



LawCAB

CENTRAL
APPLICATIONS BOARD
LTD

**ANNUAL STATISTICAL
REPORT 2020**

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Introduction

This annual statistical report provides information about the market for professional law courses in 2020, focusing in particular on applications and enrolments for the GDL and LPC for academic year 2020/21. It covers: The evolution of the market for these professional legal education courses, trends in applicant behaviour, applicant demographics and equality and diversity indicators, routes to university courses, and funding.

The Market for Professional Legal Education in 2020/21

The Supply of LPC Full-Time Places

In 2020/21, 26 Higher Education Institutions guaranteed the availability of up to 11,021 full-time places on the Legal Practice Course (LPC). Although university capacity to accept students onto the LPC has far outstripped demand for some time, applications and enrolments have increased steadily in recent years, to the extent that a few institutions closed their courses in 2020 before the original deadline, as they were deemed to be full. Overall the proportion of available full-time LPC places¹ filled in academic year 2020/21 rose to 67%.

The LPC market nonetheless remains highly competitive for institutions, with 14,608 offers made in response to 8,728 new applications for courses in 2020/21.

Table 1: The Evolution of the Supply of LPC Places, 2015-2020

Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Places available	11,031	10,871	10,901	10,901	11,021	11,021
<i>Number of offers made</i>	13,810	13,523	13,780	14,967	15,614	14,608
<i>Number of rejections</i>	748	707	727	1,009	2,248	1,922
Enrolment	5,644	6,010	6,400	6,545	6,896	7,338
Unfilled Places	5,387	4,861	4,501	4,438	4,115	3,524
<i>Av. Utilisation Rate</i> ²	51%	55%	59%	60%	63%	67%
Rejections/Offers %	5.4%	5.2%	5.3%	6.7%	14.4%	13.2%

¹ Although the concept of 'available places' is not the same as the historical formal regulatory requirement of 'validated places' and contains a degree of flexibility, it is nonetheless a useful indicator of capacity in the system.

² Enrolment/places available

The supply of LPC places may become relevant again as these legacy courses are replaced or discontinued, in favour of SQE related courses. We may also see more examples of the type of decision taken by the University of Sheffield, which closed its course in summer 2020 and transferred students on this course to the University of Law.

The Supply of GDL Full-Time Places

In 2020/21, 26 member institutions made 5,614 full-time places available on the Graduate Diploma in Law course (GDL). This was a continuation of the downward trend in GDL places offered since the peak in 2009/10. The GDL will be offered for the last time in 2021/22, apart from to those exceptional cases identified in the SRA's guidance.

Table 2: The Evolution of the Supply of GDL Full-Time Places, 2015-20

<i>Year</i>	<i>2015/16</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>2019/20</i>	<i>2020/21</i>
<i>Places available</i>	5,783	5,689	5,769	5,632	5,624	5,614
<i>Number of offers made</i>	9,407	9,646	9,202	8,810	8,944	10,864
<i>Number of rejections</i>	1,308	1,220	1,197	1,550	1,822	1,697
<i>Enrolment</i>	2,897	3,063	3,066	2,984	3,209	3,884
<i>Unfilled Places</i>	2,886	2,626	2,703	2,648	2,386	1,856
<i>Av. Utilisation Rate</i>	50%	54%	53%	53%	57%	69%
<i>Rejections/Offers %</i>	13.9%	12.6%	13.0%	17.6%	20.4%	15.6%

The Demand for GDL and LPC Full-Time Places

Figures 1 and 2 show how the take-up of LPC and GDL courses has evolved over the past 15 years. The recovery in demand for GDL courses has been particularly strong in the last few years with applications and enrolment growing by 21% for academic year 2020/21. The underlying driver for this growth appears to be predominantly COVID-19 related, but growing awareness that the GDL route to solicitor qualification will disappear imminently may also have been a factor.

Figure 1: GDL Enrolments, 2005-21

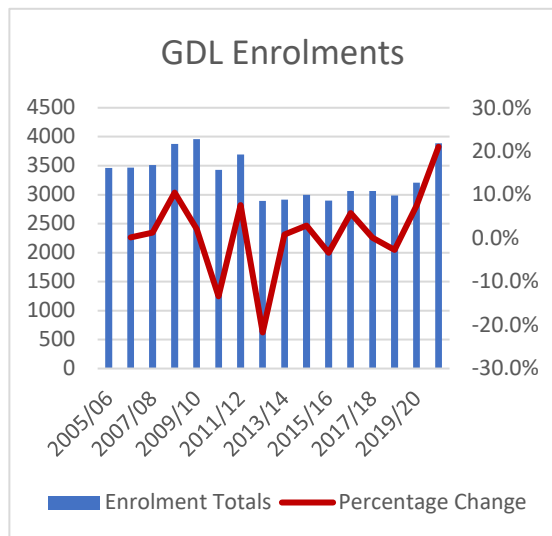
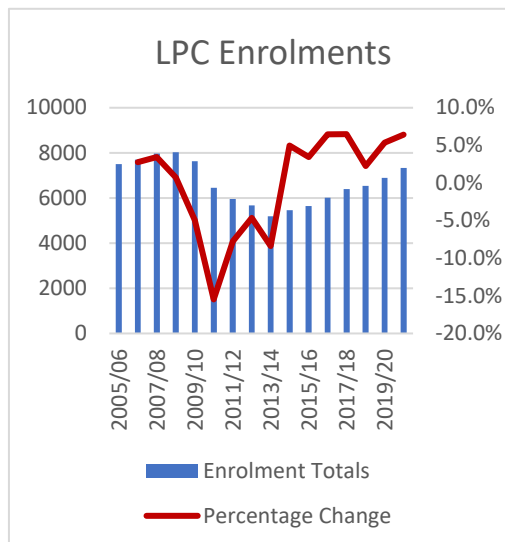


Figure 2: LPC Enrolments, 2005-21



Tables 3 and 4 show the evolution of demand for LPC and GDL courses in more detail. The deferral rates on the LPC have fallen over the past 5 years, from 8.5% of total new applications to 5.9% in 2020/21. The reverse has been true of the GDL where deferrals rose from 7.7% in 2015/16 to over 10% in 2020/21. These figures become increasingly important as legacy qualification courses are withdrawn and candidates need to be aware of the potential consequences of their decisions to defer.

