



LawCAB

CENTRAL
APPLICATIONS BOARD
LTD

**ANNUAL STATISTICAL
REPORT 2021**



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Introduction

This annual statistical report provides information about the market for professional law courses in 2021, focusing on applications and enrolments for the GDL and LPC for academic year 2021/22. 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. Although CAB did receive some applications for SQE preparation courses we have decided not to report on these applications in this year's statistical report because this covers the period prior to the formal launch of the SQE and the number of applications received was relatively small (representing only around 10% of total applications). CAB Member institutions have received details of these SQE application numbers separately.

As a short summary of the SQE applications received, we can say that approximately 70% were from UK applicants, and just over 25% were from outside the EU. As you would expect, the age group was predominantly the 20-25 range, with just under 30% being in the 26-35 bracket. Less than 20% were in the 36+ bracket. The majority (70%) of applicants applied for LLM/Masters courses, with 20% choosing SQE preparation courses, and only 11% opting for diploma courses. 85% of applicants were undergraduates/not yet qualified, and a small number were overseas lawyers.

Overall in 2021, the main story in the market was the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continued to create new peaks and troughs in demand and impact applicant behaviour in terms of timing of decisions and the pace of course completion. As the effect of the pandemic disappears, the impact of the, now formally launched, SQE will become more evident.

The Market for Professional Legal Education in 2021/22

The Supply of LPC Full-Time Places

In 2021/22, 26 Higher Education Institutions guaranteed the availability of up to 11,021 full-time places on the Legal Practice Course (LPC). There was no sign in 2021 of providers leaving the LPC market or replacing LPC courses with SQE offerings. Although enrolment fell back to 2017 levels, the statistical evidence suggests that this was caused by candidates, who might normally have deferred the decision to advance to the LPC, deciding to enrol directly after graduation.

Despite the falling number of candidates in 2021, the LPC market remains highly competitive for institutions, with 12,962 offers made in response to 7,752 new applications for courses in 2020/21.

Table 1: The Evolution of the Supply of LPC Places, 2017-2022

| Year | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Places available | 10,901 | 10,901 | 11,021 | 11,021 | 11,021 |
| Offers made | 13,780 | 14,967 | 15,614 | 14,608 | 12,962 |
| Rejections | 727 | 1,009 | 2,248 | 1,922 | 1,479 |
| Enrolment | 6,400 | 6,545 | 6,896 | 7,338 | 6,415 |
| Unfilled places | 4,501 | 4,438 | 4,115 | 3,524 | 4,447 |
| Av. Utilisation rate | 59% | 60% | 63% | 67% | 58% |
| Rejection/Offers | 5.3% | 6.7% | 14.4% | 13.2% | 11.4% |

The Supply of GDL Full-Time Places

For academic year 2021/22, 26 member institutions made 5,574 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. Despite the fact that, from 1 September 2021, the GDL is no longer a formal step for non-law graduates in solicitor qualification, demand for conversion courses is likely to continue both for SQE candidates who have undertaken no previous formal law studies and for candidates for barrister qualification.

Table 2: The Evolution of the Supply of GDL Full-Time Places, 2017-22

| Year | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Places available | 5,769 | 5,632 | 5,624 | 5,614 | 5,574 |
| Offers made | 9,202 | 8,810 | 8,944 | 10,864 | 10,002 |
| Rejections | 1,197 | 1,550 | 1,822 | 1,697 | 1,258 |
| Enrolment | 3,066 | 2,984 | 3,209 | 3,884 | 3,607 |
| Unfilled places | 2,703 | 2,648 | 2,386 | 1,856 | 1,924 |
| Av. Utilisation rate | 53% | 53% | 57% | 69% | 65% |
| Rejection/Offers | 13.0% | 17.6% | 20.4% | 15.6% | 12.6% |

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 17 years. The strong growth in enrolments in 2021 and subsequent fall off in 2022, appear to be predominantly COVID-19 related. There was little evidence amongst candidates in 2021 that the SQE was yet playing a significant part in decisions about courses. This will of course start to change for the 2022/23 entry as the SQE has since gone live.

