



Law Programmes for International Students

Northumbria Law School
Law in Practice

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UNIVERSITY
Northumbria Law School

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 Vocational 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 staff 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 new 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 law courses.

Professor Philip Plowden (Dean)

A Law School for the 21st Century

Northumbria Law School is located at City Campus East – an award-winning, £70 million development in central Newcastle upon Tyne. As well as being a prominent landmark in the city, this development offers a world-class learning and social facility. The new Law School, which shares its building with Newcastle Business School, incorporates purpose built accommodation including three large state-of-the-art lecture theatres, workshop rooms equipped with the latest technology and student hub areas. In addition, there are specially designed courtrooms which are modelled on those that students will experience as qualified practitioners.

A specialist Law Practice Library contains practitioner materials, journals, a full collection of law reports and a dedicated learner support enquiry team. Students also have access to IT and wireless facilities throughout the building and both study and social space.

The new building also houses our nationally renowned Student Law Office, a hugely successful clinical legal education scheme whereby law students provide legal advice and representation to the public as part of their academic and professional development.

Work is now underway at City Campus West to develop the existing facilities and build a new sports centre.

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 2600 seats. The striking new development is due to open to students, staff and members of the community in 2010.



Undergraduate Programmes for International Students

LLB (Hons) Qualifying Degree

Full-time

The LLB programme is designed to provide students with a thorough grounding of legal principles, with the aim of enabling them to develop skills which may readily be employed in legal practice or other work-related fields.

The first two years of this three year programme are common to the M Law Solicitors Exempting programme. The final year involves either jurisprudence, a research project and two LLB options or jurisprudence and three and a half LLB options.

Students following this route who intend to become solicitors and barristers will need to enrol on a further programme of study, namely the Legal Practice Course or the Bar Vocational Course, to satisfy the relevant vocational requirements.

Distance Learning

The open learning programme is a flexible 4-6 year degree. There is no attendance requirement for this programme. Learning is developed through study materials delivered via the Internet. Each module has a set

of materials, a study schedule and answer guidance and is supported by the University's eLearning Portal. Access to legal databases allows you to read primary legal sources, i.e. legislation and cases and secondary sources, such as articles and commentaries.

LLB (Hons) Barristers

Exempting Degree

Full-time

The Barristers Exempting programme integrates the undergraduate stage of legal education with the requirements of the Bar Vocational Course (BVC), the vocational stage of training for prospective barristers and is the only programme of its kind in England and Wales. On successful completion of the programme, students will be qualified barristers and in a position to enter pupillage.

This programme provides the opportunity to develop the skills essential for practice at the Bar. There is opportunity for contact with the practising Bar via moots, mock trials, court visits and social events.

Please note that this programme is subject to validation by the Bar Standards Board.

Nazik Bashir, Pakistan

LLB (Hons)

Why did you choose Northumbria?

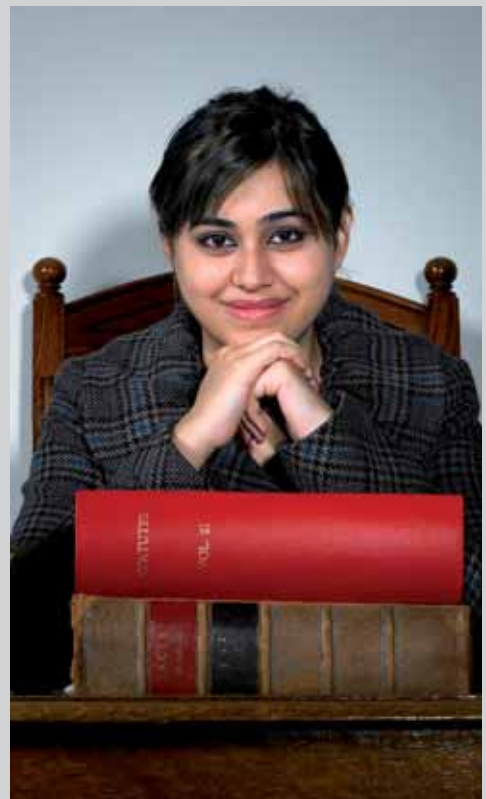
I was attracted here because I wanted to spend my time in a university which accepted entrants into the final year of the LLB and had a good academic reputation. I also wanted the opportunity to continue on the Bar Vocational Course. It was important that I could study in a city with plenty to do so I could make the most of my spare time. Newcastle was just the perfect place for this.