Table 3: The Evolution of the Demand for Full-Time LPC Places, 2015-2020

Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Enrolment	5,644	6,010	6,400	6,545	6,896	7,338
New applications	7,180	7,399	7,774	7,993	8,314	8,728
<i>Deferrals from previous year</i>	551	581	631	583	607	582
Total Applications (including deferrals)	7,731	7,980	8,405	8,576	8,921	9,310
<i>Enrolments as % of applications</i>	73%	75%	76%	76%	77%	79%
<i>Annual change in total applications</i>	4.4%	3.2%	5.3%	2.0%	4.0%	4.4%
<i>Annual change in enrolment</i>	3.4%	6.5%	6.5%	2.3%	5.3%	6.4%

Table 4: The Evolution of the Demand for Full-Time GDL Places, 2015-20

Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Enrolment	2,897	3,063	3,066	2,984	3,209	3,884
New applications	4,878	4,928	4,804	4,562	4,746	5,816
<i>Deferrals from previous year</i>	273	380	410	436	410	441
Total Applications (including deferrals)	5,151	5,308	5,214	4,998	5,156	6,257
<i>Enrolments as % of applications</i>	56%	58%	59%	60%	62%	62%
<i>Annual change in total applications</i>	8.6%	3.0%	-1.8%	-4.1%	4.0%	21.4%
<i>Annual change in enrolment</i>	-3.4%	5.7%	0.1%	-2.7%	7.5%	21.0%

Trends in Applicant Behaviour

The LawCAB application statistics suggest some interesting trends in behaviour of aspiring entrants to the legal profession.

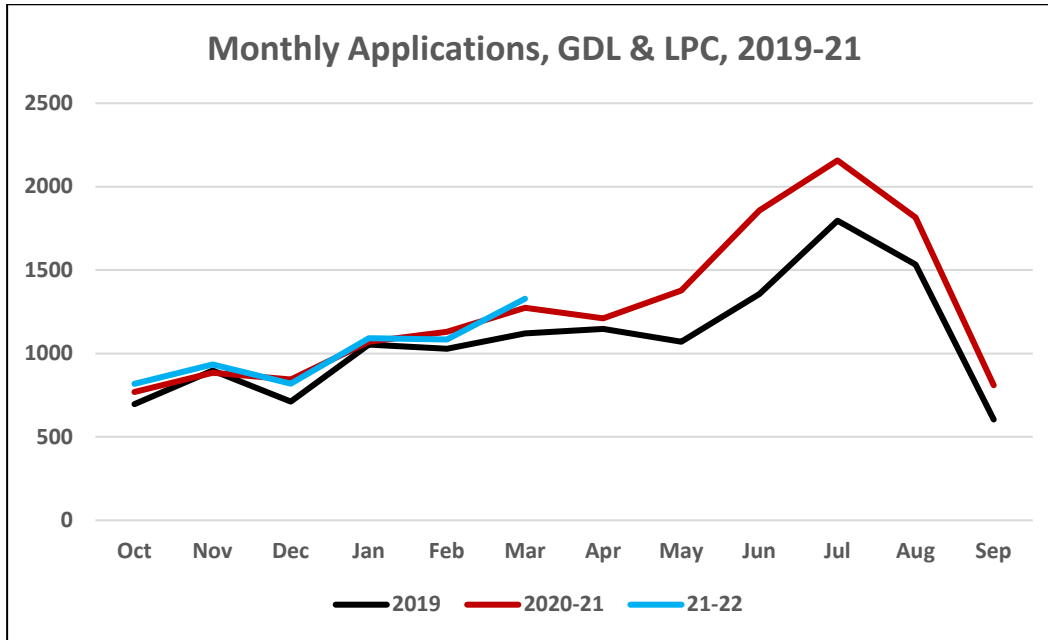
(a) The Timing of applications

The timing of applications for both the GDL and LPC has maintained a very consistent pattern over the past few years and this pattern was maintained despite COVID-19.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of applications (based on application fees paid) from academic year 2019-20 through to the current academic year 2021-22 (up to end-March). This illustrates that although there is a clear peak as academic deadlines approach, there are candidates looking for courses all year round. As the SQE assessment timings become fixed at certain points of the year, this may affect the timing of applications and the type of courses that are favoured at particular points of the year. At the moment overseas candidates tend to be among the earlier applicants, usually in cases where they need to secure visas.

Figure 3 also shows that total applications made so far in 2021 are closely tracking 2020.