Figure 1: GDL Enrolments, 2005-22

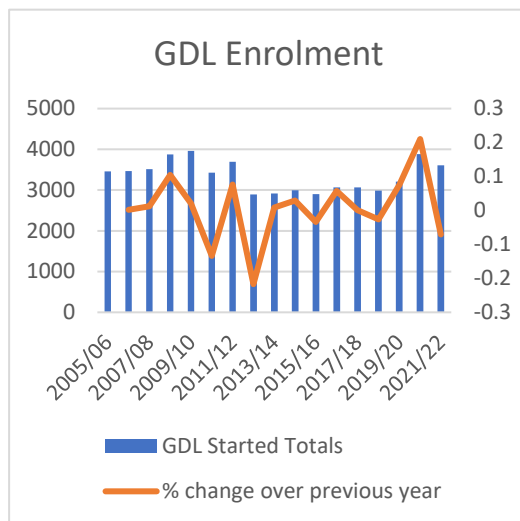
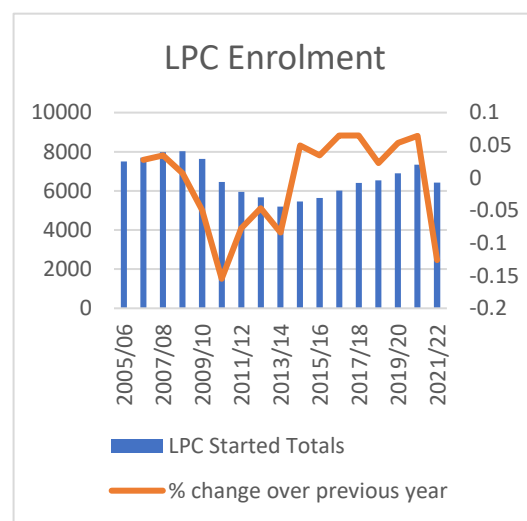


Figure 2: LPC Enrolments, 2005-22



Tables 3 and 4 show the evolution of demand for LPC and GDL courses in more detail. Although applications for both types of courses were down significantly on 2020/21, demand for both courses did not deviate far from longer term trends. The statistical evidence available reinforces anecdotal reports of students in 2021 choosing to pause between courses to a greater extent than in the first year of the pandemic and taking longer to complete courses, where this was possible.

Table 3: The Evolution of the Demand for Full-Time LPC Places, 2015-2022

| Year | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Enrolment | 5,644 | 6,010 | 6,400 | 6,545 | 6,896 | 7,338 | 6,415 |
| New applications | 7,180 | 7,399 | 7,774 | 7,993 | 8,314 | 8,728 | 7,752 |
| <i>Deferrals from previous year</i> | 551 | 581 | 631 | 583 | 607 | 582 | 517 |
| Total applications (incl. deferrals) | 7,731 | 7,980 | 8,405 | 8,576 | 8,921 | 9,310 | 8,269 |
| <i>Enrolments as % of applications</i> | 73% | 75% | 76% | 76% | 77% | 79% | 78% |
| <i>Annual change in total applications</i> | 4.4% | 3.2% | 5.3% | 2.0% | 4.0% | 4.4% | -11.2% |
| <i>Annual change in enrolment</i> | 3.4% | 6.5% | 6.5% | 2.3% | 5.3% | 6.4% | -12.6% |

Table 4: The Evolution of the Demand for Full-Time GDL Places, 2015-22

| Year | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Enrolment | 2,897 | 3,063 | 3,066 | 2,984 | 3,209 | 3,884 | 3,607 |
| New applications | 4,878 | 4,928 | 4,804 | 4,562 | 4,746 | 5,816 | 5,295 |
| <i>Deferrals from previous year</i> | 273 | 380 | 410 | 436 | 410 | 441 | 585 |
| Total applications (incl. deferrals) | 5,151 | 5,308 | 5,214 | 4,998 | 5,156 | 6,257 | 5880 |
| <i>Enrolments as % of applications</i> | 56% | 58% | 59% | 60% | 62% | 62% | 61% |
| <i>Annual change in total applications</i> | 8.6% | 3.0% | -1.8% | -4.1% | 4.0% | 21.4% | -6.0% |
| <i>Annual change in enrolment</i> | -3.4% | 5.7% | 0.1% | -2.7% | 7.5% | 21.0% | -7.1% |

Trends in Applicant Behaviour

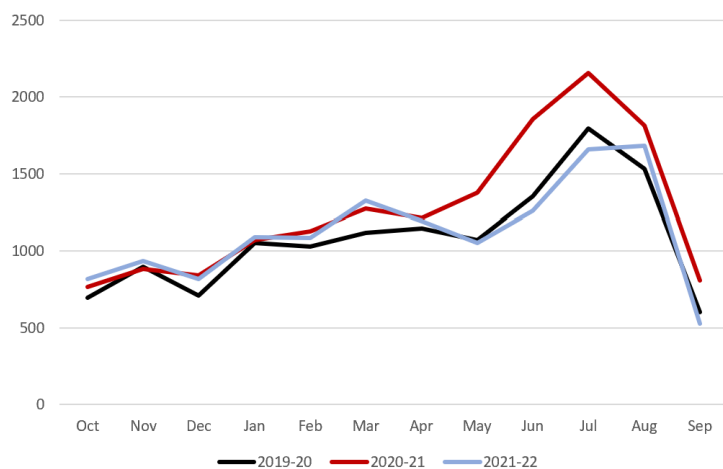
The LawCAB application statistics suggest some interesting trends in behaviour of aspiring entrants to the legal profession.

