

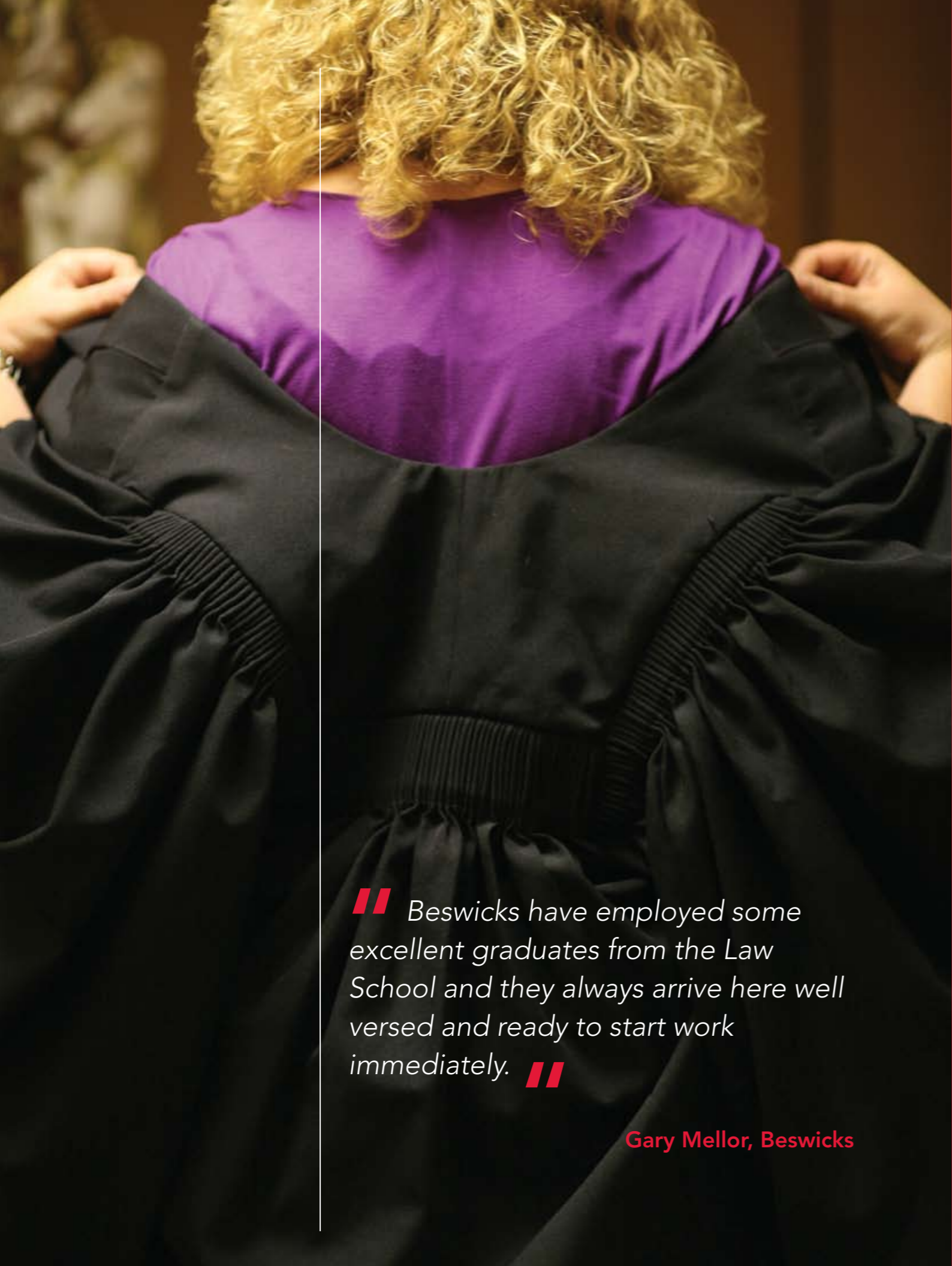


STAFFORDSHIRE
UNIVERSITY



Law
School

LPC



“ *Beswicks have employed some excellent graduates from the Law School and they always arrive here well versed and ready to start work immediately.* **”**

Gary Mellor, Beswicks



why choose our law school?

