UNIT 1: All Compulsory

The syllabus lists what the Course must cover as a minimum, it is not set out in any order of importance, weight or otherwise. The course must always remain current, relevant and proportionate to the profession of the Costs Lawyer.

Module 1(a) ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM, LEGAL METHOD & LEGAL SKILLS 10 Credits

Minimum syllabus:

Legislation

Legislative interpretation

Legislative bodies

The legal profession

Rules of construction

Precedent

Court hierarchy

The judiciary and the magistracy

Trial by jury

Tribunals

Criminal litigation/trial process

Civil litigation process

Legal research

Aim: To enable Trainees to develop knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of the English legal system and introduce them to a range of legal resources available electronically and paper based to encourage and support their legal research and understanding.

Outcome: Upon completion of this Module a Trainee should be able to:

- Explain different forms of legislation and legislative bodies in England & Wales.
- Explain the key characteristics that define the legal professions of England & Wales.
- Independently research topics concerning the English legal system.

Module 1(b) PROFESSIONAL ETHICS 10 Credits

Minimum Syllabus:

Professional ethics

Professional standards

The practice of a Costs Lawyer

Reserved legal activities

Statement of rights

Costs Lawyer complaints procedure

Role of the regulator (CLSB)

Role of the representative body (ACL)

Role of the Legal Services Board (LSB)

Role of the Legal Ombudsman (LeO)

The Legal Services Act 2007

Aim: To enable Trainees to develop knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of the expected professional standards and ethics of a Costs Lawyer and other regulated legal professionals.

Outcome: Upon completion of this Module a Trainee should be able to:

 Explain the requirements imposed on a Costs Lawyer by the Code of Conduct and other regulatory documents. Regulatory documents & guidance notes Other legal regulators **Accredited Costs Lawyers** Advocacy

- Apply that knowledge to a number of problem based scenarios to demonstrate an ability to act in accordance with the core duties of professional conduct & ethics.
- Present their answers logically and coherently.

Module 1(c) **COSTS PLEADINGS & OTHER PROCESS DOCUMENTATION** 10 Credits

Minimum Syllabus:

Costs pleadings in legal aid Pleadings under prevailing CPR rules

Bill of costs

Points of dispute

Points of reply

Written submissions

Skeleton arguments

Witness statements

Requests for further information

Further information

Costs budgets/statements of costs

Applications

Interim & final certificates

Orders

Appellant notices

Respondents notices

Filing methods

Filing timescales

Aim: To enable Trainees to develop knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of what costs are and the pleadings and other process documentation required at each stage of the costs recovery process (legal aid and non-legal aid).

Outcome: Upon completion of this Module a Trainee should be able to:

- Explain the process, required pleadings/documentation and content at all stages in costs matters.
- Apply their knowledge to produce accurately drafted costs pleadings & other process documentation.
- Present their answers logically and coherently.

Module 1(d) **10 Credits**

Minimum syllabus:

Advocacy

Oral advocacy in court

Advocacy on detailed assessment

Court etiquette

Preparation, strategy & objectives

Applying law to the facts

Never mislead the court

Questioning/leading questions

When to challenge/ cross examination

Witness handling

Submissions

Summation

ADVOCACY & NEGOTIATION

Aim: To enable Trainees to know and apply the skills and etiquette requirements of competent advocates and negotiators to ensure best outcome for a client in practice.

Outcome: Upon completion of this Module a Trainee should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of competency expectations in court etiquette.
- Demonstrate understanding of competency in basic negotiation skills.

Contempt of court

Alternative dispute resolution (ADR)

Negotiations

Oral advocacy in negotiation

Preparation, objectives & strategy

Agenda

Location & method (meeting/phone)

Collaborative/ adversarial

Apply law to the facts

Open & position effectively

Questioning & listening

Bargaining using rational

Persuasive argument

When to concede

Present their answers logically and coherently.

Module 1(e) CIVIL PROCEDURE (FOUNDATION) 10 Credits

Minimum syllabus:

Overview of Civil Procedure Rules (CPR)

Pre-action considerations

Parties

Commencing procedures

Pleadings

Service

Case management

Allocation of tracks

Ending claims without trial

Interim applications and payments

Part 36 offers

Disclosure

Disclosure at detailed assessment

Evidence

Trails and hearings

Pro bono representation

Judgements & orders

Enforcement

Fixed costs

Summary assessment of costs

Detailed assessment of costs

Detailed assessment procedure

Appeals

Aim: To enable Trainees to develop foundation level knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of the civil procedure to ensure best outcome for a client in practice.

Outcome: Upon completion of this Module a Trainee should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following and present their answers logically and coherently.

- Civil Procedure Rules.
- Conduct of a civil court action from start to finish.
- Risks and milestones during a civil court action.
- Key costs issues.

Module 1(f) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (Foundation) 10 Credits

Minimum Syllabus:

Aim: To provide a structured and supported

Learning styles & preferences
Keeping a progress file or learning log
Understanding & responding to feedback
Time management
Career planning
CV writing

process to enable a Trainee to reflect upon their own learning, performance and/or achievement and to plan for their personal, educational and career development.

Outcome:

On successful completion of this Module a Trainee should be able to:

- Recognise, value and evidence their own learning in academic and workbased contexts.
- Evaluate and recognise their own strengths and weaknesses and identify ways in which perceived weaknesses might be improved and make best use of strengths.
- Learn from things that did not go according to plan and respond to feedback.
- Utilise personal records and evidence of learning to demonstrate to others what they know and can do.
- Manage time/competing demands to achieve desired objectives and meet deadlines.
- Monitor and review progress towards the achievement of goals.

Written Assessment

- (1) 50%: A critical reflection of a Trainees learning in Unit 1 including how this shaped or informed work practices of careers plans.
- (2) 50%: A learning log/diary.