

**Careers and Employability Service  
What Can I Do With My Degree?**

**Law**



## **Welcome:**

We have developed this recourse pack to help you research specific job sectors which may be of particular interest to Law students and graduates.

- **Prospects.ac.uk** - Options with Law

The Prospects site includes information and advice covering:  
Your skills, job options, career areas, further study, what next, case studies, contacts and job search sites.

## **Document Index (Quick Links):**

This document has handy hyperlinks to help you navigate around it if you view in an electronic format.

- **Skills**
- **Employability Activities within your Degree**
- **Employment Destinations**
- **Finding Job Vacancies**
  - **Key occupational information for solicitors and barristers:**
  - **Key occupational information on ancillary legal careers:**
  - **Training contract, pupillage and other law- related vacancies:**
  - **Recruitment agencies focussing on the legal sector:**
  - **Other vacancies:**
- **Postgraduate Study and Research Opportunities:**
  - **Legal Practice Course (LPC):**
  - **Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC):**
  - **LLM - Masters in Law:**
- **Bespoke Career Planning for Law Students:**
- **Alumni Information and Profiles:**



## **Skills:**

A degree in law is very attractive to a wide range of employers both in the legal and non-legal sectors. As well as strong academic ability, employers also value the range of skills developed through studying law. These include:

- the ability to research, collect and analyse large amounts of information
- strong written and oral communication skills, including the ability to create logical arguments and reasoned conclusions from a set of facts
- the ability to work under pressure, meet deadlines and manage time effectively

*"One of the advantages of studying law is the "thinking kit tools" you develop. Initially the ability to think logically and then gain the ability to think your way out of problems"*

Tim Flood, Partner, Jones Day

**[Back to Index >>](#)**

## **Employability Activities within your Degree:**

As a law student you have access to an extensive range of career events throughout your programme to develop an excellent mix of legal as well as key transferable skills. These include: a dedicated Law Careers Fair, Pro Bono activities, court visits, meetings with judges, solicitors and barristers and numerous other opportunities to build up your network of contacts in the legal profession. One of the main events is the annual Law Careers Fair providing you with an excellent opportunity to network and discuss potential opportunities with a number of key local, national and international graduate recruiters. Make the most of these opportunities!

The **Careers and Employability** section of the School of Law website has information on the activities in which you can become involved to improve your employability. These include an impressive range of Pro Bono activities such as BarLink, Streetlaw, Employment and Housing clinics.

You should also consider joining and participating in the events and activities of the Student Law Society and the Inns of Court Society. These include guest speakers, moots and debates.

**[Back to Index >>](#)**



## **Employment Destinations:**

Around 50-60% of law graduates undertake further study either on a full-time or part-time basis. The majority of these currently do the Legal Practice Course (LPC) leading to qualification as a Solicitor. Some undertake the Bar Training Course (BTC) with a view to qualifying as a Barrister.

There are many alternatives to becoming a lawyer and employers value the wide range of skills you gain from studying law. The examples below give you a sense of the range of careers in which you will find graduates from the University of Southampton six months after completing their degree course (data collected from 2016 onwards).

### **Law- related careers:**

- Legal Graduate BT
- Paralegal Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
- Legal Intern Friedman Vartolo LLP
- Crown Court Paralegal Martin Murray and Associates
- Trainee Lawyer Global Law Alliance LLC

### **Administration:**

- Research Analyst Yardi
- Recruitment Consultant Hays
- Education Officer Coram Voice
- Claims Handler Ageas

### **Finance:**

- Tax Analyst Deloitte
- Audit Assistant KPMG
- Financial Forecaster Lloyds Bank
- Risk consultant HSBC

### **Law Enforcement & Protection:**

- Graduate Prison Officer HM Prison Service
- Police Officer Hampshire Constabulary

### **Other career areas in which Law graduates have traditionally been successful include:**

- Law enforcement and protection including customs and immigration, health and safety, patent and trade mark attorney work and the Police Force
- Administrative careers in education, the Civil Service and Local Government



- Community and advisory work with social care and charitable organisations
- Research and information work including journalism, publishing and library work

[Back to Index >>](#)

## **Finding Job Vacancies**

Jobs notified direct to the Careers and Employability Service are advertised on our jobs board termed **MyCareer**.

[Back to Index >>](#)

## **Key occupational information for solicitors and barristers:**

To qualify as a **solicitor** after completing the Legal Practice Course (LPC), you will need to complete a two year training contract. This can be undertaken with firms of solicitors, law centres, in-house legal teams or public bodies such as the Government Legal Service.

