



Professional Legal Training at Northumbria Law School

Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)

Legal Practice Course (LPC)

Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC)



Northumbria Law School

www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk

Northumbria Law School
Law in Practice

Northumbria Law School... Law in Practice

Welcome to Northumbria – one of the most famous law schools in the UK. 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 Law School 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 90 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 courtrooms (with all the video-link facilities that are increasingly found in the modern courts in practice), our skills suites, and our superb Law Practice Library.

The intake of students across all 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)

A Law School for the 21st Century

Northumbria Law School is located on a modern, state-of-the-art £70 million development in central Newcastle – City Campus East. Completed in September 2007, the building is a prominent landmark within the city, and offers a world class learning and social facility.

The Law School, 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 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 is its largest investment programme to date and demonstrates Northumbria's commitment to its future success and that of its students. Work is now underway at City Campus West to develop the existing facilities and build a new sports facility.

The new sports facility will provide some of the most outstanding fitness and training facilities in the country. The centre will offer 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 over 2,600 seats.

The striking new development is due to open to students, staff and members of the community in 2010.

Artist's impression of new sports facilities



The Law School at night



Why choose Northumbria Law School?

- 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 and the School maintains close links with the legal profession.
- We have a philosophy of combining academic development with practical experience.
- 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.
- We have developed a wide range of innovative Masters programmes on a distance learning basis, providing a flexible approach for those with career and family commitments.
- We are the only University in the UK to offer a five year Solicitor's Full Qualification route enabling students to graduate as fully qualified solicitors.
- Our M Law programmes equip students with a masters level qualification while at the same time achieving a qualifying Law degree and exemption from the Legal Practice Course.
- We have a philosophy of combining academic development with practical experience.
- 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 the Northumbria LPC. Although the Bar Council 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 and 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 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 Law School 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, textbooks, 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 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.

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 Council (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 Council. Please note that students with exemptions who pass the outstanding subjects will pass the programme, but will not generally be awarded the Diploma.

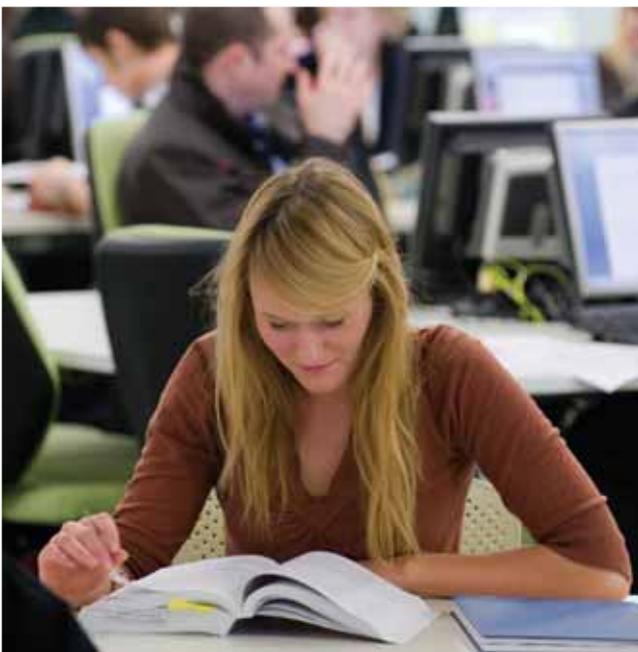


Alexander McFarlane GDL Student

“Having completed a distance learning, masters law degree from Northumbria Law School I was so impressed with how well organised the course was; backed up by tutors and teachers who really cared about their students I discovered an interest in law that hitherto I was unaware of. Thus to take the Graduate Diploma in Law with the part-time distance learning option allowed me to remain at full-time work whilst learning law backwards, so to speak.

The staff are friendly and approachable at all times and are generally interested in your welfare, as a person and not just from an academic point of view. They also understand that learning some aspects of law can be difficult for those not used to it and are endlessly patient in helping you to understand topics which you may find difficult.

The best part of the course is the intellectual challenge of tackling assignments, guided by some of the best teaching materials I have come across. I also enjoy the opportunity to freely network with staff and fellow students as peers during the coffee breaks. What puts it all into perspective is the fact that most of the teaching staff are also practising lawyers at the same time; so they know what is required of students and how to get their message across.”



Why Choose Northumbria's GDL?

- 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 Law School offering excellent learning and teaching facilities

Application Method

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

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 and solicitors accounts and professional conduct and regulation.

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 an 11-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 90 academic staff in the Law School, 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 private client 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. The range of electives covers areas of law that will be of central relevance to your work as either a commercial or high street practitioner. 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 Student Law Office.



