

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

SCHOOL OF LAW

DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL LEGAL PRACTICE 2011/12

General Information on the Full-time Diploma

The Diploma in Professional Legal Practice, which is subject to pending accreditation by the Law Society of Scotland, runs from September until May. It is the first stage in the process of Professional Education and Training and is compulsory for anyone who wishes to practise as a solicitor in Scotland. In order to apply for a place, you must complete the application form and send it to the university where you obtained your LLB degree, even if you wish to study somewhere else.

All applications should be returned by **18th April 2011**. However, it would be much appreciated if they were returned as soon as possible. It should be noted that a place on the Diploma course at Edinburgh cannot be automatically guaranteed. The following guidelines are for the Diploma at The University of Edinburgh.

Course Dates

The Diploma at The University of Edinburgh runs over two semesters. Semester 1 starts on Monday 19th September 2011 and ends on Wednesday 21st December 2011. Semester 2 starts on Monday 16th January 2012 and ends on Friday 6th April 2012. There will, however, be further teaching and assessment after the spring vacation.

The intention is to have all teaching and assessment (including exams) completed by **end-May 2012**. Where necessary, arrangements will be made for a resit diet later in the summer.

Further details/confirmation about timings will be sent with responses to applications by, at the latest, **end-July 2011**.

For those seeking or starting traineeships, the earliest available start date is thus likely to be the beginning of June 2012. Our information is however that most firms are continuing (at least at present) with start dates later in the summer/early autumn.

Course Fees and Finance

Tuition fees for 2011 are £6,000 (home/EU) and £12,200 (overseas). There are additional programme costs of £400 which cover all materials and books for the course.

Students are advised that they should be certain of their fee status (home/EU or overseas) before accepting an offer of admission. Further information and advice on fee status is available from the University of Edinburgh, Scholarships and Student Finance Office: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/fees-finance>; email fees@ed.ac.uk.

Funding

Some students may get funding from the [Student Awards Agency for Scotland](http://www.lawsoc.org.uk/becomingasolicitor/students/diploma-in-legal-practice) under the Postgraduate Students' Allowances Scheme, though this only covers some costs. Applications should be made at the same time as the application for places. Please refer to the Law Society guidelines for further details: <http://www.lawsoc.org.uk/becomingasolicitor/students/diploma-in-legal-practice>

If you have secured a traineeship with a firm who have offered to pay your fees for the Diploma, please indicate this on your application form. Similarly, if this firm has indicated that they will reimburse your Diploma fees once you commence your traineeship, this would also be helpful information. However, on past rules, neither prejudices your chances of SAAS funding. It should be noted however, that there is no general market practice of firms undertaking to pay students' Diploma fees.

Courses

The compulsory courses are:

- Civil Court Practice
- Criminal Court Practice
- Conveyancing
- Financial Services and Related Skills
- Private Client

- Professional Responsibility
- Company and Commercial.

In addition, a number of elective courses will be offered in semester 2 from which students must choose 2. The elective choices for the current year are shown below and are likely to be similar for 2011/12. However, there is no guarantee that a particular elective will run.

- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Personal Injury
- Human Rights
- Civil Advocacy
- Criminal Advocacy
- Medical Negligence
- Public Administration
- Corporate Finance/Mergers and Acquisitions
- Family/Child Law
- Construction Law
- Environmental Law
- Wealth and Estate Planning

Participation in workshops on Interviewing Skills, Negotiation Skills and Presentation Skills is compulsory and will be continuously assessed.

Most of the Diploma teaching is done by in-house staff and around 100 part-time tutors, who are mainly practising solicitors, advocates and accountants. In addition, part-time lecturers are employed in various subjects and teaching assistance is also given by members of the University's Law School.

A free Legal Advice Centre is run by the Centre for Professional Legal Studies on Monday evenings for members of the public. During the Diploma year, all students are allocated a client, whom they will meet, supervised by a qualified solicitor, and ascertain whether help can be given.

Beyond the Diploma

The second stage of Professional Education and Training is combined with Trainee Continuing Professional Development (TCPD) and is taken during the traineeship. Details of this will be available from your training firm, from the Centre for Professional Legal Studies during the year and from the Law Society:

<http://www.lawscot.org.uk/becomingasolicitor/education--training-policy>

Further Information

Please feel free to contact the Centre for Professional Legal Studies for further information or clarification. Further details will, however, be sent with admission letters.

Email: CPLS@ed.ac.uk

Telephone: 650 2004 or 651 4254

Centre for Professional Legal Studies
School of Law
The University of Edinburgh

Additional Information on the Part-time Diploma

The University of Edinburgh runs a part-time Diploma over two years. Lectures are given via podcast, with further evening lectures and tutorials on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 6 and 9pm given by the same lecturers and tutors who teach on the full-time Diploma.

Course Dates

The dates for the part-time Diploma are the same as for the full-time, but spread over two years. Please refer to the information about the full-time Diploma for 2011 dates.

Course Fees and Finance

Tuition fees are 50% of the full-time fee applicable to the programme of study in each academic session. For 2011, the fees are £3,000, but this will increase in 2012. The additional programme costs are also split over the two years (£200 for 2011), and cover all materials and books for the course. Please note that there is no SAAS funding for the part-time Diploma.

Courses

The courses are the same as for the full-time Diploma and are expected to be split as follows:

2011/12:

- Criminal Court Practice
- Company and Commercial
- Conveyancing
- Professional Responsibility
- Electives

2012/13:

- Civil Court Practice
- Private Client
- Financial Services and Related Skills
- Electives

Further Information

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