However, you should note that the LPC will be replaced by a super-exam, the **Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE)**, due to be introduced in September 2021. The **SQE** will introduce a more flexible approach to work-based experience and will no longer require students to sign up for the LPC.

After completing the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), **barristers** undertake a year of pupillage. This is broadly divided into two distinct periods; the 'first six' is non-practising and in the 'second six' pupils can appear in court. Following pupillage, barristers look for tenancy in a set of chambers.

There is a wide range of firms, chambers and other organisations to which you can apply and it is important that you think about the sort of lawyer you wish to become and the area(s) of law in which you are interested. Do you want to be a commercial lawyer in a city firm, a human rights barrister, a criminal solicitor or a barrister specialising in tax? Firms and chambers will expect you to have done this basic research and only apply to them if they offer a specialism in which you have an interest.

Use the following websites and directories to do your research:

- **The Law Society** - includes the Law Society Gazette and a 'Find a Solicitor' search facility.
- **Junior Lawyers Division** - offers support, advice, information and networking opportunities for students, trainees and young lawyers. Has a helpful FAQ section.
- **Solicitors Regulation Authority** - regulatory information on becoming a solicitor.



- **Bar Council** - information about the training and roles of barristers. Includes a list of chambers.
- **Bar Standards Board** - responsible for overseeing the three stages that must be completed to qualify as a Barrister.
- **Chambers and Partners** - online version of the Chambers Student Guide. Detailed information on firms and chambers including insiders' views.
- **Legal 500** - online version of the Legal 500 for the UK, Europe and Pacific Rim. Search facility for law firm websites.

Directories: (available in the School of Law and the **Careers Centre**)

- The Training Contract and Pupillage Handbook
- The Chambers Student Guide

Other useful sites:

- **LawCareers.Net** - information for future lawyers on training contracts, pupillages, vacation placements and mini-pupillages. Sign up for a weekly newsletter.
- **Targetjobs Law** - legal news, postgraduate study, training contracts and work experience.
- **Inside Buzz** - has a downloadable guide to the top law firms which includes quotes from current trainees and solicitors. Articles on careers and interviews.
- **The Lawyer** - news, advice, analysis and resources for law students including regular email updates.
- **All About Law** - wide ranging interactive website including forum, blogs and specialist articles for aspiring lawyers. Includes information for international students.
- **Law and Legal** - details of law firms dealing with all legal disciplines. Also has a careers section and information on specialist legal employment agencies.
- **Trainee Solicitor Surgery** - advice on looking for a vacation scheme, training contract, paralegal position and other legal work experience.
- **RollOnFriday** - news, views and gossip on the legal profession. Job hunting facility for training contract and vacation scheme opportunities
- **Legal Recruitment** - articles on legal recruitment, legal job markets and the legal profession.
- **The Lawyer Portal** - a resource for everyone considering a career in law, whatever their stage or background.
- **Vantage** - a platform to connect with legal employers and find out information on work experience, vacation schemes, training contracts, insight days and more.

Legal news websites:

- Law.com International - **[www.law.com/international- edition](http://www.law.com/international- edition)**
- Lexology - **[www.lexology.com](http://www.lexology.com)** **[Back to Index >>](#)**



## **Key occupational information on ancillary legal careers:**

- Legal executive – official website for the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives [www.cilex.org.uk](http://www.cilex.org.uk)
- Barristers Clerk – official website for the Institute of Barristers Clerks containing news, information and vacancies <https://ibc.org.uk/>
- Licensed conveyancer – information on how to qualify including the exams and practical experience [www.conveyancer.org.uk](http://www.conveyancer.org.uk)

[Back to Index >>](#)

## **Training contract, pupillage and other law- related vacancies:**

Please note that this is not a definitive list and you should also make use of any personal contacts you may have.

Training Contracts and vacation placements:

- Prospects Legal – training contracts and vacation placements

[www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs- and- work- experience/job- sectors/law- sector](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/law-sector)

You can also make use of Law Society's '[Find a Solicitor](#)' database. You can search by location and specialism and find firms authorised to take on trainees.

Pupillages:

- [www.pupillagegateway.com](http://www.pupillagegateway.com) All pupillage vacancies are advertised on the Pupillage Gateway website. The site is open for vacancy browsing from November each year, and there is a window that lasts from early January to early February to submit applications. Some chambers recruit outside the Gateway system in which case applications are made direct to the chambers; their timetable may or may not mirror that of the Gateway.

