

**KEY PROGRAMME INFORMATION**

<b>Originating institution(s)</b> Bournemouth University	<b>Faculty responsible for the programme</b> Faculty of Media and Communication
<b>Final award(s), title(s) and credits</b> Graduate Diploma In Law (Dip Law) 160 BU credits (80 ECTS credits)	
<b>Intermediate award(s), title(s) and credits</b> None	
<b>UCAS Programme Code(s) (where applicable and if known)</b> 100485	<b>HESA HECoS Code(s) and percentage split per programme/pathway</b> 100485 for Law
<b>External reference points</b> The UK Quality Code for Higher Education Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards, incorporating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)</li> <li>• Law Honours degree subject benchmark statement, July 2015;</li> </ul> Joint Statement 1999 of Law Society and General Council of the Bar and Academic Stage Handbook of Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Protocol on the Academic Stage of Training of the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board</li> </ul>	
<b>Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) links</b> To be accredited as the Academic Stage of Legal Education in accordance with requirements of Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board	
<b>Places of delivery</b> Bournemouth University	
<b>Mode(s) of delivery</b> Full-time	<b>Language of delivery</b> English
<b>Typical duration</b> 1 year full time	
<b>Date of first intake</b> September 2019	<b>Expected start dates</b> September
<b>Maximum student numbers</b> 30 Full Time	<b>Placements</b> None
<b>Partner(s)</b> Not applicable	<b>Partnership model</b> Not applicable
<b>Date of this Programme Specification</b> April 2019. Applies to intake September 2019	
<b>Version number</b> Version 1.2-0921	
<b>Approval, review or modification reference numbers:</b> E20181902, approved 10/04/2019 FMC 2021 27, approved 11/05/2021, previously v1.1.0921	
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## Programme Specification - Section 1

### PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Programme Award and Title: Graduate Diploma In Law								
Year 1/Level 6								
Students are required to complete 8 core units.								
Unit Name	Core/ Option	No of credits	Assessment Element Weightings			Expected contact hours per unit	Unit version no.	HECoS Code (plus balanced or major/minor load)
			Exam 1	Cwk 1	Cwk 2			
Legal Systems, Skills and Research (GDL)	Core	20		50%	50%	26	1.0	100676,100485 (balanced)
Law of Obligations 1 (GDL)	Core	20	50%	50%		36	1.0	100482
Constitutional and EU Law (GDL)	Core	20	50%	50%		36	1.0	100684, 100680 (balanced)
Law of Obligations 2 (GDL)	Core	20		50%	50%	40	1.0	100690
Law of Trusts and Estates (GDL)	Core	20	50%	50%		36	1.0	100485
Property Law (GDL)	Core	20	50%	50%		36	1.0	100689
Human Rights Law (GDL)	Core	20		50%	50%	40	1.1	100684
Criminal Law (GDL)	Core	20	50%	50%		36	1.0	100685
<b>Exit qualification: Graduate Diploma In Law</b> <b>UG award: Requires 160 credits at Level 6</b>								

### AIMS OF THE DOCUMENT

The aims of this document are to:

- Define the structure of the Graduate Diploma in Law (also known as the Common Professional Examination (CPE));
- Identify programme and level learning outcomes of the Graduate Diploma in Law;
- Articulate the regulations governing the awards offered through this programme.

### AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

This programme aims to develop graduates, who have:

- a sound foundation upon which to develop the legal knowledge and competencies necessary for a career in legal practice;
- knowledge of the Foundation law subjects;
- knowledge of the English Legal System and process;
- the ability to analyse legal problems and provide a range of solutions to them;
- a developed range of skills in a legal context to contribute to academic development, problem-solving and effective communication;
- the ability to transfer and apply knowledge and skills;
- the ability to assess the law critically;
- the ability to use and utilise IT in the context of law and legal study;
- a critical understanding of contemporary legal issues and the ability to synthesise and challenge legal doctrines and concepts;
- the ability to work independently and carry out legal research;
- a law students skills and qualities of mind in Section 2.4 of the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement (2015);
- the ability to proceed to the vocational stage of legal education.

### ALIGNMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN

This programme aligns with Bournemouth University's new Strategic Vision (BU 2025) of inspiring learning, advancing knowledge and enriching society. It provides our students with an outstanding legal education which is informed by the Department's research and prepares students for work in the legal professions or other graduate employment.

The Faculty of Media and Communication delivery planning supports teaching which benefits from research of international excellence and expertise in professional practice to enable the delivery of research and practice led and informed teaching.

### LEARNING HOURS AND ASSESSMENT

Bournemouth University taught programmes are composed of units of study, which are assigned a credit value indicating the amount of learning undertaken. The minimum credit value of a unit is normally 20 credits, above which credit values normally increase at 20-point intervals. 20 credits is the equivalent of 200 study hours required of the student, including lectures, seminars, assessment and independent study. 20 University credits are equivalent to 10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.

As a general rule, time devoted to assessment should normally represent approximately 25% of the student learning time for a unit (i.e. 50 hours for a 20-credit unit), leaving the rest for specific programme-related activities, including lectures, seminars, workshops, preparatory work, practical activities, reading, critical reflection and independent learning.

## STAFF DELIVERING THE PROGRAMME

Students will usually be taught by a combination of senior academic staff with others who have relevant expertise including – where appropriate according to the content of the unit – academic staff, qualified professional practitioners, demonstrators/technicians and research students.

## INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES – AND HOW THE PROGRAMME ENABLES STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE AND DEMONSTRATE THE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

### PROGRAMME AND LEVEL 6 INTENDED PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

<p><b>A: Subject knowledge and understanding</b></p> <p>Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of the law of England and Wales.</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>
<p><b>A1</b> Doctrines, concepts, values and principles relevant to a range of law subjects;</p> <p><b>A2</b> The UK and the EU regulatory framework including sources of law and the institutions which administer the law and personnel who practice the law;</p> <p><b>A3</b> The overall pattern of the programme and the need to apply knowledge from a range of subject areas in addressing problems in law contexts;</p> <p><b>A4</b> Critical analysis of sources of law and academic commentaries;</p> <p><b>A5</b> Moral and ethical dimensions of their actions and the need for professional codes of conduct;</p> <p><b>A6</b> Essential facts and theories of law and its applications.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (A1 – A6);</li> <li>• seminars/ workshops (A1 – A6);</li> <li>• directed reading (A1 – A6);</li> <li>• use of the VLE (A1 – A6);</li> <li>• independent research (for assignments) (A1 – A6).</li> </ul> <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examinations (A1 – A6);</li> <li>• coursework (A1 – A6);</li> <li>• independent research legal systems, skills and research unit (A1 – A6).</li> </ul>
<p><b>B: Intellectual skills</b></p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme outcomes:</p>
<p><b>B1</b> Critically evaluate, and apply legal knowledge and skills in the development and implementation of practical solutions to law problems;</p> <p><b>B2</b> Analyse and synthesise information;</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (B1 – B6);</li> </ul>

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<p><b>B3</b> Define problems and devise and evaluate possible solutions, and to solve both routine and unfamiliar problems;</p> <p><b>B4</b> Integrate evidence from a range of sources to support legal arguments;</p> <p><b>B5</b> Plan, undertake and produce an independently researched piece of coursework;</p> <p><b>B6</b> Using a wide variety of secondary and primary sources analyse appropriate solutions to complex problems and develop a reasoned and detailed argument, synthesize relevant information and exercise fine critical judgement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seminars/ workshops (B1 – B4, B6);</li> <li>• directed reading (B1 – B6);</li> <li>• use of the VLE (B1 – B6);</li> <li>• independent research (for assignments) (B1 – B6);</li> <li>• supervisions (B5).</li> </ul> <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examinations (B1 – B4, B6);</li> <li>• coursework (B1 – B6);</li> <li>• independent research for coursework (B5).</li> </ul>
<p><b>C: Practical skills</b></p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>
<p><b>C1</b> Access the law through a range of text and on-line sources;</p> <p><b>C2</b> Identify the essence of a legal problem and provide a sustainable analysis and solution;</p> <p><b>C3</b> Prepare written documents, on-line communication and effective oral presentation of findings;</p> <p><b>C4</b> Present research findings in a range of effective and appropriate formats;</p> <p><b>C5</b> Make effective use of the relevant academic literature, other sources of information and data (including textual, numerical and statistical data);</p> <p><b>C6</b> Make effective use of IT and software packages relevant to the programme.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (C1 – C6);</li> <li>• seminars/ workshops (C1 – C6);</li> <li>• directed reading (C1 – C6);</li> <li>• use of the VLE (C1 – C6);</li> <li>• independent research (for assignments) (C1 – C6);</li> <li>• supervisions (C1 – C6).</li> </ul> <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examinations (C1 – C6);</li> <li>• coursework (C1 – C6);</li> <li>• independent research for coursework (C1 – C6).</li> </ul>