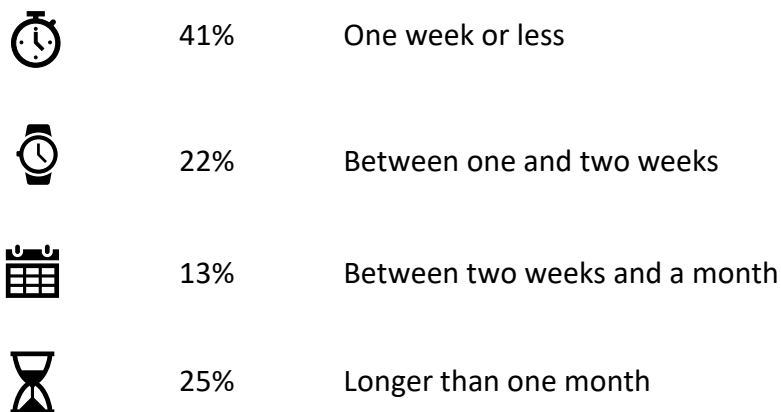
Figure 3: The Timing of Applications, 2019-21



(b) Decision time

Although many candidates come to the LawCAB website already knowing which institution they plan to apply to, others are uncertain as to which courses they are eligible for or where they might study. The time taken by candidates between the first creation of their LawCAB application forms and eventual payment and submission of an application, is shown in figure 4.

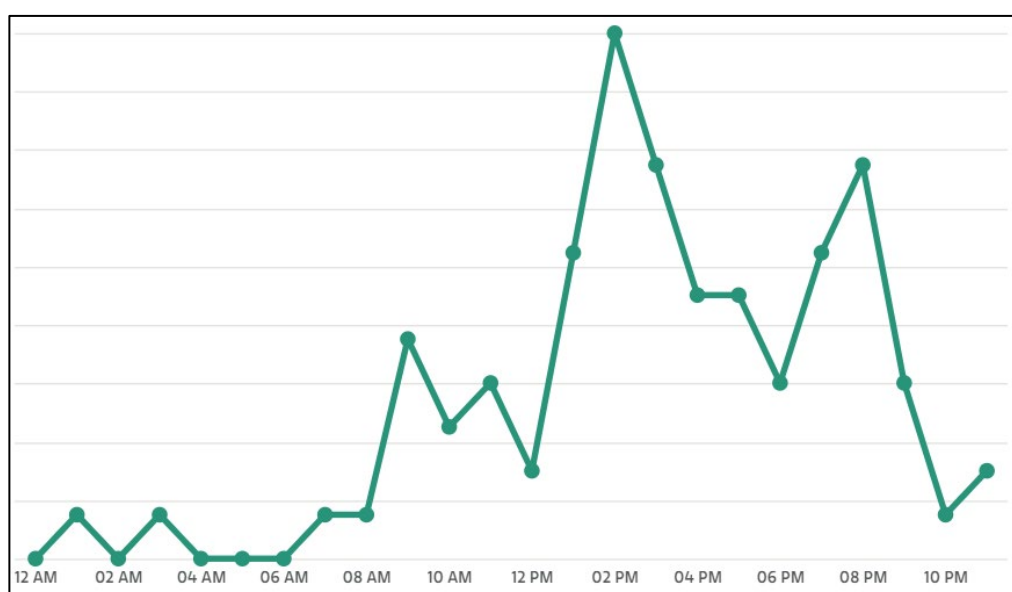
Figure 4: Time Taken by Candidates to Complete Applications, 2020-21



Application data also tells us that candidates are most likely to apply on Mondays, with Saturday being the least popular day for completing and submitting an application. This pattern becomes less pronounced towards the end of the application cycle, but is still evident. It has also remained constant over the last few years

There is also a fairly consistent pattern across the year in relation to the time of day when applicants finally press “send” on their applications, with a definite bias towards the afternoon and evening, as shown by the typical example in figure 5.

Figure 5: Illustrative figure of typical pattern of application timings



Note: Figure 5 shows the actual application pattern for 22 July 2020 but the broad distribution across the day is typical across the application year.

These observations have implications for teams processing applications, in terms of annual workload and when to look at LawCAB applications.

Who are Professional Law Course Students? : Applicant Demographics and Equality and Diversity Indicators

Whilst 2020 was a strange year and it may not be advisable to read too much into one set of figures, there may be straws in the wind for CAB and its members to bear in mind.

Applications and enrolments data for the 2020/21 academic year suggests that the cohort of students applying for and enrolling in the GDL and LPC was noticeably different from previous years in some interesting respects.

There is evidence of some current social issues showing up in applicant behaviour for the first time:

- The impact of the Black Lives Matter movement, for example, might lie behind some significant changes in the reporting of ethnicity data. Historically, only around 3-5% of LawCAB applicants have declined or omitted to state their ethnic identity on their application forms. In 2020, this proportion soared to 59%. Whilst there may be different underlying motivations amongst candidates, the significance of this shift is striking. Based on historical patterns and HESA data, most of those declining to give their ethnicity will be white, but by no means all.
- Changing attitudes to gender identity – CAB introduced the gender-identity category “Mx-other” in academic year 2018/19 and this was not used by any candidates until this year. Whilst still only used by a handful of candidates, the proportion of those identifying as non-binary in both GDL and LPC numbers in 2020/21 was higher than in HESA undergraduate law data.
- Greater wariness about providing and sharing data – we are seeing more applicants who are proactively requesting that their data is deleted once processing of their applications has taken place.
- Candidates may increasingly be interested in how institutions perform environmentally. We are also seeing small but noticeable use of ‘green browsers’ like www.ecosia.org which plants a tree for every search undertaken.
- The social impact of the pandemic is evident in the numbers identifying mental health issues as a factor to be taken into account in their application. The proportion of candidates citing mental health issues has risen to nearly 20% of all GDL and LPC candidates citing a disability on their application.

These new developments sit alongside some longer term demographic trends.

