



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
Edinburgh Law School

**Diploma in Professional Legal Practice**

**Admissions policy – academic session 2026/27**

This policy contains important information for all applicants. Please ensure you have read this policy in full, along with the 'DPLP Application Guidance (2026/27)', before submitting your application.

## Contents

1. Admissions process overview .....	2
2. Allocation of points.....	4
2.1. LLB Honours applicants.....	4
2.2. Graduate LLB applicants .....	5
2.3. Ordinary LLB applicants .....	6
2.4. Pre-PEAT training contract applicants .....	7
3. Examples.....	8

## 1. Admissions process overview

This policy document sets out how the University of Edinburgh will process applications for the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice (the Diploma) for the academic session 2026/27. It should be read in conjunction with the information regarding 'How to apply' on the [Diploma website](#) as well as the Law Society of Scotland's guidance on Diploma admissions.

Offers will be made to the top-ranked applicants in accordance with the criteria set out in this document.

There are multiple offer rounds through which offers may be made over the course of the summer. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available on the Diploma, any applicants who are not made an offer in Round 1 will be placed on a waiting list and reconsidered in Round 2 (provided they have not accepted an offer at another provider in the interim) if spaces are available at that time. Similarly, any applicants who do not receive an offer in Round 2 will be placed on a waiting list and reconsidered in Round 3 if spaces are available at that time.

The University of Edinburgh operates a points-based system. Before allocating points to each applicant we will take into account whether or not the applicant has chosen the University of Edinburgh as their first or second choice provider. **Applicants who have selected Edinburgh as their first choice will be prioritised in Round 1.** From Round 2 onwards, we will consider all remaining applicants, regardless of whether they have selected the University of Edinburgh as their first or second choice provider.

The University of Edinburgh's admissions process will primarily focus on the academic achievements of applicants. In most instances this will involve consideration of: (1) marks achieved in the subjects designed to meet the Law Society of Scotland's Foundation Outcomes; and (2) overall degree award. For applicants completing the pre-PEAT training contract route, this will involve consideration of their academic achievements in the Law Society of Scotland examinations.

Applicants will be allocated a number of points based on their academic achievements and will be ranked according to this. Offers will be made to those applicants with the highest number of points (although note that applicants who have selected Edinburgh as their first choice provider will be prioritised in Round 1).

Admissions decisions will be made by an Admissions Committee (the Committee). The Committee will work down the ranked list of applicants, until the total number of offers we are able to make that year is reached. The Committee will note the number of points allocated to the applicant at the bottom of this selection. For all applicants who have the same number of points as this particular applicant, consideration will be given to the contextual factors listed below. Note that a specific number of points are not attributed to each of these factors and they are not listed in order of importance. These factors will be used by the Committee to re-rank the applicants who are sitting on this same number of points in order to determine which of these applicants to make offers to.

Contextual factors:

1. Whether an applicant was eligible to receive a widening access offer when applying for the LLB. The University of Edinburgh will request this information directly from the applicant's undergraduate university.
2. Evidence of sustained commitment to working in the legal profession, such as employment or voluntary work for six months or more in a legal role or with an employer in the legal sector. Such work experience will **only be considered if evidence is provided at the point of application** (e.g. short letter of reference from the employer stating dates of employment, key duties undertaken and number of hours worked). If an applicant completes the minimum six-month working period after submitting their application, they should update their application with the relevant evidence so that this can be considered. Note that such work experience will only be considered if evidence is provided before the date of the Committee meeting for each round. Evidence received after this will be added to an applicant's record for consideration in the next round.
3. Traineeship status. Traineeship status will **only be considered if evidence is provided at the point of application** (e.g. traineeship offer letter, including intended traineeship start date). If an applicant obtains a traineeship after submitting their application they should update their application with the relevant evidence so that this can be considered. Note that traineeships will only be considered if evidence is provided before the date of the Committee meeting for each round. Offers and evidence received after this will be added to an applicant's record for consideration in the next round.

If it is not possible to distinguish between candidates with the same number of points once the above factors have been taken into account, offers will be made to those candidates with the highest grade point average (GPA) in in the subjects designed to meet the Law Society of Scotland's Foundation Outcomes (or in the Law Society of Scotland exams, in the case of applicants undertaking the pre-PEAT training contract route).

**Note:** If an applicant does not have a full set of results or final degree award (for example because they are still awaiting some course results or have further examinations to sit over the summer) then a conditional offer may be made at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

It is not possible to defer the offer of a place until a later year. If an applicant accepts a place and then cannot take it up for the year in question, they must let the relevant Diploma provider know immediately so the place can be offered to another applicant. In those circumstances, the applicant will be obliged to apply afresh in any subsequent year.

## 2. Allocation of points

Please refer to the section which applies to you.

### 2.1. LLB Honours applicants

This section details how points will be allocated for those applicants who have undertaken a four-year LLB Honours degree. Such applicants can achieve a maximum of 16 points, based on two elements:

#### 1) GPA achieved in the foundation subjects

Points will be allocated for the GPA achieved in the foundation subjects. The foundation subjects meet the Law Society of Scotland's foundation programme outcomes and are required for entry to the Diploma regardless of which university you study at. However, the individual subjects that are required can differ in name at each university. You should check with your LLB university law school to confirm which subjects are included in the calculation of your grade point average.

The GPA is based on performance in the relevant subjects. Resit marks will be capped at bare pass for the purposes of GPA calculation. You do not need to provide this information as part of your application. It is provided directly by your undergraduate degree provider.