(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 academic year 2021-22. This illustrates that although there is a pause in applications around exam time in May and a very busy period between June and August, there are candidates looking for courses all year round. At the moment overseas candidates tend to be among the earlier applicants, usually in cases where they need to secure visas.

Figure 3: The Timing of Applications, 2019-22



Source: LawCAB/Stripe

(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 illustrates how nearly 40% of applicants for courses posted on LawCAB took longer than one month from registering on CAB to submitting an application. There were also a significant number of applicants in 2021 who began applications for both GDL/LPC and SQE preparation courses before (in most cases) deciding to opt for the traditional route to qualification.

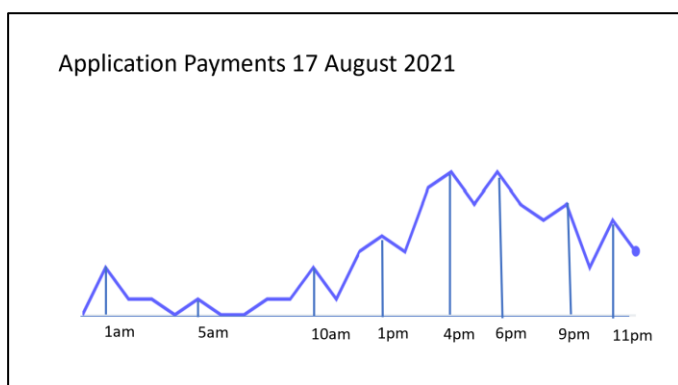
Figure 4: Time Taken by Candidates to Complete Applications, 2020-21

| | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | Time from registration to submission |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 41% | 34% | One week or less |
| | 22% | 12% | Between one and two weeks |
| | 13% | 17% | Between two weeks and a month |
| | 25% | 37% | Longer than one month |
| Total applications | | 13,620 | 1 October – 30 September |

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 based on the busiest day for applications in 2021.

Figure 5: Illustrative figure of typical pattern of application timings



Source: LawCAB/Stripe

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

Last year’s report reflected on some attitudinal issues that had appeared in 2020/21 application data. Some of these have survived into 2021/22 whilst others have faded.

- In 2020, there was a dramatic change in willingness of candidates to make ethnicity declarations, which might have been related to the Black Lives Matter movement. The historic trend of around 3-5% of LawCAB applicants who declined to state their ethnic identity on their application forms, shifted dramatically in 2020, when 59% of candidates opted out of giving this information. There has been an equally sharp reversal in 2021 (as shown in tables 11 and 13, with now only 19% (LPC) and 14% (GDL) opting out of giving this information. (For 2021, we included some additional text in the application form explaining why we were collecting this data, which may have reassured applicants that it was not to be used to influence decisions.)
- The growth, albeit small, of candidates choosing to use a non-binary gender identity categorization continues, as shown in tables 5 and 6.
- The social impact of the pandemic and greater openness about mental health continues to be evidenced in the number of candidates identifying mental health issues as a factor to be

taken into account in their application, as shown in table 15. Mental health has now overtaken dyslexia as the most frequently cited disability for LPC applicants.

Gender Identity

Female candidates continued to dominate applications for both the GDL and LPC in 2021/22 and represented over 60% of GDL enrolments and 66% of LPC enrolments.

Table 5: Full-Time GDL Applicants by Gender Identity, 2018-21

| | <i>Year</i> | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Other</i> |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>as % total applicants</i> | 2018-19 | 42.10% | 57.90% | 0.00% |
| | 2019-20 | 41.60% | 58.40% | 0.00% |
| | 2020-21 | 39.50% | 60.40% | 0.10% |
| | 2021-22 | 39.94% | 59.79% | 0.26% |
| <i>as % total enrolments</i> | 2018-19 | 41% | 59% | 0% |
| | 2019-20 | 41% | 59% | 0% |
| | 2020-21 | 37% | 62% | 0.1% |
| | 2021-22 | 38% | 61% | 0.3% |

Table 6: Full-Time LPC Applicants by Gender Identity, 2018-22

| | <i>Year</i> | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Other</i> |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>as % total applicants</i> | 2018-19 | 36% | 64% | 0% |
| | 2019-20 | 35% | 65% | 0% |
| | 2020-21 | 35% | 65% | 0.02% |
| | 2021-22 | 34% | 66% | 0.04% |
| <i>as % total enrolments</i> | 2018-19 | 36% | 64% | 0.00% |
| | 2019-20 | 36% | 65% | 0.00% |
| | 2020-21 | 34% | 65% | 0.03% |
| | 2021-22 | 33% | 66% | 0.05% |

Age

The demand for GDL places from younger candidates remained strong in 2021. The story that table 7 appears to tell is one in which younger candidates continued to choose law as an option after a first degree in another subject, whilst older career changers were more cautious than in the past. The fact that 90% of applicants coming from a non-law degree background were under 35 in 2021 is

striking. It will be interesting to monitor whether the SQE has an impact on the age range of candidates for qualification, but the underlying effect of COVID on these last two years of official GDL qualification courses should not be forgotten.