Gender

The feminisation of both the GDL and LPC continues apace. Female candidates in 2020/21 made up just under 60% of GDL applications and enrolments and around 65% of LPC applications and enrolments. Although female applicants are not only more numerous but also more successful than male applicants in gaining entry to the GDL, this difference is eliminated at the LPC level, with both male and female applicants having around a 78% chance of enrolling in an LPC course.

Table 5: Full-Time GDL Applicants by Gender Identity, 2018-20

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>as % total applicants</i>	2018-19	42.1%	57.9%	0.0%	100.0%
	2019-20	41.6%	58.4%	0.0%	100.0%
	2020-21	39.5%	60.4%	0.1%	100.0%
<i>as % total enrolments</i>	2018-19	40.8%	59.2%	0.0%	100.0%
	2019-20	41.0%	59.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	2020-21	37.97%	61.9%	0.13%	100.0%
<i>Enrolments as % applicants</i>	2018-19	59.8%	63.2%	0.0%	61.8%
	2019-20	63.1%	64.7%	0.0%	64.0%
	2020-21	62.2%	66.3%	83.3%	64.7%

Table 6: Full-Time LPC Applicants by Gender Identity, 2018-20

		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>as % total applicants</i>	2018-19	36.1%	63.9%	0.0%	100.0%
	2019-20	35.2%	64.8%	0.0%	100.0%
	2020-21	34.64%	65.34%	0.02%	100.0%
<i>as % total enrolments</i>	2018-19	36.1%	63.9%	0.0%	100.0%
	2019-20	35.5%	64.5%	0.0%	100.0%
	2020-21	34.86%	65.11%	0.03%	100.0%
<i>Enrolments as % applicants</i>	2018-19	78.2%	78.4%	0.0%	78.3%
	2019-20	78.1%	77.3%	0.0%	77.6%
	2020-21	81.2%	80.4%	100.0%	80.6%

LawCAB introduced the Mx-Other gender identify category into the registration system in 2018, and this was used for the first time by 6 GDL applicants and 2 LPC applicants in 2020/21.

Age

In terms of age, 2020 saw a return to longer term trends for younger candidates, following a blip in older candidates for the academic year 2019/20. This, no doubt, reflects the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic which prompted record numbers of school leavers to apply to university, and graduates to pursue postgraduate courses rather than seek employment in a difficult job market.

Table 7: Full-Time GDL Applicants by Age Range

Age group	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21	
	Applications	% Total applications	Applications	% Total Applications	Applications	% Total Applications
16-25	2,901	63.7%	2,725	57.4%	3,822	65.9%
26-35	1,066	23.4%	1,444	30.4%	1,363	23.5%
36-45	384	8.4%	399	8.4%	417	7.2%
45 +	201	4.4%	178	3.8%	199	3.4%
TOTAL	4,552	100.0%	4,746	100.0%	5,801	100.0%

Table 8: Full-Time GDL Enrolments by Age Range

Age group	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21	
	Enrolments	% Total Enrolments	Enrolments	% Total Enrolments	Enrolments	% Total Enrolments
16-25	2,086	74.2%	1,999	65.8%	2,818	75.03%
26-35	508	18.1%	784	25.8%	673	17.92%
36-45	150	5.3%	180	5.9%	167	4.45%
45 +	68	2.4%	76	2.5%	98	2.61%
TOTAL	2,812	100.0%	3,039	100.0%	3,756	100.00%

(N.B. Enrolment totals do not match those shown in tables 5 and 7 because of the impact of deferrals)

Tables 7 and 8 also show that in 2020/21, GDL applicants in the 16-25 age group were most likely to turn into enrolments (73% probability) compared to only a 40-50% probability for the older age groups.

Table 9: Full-Time LPC applicants by Age Range

Age Group	2018/19		2019/20		2020-21	
	Applications	As % Total applications	Applications	% Total applications	Applications	% Total Applications
16-25	6,219	77.9%	5,835	70.2%	6,925	79.40%
26-35	1,239	15.5%	1,944	23.4%	1,346	15.43%
36-45	329	4.1%	314	3.8%	281	3.22%
45 +	196	2.5%	221	2.6%	170	1.95%
TOTAL	7,983	100.0%	8,314	100.00%	8,722	100.00%

Table 10: Full-Time LPC Enrolments by Age Range

<i>Age group</i>	<i>2018/19</i>		<i>2019/20</i>		<i>2020-21</i>	
	<i>Enrolments</i>	<i>As % Total applications</i>	<i>Enrolments</i>	<i>% Total Enrolments</i>	<i>Enrolments</i>	<i>% Total Enrolments</i>
<i>16-25</i>	5,072	81.1%	4,684	72.6%	5,768	82.0%
<i>26-35</i>	891	14.3%	1468	22.8%	1,011	14.4%
<i>36-45</i>	179	2.9%	186	2.9%	156	2.2%
<i>45 +</i>	109	1.7%	112	1.7%	99	1.4%
<i>TOTAL</i>	6,251	100.0%	6,450	100.0%	7,034	100.0%

(N.B. Enrolment totals do not match those shown previously due to deferrals)

Tables 9 and 10 show that under-35s accounted for around 94% of applications and 96% of LPC enrolments in 2020/21. As in the case of the GDL, the probability of applicants eventually enrolling in an LPC course was significantly lower for the over-35 age group (56%) compared to the under-25s (83%). This no doubt has much to do with funding and the possibility, as an older applicant, of obtaining the necessary training contract to qualify as a solicitor. It will be interesting to monitor the evolution of these indicators following the introduction of the SQE.

Ethnicity

The makeup of all GDL and LPC applicants and enrolments by ethnicity for academic year 2021/21 is shown in tables 12 to 15.

