



**Media Relations Office**  
The Open University  
Walton Hall  
Milton Keynes  
MK7 6AA

Direct Lines 01908 653343/ 653256  
01908 653248/652580  
Fax 01908 652247  
Press-office@open.ac.uk  
News site: [www.open.ac.uk/media/](http://www.open.ac.uk/media/)

# **news release**

For the attention of: news editors

PR4833

Wednesday, April 21 2004

## **EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE COURSE EXTENDS OPEN UNIVERSITY LAW PROGRAMME**

The latest issues in workers' legal rights and the legal relationship between employer and employee form the core of a new *Employment Law and Practice* course offered by the Open University.

The course is the latest to be offered by the university's Law Programme, which jointly with the College of Law is responsible for the largest taught undergraduate course in law in the UK. It is suitable for study as part of the university's Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree or for study as a stand-alone course by those with an interest in the field.

At the heart of the course is a comprehensive range of employment law issues, which includes:

- contracts of employment, claims of breach of contract, unfair dismissal and redundancy;
- the special rights and protection afforded to employees, including health and safety at work issues, protection from discrimination, and maternity and other family-friendly rights;
- the impact that EC law has on the rights of employees.

Prof Gary Slapper, Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Law at the Open University, said the new course was a significant addition both to the university's own law programme and the wider law education sector.

"The Open University Law Programme is already recognised as a major innovation in legal education, and the figure of 3,500 students who are taking its courses is testament to that. The new *Employment Law and Practice* course is the first in a series of additional courses to the Law Programme," added Prof Slapper.

m/f

“The course is designed to enable its students to demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of employment law and practice. This is a rapidly developing area and this course may be of particular interest to professionals, both in the legal sector and in other sectors, who are seeking to build on their experience and further develop their understanding in this area.”

Jane Chapman, Director Academic at the College of Law, added that the course had been designed for people interested in both the academic and practical aspects of employment law.

Course students will need a good knowledge of the English legal system; they will also need computer and internet access.

Would-be students who would like more information about the *Employment Law and Practice* course (course code W221) can call 01908 652321 or log on at [www.open.ac.uk/courses](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses) and click on the Law and Criminology section.

## **EDITOR’S NOTES**

The Open University works with the College of Law to offer the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) programme. The programme has some 3,500 students, attracted from a wide range of fields, including teachers, doctors, nurses, police officers, personnel officers, magistrates, journalists and social workers. For more information about the programme, visit [www.open.ac.uk/law](http://www.open.ac.uk/law)

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Neil Coaten	Open University Media Relations	01908 652580 n.d.coaten@open.ac.uk
-------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------------