How did you feel during your first week at Northumbria?

I did not feel a stranger for a single minute. Everybody whether staff or students were willing to help in a really friendly manner. I had no difficulties getting to know the university and Newcastle city.

If you have just one message to pass on to someone who's just about to start a programme like yours, what would that message be?

I would say that my experience at Northumbria has been really superb and I have no doubts that Newcastle is the best place to live in. Northumbria is definitely the best university in this world!



M Law Exempting Degree (incorporating LLB (Hons))

Full-time

Formerly entitled LLB (Hons) Solicitors Exempting, this new route is an integrated Masters programme. Graduates obtain a Masters level qualification while at the same time achieving a Qualifying Law Degree and exemption from the Legal Practice Course, the vocational qualification for prospective solicitors. It enables graduates to go straight into a law firm as a trainee solicitor subject to obtaining a training contract.

Students are introduced to legal rules and concepts in both their theoretical and practical contexts from day one. They engage in clinical and experiential learning throughout the course culminating in full case work on behalf of real clients in the final year.

M Law Solicitors Full Qualification Degree

Full-time

A law degree leading to full qualification as a solicitor (5 years).

Northumbria Law School is the first ever Law School to be approved by the Solicitors Regulation Authority to run an academic programme where graduates will become fully qualified solicitors. This groundbreaking programme enables students to combine traditional study with skills development, clinical legal education and placement in practice in order to develop the knowledge, skills and abilities required to work as a solicitor. Graduates are exempt from the Legal Practice Course and will complete their Work Based Learning (equivalent to the Training Contract) during the course of their studies. This exciting programme is an extension to the M Law Exempting Law Degree. Entry onto this programme is not guaranteed. It will have a limited number of places and entry is dependent upon securing an approved placement on a competitive basis. Selection for this programme will take place during years 2 and 3 of the Exempting Law Degree.



Solika Carey, British Virgin Islands Exempting Degree

What was it about the course that particularly appealed?

A friend recommended Northumbria to me and I did some research and found out that they offer a very unique programme (the Exempting Degree). Also I found an article on the internet which rated Newcastle as the best place to study in the UK because of the attractive student life.

Newcastle is a wonderful city. The people here are the friendliest I have ever met.

I am lucky in that the Financial Services Commission of the British Virgin Islands are sponsoring me through the course.

What do you like most about your course?

The fact that it is an exempting programme and there is a professional element which allows me to learn what would be expected of me in practice. It's like an opportunity to have hands-on experience with the comfort of knowing that it is not a manager who is looking over my shoulder to scold me, but a lecturer/tutor who wants to guide me.

How do you get on with your tutors and university staff?

When I arrived, I used the Meet and Greet service which I found helpful and welcoming. However, since then many members of staff have reached out to me to let me know that if there is anything that I am concerned about I should feel free to contact them. This has made the transition to a new country a lot smoother. People really do care about your welfare.



Naushad Khadun, Mauritius Bar Vocational Course

What was it about the course that particularly appealed?

My interest in Northumbria's Law School originated from the fact that it was among the selected list of universities to offer the Bar Vocational Course. I was looking forward to switching to the Bar Vocational Course after finishing my LLB (Hons). Representatives from the Law School visited us several times in Asia and the attributes of the University appealed to both my parents and myself. I had set myself a target of entering the Bar Vocational Course and I have successfully done so. It is not an easy course to secure a place, but at Northumbria I managed to achieve this.