Staffordshire University Law School is one of the leading providers of legal education in the UK making it a great place to continue your studies.

We ensure that our Legal Practice Course (LPC) graduates are among the most desirable in the industry with the focus on ensuring that you are highly employable and well connected.

You'll be taught by experienced professionals including qualified solicitors and barristers, all of whom are experts in their chosen field, you'll learn how to put Law into practice, benefit from our highly regarded mentoring and street law schemes and have access to outstanding careers opportunities.

We have unparalleled links with major practices in Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Birmingham and Manchester. These well-established links mean that from day one, we help you to gain valuable practical experience and, often, opportunities for employment.

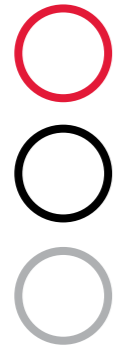
Staffordshire University Law School is one of the leading providers of Legal Education in the UK and our Legal Practice Course has received the highest Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) ratings of 'Commendable Practice' for all assessed areas.

Our innovative course is highly acclaimed for its flexibility. It can be studied full-time (one year), or part-time (18 months or two years) over one day or two evenings per week, ideal whether you are entering commercial practice or a traditional 'high street' firm.

Most students take the LPC after completing either a Law degree or a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL).

Studying for the LPC will provide you with credits towards the LLM in Legal Practice and we offer the option to study for both awards at the same time. This involves attending a small number of additional lectures and completing a dissertation within four years.

Situated in contemporary buildings with facilities to match, the Law School is ideally placed for road and rail networks with the main University campus a mere two-minute walk from the station.



Staffordshire University Law School is one of an elite group of LPC providers who have been consistently awarded the highest possible ratings from the Solicitors Regulation Authority.



what sets us apart?

Our LPC students achieve great things largely thanks to our highly regarded teaching style. We employ qualified solicitors and barristers to deliver top level, relevant information which gives our students major advantages when it comes to employability.

It's also a great place to study - housed in our own modern, well equipped building, the Law School incorporates our Law Library with legally qualified librarians to give expert advice and a computer suite to give you access to the library catalogue. There is also a mock court room with video facilities and rooms designated for learning and practice-based workshops.

Extensive support including IT training will help you make the most of your study here. Everyone has access to learning resources including books, journals and newspapers. Our electronic resources are available onsite and via the internet from your home.

Upon enrolment, LPC students are allocated to a Practice Office. These facilities are the equivalent of a hi-tech office base and are provided exclusively for LPC students as a base for workshops and for private study.

Each Practice Office is equipped with state-of-the-art computers and printers for the exclusive use of the students assigned to that office along with Internet access, e-mail facilities, and a comprehensive range of "practitioner" CD Roms and PLC on-line.

A number of unique features distinguish our course from others including:

- Our two-year degree plus the LPC give students a fast-track into legal work or their training contract
- The LLM in Legal Practice can be studied while studying the LPC. The credits gained from the LPC mean that the only additional requirements are attendance at a series of lectures and submission of a dissertation
- Students can complete the course on a part-time basis either by day or evening in 18 months
- All books and manuals are included in the course fees, so there are no surprise hidden costs.

course structure

Study options for our full-time course can be adapted to suit your needs. You can attend over four days each week, or by a more intensive two days each week or one day and two evenings per week.

The programme offers three modes of part-time study where the course is completed in 18 months or two years. This more flexible approach allows you to attend either one day a week, two evenings a week or a mix of both day and evening. So if you are self-funding the course and need to earn while you learn, or if you have family commitments, continuing to study can fit in with your lifestyle.

New blended learning option

This highly intensive route is available over one year full-time, or up to two years part-time.