Table 7: Full-Time GDL Applicants by Age Range

| Age | 2019/20 | | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Applications | % Total | Applications | % Total | Applications | % Total |
| 16-25 | 2,725 | 57.40% | 3,822 | 65.90% | 3,508 | 66.43% |
| 26-35 | 1,444 | 30.40% | 1,363 | 23.50% | 1,276 | 24.16% |
| 36-45 | 399 | 8.40% | 417 | 7.20% | 328 | 6.21% |
| 45+ | 178 | 3.80% | 199 | 3.40% | 169 | 3.20% |
| TOTAL | 4,746 | 100.00% | 5,801 | 100.00% | 5,281 | 100.00% |

Table 8: Full-Time GDL Enrolments by Age Range

| Age | 2019/20 | | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Enrolments | % Total | Enrolments | % Total | Enrolments | % Total |
| 16-25 | 1,999 | 65.80% | 2,818 | 75.03% | 2,536 | 74.09% |
| 26-35 | 784 | 25.80% | 673 | 17.92% | 686 | 20.04% |
| 36-45 | 180 | 5.90% | 167 | 4.45% | 133 | 3.89% |
| 45+ | 76 | 2.50% | 98 | 2.61% | 68 | 1.99% |
| TOTAL | 3,039 | 100.00% | 3,756 | 100.00% | 3,423 | 100.00% |

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

Table 9: Full-Time LPC applicants by Age Range

| Age | 2019/20 | | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | Applications | % Total | Applications | % Total | Applications | % Total |
| 16-25 | 5,835 | 70% | 6,925 | 79% | 6,283 | 81% |
| 26-35 | 1,944 | 23% | 1,346 | 15% | 1,109 | 14% |
| 36-45 | 314 | 4% | 281 | 3% | 195 | 3% |
| 45 + | 221 | 3% | 170 | 2% | 151 | 2% |
| TOTAL | 8,314 | 100% | 8,722 | 100% | 7,738 | 100% |

Table 10: Full-Time LPC Enrolments by Age Range

| Age | <i>2019/20</i> | | <i>2020/21</i> | | <i>2021/22</i> | |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | Enrolments | % Total | Enrolments | % Total | Enrolments | % Total |
| 16-25 | 4,684 | 73% | 5,768 | 82% | 5,153 | 83% |
| 26-35 | 1,468 | 23% | 1,011 | 14% | 828 | 13% |
| 36-45 | 186 | 3% | 156 | 2% | 116 | 2% |
| 45 + | 112 | 1% | 99 | 2% | 88 | 2% |
| TOTAL | 6,450 | 100.00% | 7,034 | 100.00% | 6,185 | 100% |

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

Tables 9 and 10 show that under-35s accounted for around 95% of applications and 96% of LPC enrolments in 2021/22. For both the GDL and LPC, the probability of applicants eventually enrolling course was significantly lower for the over-35 age group (GDL=40%;LPC=59%) compared to the under-25s (GDL=66%; LPC=81%). 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 2021/22 is shown in tables 11 to 14.

Tables 11 and 12 show the ethnic breakdown of all applicants and UK applicants for the LPC in 2021 compared to 2020 and 2019. These figures are designed to provide easy comparison with HESA data but more detailed LawCAB data shows that UK Asian-Bangladeshi candidates at all levels and UK Black-African candidates are most underrepresented in LPC enrolments.

Table 11: Full-Time LPC Applicants by Ethnicity, 2019-21

| | <i>% of Total</i> | <i>% of UK applicants</i> | <i>% of UK applicants</i> | | <i>% of UK applicants</i> | |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | 2019 | 2019 | 2020 | 2020 | 2021 | 2021 |
| White | 54% | 62% | 20% | 23% | 43% | 50% |
| Black | 12% | 8% | 5% | 3% | 8% | 6% |
| Asian | 23% | 21% | 12% | 11% | 21% | 18% |
| Mixed | 5% | 5% | 2% | 2% | 5% | 5% |
| Other | 4% | 3% | 1% | 1% | 4% | 3% |
| Unstated | 2% | 2% | 60% | 59% | 19% | 19% |
| TOTAL | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Table 12: Full-Time LPC Enrolments by Ethnicity, 2019 – 2021