How did you feel during your first week at Northumbria?

My first week at Northumbria was great. It was a very busy week for all students at the University. I had a positive experience dealing with the administration and I felt that things were well-organised in our favour. There were always people ready to listen and act upon our problems. It was not hard to make friends around the University as everyone is especially friendly in the North East. It is not hard to get around the City as the University itself is based in the City Centre itself.

What did you like most about the course?

Having completed years 1 and 2 in Asia, I came to Northumbria to discover a totally different method of teaching and support for students. The lecturers were remarkably brilliant in transmitting their passion for their subjects to students. The University stood out in its exceptional use of the latest technology to facilitate teaching. Having had all this support from the University, it was hard to ask for more encouragement from both the lecturers and administration staff.

Professional Programmes for International Students

Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)

Full-time/Distance Learning/E-Learning

The Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) provides the academic stage of legal education for non-law graduates who intend to practise law. Successful completion of the GDL allows entry to the Legal Practice Course (LPC) for prospective solicitors or the Bar Vocational Course (BVC) for aspiring barristers.

Legal Practice Course (LPC)

Full-time/Part-time

The Legal Practice Course (LPC) is the required training for all students who intend 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. Northumbria's LPC has been awarded the highest possible rating in all areas of assessment by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

Northumbria Law School has been validated to run the new LPC programme from September 2009.

Bar Vocational Course (BVC)

Full-time/Part-time

The Bar Vocational Course (BVC) is approved by the Bar Council, and is the vocational stage of training for students who wish to enter pupillage in order to qualify as a barrister. During the programme students develop a range of essential skills, which include Advocacy, Drafting, Opinion Writing, Negotiation and Conference Skills. Evidence, Criminal Litigation and Civil Litigation are taught as discrete subjects, as well as being integrated with the five 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 which are typical of pupillage. Northumbria is currently going through validation of the new Bar Professional Training Course to start in September 2010.

The unique opportunity to gain an LLM while completing the LPC or BVC at Northumbria

Students on Northumbria's LPC or BVC are able to complete an LLM in Advanced Legal Practice whilst studying on the full or part-time programme. The LLM is available at a discounted rate when studied alongside the LPC or BVC and can be completed in 12-18 months. The specialist expertise gained upon completing the LLM alongside the LPC or BVC will undoubtedly benefit students when they embark upon a training contract or pupillage.

Postgraduate Programmes for International Students

Full-time

The following LLM programmes are available on a full-time basis:

- LLM Commercial Law
- LLM International Commercial Law
- LLM International Trade Law

The programmes are taught from a practical viewpoint enabling students to understand the law in context and apply it to real-life situations. Teaching comprises lectures and workshops which require students to participate in a range of practical exercises designed to develop their knowledge, understanding and application of the subject.

Distance Learning

Northumbria Law School has an enviable reputation for its practical, innovative distance learning programmes, which attract a diverse and interesting student base from all over the world. Our range of distance learning programmes provides a flexible approach to learning and are well suited to those with busy lifestyles.

The following LLM programmes are available on a distance learning basis:

- LLM Advanced Commercial Property Law
- LLM Advanced Legal Practice
- LLM Child Law
- LLM Commercial Law
- LLM Employment Law in Practice
- LLM Information Rights Law and Practice
- LLM International Commercial Law
- LLM International Trade Law
- LLM Medical Law
- LLM Mental Health Law
- LLM Mental Health Law Policy and Practice
- Postgraduate Certificate in Business Law

For further information on our LLM programmes, please visit www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk



Selma Valy-Dixon, Mozambique LLM International Commercial Law

Why did you choose Northumbria University and to study in Newcastle?

The academic environment in Northumbria University is motivating and the support facilities available are very useful. I am from Mozambique and I had been to Newcastle before on holiday. I find the city captivating and I particularly like the contrast between the old and the modern architecture. I naturally found it more comfortable to choose to study here.

