

Have You Heard About the LL.B?

As you probably know, the College recently became the first institution of its kind to receive powers to award its own degrees.

This recognised:

- The quality of the College's programmes, resources, and management;
- Its long-established position as the UK's leading provider of specialist and highly innovative professional legal education; and
- Its close links with the legal professions and with leading firms, chambers and other employers.

Very importantly, it also recognised that almost all of the College's academic programmes are at Honours level or above.

This means, for example, that a student with a first degree who then takes both the GDL *and* either the BVC or LPC at the College will acquire more than sufficient credit, under the terms of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications ("Framework"), to qualify for a suitable "honours level" Law degree.

So, those who successfully complete both components will be eligible to receive two kinds of qualification:

- The existing "professionally-recognised" ones – i.e. the GDL and BVC/LPC; and
- The LL.B, which is not only appropriate under the Framework, but likely to be more generally recognisable (e.g. in jurisdictions outside the UK, or for purposes of entry to higher level degrees).

Will I be Eligible?

You will be if:

- You commenced the College's Part Time GDL no earlier than 2004; or Full Time GDL no earlier than 2005; and, having completed it
- Then complete either the College's BVC or its LPC

What Class of Degree Will I Receive?

This will be based entirely on the results of your GDL and BVC/LPC, which will be converted into your LL.B class via a two step process:

Step 1 - We'll convert your GDL and BVC/LPC results into a points score

LLB points	GDL	LPC	BVC/BPTC
10	Distinction	Distinction	Outstanding or Very competent with average \geq 80%
8	Commendation	Commendation	Very Competent with average < 80% or Competent with average \geq 65%
7	Pass \geq (av 50%)	Pass	Competent with average < 65%
6	Pass < (av 50%)		

Step 2 - We'll convert your points into your LL.B classification

Class	Minimum points
1st	20
2(i)	16
2(ii)	14
3	12

The classification algorithm is currently under review and will be published on the College website later in the year.

Frequently asked Questions

- Is the College's LL.B a "qualifying law degree" (QLD)?

No, it does not have to be. QLD-status identifies those Law degrees which exempt graduates from the "academic" stage of qualification. However, those who receive the College's LL.B will, of course, have completed both that stage (via the GDL) and the "vocational" stage (via the BVC/LPC).

- Why is there no "Pass" classification for the College's degree, which is therefore only available with Honours?

This is because, as result of the standards adopted for the GDL, BVC and LPC, it is necessary to reach Honours level (as defined in the Framework) in order to pass each component of the LL.B.

- Can I obtain the LL.B without doing both the GDL and BVC/LPC at the College?

No. At this time, the College is only offering the LL.B on the basis described in the Degree Regulations.

- Does it matter whether I study the GDL, LPC or BVC part-time or full-time?

No. All modes of study are eligible for this award.

- When will the College let me know my LL.B result?

As soon as possible after you have received your final BVC or LPC results. Later in the year, we will be able to give you a more precise date.

- Will there be a degree ceremony?

Yes. The College will be arranging a ceremony, full details of which will also be given later in the year.

- Will the degree award replace the GDL, LPC and BVC awards?

No. You will still receive the appropriate transcript of results at the end of each component programme. The LL.B award will be made in addition to these.

- What is the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)?

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) maintains this framework, which provides the definition of standards required for each level of degree (e.g. Bachelors, Masters). The College's LL.B fully meets the requirements of the FHEQ. For further information, please see the QAA's website, www.qaa.ac.uk.

Further Information

You can find the detailed Degree Regulations on the College's website: www.college-of-law.co.uk.

Consult staff at your College centre. If they can't answer your enquiry they'll pass it onto the Academic Registry.