



STAFFORDSHIRE
UNIVERSITY

Law
School

GDL/CPE

the real story



A North Staffordshire graduate is now forging a career with one of the region's largest law firms after returning to university to complete the Graduate Diploma in Law, (Common Professional Examination) course.

Like many school leavers, Katie Cooper was unsure of what career she wanted to pursue when she enrolled on an English and American studies degree course at Warwick University.

"I always had an interest in working in the legal profession but was unsure and so decided to keep my options open by taking a degree that would be fairly transferable depending on the career I chose," said Katie.

"I went along to an open day at Staffordshire University Law School and was impressed by the facilities and the enthusiasm of the staff."

Katie, originally from Blythe Bridge, near Stoke-on-Trent, now works in the litigation department at Newcastle-under-Lyme based Knights solicitors llp.

She said: "The year long GDL course was excellent. There was an intensive work schedule as we had to learn much of the work completed in a three-year law degree in a year. But the staff were very supportive and the back up facilities, such as the library and IT support, were excellent."

"I came through it with good results which was my aim and was able to get a position at a leading law firm."

In fact, Katie, came out as the leading student in her year. She added: "Staffordshire University helped to get me to where I am today. They encouraged me all the way and supported me through the interview process with Knights."

why choose our law school for your GDL/CPE?

Established in 1992, following almost 25 years of teaching Law, we have gained an enviable reputation for the high standard of our tutoring and have received superb accreditations for the quality of our awards.

Our Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) course is accredited by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and the Bar Standards Board. Our Legal Practice Course (LPC) has received the highest possible SRA rating of 'Commendable Practice' in all areas.

Choose to complete your GDL award at our Law School and you will be taught by renowned academics. All are experts in their chosen fields, many are practising solicitors or barristers, and several have published widely used practitioner manuals, monographs and academic articles.

You will benefit from our mentoring scheme, and the opportunity of work experience in a law firm - an invaluable foot on the first rung of a career in the Law.

Welcome to Staffordshire University Law School – one of the leading providers of legal education in the country.

Additionally, you will benefit from the expertise that stems from our unparalleled links with major legal practices in Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Birmingham and Manchester.

Exceptional flexibility

Our GDL course allows you to complete the academic stage of your legal training in less than a year of full-time study or over two years, part-time - a useful option if fitting learning around work. For additional convenience, you can also choose to study at either the University's Law School in Stoke-on-Trent or at Worcester Law School.



Moyra Throssell lectures in Law at South Cheshire College and also acts as the College's Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator. She has completed both the GDL and LLM (Law Masters award) at Staffordshire University.

"While studying for my honours degree, I became involved in the Students' Union, advising people on various issues surrounding social security and social rights," comments Moyra. "This developed my interest in helping people and, upon graduation, I worked for the Citizens Advice Bureau – first as a general advisor then as a specialist in social security issues, where I had an advocacy role.

"After this I became a Student Advisor in Manchester, later moving to South Cheshire College, where I set up a Student Advice service. As much of the advice given had its basis in law, I decided to complete the GDL Common Professional Examination course at Staffordshire University Law School. The University has an excellent reputation at South Cheshire College. Many of our students go to Staffs to study law and several of my colleagues suggested that I should consider the University for my GDL. I took their advice and studied two evenings per week over two years, part-time.

"The entire course was excellent, the quality of teaching was second-to-none and the support we received was simply brilliant. Understanding that many of us worked full-time, the tutors even geared the pace and rigour of the workload to fit around our commitments.

"When an opportunity arose to move into lecturing, I completed a PGCE to teach post-16 education and now lecture across a variety of programmes in Law. Wanting to further my legal knowledge and having already experienced the professionalism and excellent teaching provided at Staffordshire University, the Law School was the obvious choice for my Masters award."

the real story



about the GDL

Our GDL course is ideal for non-Law graduates (and others with appropriate qualifications and experience) who would either like a career in Law or would benefit from a Law qualification.

The course provides a 'fast track' route to legal awards and entry to the Law profession, allowing you to complete the academic stage of legal training in less than a year of full-time study or over two years, part-time. You can study at our Stoke campus or at Worcester Law School.

You will benefit from our mentoring scheme, and the opportunity of work experience in a law firm - an invaluable foot on the first rung of a career in the Law. On completion of the course, our graduates receive two awards: the Graduate Diploma in Law and the university's LLB (CPE).

You can then progress to the solicitors' qualifying route, the Legal Practice Course (LPC), or to the barristers' qualification, the Bar Vocational Course (BVC). The awards also assist entry to other Law-related careers.