| | % of Total 2019 | % of UK applicants 2019 | % of Total 2020 | % of UK applicants 2020 | % of Total 2021 | % of UK applicants 2021 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>White</i> | 58% | 64% | 21% | 23% | 45% | 50% |
| <i>Black</i> | 10% | 8% | 4% | 3% | 8% | 6% |
| <i>Asian</i> | 22% | 20% | 11% | 11% | 19% | 17% |
| <i>Mixed</i> | 5% | 5% | 2% | 2% | 5% | 5% |
| <i>Other</i> | 4% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 3% | 2% |
| <i>Unstated</i> | 1% | 1% | 60% | 60% | 20% | 20% |
| TOTAL | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100.12% |

Tables 13 and 14, below, show the picture by ethnicity for applications and enrolments for the GDL, comparing UK nationality applicants against all applicants.

Table 13: GDL Applicants for Full-Time Study by Ethnicity, 2019-21

| | % of Total 2019 | % of UK applicants 2019 | % of Total 2020 | % of UK applicants 2020 | % of Total 2021 | % of UK applicants 2021 |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| <i>White</i> | 56% | 70% | 30% | 39% | 50% | 63% |
| <i>Black</i> | 10% | 6% | 4% | 2% | 10% | 5% |
| <i>Asian</i> | 21% | 12% | 9% | 5% | 20% | 10% |
| <i>Mixed</i> | 6% | 6% | 3% | 3% | 5% | 6% |
| <i>Other</i> | 3% | 3% | 2% | 1% | 3% | 2% |
| <i>Unknown</i> | 4% | 3% | 52% | 50% | 14% | 14% |
| TOTAL | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100.00% | 100% | 100% |

Table 14: GDL Enrolments for Full-Time Study by Ethnicity, 2019-21

| | % of Total 2019 | % of UK enrolments 2019 | % of Total 2020 | % of UK applicants 2020 | % of Total 2021 | % of UK applicants 2021 |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| <i>White</i> | 63% | 73% | 36% | 41% | 55% | 65% |
| <i>Black</i> | 6% | 5% | 3% | 2% | 7% | 4% |
| <i>Asian</i> | 18% | 11% | 7% | 5% | 16% | 10% |
| <i>Mixed</i> | 6% | 6% | 3% | 3% | 6% | 6% |
| <i>Other</i> | 3% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 2% |
| <i>Unknown</i> | 4% | 3% | 50% | 48% | 14% | 13% |
| TOTAL | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Disability

Table 15 shows the number of UK nationals enrolling in full-time GDL and LPC courses with certain self-declared disabilities. This shows that dyslexia and mental health issues in 2021 continued to account for the greatest proportion of declared disabilities, representing 53% of disabilities declared by those enrolling in GDL courses and around 60% declaring a disability when enrolling on the LPC.

Table 15: Full-Time Enrolments of UK nationals by disability, 2019-21

| Form of Disability | GDL | | | LPC | | |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| <i>Autism</i> | 6 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| <i>Blind/partially sighted</i> | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 13 |
| <i>Deaf/partial hearing</i> | 0 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 9 |
| <i>Dyslexia</i> | 69 | 118 | 114 | 135 | 172 | 151 |
| <i>Mental Health issues</i> | 6 | 52 | 73 | 19 | 77 | 144 |
| <i>Multiple disabilities</i> | 6 | 17 | 28 | 6 | 17 | 30 |
| <i>Unseen disability</i> | 5 | 32 | 38 | 16 | 52 | 69 |
| <i>Wheelchair user</i> | 4 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 13 |
| <i>Not listed</i> | 23 | 45 | 80 | 0 | 89 | 55 |
| <i>Personal care support</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total UK nationality enrolments citing disability | 121 | 281 | 355 | 196 | 453 | 496 |
| % of Total UK enrolments | 5% | 7.5% | 10% | 4% | 6% | 8% |

Routes to Qualification and Funding

Academic background and access to funding remained important influences on diversity in 2021.

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 16 and 17, with around 20%-25% of applicants and enrolments into the LPC coming via the GDL.