The main striking development in 2020 was the number of applicants who declined to state their ethnic identity. But based on the consistent pattern of previous years, GDL and HESA data from 2019/20, as shown in table 11, many of those GDL and LPC candidates not stating ethnicity, were likely to be white.

Table 11: Ethnicity Indicators, 2019/2020, UK Applicants

	<i>Undergraduate Law students, 2019/20³</i>	<i>GDL enrolments, 2019</i>	<i>LPC enrolments, 2019</i>
<i>White</i>	61.2%	72.8%	63.6%
<i>Black</i>	10.1%	5.0%	7.5%
<i>Asian</i>	19.5%	7.8%	19.6%
<i>Mixed</i>	5.4%	5.3%	5.2%
<i>Other</i>	3.2%	2.1%	2.4%
<i>Unknown</i>	1.6%	2.5%	1.7%

³ HESA data: UK domiciled HE student enrolments, first degree, full time study in law.

Table 11 illustrates that when compared to HESA data on undergraduate enrolment in law, most non-white ethnicities have historically been under-represented in enrolments on the GDL and LPC. Given that only a very few candidates are rejected by all the institutions they have applied to, the most likely explanations for applicants who choose not to enrol in postgraduate professional law courses, are difficulty in accessing funding and training contracts. These issues are explored in more detail below.

Tables 12 and 13 show the ethnic breakdown of applicants and enrolments for the LPC in 2020 compared to 2019. These figures are designed to provide easy comparison with HESA data but CAB Ltd collects data at a much finer degree of disaggregation which shows, for example that UK Asian-Bangladeshi candidates at all levels and UK Black-African candidates are most underrepresented in LPC enrolments. 2019 data has been included as a point of comparison, given the degree of blank returns in LawCAB applications for the 2020/21 academic year.

Table 12: Full-Time LPC Applicants by Ethnicity, 2019-20

	% of Total 2019	% of UK applicants 2019	Total applicants 2020	% of Total 2020	UK applicants 2020	% of UK applicants 2020
White	54.1%	61.8%	1,749	20.0%	1,491	22.9%
Black	11.7%	8.1%	409	4.7%	223	3.4%
Asian	22.9%	20.4%	1,026	11.7%	714	11.0%
Mixed	5.3%	5.3%	186	2.2%	143	2.3%
Other	3.7%	2.5%	151	1.7%	65	1.0%
Unknown	2.3%	1.9%	5,201	59.7%	3,868	59.4%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	8,722	100.0%	6,504	100.0%

Table 13: Full-Time LPC Enrolments by Ethnicity, 2019 – 2020

	% of Total 2019	% of UK enrolments 2019	Total enrolments 2020	% of Total 2020	UK enrolments 2020	% of UK enrolments 2020
White	58.0%	63.6%	1,483	21.2%	1,280	23.2%
Black	9.5%	7.5%	310	4.4%	183	3.4%
Asian	21.5%	19.6%	799	11.3%	589	10.7%
Mixed	5.1%	5.2%	150	2.1%	119	2.1%
Other	3.6%	2.4%	108	1.5%	50	0.9%
Unknown	2.3%	1.7%	4,184	59.5%	3,285	59.7%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	7,034	100.0%	5,506	100.0%

Tables 14 and 15, below, show the picture by ethnicity for applications and enrolments for the GDL, comparing UK nationality applicants against all applicants. Again the level of non-declaration is significant, especially amongst white candidates.

Table 14: GDL Applicants for Full-Time Study by Ethnicity, 2019-20

	% of Total 2019	% of UK applicants 2019	Total applicants 2020	% of Total 2020	UK applicants 2020	% of UK applicants 2020
White	56.1%	70.2%	1,744	30.0%	1,516	38.5%
Black	9.9%	6.2%	250	4.3%	96	2.4%
Asian	21.3%	12.4%	517	8.9%	201	5.1%
Mixed	6.0%	6.4%	172	3.0%	129	3.3%
Other	3.1%	2.2%	90	1.5%	40	1.0%
Unknown	3.7%	2.5%	3,034	52.2%	1,957	49.7%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	5,807	100.0%	3,939	100.0%

Table 15: GDL Enrolments for Full-Time Study by Ethnicity, 2019-20

	% of Total 2019	% of UK enrolments 2019	Total enrolments 2020	% of Total 2020	UK enrolments 2020	% of UK enrolments 2020
White	63.2%	72.8%	1,348	35.9%	1,205	41.4%
Black	6.2%	5.0%	95	2.5%	53	1.8%
Asian	18.0%	11.4%	274	7.3%	137	4.7%
Mixed	6.1%	6.1%	112	3.0%	90	3.1%
Other	2.8%	2.1%	50	1.3%	24	0.8%
Unknown	3.7%	2.5%	1,879	50.0%	1,405	48.2%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	3,758	100.0%	2,914	100.0%

Disability

In contrast to the willingness of candidates to state their ethnicity in 2020, far more were prepared to declare some disability than in the past. Table 16 provides statistics on the number of UK nationals enrolling in full-time GDL and LPC courses in academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21 with certain self-declared disabilities. In 2020, there were more GDL students enrolling who stated that they had mental health issues than stating that they were of UK Black African ethnicity and more LPC students enrolling with Dyslexia than most non-White ethnicities.