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<p><b>D: Transferable skills</b></p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>
<p><b>D1</b> Be independent, self-managed and reflective learners;</p> <p><b>D2</b> Communicate effectively by oral, written and visual means;</p> <p><b>D3</b> Use IT including the Web, spread-sheets and word processing;</p> <p><b>D4</b> Work in collaboration with others;</p> <p><b>D5</b> Demonstrate problem solving skills and the application of knowledge with accurate reference to legal and academic skills;</p> <p><b>D6</b> Identify and work towards targets for personal, career, and academic development.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (D1 - D3, D5 – D6);</li> <li>• seminars/ workshops (D1 – D6);</li> <li>• directed reading (D1 - D3, D5 – D6);</li> <li>• use of the VLE (D1 – D6);</li> <li>• independent research (for assignments) (D1 – D6);</li> <li>• supervisions (D1 – D6).</li> </ul> <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examinations ((D1 - D3, D5 – D6);</li> <li>• coursework (D1 – D6);</li> <li>• independent research for coursework (D1 – D6).</li> </ul>

### ADMISSION REGULATIONS

The regulations for this programme are the University's Standard Graduate Diploma Regulations' with the following exceptions:

1. In order to ensure that the Regulator requirement that a student must "have a good command of the English language before being admitted onto the Graduate Diploma in Law, students who "obtained their degree in countries where English is not the official first language" will be required to have obtained IELTS Academic 6.5.

2. Students admitted to the Graduate Diploma in Law must satisfy the regulatory admission rules, as revised from time to time and followed accordingly. A summary of the current Regulator Rules can be found in Appendix A.

### PROGRESSION ROUTES

There are no progression arrangements for this programme.

## ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The regulations for this programme are the University's Standard Graduate Diploma Assessment Regulations (<https://intranetsp.bournemouth.ac.uk/pandptest/6a-standard-assessment-regulations-gradcert-graddip.pdf>) with the following approved exceptions.

### Principles

The regulations for this programme are the University's Standard Graduate Diploma Assessment Regulations with the following approved exceptions which align the programme with the requirements of the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board (jointly referred to as 'the Regulator'):

### Period of registration

	Full-time, maximum (years)	Full-time, minimum (years)
GDL	3	1

Periods of registration for the purposes of completing the Graduate Diploma in Law and meeting the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Bar Standards Board requirements for the completion of the academic stage of training may formally be adjusted by the Assessment Board on reasonable grounds. Maximum periods of registration may be set for students who enter with credit.

### Pass Mark

The pass mark for each unit will be 40%. Where the unit is assessed by a combination of formally defined separate elements of assessment a pass will be awarded where the total unit mark is at least 40% and the mark in each separate element of the unit assessment is not less than 40%.

### Awards

A **Graduate Diploma in Law** will be awarded to a student who has been credited with 160 credits at Level 6.

The award of credit is given for the successful completion of individual units for students who do not wish to complete the programme or who fail to achieve the academic award.

Where entry to the programme has been on the basis of recognition of prior learning or UK credit transfer, the requirements for the Common Professional Examination must be met as set out in the Academic Stage Handbook for the Solicitors Regulation Authority (available at <http://www.sra.org.uk/students/academic-stage/page>) and in the Academic Stage Book for the Bar Standards Board (available at <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/current-requirements/academic-stage/academic-stage-documents/>)

The award of an Aegrotat degree is not permitted.