Grade Point Average	Points allocated
70%+	8
56-69%	6
50-55%	4
40-49%	2
Average GPA below 40%	0
Did not pass all foundation subjects	Student cannot be admitted to the Diploma

#### 2) Degree classification

Points will also be allocated for the overall degree award achieved. The below points are added to the points allocated for GPA to arrive at a total number of points, out of a maximum of 16.

Degree award	Points allocated
First class	8
2:1	6
2:2	4
Third	2
Did not achieve LLB degree	Student cannot be admitted to the Diploma

## 2.2. Graduate LLB applicants

This section details how points will be allocated for those applicants who have undertaken a non-law degree followed by a graduate LLB. Such applicants can achieve a maximum of 16 points, based on three elements:

### 1) GPA achieved in the foundation subjects

Points will be allocated for the GPA achieved in the foundation subjects. The foundation subjects meet the Law Society of Scotland's foundation programme outcomes and are required for entry to the Diploma regardless of which university you study at. However, the individual subjects that are required can differ in name at each university. You should check with your LLB university law school to confirm which subjects are included in the calculation of your grade point average.

The GPA is based on performance in the relevant subjects. Resit marks will be capped at bare pass for the purposes of GPA calculation. You do not need to provide this information as part of your application. It is provided directly by your undergraduate degree provider.

Grade Point Average	Points allocated
70%+	9
56-69%	7
50-55%	5
40-49%	3
Average GPA below 40%	1
Did not pass all foundation subjects	Student cannot be admitted to the Diploma

### 2) Graduate LLB classification

Points will also be allocated for the overall award achieved on the Graduate LLB. The below points are added to the points allocated for GPA.

Degree Award	Points allocated
Distinction	3
Merit	2
Pass	1
Fail	0

### 3) Prior undergraduate degree classification

Points will also be allocated for the overall degree award achieved for the undergraduate degree preceding the Graduate LLB. The below points are added to the points allocated for GPA and the Graduate LLB classification, to arrive at a total number of points out of a maximum of 16.

Degree award	Points allocated
First class	4
2:1	3
2:2	2
Third	1

## 2.3. Ordinary LLB applicants

This section details how points will be allocated for those applicants who have undertaken an Ordinary LLB degree. Such applicants can achieve a maximum of 12 points, based on two elements:

### 1) GPA achieved in the foundation subjects

Points will be allocated for the GPA achieved in the foundation subjects. The foundation subjects meet the Law Society of Scotland's foundation programme outcomes and are required for entry to the Diploma regardless of which university you study at. However, the individual subjects that are required can differ in name at each university. You should check with your LLB university law school to confirm which subjects are included in the calculation of your grade point average.

The GPA is based on performance in the relevant subjects. Resit marks will be capped at bare pass for the purposes of GPA calculation. You do not need to provide this information as part of your application. It is provided directly by your undergraduate degree provider.

Grade Point Average	Points allocated
70%+	8
56-69%	6
50-55%	4
40-49%	2
Average GPA below 40%	0
Did not pass all foundation subjects	Student cannot be admitted to the Diploma

### 2) Degree classification

Points will also be allocated for the overall degree award achieved. The below points are added to the points allocated for GPA to arrive at a total number of points, out of a maximum of 12.

Degree award	Points allocated
Distinction	4
Merit	3
Pass	2
Did not achieve LLB degree	Student cannot be admitted to the Diploma

## 2.4. Pre-PEAT training contract applicants

This section details how points will be allocated for those applicants who have not studied Law at University. Rather than studying the LLB, these applicants will have undertaken a 'pre-PEAT training contract'. Applicants undertaking this route will have completed exams and a work-based learning module set by the Law Society of Scotland.

Such applicants can achieve a maximum of 16 points, based on two elements:

### 1) GPA achieved in the Law Society of Scotland examinations

The Law Society of Scotland will calculate the applicant's GPA based on their Law Society of Scotland examination results.

Grade Point Average	Points allocated
70%+	12
56-69%	9
50-55%	6
40-49%	3
Average GPA below 40%	0
Did not pass all examinations	Student cannot be admitted to the Diploma

### 2) Points allocated in recognition of legal work experience

Four points will be added to the points allocated for GPA to arrive at a total number of points, out of a maximum of 16. These four points are allocated in recognition of the fact that applicants undertaking this route will have been required to balance working life with independent study for examinations, which can be extremely challenging.

### 3. Examples

#### **Applicant A**

Applicant A studied a LLB Honours degree. They achieved a GPA of 55.5 and a first-class degree.

They would be allocated a total of 12 points (4 (GPA) + 8 (degree award)).

#### **Applicant B**

Applicant B studied a LLB Honours degree. They achieved a GPA of 68 and a 2.1 degree.

They would be allocated a total of 12 points (6 (GPA) + 6 (degree award)).

#### **Applicant C**

Applicant C studied History for their undergraduate degree and achieved a first-class degree. They then completed the Graduate LLB, achieving a GPA of 58 and a Merit overall.

They would be allocated a total of 13 points (7 (GPA) + 2 (Merit) + 4 (non-law degree award)).

#### **Applicant D**

Applicant D studied a LLB Ordinary degree. They achieved a GPA of 52 and were awarded a Merit overall.

They would be allocated a total of 7 points (4 (GPA) + 3 (degree award)).

#### **Applicant E**

Applicant E has undertaken the pre-PEAT training contract route. They achieved a GPA of 65 in their Law Society of Scotland examinations.

They would be allocated a total of 13 points (9 (GPA) + 4 (in recognition of their work experience and the challenges presented by the pre-PEAT training contract route)).