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

General Practice Electives

- Advanced Advocacy
- Advanced Criminal Practice
- Advanced Personal Injury
- Child Care Law
- Family Law
- General Practice Employment Law
- Housing Law
- Intellectual Property
- Law and the Elderly Client
- Mental Health Law
- Planning and Environmental Law
- Student Law Office

Commercial Practice Electives

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

Guidance as to appropriate choice of electives is given by subject tutors during the early part of Stage 1.



Why Choose Northumbria's LPC?

- Highest rating in all six areas of assessment from the Solicitors Regulation Authority
- Wide range of electives tailored to both commercial and high street practices
- Unique opportunity to gain experience of live client work on the Student Law Office elective
- Strong careers programme including talks from local practitioners and practical advice on careers, applications and interviewing
- All students given one day per week clear of teaching for private study
- Subjects taught by staff with extensive experience from practice
- The programme is commended for student support and approachable staff
- LPC students undertake their education in our modern £70m Law School benefiting from first class learning and teaching facilities

Neale McCullough LPC Graduate

“I chose Northumbria as it was a law school firmly based in the North East with a strong regional reputation and national connections. The teaching is of the highest possible level, and fosters a passion for the law and your career in the law, particularly as the majority of the staff have previously been, or currently are practising solicitors. This teaching is aided by the facilities available in the department, including a magistrates’ court room. The course is further boosted by a superb careers facility which arranges regular presentations with firms and aims to support you in achieving your ideal career.

Newcastle and the North East is a fantastic place to study for the LPC. The city offers many things from contemporary art to excellent bars and restaurants. Furthermore, the scenic North East provides the perfect opportunities for a well deserved break from your studies.

What separated the LPC at Northumbria from other providers for me was the chance to complete my LLM alongside the LPC, boosting my CV and my knowledge and passion for the law.”



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.

Teaching and Assessment

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

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.

Application Method

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).

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

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.

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



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. 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 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.

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. There are ample facilities for individual and paired practice of exercises, and the use of student study groups is encouraged.

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.



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
- In 2009, £20,000 of scholarships were awarded to students on the programme
- All core subjects and skills are taught by barristers, many of whom practise on the North Eastern circuit
- The Northumbria BPTC currently offers more advocacy training than any other provider
- 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
- Regular talks are delivered by experienced practitioners and Judges
- The Law School is housed on the £70 million purpose-built City Campus East. BPTC students will therefore undertake their legal education in a modern building using state-of-the-art teaching and learning technologies
- The Law School has three mock courtrooms, the main courtroom is modelled on a circuit court
- BPTC students have the opportunity to do live client work in Northumbria's Student Law Office, advising members of the public on real legal problems
- There are close links with the local Bar and the North Eastern circuit. Each year, the Law School hosts a number of dinners and social evenings with local practitioners
- The Law Courts in Newcastle are less than a 10 minute walk from the Law School
- All books required for study are included in the tuition fees (retailing in excess of £1,000)
- Newcastle is a wonderful student city
- The School has an appointed Moot Co-ordinator, who organises regular mooting competitions
- The School's Mock Trial Society holds regular advocacy practice sessions within the main courtroom

Amanda Sehat BPTC Graduate

“After attending the Bar Vocational Course* Open Day at Northumbria University I was hugely impressed by what was on offer and knew instantly that I wanted to choose Northumbria University as my first choice for studying the BPTC. One of the main factors that appealed to me was the new multi-million pound Law School where the lessons for the BPTC were taught. It offers a wealth of state-of-the-art IT and legal facilities, that make learning exciting and interactive, with real-life conference and court rooms to make learning as life-like as possible.

One facility that seemed particularly appealing was the Student Law Office. This unique opportunity to learn and practise with real life cases is not only a great asset to a CV when looking to obtain a pupillage, but is an excellent and unique way of learning the realities of law in practice.

A second factor in my decision was the teaching reputation within the University itself. Being taught by many practising barristers makes Northumbria an excellent institution not only for practical learning, but enables students to create and maintain strong contacts from an early stage in their career. Most importantly, however, was the impression I gained from the staff at the Open Day. Not only were they approachable and helpful, but they had passion and enthusiasm for law at Northumbria which I found inspiring. The course really has been fantastic, I have learnt so much at a renowned establishment and have really enjoyed myself along the way. I would thoroughly recommend it.”

*The new BPTC came into effect for the 2010 intake.

Entry Requirements

Applicants must either have obtained a qualifying law degree, passed the Graduate Diploma in Law or otherwise have satisfied the Bar Council 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.

