



# New Programme starting September 2018: MSc Local Government Legal Professional Leadership

The Masters in Local Government Legal Professional Leadership is an innovative new postgraduate programme co-designed by Northumbria University Faculty of Business and Law and LLG Enterprises Ltd. This is a two year distance learning programme, designed for those who wish to gain a postgraduate degree whilst balancing employment and a range of other commitments.

## **A unique programme designed for professionals in local government legal services**

Local government is experiencing significant changes, not least because of austerity, public funding changes, government policy, BREXIT and a changing demography. Increasingly, lawyers and those working in local government legal services, including Monitoring Officers and Practice Managers, are tasked with leading teams, change management and implementing strategy. Traditional legal education does not necessarily prepare lawyers for these leadership and management roles.

This programme, like no other, was designed in recognition of the specific needs of lawyers working in this changing

local government environment. It aims to allow you to develop your knowledge, skills and competence in the areas of personal development, leadership, management and strategy. However, it is not just about cutting edge theory; it's also about hands-on practical experience. To this end, you are encouraged to build on your own leadership and management experience with work related assignments that will contribute to self, career and workplace improvement.

The programme will be delivered by Newcastle Business School, which has a global reputation for delivering some of the best leadership and management education in the UK. To ensure its relevance to lawyers, the programme has been co-designed with legal practitioners in the Northumbria School of Law. Unlike a generic Leadership programme, or a MBA, this bespoke programme recognises the particular context of local government legal services and the professional standards of lawyers.

It recognises the professional ethical considerations of the individual and the specific public sector imperatives of local government and the nature of the employment relationship in local government. The programme will develop competencies that enable you to understand the tools necessary to inspire, develop, and motivate individuals and teams in support of strategic organizational growth. Furthermore, you will work on developing research skills, critical thinking and effective organisational improvement techniques as well as exploring all the personal competences associated with leadership and management in complex, dynamic and excellence focused local authorities.

On successful completion of this programme, you will emerge as a highly capable legal professional leader that applies best practices to the complex organisational and business challenges facing local government and be able to grow and progress in that fast-changing environment.

# A distance-learning programme

**The programme is distance learning and therefore enables you to study whilst you work. There is no attendance requirement, although you may opt to attend the optional workshops in Newcastle.**

## Optional workshops

Each module is supported by three, one-day workshops; the first two take place at the start of the module on a Friday and Saturday with a further study day midway through the module. The workshops are delivered by highly qualified teaching professionals with real world experience. However they are all interactive, with a mix of taught input, participation in group discussion, group activities, case studies and individual reflection. Attendance of these sessions is completely optional. Furthermore, every session is recorded and will be made available on the University's eLearning Portal.

You will be supported via the University's online eLearning portal, which will contain a range of video cast and pod cast materials as well as allowing you to access to a range of e-books, over 300 electronic databases and 30,000 electronic journals. The on line materials and activities, which are delivered on a weekly basis, are designed to develop your confidence and capability as a distance learner, whilst allowing you to work flexibly. Significant use will be made of discussion boards and you will receive a weekly email from your tutor; enabling you to stay in touch with your tutors and other students.

## A flexible programme designed for professionals

The programme is delivered over two years, which provides an excellent learning platform for aspiring or existing leaders and managers. All students are enrolled onto the Masters programme, but have the option of exiting and re-joining after successful completion of the three stages of the Programme.

Stage	Modules	Possible 'exit' award
Stage 1	Leader Identity and Leadership Creating the Dynamic Organisation	Postgraduate Certificate in Leadership & Management
Stage 2	Leading for Organisational Performance Implementing Strategy in Local Government Legal Practice	Postgraduate Diploma Local Government Legal Professional Leadership
Stage 3	Management Investigation	MSc Local Government Legal Professional Leadership

## What will I study?

The programme commences with an online or face-to-face introductory session. This is an opportunity for you to clearly understand what the programme is designed to do, how it will work, meet the team, learn more about the modules and assessments and gain a detailed introduction to the learning resources and support available. We will also spend time developing your academic skills such as report writing, referencing, and making best use of academic learning materials and critical review. You will also be able to meet and get to know fellow learners. Attendance is not required and all the sessions will be available on-line. There is an expectation that students will spend 7-9 hours per week on a module (12 week module).