Table 16: Route to the LPC, Applications for Full-Time Study 2018 - 21

| <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>As % Total Applications 2021/22</i> |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <i>GDL</i> | 24% | 23% | 22% | 24% |
| <i>QLD/LLB</i> | 76% | 77% | 78% | 75% |
| <i>FILEX</i> | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.4% |
| <i>UNKNOWN</i> | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| TOTAL¹ | 100.2% | 100.1% | 100.2% | 99.4% |

As in previous years, the likelihood of candidates enrolling in the LPC if they had come through the GDL was higher than through alternative routes. This is not surprising 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 17: Route to the LPC, Enrolments for Full-Time Study 2018-2021

| <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>As % Total Applications 2021/22</i> |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|
| <i>GDL</i> | 26% | 25% | 24% | 26% |
| <i>QLD/LLB</i> | 74% | 75% | 76% | 74% |
| <i>FILEX</i> | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| <i>UNKNOWN</i> | 0.0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| TOTAL | 100.1% | 100.1% | 100.1% | 100.2% |

Who Funds Participation in the Courses?

Tables 18 and 19 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.

¹ Totals do not add up to 100% due to rounding

Table 18: 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>2021/22</i> | <i>% of Total</i> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Self-funded²</i> | 4,099 | 90% | 4,257 | 90% | 5,397 | 93% | 4,858 | 92% |
| <i>Employer</i> | 453 | 10% | 489 | 10% | 410 | 7% | 437 | 8% |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | 4,552 | 100% | 4,746 | 100% | 5,807 | 100% | 5,295 | 100% |

Table 18 illustrates how rare it is for individuals to obtain funding via employers before applying for a GDL and that such positions have been even rarer during the pandemic.

Table 19: 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>2021/22</i> | <i>% of Total</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Self-funded | 6,047 | 76% | 6,312 | 76% | 6,826 | 78% | 5,876 | 76% |
| Employer | 1,936 | 24% | 2,002 | 24% | 1,896 | 22% | 1,876 | 24% |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | 7,983 | 100% | 8,314 | 100% | 8,722 | 100% | 7,752 | 100% |

Table 19 shows that the proportion of funded places on the LPC reverted to pre-pandemic levels. The extent to which employers start to shift funding from the LPC to courses that are explicitly designed to prepare candidates for the SQE will be important to monitor from 2022 onwards.

Table 20 shows the breakdown of funded places on the LPC by type of employer. US law firms with offices in London continued in 2021 to be an important source of funding. The significance of obtaining a law degree from a Russell Group university is also evident in table 20 and this may even underplay the importance of degrees from these universities in determining which candidates obtain funding for the LPC, since it does not include GDL graduates who obtained non-law degrees from a Russell Group university.

² Including funding from parents or guardians

Table 20: Source of Funding for the LPC – Training Contract Providers, 2021/22

| Training Contract Provider/ Employer | ALL | % of total TCs | Russell Group | Share of Russell Group in TCs by firm type |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|
| <i>Magic Circle</i> | 397 | 22% | 202 | 51% |
| <i>Top 50 US Law firms</i> | 362 | 20% | 193 | 53% |
| <i>Top 50 UK law firms</i> | 774 | 43% | 374 | 48% |
| <i>Others</i> | 225 | 12% | 86 | 38% |
| <i>In-house</i> | 43 | 2% | 22 | 51% |
| Total | 1801 | | 877 | |

International Applicants

(a) Nationality

Not surprisingly, the majority of both GDL and LPC candidates are of UK nationality but despite the pandemic and despite Brexit, international applicants continue to account for an important share of applications. In 2021/22, just under 68% of all applications for the GDL and 75% of all applications for the LPC came from UK nationals. However, for both courses, over 80% of applicants for 2021/22 courses were UK domiciled, which suggests that students already studying in the UK are an important source of applications for postgraduate professional law courses.

As figures 6 and 7 show, applications both from the EEA (plus Switzerland)³ and the wider world were fairly constant as a percentage of overall applications until 2020/21. Since then, the proportion of GDL applications from the EEA and the wider world have reversed. In the last couple of years the number of EU/EEA applicants has fallen by around 13% and the number of enroments by around 10%.

³ EEA (European Economic Area) + Switzerland = EU + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland

Figure 6: The Geographic Origin of GDL Applicants 2016-21, (%)

