Get ready for the LLM Bar Training Course

I hope that you are enjoying your summer and are looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto the **LLM Bar Training Course**.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us in September.

I look forward to meeting you.

Emma Handslip
Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14th September 2026 for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practice the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website with more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the enrolment process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

There will be a welcome lecture from me, and you will be able to enrol, collect your books, acclimatise on campus and make a start on your reading and preparation in that week. In addition, there will be introductory lectures on subjects such as Careers and pupillage. The following week we will start on teaching, and you will have a number of introductory lectures, as well as a personal tutor session and your first advocacy session. If you fail to attend these sessions in week 1 and 2 your place on the course may be withdrawn.

You will have access to the online learning platform, Blackboard, and you will need to access this in order to prepare for the advocacy session in the week of 21st September 2026. You will have lots of time over the first two weeks to prepare thoroughly for the first teaching sessions beginning 28th September 2026. There will be a lot of preparation work to do for all your classes and so it is advisable to get on top of it from the outset.
Prior to starting, you will receive:

(a) Course Materials via Blackboard
(b) Course Handbook via Blackboard
(c) Course Timetable for the first 2 weeks (thereafter you will have an online timetable through 'MYUWE')

(d) Details about your group – these are provisional and may be subject to change
(e) A guide to online learning at UWE Bristol

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about enrolment, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Enrolment

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can enrol. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Enrolment for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Enrolment website.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

The books you will be provided with are very bulky and weighty so you should bring a strong, large holdall/suitcase or similar to enable you to carry them!

Please note:

The BTC year is very intensive and demanding and many students struggle with the workload. This bundle of materials is designed to give you an insight into some of the modules that will be taught and to offer you a springboard into the BTC year.

The BTC team is a very supportive team of professional lawyers and tutors who want you to succeed. We will guide and encourage you to ensure that you achieve your full potential on this demanding course. However, the hard work has to be from you and you alone and so whilst you may have had a lot of time to relax and enjoy life whilst undertaking your previous studies, there will be far less time for you to do so whilst studying on the BTC. We would encourage you to look on this year as the start of your professional career and as a full-time job. We would discourage you therefore from undertaking any paid employment that may compete with the demands of time and energy that you will need in order to succeed on this course.

You will be scheduled to receive between 10-15 hours of face-to-face teaching each week, whether online or on campus, which will mainly comprise small group session (SGS) work. In your first few weeks, you will be scheduled to receive introductory lectures, legal researchskills and an introductory advocacy session. Whilst there is not a great amount of preparation forthis, there is nevertheless some preparation required (included within this bundle of materials).

There is a **LOT** of pre-reading/preparatory work required for the week of 21st September 2026 and thereafter; during this week you will have your first Criminal Litigation and Civil Litigation SGSs. In each of these SGSs, students will be required to undertake a large amount

of pre-reading and answer pre-set questions to be discussed in class. Historically, students struggle with these sessions particularly if they have not undertaken the pre-reading; many fall behind and struggle to catch up. **It is essential therefore that you place yourselves in the best possible position to manage the workload of the first few weeks and the rest of the course by undertaking this pre-reading and making full use of the week of 14th September 2026 to get ahead.**

Your BTC will be delivered to you with a blended learning approach. Many of the lectures in the Autumn & Spring term will be recorded, small group sessions will be conducted on campus, save for a couple of exceptions through the year. This may be subject to change depending on circumstances nearer the time. Whether a session is online, recorded or on campus you will need to watch it, or prepare and attend. You will therefore need to ensure you have a laptop or PC with a working microphone and camera, and ability to access Google Chrome.

Key dates

Please keep a note of the key dates for the academic year 2026-2027 which you can find in **Enclosure 2**. You are required to be available during ***all*** exam and resit periods and for ***all*** scheduled sessions. Please note that in accordance with the UWE BTC Course and Assessment Regulations 8.3 at Enclosure 3, students are permitted a maximum of three attempts for any single assessment and no more.

There will be further dates to follow, specifically in relation to careers events and competitions, and a revised key dates schedule will be issued when you start with us in September.

Registration and Induction Checklist

Before you arrive at UWE Bristol you must have already provided Admissions with:

- Confirmation of student membership of one of the four Inns of Court
- Confirmation of a 2.2 or above in your qualifying degree
- Confirmation of your English qualification if required
- Confirmation that you have paid the required deposit(s)

You must also enrol online (you have been sent separate guidance on how to do this).

