

Edinburgh Centre for Professional Legal Studies

Part-time Diploma in Professional Legal Practice



The University of Edinburgh is consistently ranked among the top 50 universities in the world* and, for over 300 years, has trained generations of the world's finest legal minds.

Our part-time Diploma in Professional Legal Practice is offered by the Edinburgh Centre for Professional Legal Studies, part of Edinburgh Law School. This Centre provides first-class professional legal education in the postgraduate and in-work arenas.

*Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2010



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Law School

www.law.ed.ac.uk

A flexible approach to building your legal career

The University of Edinburgh is one of only three institutions to deliver the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice both full time and part time, ensuring we offer you choice and flexibility.

The part-time Diploma is taught over a 2 year period offering you the option to study at your own pace and also giving you financial flexibility to spread the cost of the Diploma to fit in with your personal circumstances. Teaching is provided in the form of evening lectures and interactive tutorials, with the ability to study in your own time by use of distance learning resources. Students are supported by a dedicated group of academic and administrative staff and also have access to the full range of University support services.

At Edinburgh Law School, the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice is purposefully demanding, although always enjoyable and wholly relevant. You will learn the practical skills required to succeed in the profession, including negotiation, interviewing and presentation skills and develop financial and commercial awareness. You will then put your learning into practice by participating in the University's Free Legal Advice Centre where you will provide advice to the public, supervised by a qualified solicitor.

By undertaking the Diploma at the University of Edinburgh, you will study in the heart of Scotland's legal centre, just a few minutes from the local Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Courts, the Scottish Parliament and Parliament House, where the highest criminal and civil courts in Scotland sit. You will also be able to choose from one of the widest ranges of practical electives in Scotland and have access to one of the most extensive and best equipped law libraries in the UK. Our academic expertise and rigorous approach will ensure that you will be vocationally ready upon graduation, with the skills required to become a valuable and useful trainee and colleague from the earliest stage of your professional career.

Studying the Part-time Diploma in Professional Legal Practice

PEAT 1

This postgraduate professional qualification, also known as Professional Education and Training Stage 1 (PEAT 1), is required by the Law Society of Scotland and the Faculty of Advocates for all intending solicitors and advocates who want to practice in Scotland. The PEAT 1 outcomes to be achieved are standardised across all institutions accredited to deliver the Diploma in Scotland. At Edinburgh Law School, students must undertake all core courses below and choose three electives.

Core courses

- Criminal Court Practice
- Civil Court Practice
- Company and Commercial
- Conveyancing
- Financial Services and Related Skills
- Private Client
- Professional Responsibility

Practical electives*

- Civil Advocacy
- Construction Law
- Company and Corporate Finance
- Criminal Advocacy
- Employment Law
- Environmental/Renewable Energy Law
- Wealth and Estate Planning

Practical electives cont.

- Family Law/Child Law
- Human Rights
- Mediation
- Medical Law
- Personal Injury
- Public Administration

*Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and not all electives will be available every year.

Teaching

Teaching is delivered by qualified and experienced legal practitioners and scholars from Edinburgh Law School and includes:

- Role-play exercises with actors, videoed and played back;
- A Sheriff Court Exercise where you will deliver a Plea in Mitigation before a Sheriff at Edinburgh Sheriff Court;
- A tender exercise where you will work in groups to tender and pitch for legal work;
- A group-based investment exercise.

Entry requirements

Places will be offered to students based on academic merit on the basis of the marks obtained in the Law Society of Scotland's professional subjects at first sitting, and/or attainment of the foundation outcomes of the Scottish Exempting Degree.

Programme delivery and duration

The part-time Diploma takes two years to complete. In addition to evening lectures and tutorials (Tuesday to Thursday), you will be able to study from your home or office through additional distance learning.

Fees and funding

For information about fees and funding, please visit: www.law.ed.ac.uk/pg/lpd.aspx.

English language requirements

For students whose first language is not English, detailed information about required English language qualifications can be found at www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/english/postgraduate.

Careers

Once you have completed PEAT 1, you must undertake PEAT 2 to become a practising solicitor or advocate. PEAT 2 is the work-based or traineeship element of legal education in Scotland where knowledge, skills, attitudes and values are built on and honed in the live environment of a law firm.

How to apply

Applications are handled by the university that awarded your LLB. You will need to submit your application to that university in order to apply for the Diploma at the University of Edinburgh.

Contact us

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