

The Cardiff University Law School Bond Solon Civil Expert Witness Certificate



The Cardiff University Law School Bond Solon Criminal Expert Witness Certificate



The Cardiff University Law School Bond Solon Family Expert Witness Certificate



The first university certified training for expert witnesses

"Within days of receiving my certificate I was retained as an expert witness by an international legal practice. The panel of barristers who interviewed me commented that they were pleased and impressed that I chose to invest in the CUBS training course"

David Williams, Chartered Engineer

"We prefer to instruct experts who have been formally trained to be experts. Training can make the difference in our choice between two experts with similar experience and expertise."

Toby Graham, Taylor Wessing



Why the Expert Witness Certificate?

Courts and lawyers expect expert witnesses to understand their role, responsibilities and the basics of law and procedure. It is essential that expert witnesses also have the necessary competencies to produce an expert report that complies with court rules and that they are able to communicate their evidence effectively whilst withstanding the rigours of cross-examination.



- Lord Woolf, former Lord Chief Justice who was instrumental in the formation of the Civil Procedure Rules has stated "I would urge all experts to receive training from either Bond Solon or a similar organisation. I think you will find that it is critical that you do so."
- Many judges and professional bodies now recommend proper training.
- In part 6 of the Code of Guidance for Experts, solicitors appointing experts must ensure "the expert has the experience, expertise and training appropriate to the value, complexity and importance of the case."
- A survey found 83% of solicitors now expect expert witnesses to be trained in writing expert reports and in giving oral evidence.

In conjunction with Cardiff University Law School, Bond Solon have developed three expert witness certificates; the Civil expert certificate, the Criminal expert certificate and the Family expert certificate. Experts who complete one or more of the certificates will be able to demonstrate their understanding of the legal requirements of their role and gain a valuable marketing tool.

What do the Expert Witness Certificates consists of?

Experts must attend the 3 core modules as follows:

- Module one: Excellence in Report Writing (1 day)
- Module two: Courtroom Skills (1 day)
- Module three: Cross-Examination (1 day)

Experts then have the choice of whether they sit the civil, criminal or family law modules

- Module four: either Civil, Criminal or Family Law and Procedure - unit one
- Module five: either Civil, Criminal or Family Law and Procedure - unit two

Training is held in both London and Manchester.

Delegates are then assessed by Cardiff University Law School in three parts:

- Unit one: Assessment of an expert witness report (submitted after module one)
- Unit two: Review of performance under cross-examination videoed in module three
- Unit three: Multiple choice examination on law and procedure

Continuing Professional Development

Experts are expected to attend further training after obtaining their Expert Witness Certificate in order to ensure their knowledge and skills are current. They must therefore complete 6 hours of Expert Witness related CPD every two years.

Features of the Expert Witness Certificate:

- All modules taught by experienced lawyers
- Can be completed at the expert's own pace
- Covers all the necessary skills and knowledge
- High quality training material and delivery
- Independent assessment of the expert's work
- Three separate qualifications; experts can obtain Civil, Criminal or Family Law Expert Witness Certificates
- Regular courses
- The credibility of a university assessed certificate



Benefits of the Expert Witness Certificate:

- Ensures compliance and best practice standards
- Ensures the expert has the necessary knowledge of relevant legislation, procedures and practice
- Powerful marketing tool
- Improves the quality of the expert's work
- All the major expert witness directories will mention the certificate for experts listed
- Instills confidence
- Keeps the expert up to date on new areas of legislation
- Reduces risk

"An excellent and enjoyable course, especially when meeting colleagues and experts from a wide variety of professions."

"Essential to anyone giving evidence as an expert witness."

"The trainers were extremely knowledgeable and made every effort to encourage and develop existing skills"

Questions and Answers

What training do I have to do?

You will need to attend all three core training modules and either the Civil, Criminal or Family law procedure modules as set out in this brochure. Your trainer for each day will complete a certificate of attendance for submission to Cardiff University.

Do I have to take the modules in a particular order?

You may take the modules in the order you wish, although Module two (Courtroom Skills) must precede Module three (Cross Examination) and Module four (Law and Procedure One) must precede Module five (Law and Procedure Two).

Can I hold more than one certificate?

Yes. Once experts have completed the three core modules (Report Writing, Courtroom Skills and Cross Examination) they can complete the relevant law and procedure module to achieve one or more certificates.

Can I take the Expert Witness Certificate Programme in house?

Many organisations want to have their staff trained together in house. The advantages of doing this are:

- The organisation builds up a team "brand"
- This training can be used as an opportunity to ensure a best practice standard throughout the organisation
- It is possible to take all five modules in a week or spread over two years
- Save money on travel costs

Do I get credit for having attended previous expert witness training programmes?