You will be required to agree to the student code of conduct, attached at **Enclosure 1,** that is to be signed and forwarded 7th September 2026. LAW-SPS@uwe.ac.uk 7th September 2026.

Please ensure that you have completed each step of the check list. It is only then that you will be able to be fully rolled into our systems to have access to Blackboard (our virtual learning environment). **It is essential that you have access to Blackboard prior to commencement of the course.**

Failing To Meet the BTC Entry Qualifications

Please note: We require all students to have passed their entry assessments by the day of enrolment. If you are waiting to re-sit assessments or awaiting resit results after the date of enrolment you will not be permitted to register on the BTC and your place will be offered to

someone else. You must enrol for the start of the course on 14th September 2026. Students who are not able to enrol fully by 28th September 2026 at the latest and thereafter participate in classes, will not be permitted to continue on the BTC.

Pre-arrival Information – please access the links below:

Enclosure 1: Student Code of Conduct

Enclosure 2: BTC Full-time Key Dates

Enclosure 3: Course Regulations. In particular, please make sure that you are familiar with the Attendance Requirement**.**

Enclosure 4: Pre entry legal research exercises, created by the library team – "Get ahead with legal research methods and become the best barrister; database self – certification". **It is essential that these are completed prior to Monday 14th September 2026.**

Enclosure 5: Pre-reading for criminal litigation and evidence
It is essential that you get to grips with the pre-reading for criminal litigation and evidence as you will have a lecture on this in the second week, but you will also have a small group session in the **week of 28th September 2026** for which you will need to do a lot of preparation. There are 6 separate documents to read through,

1. Criminal litigation evidence and sentencing;
2. Pre reading criminal litigation and sentencing, an overview of the procedure in criminal courts;
3. Pre reading – sentencing;
4. Pre reading – introduction to evidence, preliminaries and proof;
5. Pre reading – sample sentencing MCQs;
6. Pre reading – sample evidence MCQs.

Enclosure 6 : Pre-reading for civil litigation and evidence
It is essential that you get to grips with the pre-reading for civil litigation and evidence as you will have a lecture on this in the second week, but you will also have a small group session in the **week of 28th September 2026** for which you will need to do a lot of preparation.

Enclosure 7 : Introductory Advocacy
The preparatory work for the 1st advocacy session in the week of **21st September 2026** is here. Please note that you will not know which scenario you will be required to prepare until September when the group lists are provided to you. Please read through all scenarios in advance so that you can offer constructive feedback to your colleagues at the time of the session.

Enclosure 8: Court dress

Please also see Building Legal Information Skills (BLIS).

The Attendance Requirement

The BTC is a professional course, and you will be required to behave accordingly. It is a requirement of the course that **you must attend <u>all</u> your timetabled classes** and that you

should do so punctually. Any lateness will count as an absence from the whole session for these purposes. Attendance is regarded as a matter of professional conduct. Furthermore, if you miss more than 20% of scheduled sessions (35 sessions) you may not be permitted to take final assessments and we may need to consider you continuation on the course. You are timetabled in groups: you are not ordinarily permitted to move between groups to make up for a missed session unless in exceptional circumstances and an absence is permitted under one of the regulations. The attendance and other regulations are set out at **Enclosure 3** above and discussed in the handbook which will be available at the start of term.

Dress Code

Please note that you are required to dress for court for all advocacy (Criminal & Civil) and conferencing sessions unless advised otherwise. A copy of the dress code is included in the pre-reading document. Please ensure that you bring appropriate clothes with you for the firstweek of teaching! This applies equally to online sessions as it does to sessions taking place on campus.

Room numbering at UWE

In the Business & Law Building – the entry level in the main atrium is level 2. Most of your teaching will take place on level 4 – which is two floors up from the entry level – via stairs or lifts. Once you come up the stairs, the teaching rooms and court rooms 3 and 4 are to the left and the tutors' rooms, together with court rooms 1 and 2, to the right.

The room numbering system can look perplexing at first sight, but is quite straightforward. Using Room 4X112 as an example:

4	First numeral = Level (floor). Frenchay campus is on a hill, so note that the 'ground' floor of many blocks and buildings is sometimes actually Level 1 or 2.
X	Letter = Block
112	Final numeral = room number. Rooms are generally numbered clockwise around the buildings. For example, if you are facing room 30 you would usually go right to find a higher numbered room, and left for a lower numbered room.

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your

course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

We recommend that you have access to a device with the **Core Specification** detailed in the following links: Choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

International students

The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact me as the programme leader:

Emma Emma Handslip via email at

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026