As one of our GDL graduates, you will be guaranteed a place on our Legal Practice Course (LPC) and you will benefit from 15% off your LPC course fees.

GDL course information

There is a comprehensive induction programme which allows the student to gain an understanding of the English Legal System and introduces essential legal skills.

The remainder of the year-long course consists of the 'Foundation' subjects, namely:

- Tort
- Contract
- Public Law
- Equity and Trusts
- Land Law
- Crime
- EU Law.

Students also study elements of one other area of legal studies, the '8th subject', notably Employment Law or Social Welfare Law and Practice; and they can choose one other subject area of their choice. This part of the programme is completed largely by self-managed study and is assessed by a coursework assignment submitted at the end of the year (after the exams have been completed).



Staffordshire University Law School's innovative Common Professional Examination (GDL) courses have been developed to give maximum flexibility.



the real boss's story

Negotiating multi-million pound transfer deals in the Football Premiership and advising top international sports men and women is all in a day's work for past Staffordshire University Law School graduate Gary Mellor.

Gary, who left school at 18 to start work as a Trainee Legal Executive then returned to learning through the Law School's evening classes, is now a partner in Stoke-on-Trent law firm Beswicks and as an avid sports fan, found his niche in life when he founded the Beswicks sports team.

Sport is now big business. As a result there is a growing market for the provision of legal services to those involved in the sports sector. As a passionate Stoke City fan, Gary has advised Andy Wilkinson, Salif Diao and Carl Dickenson on their Premier League contracts.

A member of the British Association for Sport and Law, Gary's a keen cricket fan too and proud to provide legal advice to Mushtaq Ahmed, the England Coach who helped England regain the Ashes. Gary said: "My specialism in sport started when, as a litigator, I was approached by footballers and cricketers to look at their contracts.

"Now it's great to be working in area of such personal interest. No two days are the same and Beswicks have advised several stars of the sports world including Jaime Staff, the Olympic gold medal cyclist, on his commercial activities and represented up and coming athletes such as the sprinters, Alex and Ashlee Nelson, who are hoping to represent our country in the 2012 Olympics.

"It's a long time since I studied at Staffordshire University but, as a company, Beswicks have employed some excellent graduates from the Law School there and they always arrive here well versed and ready to start work immediately.

"Graduates of Staffordshire University Law School are highly employable."

how to apply and entry requirements

GDL/CPE – Entry requirements

Entrants should preferably hold at least a second class honours degree but, a third class degree will be considered where the applicant has aptitude and relevant work experience.

Applicants should be guided by the Law professional bodies, as other entry qualifications may be applicable, for example the ILEX held by legal executives or if entrants have "mature student" status.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they have the requisite entry qualifications for the course including a Certificate of Academic Standing from the SRA or BSB, if this is required (see below) and for their intended progression route. They should obtain confirmation of subject exemptions that might be available.

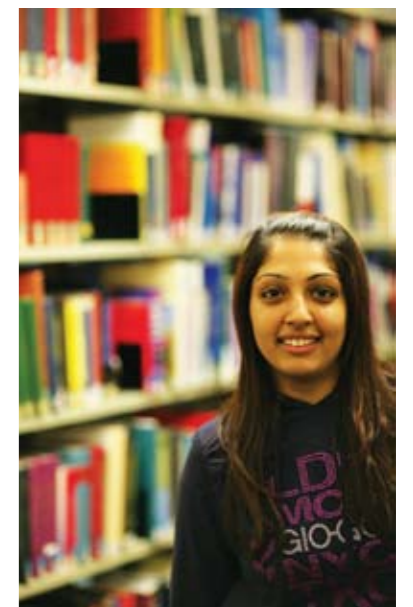
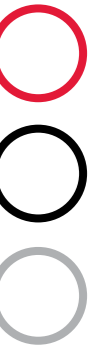
Advice is available from the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) on 0870 6062555 or the Bar Standards Board (BSB) on 0207 6111444.

GDL/CPE – How to apply

Applications for the full-time course must be made on-line (via www.lawcabs.ac.uk) through the CPE Central Applications Board. The Board can advise on completing the form: call 01483 451080.

Applications for the part-time course at Stoke should be made to the University Admissions Office. Please call 01782 292753 for more information. Or email admissions@staffs.ac.uk.

Applications for the part time course at Worcester should be made to Worcester Law School, Worcester College of Technology. Please call 01905 743456 for more information.



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