You may only claim credit for attending the Bond Solon Courtroom Skills and the Excellence in Report Writing courses if you have taken them within the two years prior to the first day of certificated training. This means you will not have to attend modules one or two of the certificated programme. You must still, however, submit a report for assessment as part of your overall assessment. You will receive a financial credit as set out in the booking form, or you may opt to re-attend either training day at a reduced fee. You may also get credit for attending the Expert Witness Institute Basic Law course but you must still take modules four and five and the multiple choice examination.

How long do I have to complete the training and examinations?

All three units of assessment material must be submitted within a two year period. The period may be extended in exceptional circumstances at the entire discretion of Cardiff University Law School.

What reading do I need to do?

After registration you will be given a list of books to read and websites to visit. You will be expected to read the material to gain maximum benefit from the programme.



Cost

For details of current costs and dates please contact Bond Solon. The full fee is payable at the time of registration or as agreed with Bond Solon. The fee covers all five training modules, the three units of assessment, all course material and the Cardiff University accreditation fee. It does not cover the cost of books on the reading list.

Discounts

If you are a member of a professional body, you may be entitled to a discount on the fee. You should contact your professional body direct to obtain details.

Venue and Dates

Public courses are held in both London and Manchester, a full list of dates are available at www.bondsolon.com. Alternatively if you have 4 or more colleagues interested in the training you may wish us

to design and deliver the training in-house for your organisation. For further details of both public and in-house training options please contact Bond Solon.

Registration

Registration is easy and can be done over the phone. You will then be assigned a candidate number to ensure anonymity for assessment purposes and your registration will be sent to Cardiff University.

"I found the course to be informative, interesting and stimulating"

"The trainers were all excellent and there is no doubt that I have benefited greatly from the course"

"The content and format was excellent and highly interesting and appropriate"

The Assessment Process

Unit One

Assessment of your expert witness report

You can complete the writing of your expert witness report in your own time. You are required to submit two copies in court-ready condition including any photographs, plans etc. You will need to enclose a cover sheet showing the date of submission and your candidate number. The documents should be sent directly to Cardiff University Law School.

Unit Two

Review of your performance under cross-examination

A video of your performance will be made during module three of the training programme. Your trainer will put your candidate number on the video and send it to Cardiff University Law School for assessment. The trainer will also send a copy of the report referred to in the video. This report may be the same as for Unit One.

Unit Three

Multiple choice examination on law and procedure

The multiple-choice examination is sat under examination conditions at the end of Law and Procedure Unit Two

Who assesses the training itself?

Cardiff University Law School is responsible for ensuring the training you receive is to a high standard and will assess the training delivered regularly.

What assessment is there of my work?

Cardiff University Law School will assess your knowledge and skills in three units as set out in this brochure i.e. your expert witness report, videoed cross-examination and multiple choice examination.

What happens if I fail any of the three units for assessment?

You will have the opportunity to resubmit work subject to the payment of an additional fee. In addition, Cardiff University Law School has an appeal process.

How will I know if I have passed?

Cardiff University will mark and review the three units for assessment and providing a pass standard is reached in all three elements of assessment, they will issue your Expert Witness Certificate which will be sent to you. A record of your successful pass will also be kept at Cardiff.

About Cardiff University



Cardiff University is recognised in independent government assessments as one of Britain's leading research and teaching universities. Since its establishment by Royal Charter in 1883, it has earned an international reputation for the quality of its work and was short listed for the *Sunday Times* University of the Year Award 2003. Cardiff University is a member of the Russell Group of Research Intensive Universities.

Cardiff University Law School is a large, well-resourced centre of excellence. In both the 1996 and 2002 Research Assessment Exercises, Cardiff Law School was graded '5', confirming the school's reputation for quality research.

The Expert Witness Certificate is assessed by the Centre for Professional Legal Studies, which is part of Cardiff Law School. The Centre was established in 1992, with the aim of delivering state-of-the-art vocational training to the legal profession. In addition to the Expert Witness Certificate, the Centre also delivers the Legal Practice Course, Bar Vocational Course, Police Station Representatives Accreditation Scheme and Criminal Litigation (Duty Solicitor) Accreditation Scheme. All of the Centre's staff are qualified as either solicitors or barristers, ensuring the highest standards of assessment for candidates undertaking the Expert Witness Certificate.

Visit Cardiff University at www.law.cardiff.ac.uk

About Bond Solon



Bond Solon is the UK's leading witness and evidence training company specialising in training non-lawyers in legal matters.

Bond Solon was established in 1992 and since then has trained in excess of 150,000 delegates on its training programmes. Bond Solon has been at the forefront of improving the standards of expert witnesses.

All Bond Solon trainers are solicitors and barristers who have been trained to ensure they deliver programmes of the highest standard.

Visit Bond Solon at www.bondsolon.com

For further information about this or any other expert witness training please contact Bond Solon

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