Table 16: Full-Time Enrolments of UK nationals by disability, 2019/20

Form of Disability	GDL		Change	LPC		Change
	2019	2020	2020/2019 %	2019	2020	2020/2019 %
<i>Autism</i>	6	6	-	4	7	75.0%
<i>Blind/partially sighted</i>	1	2	100.0%	5	14	180.0%
<i>Deaf/partial hearing</i>	0	6	-	2	9	350.0%
<i>Dyslexia</i>	69	118	71.0%	135	172	27.4%
<i>Mental Health issues</i>	6	52	766.7%	19	77	305.3%
<i>Multiple disabilities</i>	6	17	183.3%	6	17	183.3%
<i>Unseen disability</i>	5	32	540.0%	16	52	225.0%
<i>Wheelchair user</i>	4	3	-25.0%	9	15	66.7%
<i>Not listed</i>	23	45	95.7%	0	89	-
<i>Personal care support</i>	1	0	-100.0%	0	1	-
Total UK nationality enrolments citing disability	121	281	132.2%	196	453	131.1%
% of Total UK enrolments	5.40%	7.48%		3.90%	6.4%	

Dyslexia is by the far the most frequently cited disability (69% of LPC enrolled students citing a disability and 57% of GDL enrolled students). This may be because applicants see this as relevant to requests they may make for examination adjustments. There may be applicants with other disabilities who do not wish to reference them in their applications.

Routes to Qualification and Funding

As suggested above, there are a number of other factors that are relevant to diversity in the legal profession, for candidates of all ethnicities. Most notable amongst these are academic background and access to funding.

In terms of academic background, the statistics from the LawCAB system allow us to look at the route which candidates choose to take to the LPC and the grade of degree they have been awarded

The proportion of those applying and enrolling into the LPC from different academic routes has remained fairly constant over the past few years, as shown in tables 17 and 18, with around 20%-25% of applicants and enrolments into the LPC coming via the GDL.

Table 17: Route to the LPC, Applications for Full-Time Study 2018 - 20

<i>Route</i>	<i>As % Total applications 2018/19</i>	<i>As % Total Applications 2019/20</i>	<i>As % Total Applications 2020/21</i>
<i>GDL</i>	23.5%	22.7%	21.8%
<i>QLD/LLB</i>	76.2%	77.2%	78.0%
<i>FILEX</i>	0.1%	0.07%	0.2%
<i>UNKNOWN</i>	0.1%	0.03%	0.0%
TOTAL	100.0%	100%	100.00%

As in previous years, the ratio of enrolments to applications was higher amongst those applying from the GDL route, since applicants coming to the LPC via this route have already made a significant financial commitment to qualification, whilst law graduates may be weighing various career options alongside entry into the legal profession at the time of making their application directly from a QLD.

Table 18: Route to the LPC, Enrolments for Full-Time Study 2018-2020

<i>Route</i>	<i>% Total Enrolments 2018/19</i>	<i>% Total Enrolments 2019/20</i>	<i>% Total Enrolments 2020/21</i>
<i>GDL</i>	25.7%	25.0%	23.64%
<i>QLD/LLB</i>	74.2%	74.9%	76.23%
<i>FILEX</i>	0.1%	0.1%	0.13%
<i>UNKNOWN</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
TOTAL	100.0%	100%	100%

Who Funds Participation in the Courses?

Tables 19 and 20 illustrate how applicants fund their participation in GDL and LPC courses. The proportion of self-funders for the GDL is, not surprisingly, significantly higher than the proportion for the LPC.

Table 19: How the GDL is funded, applications for Full-Time Study 2018 -2020

<i>Course Fee Payer</i>	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>2019/20</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>2020/21</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
<i>Self-funded⁴</i>	4,099	90%	4,257	89.7%	5,397	92.9%
<i>Employer</i>	453	10%	489	10.3%	410	7.1%
TOTAL	4,552	100%	4,746	100%	5,807	100%

Table 19 illustrates how rare it is for individuals to obtain funding via employers before applying for a GDL and that such positions were even rarer during the pandemic.

In the 2020/21 academic year, of the 337 UK nationals who had obtained a training contract/funding prior to enrolment on the GDL (of the 410 in total), 300 (or 89%) attended a Russell Group University. This appears to support the thesis that employer selection processes which focus on Russell Group universities are an important contributor to the ethnic makeup of candidates for the solicitor's profession.

Table 20: How the LPC is Funded, applications for Full-Time Study 2018-20

<i>Course Fee Payer</i>	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>2019/20</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>2020/21</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
<i>Self-funded⁵</i>	6,047	75.7%	6,312	75.9%	6,826	78.3%
<i>Employer</i>	1,936	24.3%	2,002	24.1%	1,896	21.7%
TOTAL	7,983	100%	8,314	100.0%	8,722	100.0%

Table 21, below, shows that by the time applicants actually enrol in their LPC, the proportion that have secured a training contract has increased from just over 20% to over 30% (32.2%). Table 21 also shows some interesting variations in funding depending on route and type of institution at which studies have been pursued.

Although only 20% of non-Russell Group graduates received employer funding for their LPC, the vast majority of these were individuals who had completed the GDL at these institutions. In the case of Russell Group graduates, those with qualifying law degrees made up almost all of those UK candidates receiving funding.

⁴ Including funding from parents or guardians

⁵ Including funding from parents or guardians

Table 21: Factors in Securing Funding, Routes to the LPC 2020/21

	UK Non-Russell Group			UK Russell Group			Total	
	No.	Training Contract	% funded	No.	Training Contract	% funded	No. funded	% receiving funding
Enrolments with GDL	1,234	661	17.2%	36	9	5.8%	670	46.0%
Enrolments with QLD	2,613	128	3.3%	1,502	658	42.7%	786	53.9%
TOTAL	3,849	789	20%	1,538	667	43.4%	1,456	32.2%

Finally, table 22 shows the breakdown of funded places on the LPC by type of employer. As expected, the Magic Circle and Top 200 UK law firms account for around 75% of the total funding available. A more significant and recent development is perhaps the growth of training contracts provided by US law firms.

