



**LEGAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE TO
COMMON LAW PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED PERSONS (SIX-MONTH
PROGRAMME)**

1. OVERVIEW

This is a six-month course of training for common law professionally trained persons. This programme provides a thorough grounding in the legal skills and knowledge required in today's globalised legal practice environment

The course is designed to accommodate both legal practice and Commonwealth Caribbean jurisprudence. Successful completion of the programme gives participants the opportunity to practice in the Commonwealth Caribbean region once they comply with local legislation regarding admittance to practice in the jurisdiction.

The international virtual classroom used is the ideal environment for practicing lawyers to gain knowledge and experience in Commonwealth Caribbean jurisprudence and legal systems and be able to appreciate their differences. The course provides an avenue for students to encounter and understand various Constitutions of and constitutional processes in the region. Students will benefit from peer-to-peer learning through collaboration with fellow legally trained professionals from around the world.

2. COURSE OF STUDY

The Six-month Programme reflects the cross-border and cross-discipline reality of global legal practice. Online delivery of elements of the course provides a dynamic, collaborative forum, providing new opportunities for learning that a traditional classroom cannot match.

(a) Subjects of the Course

The subjects of the course are Law and Legal Systems of the Caribbean; Constitutional Law; Law Office Management Accounting and Technology; and Criminal Practice and Procedure. The Principal of the Law School has the power to exempt a student from any of the subjects listed but the student must then choose from one of the electives available which include, Civil Procedure and Practice, Trial Advocacy with Ethics, Rights and Obligations of the Legal Profession.

Students must study the law of one of the territories zoned to the Law Schools. At the end of the course of study students must be able to show a detailed knowledge of the application of the principles of law and legal practice in at least one territory so zoned.

(b) Law Office Placement

An essential element of the course is the requirement for students to be placed in a Commonwealth Caribbean law office. There, students will be required to perform exercises and to observe legal practices and procedures and to participate in a programme of court attendance to be drawn up by the Principal.

All law office placements must be approved by the Senior Tutor of the Law School who has charge of the institution's academic programme.

During the law office placement, students are required to submit a monthly portfolio of the work they have completed. This portfolio must be signed by the student's supervisor before submission to the Senior Tutor. At the end of the period of the law office placement, the senior attorney supervising the student, will complete an assessment of the student using criteria set out by the Law School.

3. COURSE DELIVERY

This programme features interactive classes and regular contact with faculty and fellow students across the globe.

(i) The subjects of the course described at 2(a) will be delivered online.

(ii) The law office placement component of the course described at 2(b) requires students to train in a law office. The law placement may be done by a hybrid of face-to-face and online instruction, or such other format as may be prescribed by the law office.

(iii) Teaching is provided by a mix of practising and academic lawyers and runs from September to March of the following year with breaks for the Christmas and other public holidays.

The programme is taught by means of a series of interactive seminars/lectures delivered in close connection with Tutorials where peer-to-peer and collaborative learning are experienced. This allows for continuous formative feedback during the course of study. There may be small group workshops to deepen the skills training.

(iv) A 75% minimum attendance policy at the Law School is prescribed by the Council of Legal Education.

4. ONLINE INSTRUCTION

This course is paperless. Instructional material will be uploaded to EDLS' Canvas Learning Management System which includes built-in video conference meeting facilities. All students are furnished with a Law School email address that gives access to all learning resources and material; the ability to host meetings; conduct legal research, receive, and submit assignments. EDLS' virtual Library Management System gives students access to additional learning resources and materials.

5. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme is assessed by a method of continuous assessments. The assessments are meant to test the aptitude and ability of the students to deal with matters which are likely to arise in law practice. The assignments are spread throughout the six-month period with each relating to a particular subject and taking the form of written submissions including but not limited to drafting Memoranda of Opinion and practical/oral exercises.

There are a series of three (3) assignments in each subject. There is a literal grading scheme of A-Excellent B-Good C-Pass D-Fail.

Students must achieve at least a satisfactory assessment (Grade C) in all courses including in their law office placement.

6. SUPERVISION

All students in this course will be under the general supervision of the Senior Tutor. In the law office placement, the student will be supervised by the senior attorney tasked with same by the law office.

7. AWARD OF LEGAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

Upon successful completion of the programme, students will be awarded the Legal Education Certificate. This qualification can be used to seek admission to practice before any of the Courts of Justice of the member states of the Council of Legal Education, subject to the applicant's compliance with local legislative requirements for Bar admission.

The Legal Education Certificate opens a world of opportunity to engage professional law practice, new networking opportunities and opportunities for continuous education and learning in the region.

THE LEGAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE IS YOUR GATEWAY TO FURTHER SUCCESS.

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Request further details by emailing registrar@edls.edu.bs.