Applications

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
- speak with one of our legal career advisors
- meet us at one of the law fairs we attend around the country
- register for one of our Open Days
- arrange for a personal tour of Northumbria Law School

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



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 Law 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 Service 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.

- **Don't just take our word for it, this is what our graduates say:**

“During my time on the LPC I really benefited from the one-to-one advice given by my guidance tutor, the careers programme and the close links Northumbria has with law firms. I always wanted to work in a legal aid practice. Ben Hoare Bell, a leading legal aid firm, advertised a training contract vacancy at Northumbria. Before I applied for the position my tutor helped me work on my CV and application letter. The application stage is so important and I'm really pleased I made use of the help on offer. Now I'm a trainee solicitor with Ben Hoare Bell and I've offered to be a professional contact for Northumbria students interested in legal aid work”.

Chris Miller, Trainee Solicitor, Ben Hoare Bell

“When I was on the GDL I really got a lot from the careers programme offered by Northumbria; the practice interview scheme helped me prepare for my training contract interviews and I was delighted to secure a training contract with Pinsent Masons. Now I'm a trainee solicitor and I've offered to be a professional contact for Northumbria students interested in working for a commercial firm in London.”

Jenny Heyes, Trainee Solicitor, Pinsent Masons



Student Law Office

Northumbria Law School'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; education law; 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 Law School 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.”

The Law Office resources

In the modern Law building 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 bursary students.

The role of the Student Law Office

Winner of the best Law School, Attorney General Pro Bono Awards 2008, the Law Office has an international reputation for excellence. 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 Law School has operated a programme of clinical legal education since 1980. The Law School 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.

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.

Come and Judge us for Yourself

Open Days

Open Days give prospective GDL, LPC and BPTC students the opportunity to visit Northumbria, view our state-of-the-art facilities, meet the academic staff and take part in sample lectures, mock court sessions and workshops.

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 Law School where, again, you can meet the staff and take part in teaching sessions.

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

Northumbria University Law School 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

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Admissions

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Email: et.admissions@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

Our accommodation service has details of hundreds of private properties as well as University accommodation. Further details are available at <http://northumbria.ac.uk/brochure/facilities/acc/>

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

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

Newcastle upon Tyne

As well as being dubbed the eighth best party city in the world, NewcastleGateshead is regarded, according to *Newsweek*, as one of 'the world's new cultural Meccas'. The city has developed from a student and party city to a vibrant creative and cultural centre that attracts all sorts of people interested in living and working in a modern European city. With several theatres, music, opera and dance venues and cinema complexes, there is plenty to exercise your brain cells too! Full of museums, galleries, and sculptures, Newcastle has lots to experience. BALTIC, The Centre for Contemporary Art is NewcastleGateshead's equivalent to the Tate Modern. There is also the well-known Angel of the North designed by Antony Gormley and Thomas Heatherwick's Blue Carpet means you can have modern art under your feet, literally!



Socialising

Newcastle has masses of bars, restaurants, pubs and clubs – from the stylish Quayside and the popular city centre, to trendy Osborne Road in Jesmond, the perfect place to sit outside in summer to enjoy a glass of wine. Newcastle is full of restaurants, and coffee shops, to suit all tastes, cultures and budgets. In terms of sport, Newcastle has a world famous football team, Newcastle United FC. There are also top sports matches, rugby, netball, lacrosse, hockey, etc. and Newcastle plays host to the Great North Run every year.

Music venues include the Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle City Hall, the O₂ Academy and the Sage Gateshead, an outstanding music facility for all kinds of live music and a pioneering centre for music education. It also houses the internationally acclaimed Northern Sinfonia – the North East's own orchestra.

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, including Cumbria to the West, Berwick to the North and down to Teesside and beyond in the South, 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 specialisms 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. Perhaps your preference is to handle personal injury or clinical negligence cases or to become involved in immigration or trade union work. If so, there are openings for you too. For those with an eye to 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.

Transport Links

Newcastle has a modern Metro system which is the envy of the rest of the UK. Linked with the bus service, the Metro makes getting around cheap, fast and efficient. By road, the A1 links Newcastle with London to the south and Edinburgh to the north. The A69 joins Newcastle to the M6 which serves the west of the country and Newcastle itself is car-friendly with lots of parking available. You can travel easily from most cities by train to Newcastle's Central Station and there is a high speed service to London and Edinburgh. Newcastle has an International Airport which operates both domestic and international flights and there are also National Express coach services.





www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk

Copies of this publication are available in alternative formats such as braille, large print, tape or disk. In the first instance please contact Karen Newton (Disabilities Adviser) for details.

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Northumbria University is the trading name of the University of Northumbria at Newcastle.

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