

# Diploma in Law



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. Application & Fees**

Please refer to the course application form and our “Entry Requirements” document for full details on the application procedure.

### **2. I have not studied law before**

This course is designed for those who have an interest in law but have not studied law previously. It will begin with an introduction to legal systems module and we will provide additional support throughout the course with planned workshops in legal writing and exam techniques. All students should try to set aside time for independent study and avail of the library facilities and the online course forum to keep on top of their studies.

### **3. Course Duration**

A draft schedule of dates is available on the course webpage. Lectures will take place on Wednesday evenings from 6.00pm to 8.30pm with an additional block weekend once a month (Friday and Saturday 9.30am-4.00pm)

### **4. How do I study for the course?**

The Diploma Centre is dedicated to an integrated learning model whereby you are encouraged to undertake independent study in order to enhance your learning experience. Our methodology views learning as an active process whereby you are encouraged to discover principles, concepts and facts through an active engagement with course materials. Our workshops form integral parts of this process (See Step 4 below) and are designed to facilitate a ‘deep learning’ experience, developing a real understanding of the subject area. This constructivist approach to learning encourages peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and collaboration in order to arrive at a better practical understanding of the course content and the course objectives.

Our integrated learning model consists of five stages, set out as follows:

#### *Step 1 – Initial Preparation*

You are encouraged to complete advance reading before lectures to familiarise yourself with the broad concepts of the topics to be covered. On the course “Hub” we provide a number of learning tools specific to each module including a reading list.

#### *Step 2 – Lectures*

Your lectures will form the core of your learning experience on the course. Each lecture is designed to highlight a specific area of law in an accessible and readily understandable format.

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## *Step 3 – Independent Study*

Following each lecture you will be equipped with a new understanding of the topics covered. This stage is critical to the learning experience as you will have an opportunity to consider in a more reflective way the topic covered in the lecture and whether it is necessary for you to complete further independent study on the particular topic.

## *Step 4 - Workshops*

The primary aim of workshops is to consolidate what is dealt with in lecture material. You will have an opportunity to participate in smaller groups and to engage in problem-type scenarios with a tutor. Where possible, materials are released in advance to enable you to prepare for the workshop and thus maximize the benefit.

## *Step 5 – Consolidation*

The final stage of the learning process is the consolidation of materials encountered during Steps 1 to 4 of the process. Again, this stage of the learning experience is contingent on you taking responsibility for your own learning and putting in the study hours necessary to successfully complete the final stage of the course – the assessment.

## **5. IT**

### Webcasting

All lectures are webcast. This allows students who cannot attend on site to watch the lecture live and on demand playback for the duration of the course. Our webcast system also includes a discussion feature which allows those watching live online to pose questions to the lecturer.

Note: Saturday sessions which feature a skills session and interactive workshop will not be webcast.

### What is the Hub?

Our online “Hub” is a learning management system and operates effectively as the course “website”. The Diploma Centre use the Hub as a learning tool, the site is designed to keep you informed about all aspects of the course and will contain the links to the webcasting feature. The site will also act as a repository for course schedule information, course materials and as a point of access to webcasts. Access to the Hub is only for the duration of the Diploma and will be withdrawn upon course completion. There will be an introductory guide available on the Hub which will explain how to use the site and the webcasting feature. All course participants are given a log in and password at course commencement.

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## 6. Course content

The following subjects are examinable;

<p>Semester 1 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitutional Law</li> <li>• Criminal Law</li> <li>• Contract Law</li> <li>• Tort</li> </ul> <p>Exams held in January</p>	<p>Semester 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Company Law</li> <li>• EU Law</li> <li>• Property Law</li> <li>• Equity or Employment Law</li> </ul> <p>Exams held in June</p>
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In addition there will be an introduction to legal studies module and workshop sessions on legal research, legal writing and exam preparation.

## 7. Assessment

Assessment on each module is through a combination of continuous assessment and a two hour closed book written exam. The pass rate for each module is 50%. We do not offer compensation between modules and all eight modules must be passed to obtain the Diploma in Law. The full breakdown of grades for each module is below:

Semester 1	Continuous Assessment	Assignment	Exam
Constitutional Law	5%	25%	70%
Criminal Law	5%	25%	70%
Contract Law	20%	N/A	80%
Tort	20%	N/A	80%

Semester 2	Continuous Assessment	Assignment	Exam
Company Law	5%	25%	70%
EU Law	10%	20%	70%
Property Law	20%	N/A	80%
Equity/Employment Law	20%	N/A	80%

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## 8. National Framework of Qualifications

The Law Society of Ireland operates independently of the National Framework of Qualifications.

## 9. Faculty

Our lecturers consist of experienced practitioners from both the Solicitor and Barrister professions. Each module will have a lead tutor and also feature a number of experts giving guest lectures in their areas of expertise. Please take the opportunity to ask lecturers and tutors questions relating to any of their material via the course forum on the Hub.

## 10. FE-1 Examinations –[Information on FE-1 Examinations](#)

This course aimed at increasing attendee's substantive legal knowledge and providing an opportunity to develop practical legal skills. However we recognise that some students may also use the Diploma to assist them in preparation for the FE-1 examinations. Whilst this course is not designed specifically as a preparatory course the content contained in the FE-1 syllabus is covered in all of the modules.

## 11. Library Opening hours

The library is open from Monday to Thursday 9am until 6.00pm and on Friday from 9am until 5.00pm. The library does not open on a Saturday. Diploma in Law participants will be provided with student cards and will have access to the Law Society library for the duration of their course. Certain texts will be put on reserve exclusively for Diploma in Law students particularly around examination time.

Contact the Library:

- Access the [Library webpage here.](#)
- Tel: 01 6724843/4
- email: [libraryenquire@lawsociety.ie](mailto:libraryenquire@lawsociety.ie)

## 12. What other facilities are there in Blackhall Place?

The Blackhall Place campus includes the following facilities;

- IT room
- Coffee shop
- Vanilla café
- Student bar
- Designated study spaces
- Playing fields

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## 13. How to find us

### Directions

For help to find the Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7 location, please [click here for the map.](#)

### Are there car-parking facilities available?

Car parking is available to onsite to students in the Law Society on evenings and weekends only. Places are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. There is no parking available to students during business hours Monday-Friday.

In the event that there are no free spaces in the Law Society, there is street parking in the immediate vicinity in respect of which standard rates apply. Alternatively there are a number of public car parks in area, including the Smithfield Market Car Park at which hourly rates apply.

Smithfield Market Car Park  
Queens St  
Dublin 7  
Co. Dublin  
(01) 4850846

For any further questions please contact course leader Patricia Harvey; 01 8815726 or [P.Harvey@lawsociety.ie](mailto:P.Harvey@lawsociety.ie)