### Leader Identity and Leadership

The first twelve-week module considers the traits and characteristics of an effective strategic leader. Specifically you will consider your leader identity; exploring your values, motives

and goals for becoming a leader. Through a range of tools and diagnostic techniques, you will develop intra and interpersonal awareness through critical reflection and will evaluate your existing or potential leadership style in terms of impact on others and the organizational context. Assessment is by means of a self-analysis and personal development plan.

### Creating the Dynamic Organisation

This twelve-week module considers contemporary approaches in the management and development of organisations. Specifically you will develop an applied understanding of contemporary management practices including organisational transformation, innovation, knowledge creation and learning, social networks, high performing workplaces, team dynamics and forward thinking cultures. Assessment is by means of a 5000 word work based improvement report.

## Leading for Organisational Performance

This module is intended to develop your ability to understand leadership and followership as an emergent process and your own actions as leader and coach with individuals, teams and organisational dynamics. Content will be shaped by debates about leadership and followership emergence in complex adaptive systems and relevant practitioner based and academic literature. You will undertake a substantial amount of directed and independent learning based around the module-specific self-supported learning materials. You will complete formative assessment, working alongside your employer in the analysis of contemporary case studies. Summative assessment will take the form of an assessment of their own practice in developing leadership/followership in individual, team and functional relationships underpinned with reference to relevant academic theory.

## Implementing Strategy in Local Government Legal Practice

This twelve week module is designed to develop your ability to apply and evaluate concepts and techniques related to organisational strategy, improvement and the strategic leadership of change. With an aim of ensuring you make an effective contribution to your organisation, you will be introduced to a managerial view of strategic processes including how to identify, optimise and add value to the organisation. The module will enable you to apply a proven frameworks to diagnose the barriers to innovation and strategy implementation in your local government organization. It will also help you discover examples of best practice and learn how to adapt them to your organisation. You will also undertake significant directed and independent learning, based on module-specific self-supported learning materials

## Management investigation

You will learn how to conduct a research led investigation into a management issue, topic or problem guided by your programme of study and framed in the context of an organisation.

### Your learning will cover:

- Conducting research in organisations
- The identification of a researchable question.
- Primary research, data collection, questionnaire design, etc.
- Secondary research, literature review, further sources of information.
- The analysis of findings
- Writing recommendations and action plan
- Report writing
- Presentation technique
- Reflection on learning process

### Who is this programme aimed at?

This unique programme is aimed at professionals working within local government legal services who have a desire to develop their leadership competencies and also acquire relevant academic postgraduate qualification. It will appeal to legal professionals tasked with change leadership and those wishing to advance their careers. It will also appeal to practice managers and Monitoring officers within local government. This is a new programme which builds upon an already existing Masters Programme in Leadership.

### MSc Leadership and Management

*As an experienced Manager with the Full Professional qualification in my field in local government, colleagues questioned why I wanted to study again. The MSc programme gave me new insight and understanding of how any organisation functions and different approaches to apply to make more effective use of our available resources.*

*The benefit of working with a range of students from differing backgrounds and a variety of experiences is extremely valuable, giving alternative perspectives to common issues and situations encountered in the workplace. Flexibility and support from my Council meant attending study days as a part-time student and working from home, allowed me to balance my normal job role while giving adequate time for study. The knowledge and skills gained have made me much more conscious and mindful of my impact, influence and contribution both personally and corporately within the Council. I thoroughly recommend the course and the learning experience for development and progression in management roles within the local government sector. **Reg Bascombe, Revenues & Benefits Operations Manager, Carlisle City Council.***

## Entry qualifications

### Key Information

**Start date: 15 October 2018**

**Duration: 2 years**

**Applications will be invited in January 2018.**

**To register your interest in the programme please see the contact details below.**

If you wish to discuss this programme please contact

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