### Classification

Classification will be based on the following criteria:

### Award of Distinction

A student **must** be awarded a **Graduate Diploma with Distinction** where

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- (i) He/she has passed all elements of the assessments at the first attempt, without any subject being compensated;  
AND
- (ii) He/she has obtained an overall average of at least 70%.

A student **may** be awarded a **Graduate Diploma with Distinction** where

- (i) He/she has passed all elements of the assessments at the first attempt, without any subject being compensated;  
AND
- (ii) He/she has obtained an overall average of at least 70% in at least 50% of the subjects counting towards the final award; AND
- (iii) He/she has obtained an overall average of at least 67%;  
AND
- (iv) The Assessment Board considers that it is not inappropriate to award a distinction.

A student must not otherwise be awarded a distinction.

### **Awards of Merit (defined by the regulator as a CPE with commendation)**

A student **must** be awarded a **Graduate Diploma with Merit** where

- (i) He/she has passed all assessments at the first attempt, without any subject being compensated,  
AND
- (ii) He/she has obtained an overall average of at least 60% in the assessments.

A student **may** be awarded a **Graduate Diploma with Merit** where

- (i) He/she has passed all elements of the assessment at the first attempt, without any subject being compensated,  
AND
- (ii) He/she has obtained an overall average of at least 58%  
AND
- (iii) He/she has obtained an overall average of at least 60% in at least 50% of the subjects counting towards the final award;  
AND
- (iv) The Assessment Board considers that it is not inappropriate to award a merit.

A student must not otherwise be awarded a merit.

### **Award of Pass**

A student must be awarded a **pass** where they have passed all assessments (at least 40% in each element of assessment), one element of which may have been compensated in accordance with the rules of the Board.

A student must not otherwise be awarded a pass.

### **Compensation of marginal fails**

Institutions may (but are not required to) compensate a maximum of one marginal fail in a coursework or an examination in accordance with BU rules on compensation and where:

- i The assessment board has considered the marks of all of the elements of the assessments; and
- ii the student has obtained a minimum of 35% in one and only one element of an assessment; and
- iii the assessment board is satisfied that there is strength elsewhere in the student's performance to justify compensation of the marginal fail.

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Compensation

### Provision for failed candidates

#### Failure and reassessment

Students are normally permitted three attempts at any of the assessments.

A student who fails an element of assessment (coursework or examination) and on resitting the element achieves a pass can only be awarded a maximum of 40% for the resit assessment as follows:-

- Where a first reassessment ('second attempt') has taken place, the formal element mark will not exceed 40%;
- Where a second reassessment ('third attempt') has taken place, the unit mark will not exceed 40%.

The Assessment Board may not require a student who fails more than one element of assessment to repeat not only that element of assessment (and any other assessment which the student has failed), but also any additional assessments, which the student has successfully managed to complete. In other words, the Assessment Board may only require a student to resit those elements of assessments which he/she has failed.

Students will have the opportunity during the relevant academic year of at least one reassessment of any failed or deferred assessments.

In the case of partial exemption students, the maximum number of permitted attempts will include attempts before enrolment onto the Graduate Diploma in Law.

#### Repetition of units

Repetition of units is not allowed.

### WORK BASED LEARNING (WBL) AND PLACEMENT ELEMENT

There is no work based learning as part of this programme.

