Career Options with your LLM

Introduction

Every student will have individual reasons for undertaking the LLM qualification. These may include enhancing or broadening career opportunities or adding value and depth to their CV.

This leaflet aims to outline the main job opportunities open to LLM students, provide information on how to research opportunities and signpost further support.

What skills does an LLM develop?

As well as intellectual skills and professional expertise in a specialist area of law (e.g. Maritime, International Commercial Law) the LLM course also enables you to develop a range of transferable skills which are useful in whatever career path you choose to pursue. These include legal research and writing, analysis, critical evaluation and logical thinking as well as written and verbal communication.

What types of careers can LLM graduates consider?

UK Legal Market

As every student has a different background and experience there is no single route to qualifying or working in the UK legal market. You will have to research the routes available and determine which of these is relevant and appropriate for you.

Solicitor

Qualifying as a solicitor currently requires completing a Legal Practice Course (LPC) followed by a two-year Training Contract. Depending on your previous experience and qualifications, you may have to complete a conversion course known as a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) before undertaking the LPC.

However, you should note that the GDL and LPC will be replaced by a super-exam, the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE), due to be introduced in 2020. The SQE will introduce a more flexible approach to work-based experience and will no longer require students to sign up for the GDL or LPC.

For further information see: http://www.prospects.ac.uk/solicitor_training.htm

If you are a qualified lawyer in your home jurisdiction you may be eligible for the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme (QLTS). Further information is available on the Solicitors Regulation Authority’s website: http://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/qlts.page

Occasionally, overseas qualified lawyers practice in the UK without requalifying. You should contact the person responsible for the ‘experienced hire/lateral recruitment’ in the Human Resources department in the firms in which you are interested.
Examples of global firms which have employed LLM students as trainees in the past include, Allen & Overy, Linklaters, Norton Rose Fulbright, Hogan Lovells and White & Case. Such firms often recruit directly into their overseas offices.

Quotes from global law firms, regarding LLM recruitment:

“At Allen & Overy we actively seek to recruit students with exceptional academics, a commitment to law, strong communication skills and an international perspective – which is why we welcome applications from LL.M students. Our preference is for LL.M students to join an Allen & Overy office in the jurisdiction where they are qualified or qualifying into.”

Allen & Overy

“We recognise the diversity of background, education and experience represented by LLM students and so we treat each application on an individual basis. This includes considering where you will be working – although it is usually in your country of qualification.”

Linklaters

Barrister

The steps typically taken to become a barrister involve three main stages of training:

**Academic Stage:** an undergraduate degree in law (LLB), or an undergraduate degree in any other subject followed by the Graduate Diploma in Law. If you are an international student and need information on the transferability of your foreign academic qualifications to the UK you should email the Bar Standards Board: contactus@barstandardsboard.org.uk

**Vocational Stage:** the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), which involves one year of full time study or two years’ part time study.

**Pupillage:** one year spent as a pupil in barristers’ chambers or in another organisation approved by the Bar Standards Board as a Pupillage Training Organisation.

For further information see: https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/barrister

If you are a qualified lawyer regulated in a jurisdiction outside England and Wales and have practised for a minimum of 3 years you may be able to transfer to the Bar in England and Wales. For further information see the Bar Standards Board website: https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/current-requirements/transferring-lawyers/

**Other Opportunities**

You may consider other career opportunities relevant to the specialist field of law which you have studied in your LLM. For example, in addition to trainee lawyers, Protection and Indemnity (P&I) clubs also recruit for claims handlers and claims executives.

The LLM is also a stepping stone to a PhD. It will enable you to make academic contacts and develop the necessary research and writing skills required to undertake further academic study.

Find further information on the different options and routes via links and downloadable resources on the Careers Law web page: https://www.southampton.ac.uk/careers/students/subject-info/law.page
Where do Southampton LLM Graduates work?

Many students decide to return to their home countries and this is reflected in the global nature of the careers and employers. These are some examples of where recent graduates are working:

Lawyers, Lawyer Advocates, Legal Counsels, Associates, Trainee Lawyers, Legal Executives and Paralegals at the following law firms:

- **South Korea**: Yoon & Co, Choi & Kim, Lee & Ko
- **China**: Sloma, Hengfu
- **Greece**: Amoiridis Law Services, Polina Rakka & Kontantinos, Vamavas & Co, Scorinis Law Offices
- **The Netherlands**: Smallegange, van Dam & van der Stelt Attorneys at Law AKD Prinsen van Wijmen
- **UK**: Freshfield Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Hill Dickinson, Holman Fenwick Willan, Hogan Lovells, Ince & Co, Reed Smith, Rustem Guardian LLP, Waltons & Morse LL
- **Others**: Sanno (Japan), Brewen (Germany), PTT Group (Thailand), Ellias & Co (Cyprus), Niteen Pradham & Co (India)

Claims Executives, Assistant Claims Managers, Junior Claims Handler, Property Manager at the following companies:

