without any module being compensated; AND
 - (ii) he or she has obtained an overall average of at least 58%; AND
 - (iii) he or she has obtained an overall average of at least 60% in at least half of the modules counting towards the final award; AND
 - (iv) the Board considers that it is not inappropriate to award a Commendation.

(c) A student shall not otherwise be awarded a Commendation.

14. (a) A student shall be awarded a Distinction where
- (i) he or she has passed all assessments at the first attempt, without any modules being compensated; AND
 - (ii) he or she has obtained an overall average of at least 70% in the assessments.

- (b) A student may be awarded a Distinction where
- (i) he or she has passed all elements of assessment at the first attempt, without any module being compensated; AND
 - (ii) he or she has obtained an overall average of at least 67%; AND
 - (iii) he or she has obtained an overall average of at least 70% in at least half of the subjects counting towards the final award; AND
 - (iv) the Board considers that it is not inappropriate to award a Distinction.

Reassessment

15. The Board of Examiners may only require a student to be reassessed in an assessment or element of an assessment that he or she failed. The Board of Examiners may only require a student to be reassessed if they have failed to meet the minimum pass threshold of a given modular block.
16. Students have a right to reassessment on two occasions at any of the assessments on the Programme, except with respect to the Induction Course. This is a variation to Senate Regulation 2 for this programme. A student who is entitled to be

reassessed or who has been permitted to be reassessed by the Board of Examiners will have the opportunity to do so at the next available sitting.

17. A student who fails an assessment and on retaking the assessment achieves a Pass shall only be awarded a maximum of 40% for the reassessment in line with SR2.64.
18. A student who considers that his or her performance in an assessment has been affected by mitigating circumstances, including where he or she has been absent from an examination, or has failed to submit coursework or has submitted it late, may submit a notice of mitigating circumstances under the procedures laid down by the University.

Law School Policies

19. Students on the Programme are required to observe the policies laid down by the Law School from time to time. Subject to and in accordance with Senate Regulations and these regulations, for the effective running of the Programme, including for example expectations concerning attendance at lectures and seminars, preparation for seminars, the format for coursework, and the procedures for submission of coursework and preparatory work. Such policies will normally be set out in the College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences Student Handbook, or otherwise specifically made known to students.