Table 22: Source of Funding for the LPC – Training Contract Providers, 2020/21

Training Contract Provider/ Employer	Breakdown of Funded Enrolments by Type of Employer
Magic Circle	22.4%
US	16.5%
Other	5.1%
Top 200	56.0%
Total	100.0%

International Applicants

(a) Nationality

Not surprisingly, the majority of both GDL and LPC candidates are of UK nationality. In 2020/21, 75% of all applications for the GDL and 78% of all applications for the LPC came from the UK nationals. However, for both courses, over 85% of applicants were UK domiciled, which suggests that students already studying in the UK are an important source of applications.

As figures 6 and 7 show, applications both from the EEA (plus Switzerland)⁶ and the wider world were fairly constant as a percentage of overall applications until 2020/21. Interestingly, the position of GDL applications from the EEA and those from the wider world was reversed. However, the figures which underlie this picture do not indicate any drop off in the number of EU/EEA applicants but rather an increase in non-EEA applications.

⁶ EEA (European Economic Area) + Switzerland = EU + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland

Figure 6: The Geographic Origin of GDL Applicants, 2016-20

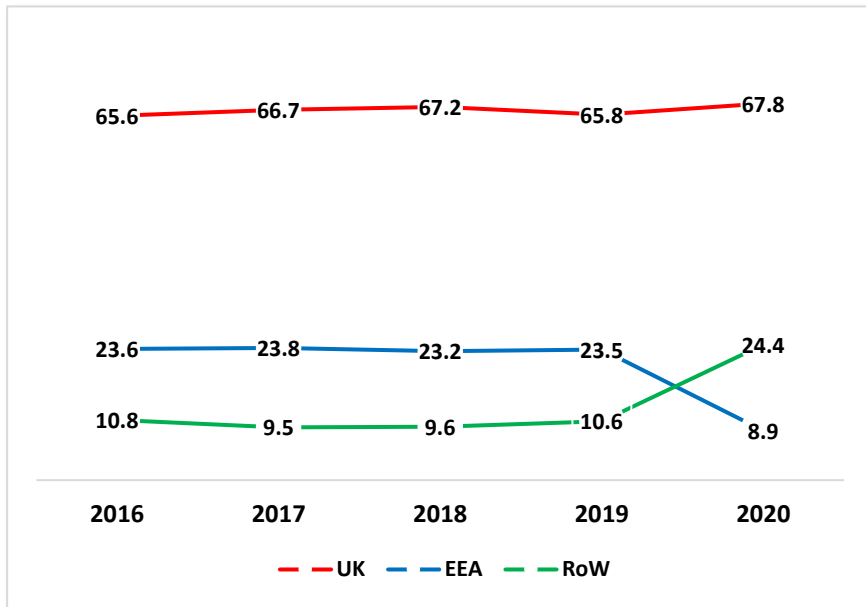
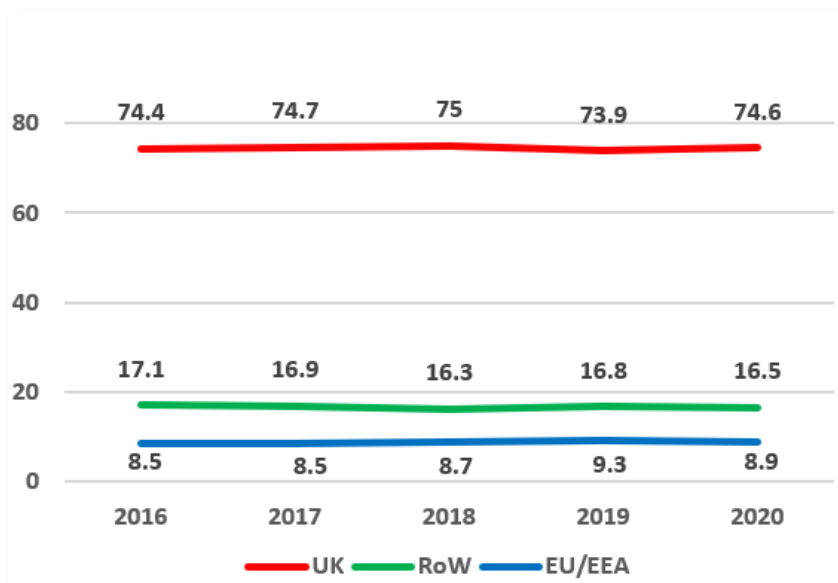


Figure 7: The Geographic Origin of LPC Applicants, 2016-20



The nationalities applying for both the GDL and LPC remained as varied as ever, despite the pandemic. In 2020/21, 1,868 candidates of 125 different non-UK nationalities applied for the GDL compared to 1,621 in 2019/20.

There were also 2,218 LPC applicants of non-UK nationality in 2020/21, compared to 2,168 candidates in 2019/20.

Tables 23 and 24 show the top 10 EU/EEA and Rest of the World nationalities applying and enrolling in both the GDL and LPC in 2020/21. They show a fairly consistent picture in terms of the nationality of applicants, although South Korea, perhaps surprisingly, became a more important source of enrolments on the GDL than Nigeria in 2020/21. Applications from Hong Kong also increased significantly – no doubt partly because of the political turmoil there but also because of proactive recruitment from institutions and the opening of a University of Law campus in Hong Kong.