What was it about the course that particularly appealed?

The modules offered on the course were the main attraction as they focused on areas of international commercial law that I am personally interested in. I felt that the course would be relevant to my future work as a legal advisor in Mozambique. The company I work for there has just expanded its operations to the international commercial level so this course is ideal.

What do you like most about the course?

I like the course structure and the way the lectures are delivered. The workshops are also challenging and stimulating.

How do you get on with your tutors?

I get on very well with my tutors. They are very supportive.

What are you working on presently?

I am currently working on my dissertation which involves a great deal of research and excellent time management. The support services here have been helpful in aiding my research.

What would you like to do when you graduate?

I would like to go back to my country to pursue my legal advising career in the company that I work for.

What three words would you use to summarise your time here?

Informative, interesting and challenging.



How to Apply

UCAS Applications

Applications for the full-time LLB (Hons) Qualifying Degree should be made through UCAS, the UK's Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. When UCAS receive your application, they send it to the Universities you have selected. It is likely that the British Council office in your country will have information on UCAS and copies of the UCAS application form that you require.

www.ucas.ac.uk

Direct Applications

Applications for the LLB (Hons) Open Learning Degree and any postgraduate programmes should be made direct to Northumbria University using a standard University Application Form for International Students. This form can be obtained from the International Office. Return your application direct to the International Office or to the Northumbria University regional office responsible for your country. Applications can also be submitted online via the University's courses database: www.northumbria.ac.uk/coursesearch

Entry Requirements

We welcome applications from any country. If English is not your first language you will need to show that you have an adequate knowledge of both written and spoken English. The minimum requirements are shown below:

Undergraduate

- IELTS 6.5
- TOEFL paper-based test 580
- TOEFL computer test 230

Postgraduate

- IELTS 7.0 (7.5 for Bar programme)
- TOEFL paper-based test 600
- TOEFL computer test 250



Useful Contacts

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Email: international@northumbria.ac.uk

Web: www.northumbria.ac.uk/international

In addition to the main International Office in the UK, we also have four regional offices.

Thailand Office

Also responsible for Hong Kong, Myanmar, Taiwan and Vietnam

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Newcastle – a great student city

Newcastle is such a vibrant, modern, youthful city, renowned for its nightlife, sport, culture, entertainment, shops and, last but not least, its friendliness.

City Centre

Newcastle is one of the finest cities in Europe, with large areas of the city centre made up of buildings listed for their architectural and historical significance. Just over the River Tyne, Newcastle's neighbour Gateshead is home to the world famous Angel of the North sculpture, the Millennium Bridge and the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art.

With several theatres, cinema complexes, classical music and dance venues, there is plenty to see and do. Music venues include the Metro Radio Arena, the Carling Academy and Newcastle City Hall – not forgetting the outstanding Sage Gateshead music centre, an excellent facility for all kinds of live music and a pioneering centre for music education.

Nightlife

Newcastle has many bars, restaurants, pubs and clubs to suit all tastes, cultures and bank balances. There is the glamorous Quayside, the Gate, a premier leisure and entertainment centre home to cafes, bars, restaurants and a casino, and trendy Osborne Road in Jesmond, the perfect place to sit out in the summer and enjoy a glass of wine.

Sport

Sports fans can look forward to football, rugby union, international athletics, professional tennis tournaments, basketball, ice hockey, and first class cricket. The city hosts the Great North Run – Europe's biggest mass participation road race with 50,000 runners turning out every September, and of course there is St. James' Park, home of Premier League Football club Newcastle United.

Shopping

If its retail therapy you're looking for, Newcastle has one of the most varied and successful shopping centres in the UK and, if this is not enough to satisfy your appetite, then Gateshead's enormous MetroCentre is just across the River Tyne.

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 specialism 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 as well.

For those with an eye on 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.





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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