Full-time study requires a time commitment of around 32 study hours per week, so it would not be suitable for those in full-time employment. The part-time option requires a time commitment of around 16 hours per week.

The course is taught 90% online with a 3 day foundation course and then 9 blocks of two day face-to-face sessions if you choose full-time or 9 one day face-to-face sessions if you choose part-time.

Applicants require broadband access and other specific computer equipment, along with good IT skills, a high level of motivation and a disciplined approach to self study.

Please contact us directly for further information.

Developing your career prospects, building strong links with employers and furthering your study are all essential components on our new LPC programme.

In common with all other institutions, on our LPC course you will study:

Stage 1

- Three core subject areas comprising: Business Law and Practice, Property Law and Practice, and Litigation
- Five prescribed legal skills comprising: Advocacy, Interviewing and Advising, Practical Legal Research, Writing and Drafting
- The areas of Professional Conduct and Regulation, Solicitors Accounts, Taxation, Wills and Administration of Estates.

Stage 2

Over ten weeks of teaching, students must study three vocational electives chosen from:

- Advanced Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Advanced Criminal Practice
- Commercial Law
- Commercial Property
- Corporate Client
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Immigration Law
- Private Client Practice
- Public Child Law.

the real story



For Alex Herbert, 25, studying for his LPC at Staffordshire University Law School was excellent preparation for the world of work after a gap year spent travelling – not least because he had to be up on time for lectures at 9am each day!

Alex is now one year into a two-year training contract with Stoke-on-Trent firm of solicitors Beswicks. He is focusing on three specific areas of law: Family, Corporate and Litigation.

Having graduated from Birmingham University with a degree in Law with French, he chose Staffordshire University Law School for his vocational training, primarily because it offered a quality course at reasonable cost.

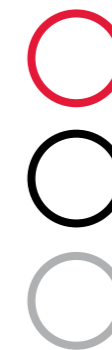
He explained: “Not only could I move back home with my parents while completing the course but the tuition fees here in Staffordshire are very competitive.

“The course covered a lot of ground and involved a great deal of hard work but I enjoyed my time at the Law School because the lecturers were all so helpful and open. We worked in small groups so got loads of individual attention and it was never difficult to find people when you needed them.

“I think the general attitude of the staff is what stood out most for me as having been to a larger university, I found the personal touch very encouraging.

“I was very lucky in getting my training contract with Beswicks as I had been working with them on a holiday placement doing general administration when the opportunity came up. I happened to be in the right place at the right time.”

careers support



Careers support is a key component of Staffordshire University Law School's success.

Our programme of workshops offering careers advice has always proved popular with LPC students and they're designed to help to put you at the front of the queue for employment success.

To provide you with these necessary skills, each academic year we offer a range of lectures and interactive workshops, supported by one-to-one careers advice and practice interviews. Topics offered include: Creative job hunting, Enhancing your CV, Adapting your skills to the training contract and What employers are looking for in recruitment.

We aim to provide as much support and experience as we can and regularly arrange for representatives from legal firms to deliver lectures on CV drafting and covering letters.

A register is maintained of all students searching for training contracts so that when firms approach us about vacancies, we can tell you via the Blackboard Careers Section. Blackboard contains a section devoted to careers issues as well as contacts for any job opportunities that arise.

Our Careers Packs also contain a wealth of information on careers issues including how to find vacancies, make applications and numerous website addresses.

Drop in sessions with careers tutors are also scheduled each week so that you can discuss issues without having to book appointments.

Links with the world of work are fostered through membership of the Local Junior Lawyers Division (JLD). We pay for all our students to become members of the JLD and, by attending their meetings, you get a chance to discuss career issues and opportunities and learn more about the workings of the profession from a young employee's perspective. You will also have the opportunity to volunteer to work in the Law School's legal advice clinic.