[Back to Index >>](#)

## **Recruitment agencies focussing on the legal sector:**

- Jobsite – a specialist recruitment website for vacancies including Lawyer, Solicitor, Paralegal, Legal Executive, Legal Secretary and general legal support roles [www.jobsite.co.uk/jobs/legal](http://www.jobsite.co.uk/jobs/legal)



- Lawcrossing – advertises vacancies for training contracts, pupillages, vacation schemes, mini pupillages and paralegal [www.lawcrossing.co.uk](http://www.lawcrossing.co.uk)
- Trainee Solicitors – database of students searching for a training contract. Allows you to add your profile for employers to search [www.traineesolicitors.co.uk](http://www.traineesolicitors.co.uk)
- Simply Law Jobs – advertises a wide range of legal jobs including paralegal, solicitors and legal secretaries both permanent and temporary [www.simplylawjobs.com](http://www.simplylawjobs.com)
- Ten Percent Legal Recruitment – specialist legal recruitment agency [www.ten-percent.co.uk](http://www.ten-percent.co.uk)

[Back to Index >>](#)

## Other Vacancies:

- Prospects – [www.prospects.ac.uk/graduate-jobs](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/graduate-jobs)
- Target Jobs – <https://targetjobs.co.uk/>

[Back to Index >>](#)

## Postgraduate Study and Research Opportunities:

Approximately 37% of Southampton law graduates continue onto postgraduate study. The majority of these go onto the:

[Back to Index >>](#)

### **Legal Practice Course (LPC):**

This is a one year full-time or two year part-time vocational course which is required if you wish to qualify as a solicitor. It is important to research courses carefully and decide which one will best suit your needs in terms of costs, location, options (electives), teaching and assessment, pass rates and support services including careers and pro bono opportunities. All courses offer open days and you should make the most of these opportunities to visit the institutions and speak to current students and staff. The courses are all validated by the [Solicitors Regulation Authority](#) which inspects and grades each course. The [Chambers Students Guide](#) gives insiders' views on the courses.

**When to apply:** Applications are made via the [Central Applications Board](#). For part-time study, applications are made direct to the institutions.

**Fees:** Vary and range from approximately £9,000 – £15,000. Some law firms will sponsor students through the LPC as part of their training contract and the Law Society Bursary Scheme offers awards and competitions to fund the



LPC. Information on this and other sources of funding is available on the Junior Lawyers Division (JLD) website:

<http://juniorlawyers.lawsociety.org.uk>

Be aware that changes are being made to that way solicitors qualify in the UK. Find out more about the new **Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) to be introduced in September 2021**

[www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/law-sector/solicitors-qualifying-examination-sqe](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/law-sector/solicitors-qualifying-examination-sqe)

[Back to Index >>](#)

## Bar Training Course (BTC):

This is the one year full-time or two year part-time course required to qualify as a barrister. There are eight providers validated to run the BPTC in England and Wales: [www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/bar-training-requirements/vocational-learning-component/bptc-providers](http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/bar-training-requirements/vocational-learning-component/bptc-providers). Research the courses carefully and attend open days to meet students and staff to find out first-hand exactly what is on offer. Some of the issues you may wish to consider include: fees, success rates, location, number of places, options and pro bono opportunities. [Chambers Students Guide](#) gives insiders views on the courses.

**When to apply:** for BTC courses commencing in 2020, all applications will need to be made to the institutions directly. Typically, applications open in November/December. Offers are made from early March. However, please check with each institution to confirm their exact application opening and closing dates.

The Bar Course Aptitude Test (BCAT) is now a requirement for entry to the BPTC. For details on the test including the timetable for applying and sitting it please visit

[www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/bar-training-requirements/vocational-learning-component/bar-course-aptitude-test](http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/bar-training-requirements/vocational-learning-component/bar-course-aptitude-test)

**Fees:** Vary from approximately £15,000 - £19,000. The main funding options for the BPTC are sponsorships from the Inns of Court including [Lincoln's Inn](#), [www.middletemple.org.uk](http://www.middletemple.org.uk), [Inner Temple](#) and [Gray's Inn](#).

"You may wish to research the number and size of BPTC scholarships on offer at each Inn. I chose to join Gray's Inn during my first year on the LLB at Southampton having visited each Inn and having researched each Inns scholarship fund. This is not to say that the other Inns scholarship funds were insignificant. Indeed, Gray's Inn has the smallest fund of the lot. It was just that Gray's Inn felt the right choice for me" (quote from student)

[Back to Index >>](#)



## **LLM - Masters in Law:**

Completion of an LLM can help enhance your CV and develop your academic and professional expertise in a particular area of law. Examples of courses include: Maritime, European, Human Rights, Environmental, Corporate Finance and Competition Law.