Table 23: Top 10 Rest of the World Nationalities applying for Full-Time Study for GDL, 2016-20

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Applications</i>					<i>Enrolments</i>		<i>Enrolments/ applications</i>	
	<i>2016⁷</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Pakistani</i>	145	134	140	124	124	45	36	36%	29.0%
<i>Ghanaian</i>	40	80	82	112	178	25	38	22%	21.3%
<i>Indian</i>	65	72	79	109	142	45	45	41%	31.7%
<i>Chinese</i>	89	74	72	99	110	59	50	60%	45.5%
<i>US Citizen</i>	97	101	88	93	109	42	61	45%	56.0%
<i>Hong Kong</i>	56	61	41	58	88	43	55	74%	62.5%
<i>Canadian</i>	49	47	39	53	54	31	21	58%	38.9%
<i>Nigerian</i>	50	64	50	44	74	13	14	30%	18.9%
<i>Bangladeshi</i>	98	55	41	40	51	10	21	25%	41.2%
<i>South Korean</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	23	N/A	15	N/A	65.2%
<i>Turkish</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	32	43	16	20	50%	46.5%
<i>All Rest of World</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,205	1,417	528	555	43.8%	39.2%

⁷ Academic year 2016/17 etc

Table 24: Top 10 Rest of the World Nationalities Applying for the LPC Full-Time Courses, 2016-20

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Applications</i>					<i>Enrolments</i>		<i>Enrolments/ applications</i>	
	2016 ⁸	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
<i>Nigerian</i>	97	112	103	155	161	78	94	50.0%	58.4%
<i>Trinidadian</i>	180	192	146	124	77	77	37	62.0%	48.1%
<i>Indian</i>	52	59	74	101	119	63	74	62.0%	62.2%
<i>Pakistani</i>	63	80	86	99	119	43	62	43.0%	52.1%
<i>Ghanaian</i>	44	59	59	83	79	30	47	36.0%	59.5%
<i>Canadian</i>	88	68	82	74	67	55	51	74.0%	76.1%
<i>US citizen</i>	40	48	50	55	72	37	54	67.0%	75.0%
<i>Malaysian</i>	53	78	65	53	59	37	35	70.0%	59.3%
<i>Singaporean</i>	57	62	50	51	69	45	61	89.0%	88.4%
<i>Chinese</i>	33	45	47	45	53	29	35	64.0%	66.0%
<i>Hong Kong</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	54	N/A	39	N/A	72.2%
All Rest of World	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,388	1,442	514	922	37.0%	63.9%

Tables 25 and 26 illustrate that although historically applications from European nationals have been significantly more likely to lead to actual enrolments than applications from candidates from other parts of the world, this difference disappeared in 2020/21.

Table 25: Top 10 EU/EEA Nationalities Applying for Full-Time Study on the GDL, 2016-20

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Applications</i>					<i>Enrolments</i>		<i>Enrolments/ applications</i>	
	2016 ⁹	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
<i>Italian</i>	75	59	64	67	62	40	39	59.7%	62.9%
<i>French</i>	87	69	45	65	70	50	46	76.9%	65.7%
<i>Irish</i>	72	55	52	45	50	30	35	66.7%	70.0%
<i>Polish</i>	33	23	27	22	23	16	16	72.7%	69.6%
<i>German</i>	N/A	N/A	35	21	35	13	17	61.9%	48.6%
<i>Romanian</i>	36	19	34	21	32	15	19	71.4%	59.4%
<i>Spanish</i>	15	19	19	20	19	15	9	75.0%	47.4%
<i>Dutch</i>	14	25	13	20	24	9	16	45.0%	66.7%
<i>Portuguese</i>	19	14	17	17	20	8	14	47.0%	70.0%
<i>Belgian</i>	N/A	N/A	13	16	13	8	9	50.0%	69.2%
<i>Cypriot (EU)</i>					13		10	35.7%	76.9%
All EU/EEA	N/A	N/A	N/A	416	451	261	289	62.7%	64.1%

⁸ Academic year 2016/17 etc

⁹ Academic year 2016/17 etc

Table 26 shows EU/EEA nationalities applying and enrolling on full-time LPC courses in 2020. The number of applicants for study in 2020/21 was identical to the number of applicants in 2019/20, however the breakdown between countries was slightly different. Enrolments as a percentage of applications actually increased in 2020.

Table 26 also illustrates:

- A surge in Cypriot applications for the LPC
- A fall off in applications from Ireland and particularly from Spain, which fell out of the top 10 EU/EEA countries of origin of LPC applicants for the first time.

Table 26: Top 10 EU/EEA Nationalities Applying for Full-Time LPC study, 2016-20

<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Applications</i>					<i>Enrolments</i>		<i>Enrolments/ applications</i>	
	2016 ¹⁰	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Cypriot	N/A	N/A	N/A	63	93	57	71	90.5%	76.3%
Italian	63	69	70	83	82	67	67	80.7%	81.7%
French	63	55	61	61	66	47	60	77.0%	90.9%
Irish	84	79	75	84	64	59	51	70.2%	79.7%
Polish	41	43	55	75	63	54	49	72.0%	77.8%
Romanian	25	41	35	50	50	37	34	74.0%	68.0%
German	54	46	62	57	46	42	36	73.7%	78.3%
Greek	38	45	34	47	46	38	36	80.1%	78.3%
Dutch	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21	30	75.0%	75.0%
Portuguese	N/A	N/A	29	31	36	22	29	70.9%	80.6%
All EU/EEA	N/A	N/A	N/A	776	776	595	606	76.7%	78.1%

Overall, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Brexit and the transition to the SQE, interest in professional legal education in England and Wales remains robust.

Concluding Remarks

This year's statistical report from CAB Ltd is the last that will follow this precise format. Reporting for applications for academic year 2021/22 onwards will begin to report also on SQE applications.

CAB Ltd Secretariat

¹⁰ Academic year 2016/17 etc

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