You'll be encouraged to develop more confidence in key legal skills by entering various competitions organised within the University such as interviewing, negotiating and mooting. Our teams have achieved high levels of success over recent years winning both national and international competitions.



the real story

Twenty-two-year-old Sophie Johnson came back home to Staffordshire to complete her LPC after a three-year LLB course at Leeds University.

She was attracted to Staffordshire University Law School by its high rankings in inspection reports and the fact that she could save costs by moving back home to live with her parents while studying. Her decision has paid off now that she has landed her first legal post – a training contract with Staffordshire County Council’s Legal Department.

Sophie said: “I’m really glad I chose Staffordshire as the Law School here has such a great reputation and the council contract was only advertised to internal applicants.

“I’ve really enjoyed my course which was very interesting and relevant. I got a lot of time with my lecturers and all that personal contact suits my style of learning. The careers advice I got was excellent too.

“Not only were all my tutors very supportive, but the library facilities are first class. There is no need to go elsewhere for anything. Having experienced a much bigger university previously, I can honestly say that the facilities here in Staffordshire are just as good and you have the added advantage of getting to know your tutors really well. You are never just a number at Staffordshire University Law School.”



links with local practice

Local legal practices hold Staffordshire University Law School graduates in the highest regard supporting students throughout their studies.

Many local practice employees have completed their legal training here and that’s why they devote their time and energy to supporting you to make sure you have all the skills required in the real world of work.

Our highly successful mentoring scheme, in partnership with many major law firms, furthers this vital contact while acting as a shop window for the skills and talents of the Legal Practice Course students.

Our mentoring scheme assigns you to volunteer members of the local legal profession who agree to meet you throughout the academic year.

The aim of mentoring is to create the opportunity for you to discuss real practice issues with those at the ‘sharp end’ and get an extra perspective on practical problems and professional life generally.

If you’ve not had any close contact with the profession before, you will see at first hand the organisation of a solicitors’ office and get a feel for professional life. At the same time, students will make contacts which may open the door to future work experience or a training contract.



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."

entry criteria and admissions

You will have either:

- A qualifying law degree from a recognised UK or overseas university
- Completed the CPE/GDL conversion course
- A FILEX qualification.

Admission to the full-time course is through the Legal Practice Course Central Applications Board. Applications must be made in the autumn preceding commencement of the course, which runs each September to June.

Application forms should be completed online through the Legal Practice Course Central Applications Board via the website at www.lawcabs.ac.uk.

To apply for the part-time course, contact Julie Gingell, the LPC administrator, at Staffordshire University, Law School, Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2DF.

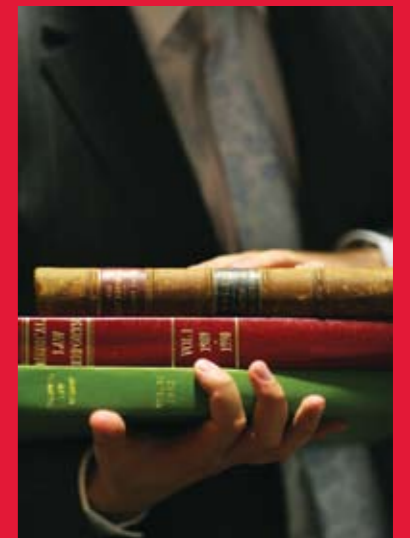
There are 150 places available on the LPC each year. Those attending the Law School's LLB or CPE/GDL courses are guaranteed places and preference will also be given to those with a second class honours degree or higher and students from the local area who might find it difficult to study elsewhere owing to their domestic or financial circumstances.

We welcome applications from students who may not have achieved this class of degree, all of whom will be considered on an individual basis.

Contact Julie Gingell on 01782 294452,
e: j.gingell@staffs.ac.uk or visit the website at
www.staffs.ac.uk/law for more information



To study the LPC you must have completed the academic stage of training as recognised by the Law Society.



Contact us

LPC Admissions
Staffordshire University Law School
Leek Road
Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 2DF

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Email: j.gingell@staffs.ac.uk
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