



Diploma in Professional Legal Practice

Admissions 2024/25

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1. Which institutions provide the Diploma?

- The Diploma providers are as follows:
 - University of Aberdeen
 - University of Dundee
 - University of Edinburgh
 - University of Glasgow
 - Robert Gordon University
 - University of Strathclyde.

Application process

2. How many Diploma providers can I apply to?

- For academic session 2024/25, you may apply to up to two Diploma providers.

3. It used to be the case that applicants could apply to only one Diploma provider. Why don't Diploma providers revert to this system?

- Diploma providers are concerned that provider choice has a disproportionate significance if applicants can apply to only one Diploma provider.
- Let's say one Diploma provider receives lots of additional applications one year. Many of those applicants would not receive an offer, simply because they chose a popular provider.
- By allowing applicants to apply to two Diploma providers, applicants have more chance of securing a Diploma place based on their ranking and not on their choice of Diploma provider.
- Diploma providers will, however, place weight on applicants' choice of provider.

4. Why can I not accept more than one offer, in case my circumstances change?

- Allowing applicants to accept more than one offer would skew Diploma providers' numbers and unfairly affect the number of offers made to other applicants. Further, Diploma providers would be unable to place reliance on their number of acceptances, which would have a knock-on effect on preparation for the academic session.
- In order to deter applicants from accepting more than one offer, and to help ensure fairness for all applicants, Diploma providers are clear that any applicant who does accept more than one offer will be unable to undertake the Diploma that year.

5. What happens if I am late with my application?

- Unfortunately, Diploma providers cannot receive any late applications and you would need to apply again next year.

6. Do I need to decline any offer I don't want to accept?

- Yes. If you are clear that you do not wish to accept an offer, please formally decline that offer via the relevant Diploma provider's system.

7. What happens if I am late with an acceptance of an offer?

- If you do not accept an offer by the relevant deadline, then you will be deemed to have declined that offer and will be unable to accept at a later date.

8. What happens if I receive an offer from my second choice but not my first choice? Should I accept?

- That will be a matter for you. If you accept the offer then you will not receive an offer from your first choice in any subsequent round. However, if you decline there is no guarantee that you will receive an offer from your first choice in any subsequent round. It is up to you to decide whether to take that risk.

9. Will my first choice Diploma provider remove me from their list if I accept my second choice in an earlier round?

- Yes, on the basis it is likely to result in chaotic administration if applicants were able to switch acceptances across different rounds.

10. Is there a risk that I will be rejected from a Diploma provider after the first round?

- Some Diploma providers may reject applicants in the first round, if there is no feasible chance of those applicants receiving an offer from that Diploma provider at all.

11. Is there a risk that I won't receive an offer from any Diploma provider?

- There is never any guarantee of a Diploma place, unfortunately. This is due to the number of applicants often being greater than the number of places available. However, it is likely that most Diploma providers will take a few rounds to fill up their places, so please don't be disheartened if you do not receive an offer in the first or second rounds.

Admission criteria

12. What are Glasgow's admission criteria?

- Glasgow's Admissions Committee places significant weight on each applicant's grade point average (GPA) across the foundation subjects (for most people that means the subjects in first and second year).
- Each applicant will be ranked, depending on their GPA (and potentially taking into account the average GPA of their undergraduate institution). Offers will be made to the highest-ranked applicants. Please note, however, that provider choice will be taken into account i.e. the Admissions Committee will prioritise those applicants who chose Glasgow as their first choice provider.

- Where two or more applicants have identical GPAs, the Admissions Committee will take into account other factors in the following order:
 - whether the applicant received an adjusted / widening access offer (or equivalent) when applying to higher education for the first time (an applicant who answered yes will be ranked higher);
 - the number of fails in the Foundation Subjects (the applicant with fewer fails will be ranked higher);
 - the overall degree classification (the applicant with the higher honours classification (whether in law or, in the case of a graduate entry student, in another discipline) will be ranked higher);
 - whether the applicant has a traineeship secured (the applicant with a traineeship secured will be ranked higher); and
 - any other factor the Admissions Committee thinks is relevant.
- The Admissions Committee will consider all applicants who have disclosed special circumstances. The Admissions Committee has discretion to offer places to any applicant who has disclosed special circumstances, even if that applicant would not have been offered a place due to ranking. When using discretion, the Admissions Committee will consider an applicant's special circumstances, together with the applicant's place in the overall rankings.

13. Why does Glasgow place so much reliance placed on the foundation subjects rather than Honours?

- As explained at 12 above, the main criterion for a Diploma place is your grade point average (GPA) across the foundation subjects. The foundation subjects are those which the Law Society of Scotland insist every practising solicitor has passed and so it makes sense for these to be of importance when determining Diploma places.
- Further, some people do the accelerated degree or the Law Society of Scotland exams so don't have Honours at all, while others might have done joint Honours and so studied subjects unrelated to law.
- However, please note that Glasgow's Admissions Committee has discretion to take into account some other factors, as set out at 12 above.

14. I have a traineeship. Will that be taken into account?

- Glasgow's Admissions Committee has discretion in this regard, in that we will take traineeships into account when dealing with applicants with similar, or identical, grade point averages. However, this is the last factor we consider. We take the view that some applicants will have been unable to secure a traineeship in advance, due to their chosen traineeship provider or other, legitimate reasons.

15. I have mitigating circumstances. Will those be taken into account?

- The Admissions Committee does have discretion to take into account mitigating or special circumstances.

- The circumstances will only be considered where they affected your grade point average in the foundation subjects.
- Circumstances will not be taken into account where they have already been considered by your undergraduate institution (regardless of the outcome).

16. Is my work experience of any relevance?

- No – we do not place any reliance on work experience.

17. Is where I did my undergraduate degree of any relevance?

- The only criterion of relevance related to your undergraduate institution is your grade point average in the foundation subjects, as mentioned above.