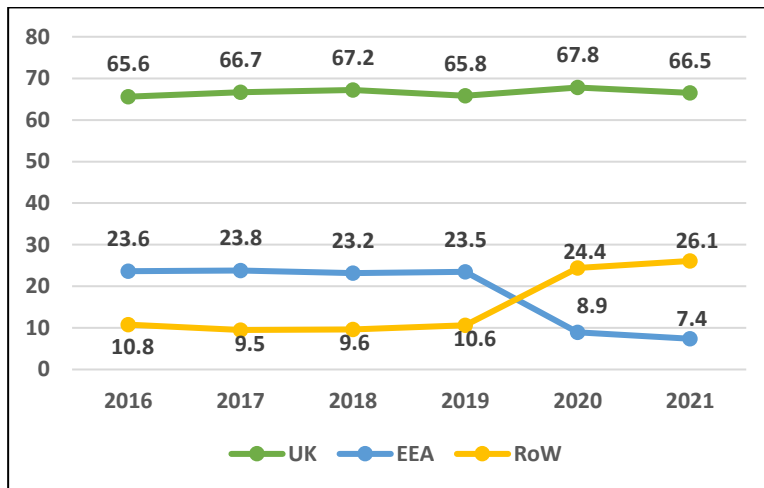
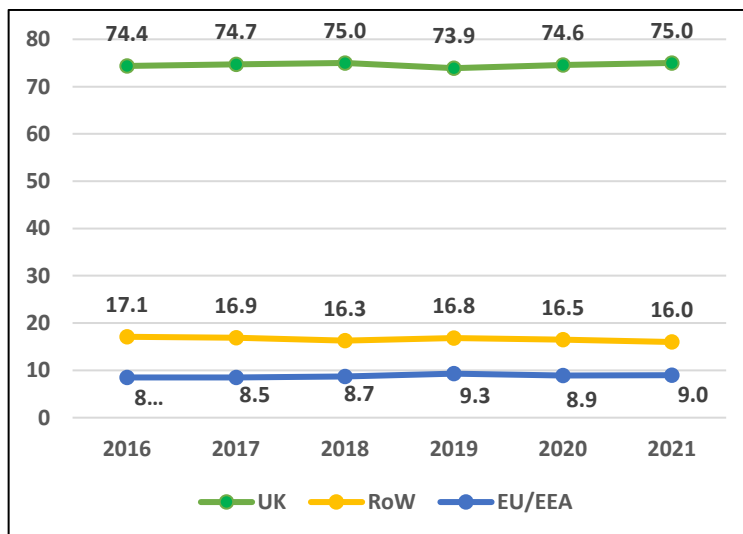


Figure 7: The Geographic Origin of LPC Applicants, 2016-21, (%)



The nationalities applying for both the GDL and LPC remained as varied as ever, despite the pandemic. In 2021, candidates of 128 different nationalities made 1,774 applications, compared to 1,868 candidates in 2020 and 1,621 in 2019. Overall international applications for the LPC were down in 2021, at 1,993 compared to 2,218 in 2020, and 2,168 in 2019.

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 2021/22. They show a fairly consistent picture in terms of the nationality of applicants, although it is still possible to trace within these numbers evidence of economic and political upheaval – whether in relation to a weak Naira for Nigeria in 2020, a rise in applications

from Hong Kong or the fall off in applications from Trinidad due to a change in recognition arrangements for the LPC.

Table 23: Top 10 Rest of the World Nationalities applying for Full-Time Study for GDL, 2019-21

| Nationality | Applications | | | Enrolments | | | Enrolments/ applications | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| Pakistani | 124 | 124 | 169 | 45 | 36 | 47 | 36% | 29% | 28% |
| Ghanaian | 112 | 178 | 152 | 25 | 38 | 53 | 22% | 21% | 35% |
| Indian | 109 | 142 | 164 | 45 | 45 | 71 | 41% | 32% | 43% |
| Chinese | 99 | 110 | 84 | 59 | 50 | 45 | 60% | 46% | 54% |
| US Citizen | 93 | 109 | 95 | 42 | 61 | 56 | 45% | 56% | 59% |
| Hong Kong | 58 | 88 | 97 | 43 | 55 | 63 | 74% | 63% | 65% |
| Canadian | 53 | 54 | 44 | 31 | 21 | 20 | 58% | 39% | 45% |
| Nigerian | 44 | 74 | 85 | 13 | 14 | 22 | 30% | 19% | 26% |
| Bangladeshi | 40 | 51 | 53 | 10 | 21 | 17 | 25% | 41% | 32% |
| South Korean | N/A | 23 | 22 | N/A | 15 | 14 | N/A | 65% | 64% |
| Turkish | 32 | 43 | 45 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 50% | 47% | 40% |
| All Rest of World | 1205 | 1417 | 1382 | 528 | 555 | 608 | 44% | 39% | 44% |

Table 24: Top 10 (plus HK) Rest of the World Nationalities Applying for the LPC Full-Time Courses, 2019-21