It is important to note that in the eyes of most firms and chambers, a Masters qualification will not compensate for a disappointing result in your first degree. You will still need to meet their entry requirements in your first degree unless there were mitigating circumstances to explain your results.

**When to apply:** There are no official closing dates but for popular courses you should apply as early as possible in your final year. Applications are made to individual institutions.

**Fees:** These vary and you should contact individual institutions for further details.

**[Back to Index >>](#)**



## **Bespoke Career Planning for Law Students:**

The School of Law and the Careers and Employability Service work closely together to provide you with a wide range of opportunities to develop your career management and employability skills.

If you are planning to pursue a law career you will have to begin your career planning very early. Make best use of our online resources on **Career Planning** and also find a suggested timetable of activities particularly relevant to law students below.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Year:**

- Attend Careers and Employability Service Talk 'Introduction to Legal Careers'.
- Research a career as a Barrister and a Solicitor.
- Join 'Inns of Court Society' and the Student Law Society in School of Law and go on visits to Inns and law courts.
- Find summer work experience – preferably in a legal/commercial field. For the Bar try for a mini-pupillage, however all work (retail/catering/leisure industry etc) is valuable for skills development.

### **2nd Year - Autumn Term:**

- Attend Employability Skills Programme organised by the School of Law in October.
- Attend presentations by large Law firms such as Eversheds, Herbert Smith and Allen and Overy.
- Attend the Law Fair organised by the School of Law in November.
- Apply for mini-pupillages/legal work experience for Christmas/Easter/Summer.
- Look into funding for the Bar Training Course (BTC) including Inns of Court scholarships.
- Consider joining one of the four Inns (not required until the May of the year you start the BTC but the earlier you join, the earlier you can use facilities and support).
- Look at BTC on-line website and prepare to answer questions: **[www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/bar-training-requirements/vocational-learning-component/bar-course-aptitude-test](http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/bar-training-requirements/vocational-learning-component/bar-course-aptitude-test)**
- Apply for the School of Law 'Streetlaw', Barlink and Housing Clinic programmes and other voluntary legal-related activities organised by Community Volunteering e.g. Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, Victim Support South Western Division.

### **2nd Year - Spring Term:**

- Continue with applications for mini-pupillages/legal work experience.
- Attend National Pupillage Fair (October/November): **<https://targetjobs.co.uk/events/national-pupillage-fair>**



- Get involved in School of Law negotiating/mooting teams for competitions.
- For Barrister career pathway, apply for early recruited pupillages through the Pupillage Gateway ([www.pupillagegateway.com](http://www.pupillagegateway.com)) or direct for pupillage to other Chambers recruiting two years ahead.
- For solicitor career pathway, start preparing applications for Training Contracts (to start two years later).

### **2nd Year - Summer Term:**

- Continue with pupillage applications to other Chambers.
- Join an Inn if you haven't already done so – note scholarships offered. Investigate other sources of funding.
- Apply for Training Contracts. The closing date for most firms is 31st July but many have earlier closing dates.

### **3rd Year - Autumn Term:**

- Continue to apply for mini-pupillages/legal work experience.
- Apply for pupillage through the Pupillage Portal Autumn Season.
- Attend Open Days at BTC and Legal Practice Course (LPC) providers.
- Apply for Inn of Court BTC scholarships (deadline usually first Friday in November)
- Check and confirm closing dates for LPC and BTC applications.
- Apply for a place on the LPC ([www.lawcabs.ac.uk](http://www.lawcabs.ac.uk)).
- Apply for place on BTC directly through course providers/institutions.

### **3rd Year - Autumn and Spring Term:**

- Continue to apply for mini-pupillages/legal work experience.
- Confirm/defer place on LPC.
- Attend National Pupillage Fair (October/November).
- Apply for pupillage through the Pupillage Gateway (January/February)) and direct for other Chambers.

### **3rd Year - Summer Term:**

- Join an Inn of Court (31<sup>st</sup> May deadline).
- Graduate.
- Attend mini-pupillages/legal work experience.
- Apply for Training Contracts. Some firms advertise for training contracts a year or less in advance. Check deadlines using [www.lawcareers.net](http://www.lawcareers.net)

### **After Graduation:**

- Attend BTC or LPC for a year
- Continue to apply for pupillages/training contracts

[Back to Index >>](#)



---

## **Alumni Information and Profiles:**

A selection of Law alumni can be found on the [\*\*School of Law alumni page\*\*](#).

[\*\*Back to Index >>\*\*](#)

---