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Programme Skills Matrix

Units		Programme Intended Learning Outcomes																							
		A 1	A 2	A 3	A 4	A 5	A 6	B 1	B 2	B 3	B 4	B 5	B 6	C 1	C 2	C 3	C 4	C 5	C 6	D 1	D 2	D 3	D 4	D 5	D 6
L E V E L  6	Legal Systems, Skills and Research (GDL)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Law of Obligations 1 (GDL)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Constitutional and EU Law (GDL)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Law of Obligations 2 (GDL)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Law of Trusts and Estates (GDL)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Property Law (GDL)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Human Rights Law (GDL)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Criminal Law (GDL)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<p><b>A – Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b> This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>doctrines, concepts, values and principles relevant to a range of law subjects;</li> <li>the UK and the EU regulatory framework including sources of law and the institutions which administer the law and personnel who practice the law;</li> <li>the overall pattern of the programme and the need to apply knowledge from a range of subject areas in addressing problems in law contexts;</li> <li>critical analysis of sources of law and academic commentaries;</li> <li>moral and ethical dimensions of their actions and the need for professional codes of conduct;</li> <li>essential facts and theories of law and its applications.</li> </ol>								<p><b>C – Subject-specific/Practical Skills</b> This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access the law through a range of text and on-line sources</li> <li>Identify the essence of a legal problem and provide a sustainable analysis and solution</li> <li>Prepare written documents, on-line communication and effective oral presentation of findings</li> <li>Present research findings in a range of effective and appropriate formats</li> <li>Make effective use of the relevant academic literature, other sources of information and data (including textual, numerical and statistical data)</li> <li>Make effective use of IT and software packages relevant to the programme</li> </ol>																	
<p><b>B – Intellectual Skills</b> This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically evaluate, and apply legal knowledge and skills in the development and implementation of practical solutions to law problems;</li> <li>Analyse and synthesise information</li> <li>Define problems and devise and evaluate possible solutions, and to solve both routine and unfamiliar problems</li> <li>Integrate evidence from a range of sources to support legal arguments</li> </ol>								<p><b>D – Transferable Skills</b> This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be independent, self-managed and reflective learners</li> <li>Communicate effectively by oral, written and visual means</li> <li>Use IT including the Web, spread-sheets and word processing</li> <li>Work in collaboration with others</li> </ol>																	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Plan, undertake and produce an independently researched piece of coursework</li><li>6. Using a wide variety of secondary and primary sources analyse appropriate solutions to complex problems and develop a reasoned and detailed argument, synthesize relevant information and exercise fine critical judgement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Demonstrate problem solving skills and the application of knowledge with accurate reference to legal and academic skills</li><li>6. Identify and work towards targets for personal, career, and academic development</li></ul>
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## APPENDIX A

### Graduate Diploma in Law rules to be incorporated into the admission regulations for the programme

#### Enrolment:

1. A student must be a **graduate** or have an **equivalent overseas qualification** or have been granted a **Certificate of Academic Standing** by the Bar Standards Board or be considered to be eligible to commence the Graduate Diploma in Law on the basis of **equivalent means**, before they can be admitted onto a Graduate Diploma in Law course.
  - i "Graduate" here means that an undergraduate honours degree has been conferred by an institution with degree awarding powers in the UK or the Republic of Ireland. "Undergraduate degree" does not include foundation degrees.
  - ii 'Equivalent overseas qualification' means any non UK or Republic of Ireland qualification that has been certified by UK NARIC (or any successor body) as being equivalent to a UK or Republic of Ireland undergraduate honours degree and that has been obtained following a minimum of 3 years full time study.
  - iii 'Equivalent means' here means any academic, professional, or vocational qualification that the Regulator considers to be equivalent to a UK or Republic of Ireland undergraduate honours degree.
  - iv The rules, policies and procedures of the professional bodies apply in respect of Certificates of Academic Standing, equivalent overseas qualifications, equivalent means and partial exemptions.<sup>1</sup>
  - v A student who has not satisfied the criteria in paragraph 1 above, whichever is applicable, before the date of enrolment on the Graduate Diploma in Law, may not be admitted on to the programme.
2. A student must have a good command of the English language before being admitted onto the Graduate Diploma in Law. Where a student has been awarded a degree from a country in which English is the official first language a sufficient level of competence in the English language may be presumed. For those students who obtained their degrees in countries where English is not the official first language, the institution must satisfy itself that the student is sufficiently competent in the English language before admitting the student onto the course.
3. Students should not normally be admitted to a Graduate Diploma in Law more than **2 weeks** after the formal commencement of the programme.

<sup>1</sup> The rules, policies and procedures of the regulator in respect of Certificates of Academic Standing, equivalent overseas qualifications, equivalent means and partial exemptions are set out in the relevant publications of the professional bodies and are published on their websites. The full Regulator Rules for the Solicitors Regulation Authority can be found in the Academic Stage Handbook (<http://www.sra.org.uk/students/academic-stage.page>) and for the Bar Standards Board in the Academic Stage Book (<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/current-requirements/academic-stage/academic-stage-documents/>)