

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Central Lancashire wins contract to provide global internet legal training

The University of Central Lancashire today confirmed that it had secured significant investment to develop a new internet-based e-Learning programme in Environmental Law. The course, to be launched in partnership with UK eUniversities Worldwide (UKeU), is projected to recruit advanced students of law globally. UKeU is the company set up to provide high quality online degrees from UK universities to students worldwide.

The postgraduate programme, designed by leading academics in the Lancashire Law School at the University, will introduce students to environmental regulations and the way these operate in their socio-economic context, in national and international law, and will consider the influence of philosophy, politics and economics. Students are expected to sign up for the programme from the UK, Canada, New Zealand, South America and South East Asia, when the course starts in February 2004.

Using a variety of student centred learning strategies, students will be encouraged to develop a critical and research-oriented approach to the study of environmental law. They will develop skills to enable them to interpret key international cases studies and then apply their learning in practical ways in their local communities and regions.

“The University of Central Lancashire is delighted to be working with UKeU in partnership to provide a world-class e-learning law programme that will draw upon international expertise in the area of environmental law within the Lancashire Law School and globally. This innovative programme will bring students together virtually and, hopefully, ultimately support greater global collaborative understanding of the environment and its protection as students learn together,” said Professor Patrick McGhee, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), who has led the initiative for the University.

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John Beaumont, Chief Executive Officer, UKeU said, "UKeU is focused on delivering a portfolio of online courses that students worldwide are demanding and our market intelligence has demonstrated that Law is an important subject area. We are looking forward to working with the University of Central Lancashire, an experienced provider of e-Learning, in developing this exciting course in a key area."

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Notes to editors

About UKeU

UK eUniversities Worldwide (UKeU) was established in May 2001, with UK Government backing, to market and support the online provision of degree courses from UK universities to students outside of the UK and businesses worldwide. UKeU also has a mandate to help widen access to higher education in the UK.

The UKeU Learning Environment has been created in partnership with Sun Microsystems and 24 x 7 worldwide service provision is delivered by Fujitsu.

Service launch with the first students on The Open University/University of Cambridge programme, Learning in the Connected Economy, commenced on 1 March 2003.

UK eUniversities Worldwide Limited is the operating company of eLearning Holding Company Limited, whose shareholders are UK universities and colleges. Through the holding company, UK colleges and universities have granted UKeU a licence to deliver their courses online. UKeU is backed with £55m of funding from the UK government, which is committed through to 2004. For more information visit www.ukeu.com.

About Lancashire Law School and the LLM Environmental Law course

The course is made up of the following modules: Foundations of Law; Foundations of Environmental Law; International Trade and the Environment; International Environmental Law related to Pollution Control; International Conservation Law; Student Initiated Research Module and Dissertation.

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The Lancashire Law School provides a full range of undergraduate, postgraduate and professional programmes in law in both full time and part time mode and it is possible to complete its courses either by day time or evening attendance. These courses include a number of Masters degrees, one of which is already offered by e-learning (the LL.M in Employment Law).

The School's postgraduate courses also include its highly regarded Legal Practice Course which is highly rated by the Law Society as well as the CPE conversion course for non-law graduates. At undergraduate level, in addition to full time and part time LL.B. degrees, it offers Law in combination with a wide range of other subjects through the Combined Honours programme plus degrees in Law and Criminology and Law with French or German.

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