

Frequently Asked Questions – GDL DL

I'm interested in a career in law, but have a non-law degree - is the GDL DL the right course for me?

The GDL Distance Learning is a two year conversion course for those who have a first degree in a discipline other than law. The course also provides access to either the Legal Practice Course (LPC) or the Barristers Professional Training Course (BPTC).

What areas of law are covered by the GDL DL?

The intensive course covers the seven core academic subjects of an undergraduate law degree.

What are the entry requirements for GDL DL?

Entry requirements for the course are a first degree, normally at least 2:2. If the degree was obtained outside the UK, you would need to apply to the Law Society for a Certificate of Academic Standing.

What happens if I can't attend one of the teaching weekends?

The course has four compulsory residential weekends. However we do understand that illness and family commitments may mean that this is not always possible and we will provide support for students in these circumstances. The only exception is attendance at the first weekend in year 1. We cannot accept students who are unable to attend the first weekend.

I've studied some law before, can this be taken into account?

Exemptions may be available for students who have studied law in a UK University, depending on which subjects have been studied.

How many hours study will I need to do each week?

Students should be prepared to devote a minimum of 15 hours per week to their studies.

Do I need to provide my degree certificate?

Students need to provide a certified copy of their degree certificate or final transcript (SRA regulations).

Is there an age limit for studying the GDL DL?

Most students are in their thirties but we have had students in their sixties.

Will I be at a disadvantage when seeking training contracts or legal employment with a GDL rather than an LLB?

There is no evidence that law firms prefer students who have a law degree over those who have a non-law degree and a GDL.

How many students successfully complete the course?

The programme has a pass rate of over 90%.

What support can I expect?

Support by phone and email is provided between teaching weekends.

What arrangements do I need to make for the study weekends?

Accommodation, all meals, tea/coffee and transport to and from the hotel are provided at every weekend. All the students need to do is turn up.

Further questions?

If you have queries which have not been fully answered please contact the Admissions team: 0115 848 4200