| Nationality | Applications | | | Enrolments | | | Enrolments/applications | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| <i>Nigerian</i> | 155 | 161 | 161 | 78 | 94 | 99 | 50% | 58% | 61% |
| <i>Trinidadian</i> | 124 | 77 | 54 | 77 | 37 | 37 | 62% | 48% | 69% |
| <i>Indian</i> | 101 | 119 | 113 | 63 | 74 | 70 | 62% | 62% | 62% |
| <i>Pakistani</i> | 99 | 119 | 102 | 43 | 62 | 52 | 43% | 52% | 51% |
| <i>Ghanaian</i> | 83 | 79 | 65 | 30 | 47 | 37 | 36% | 60% | 57% |
| <i>Canadian</i> | 74 | 67 | 68 | 55 | 51 | 44 | 74% | 76% | 65% |
| <i>US citizen</i> | 55 | 72 | 51 | 37 | 54 | 39 | 67% | 75% | 76% |
| <i>Malaysian</i> | 53 | 59 | 58 | 37 | 35 | 47 | 70% | 59% | 81% |
| <i>Singaporean</i> | 51 | 69 | 54 | 45 | 61 | 48 | 89% | 88% | 89% |
| <i>Chinese</i> | 45 | 53 | 42 | 29 | 35 | 27 | 64% | 66% | 64% |
| <i>Hong Kong</i> | N/A | 54 | 65 | N/A | 39 | 41 | N/A | 72% | 63% |
| All Rest of World | 1,388 | 1,442 | 1,202 | 514 | 922 | 883 | 37% | 64% | 73% |

Tables 25 and 26 illustrate that whilst applications from European nationals for the GDL are still significantly more likely to lead to actual enrolments than applications from candidates from other parts of the world, this difference is less evident for the LPC.

Table 25: Top 10 EU/EEA Nationalities Applying for Full-Time Study on the GDL, 2019-21

| <i>Nationality</i> | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Italian</i> | 67 | 62 | 69 | 40 | 39 | 45 | 60% | 63% | 65% |
| <i>French</i> | 65 | 70 | 54 | 50 | 46 | 32 | 77% | 66% | 59% |
| <i>Irish</i> | 45 | 50 | 38 | 30 | 35 | 22 | 67% | 70% | 58% |
| <i>Polish</i> | 22 | 23 | 19 | 16 | 16 | 13 | 73% | 70% | 68% |
| <i>German</i> | 21 | 35 | 28 | 13 | 17 | 18 | 62% | 49% | 64% |
| <i>Romanian</i> | 21 | 32 | 12 | 15 | 19 | 5 | 71% | 59% | 42% |
| <i>Spanish</i> | 20 | 19 | 25 | 15 | 9 | 12 | 75% | 47% | 48% |
| <i>Dutch</i> | 20 | 24 | 19 | 9 | 16 | 10 | 45% | 67% | 53% |
| <i>Portuguese</i> | 17 | 20 | 15 | 8 | 14 | 6 | 47% | 70% | 40% |
| <i>Belgian</i> | 16 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 50% | 69% | 75% |
| <i>Cypriot (EU)</i> | N/A | 13 | 6 | N/A | 10 | 6 | 36% | 77% | 100% |
| All EU/EEA | 416 | 451 | 392 | 261 | 289 | 233 | 63% | 64% | 59% |

Table 26 shows EU/EEA nationalities applying and enrolling on full-time LPC courses in 2021. The number of applicants fell off significantly from recent years, as did numbers enrolling. It is still too early to unpick Brexit effects from Covid effects but the former does appear to have become much more of a factor in 2021.

Table 26: Top 10 EU/EEA Nationalities Applying for Full-Time LPC study, 2019-21

| | <i>Enrolments</i> | | | <i>Applications</i> | | | <i>Enrolments as % Applications</i> | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| <i>Cypriot</i> | 63 | 93 | 51 | 57 | 71 | 37 | 90% | 76% | 73% |
| <i>Italian</i> | 83 | 82 | 65 | 67 | 67 | 58 | 81% | 82% | 89% |
| <i>French</i> | 61 | 66 | 59 | 47 | 60 | 53 | 77% | 91% | 90% |
| <i>Irish</i> | 84 | 64 | 63 | 59 | 51 | 51 | 70% | 80% | 81% |
| <i>Polish</i> | 75 | 63 | 62 | 54 | 49 | 52 | 72% | 78% | 84% |
| <i>Romanian</i> | 50 | 50 | 35 | 37 | 34 | 28 | 74% | 68% | 80% |
| <i>German</i> | 57 | 46 | 51 | 42 | 36 | 40 | 74% | 78% | 78% |
| <i>Greek</i> | 47 | 46 | 37 | 38 | 36 | 30 | 81% | 78% | 81% |
| <i>Dutch</i> | N/A | N/A | 39 | 21 | 30 | 27 | N/A | N/A | 69% |
| <i>Portuguese</i> | 31 | 36 | 40 | 22 | 29 | 35 | 71% | 81% | 88% |
| All EU/EEA | 776 | 776 | 646 | 595 | 606 | 532 | 77% | 78% | 82% |

Concluding Remarks

This year's statistical report from CAB Ltd is the last that will follow this format. Reporting for applications for academic year 2022/23 onwards will also cover SQE applications.

CAB Ltd Secretariat

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