- **China**: Far Eastern International Leasing Co. Ltd.
- **Norway**: Kuehne & Nagel, Westfal-Larsen
- **India**: ABS Marine Services Pvt Ltd
- **UK**: American Steamship Owners Mutual P&I Association, ACM Shipping, Tindall Riley

Useful resources

**Legal Careers Websites**

- **Prospects website**  [www.prospects.ac.uk/law_sector.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/law_sector.htm)  Overview of graduate law careers
- **Targetjobs website**  [www.targetjobs.co.uk/law](http://www.targetjobs.co.uk/law)  Overview of graduate law careers
- **Chambers Student Guide**  [www.chambersstudent.co.uk/](http://www.chambersstudent.co.uk/)  Detailed information on firms and chambers, including insider views
- **Legal 500**  [www.legal500.com/](http://www.legal500.com/)  Guide to law firms in UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific, United States, Latin America
- **Lex 100**  [www.lex100.com/](http://www.lex100.com/)  Guide to the UK’s leading law firms
- **Lawcareers.net**  [www.lawcareers.net](http://www.lawcareers.net)  Information on training contracts, vacation schemes, pupillages and mini pupillages; sign up for a weekly newsletter
- **Inside Buzz**  [www.insidebuzz.co.uk/law](http://www.insidebuzz.co.uk/law)  guide to law firms and applications
- **All About Law**  [www.allaboutlaw.co.uk](http://www.allaboutlaw.co.uk)  Advice and information on law careers
- **Lawyer 2B**  [www.l2b.thelawyer.com/](http://www.l2b.thelawyer.com/)  Advice and resources plus email updates
Course Applications (for the GDL, LPC and BPTC)

- **Central Applications Board** [www.lawcabs.ac.uk](http://www.lawcabs.ac.uk) Administers applications for full time GDL and LPC courses
- **Bar Standards Board: BPTC** [https://www.barsas.com/](https://www.barsas.com/) Online applications for the Bar Professional Training Course

P & I Clubs

- **International Group of P&I Clubs** Find details on P & I Clubs globally [www.igpandi.org/](http://www.igpandi.org/)

Professional Bodies

- **The Law Society** [www.lawsociety.org.uk/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/) Solicitors’ professional body, includes the Law Society Gazette and ‘Find a Solicitor’ search tool
- **Solicitors Regulation Authority** [www.sra.org.uk/](http://www.sra.org.uk/) Regulatory information about becoming a solicitor
- **The Bar Council** [www.barcouncil.org.uk/](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/) Information about becoming a barrister, and access to the Bar Directory to search for barristers’ chambers
- **The Bar Standards Board** [www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/](http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/) Responsible for overseeing the three stages which must be completed to qualify as a barrister
- **Chartered Institute of Legal Executives** [www.cilex.org.uk/](http://www.cilex.org.uk/) Professional association for chartered legal executives

Directories

Available in the Law School and at **Careers Centre, Building 37:**

- **The Training Contract & Pupillage Handbook** Directory of training contracts, profiles of firms, pupillage directory, barristers’ listing, careers advice
- **Chambers Student Guide** Students’ guide to becoming a lawyer, with information on solicitors firms and barristers chambers, including reviews by trainees
- **Targetjobs Law Vacation Schemes & Mini Pupillages** Information on legal work experience
- **Targetjobs Law** Careers advice and information on becoming a solicitor and barrister
- **Prospects Law** Careers advice and information on becoming a solicitor and barrister

Legal News websites

- **Gazette** [www.lawgazette.co.uk](http://www.lawgazette.co.uk) The Law Society’s magazine
- **Legal Week** [www.legalweek.com/](http://www.legalweek.com/) Legal news, analysis and jobs
- **The Lawyer** [www.thelawyer.com/](http://www.thelawyer.com/) Website and weekly magazine for legal profession
- **Lexology** [www.lexology.com/](http://www.lexology.com/) Legal newsfeed
Law recruitment agencies for lawyer and legal support roles in the UK and internationally

- http://www.garfieldrobbins.com/
- http://www.chaseportland.com/
- http://www.hughes-castell.com/
- http://www.abacuslegal.com/
- http://www.gmk-legal.co.uk/index.php
- http://www.laurencesimons.com/
- http://www.taylorroot.com/
- https://www.hays.co.uk/job/legal-jobs/
- www.legalprospects.com
- www.legalweekjobs.com
- www.totallylegal.com
- http://www.simplylawjobs.com/
- www.tenpercent.co.uk
- www.grlaw.co.uk
- www.legaljobsboard.co.uk
- www.shippingjobs.com Specialised shipping recruitment agency
  Opportunities in chartering, broking, marine insurance and P&I.

Further support

- Look out for notices on the Law School Blackboard notifying you of law careers events, including regular careers sessions delivered by the Careers Practitioner linked to the Law School
- Use online Careers resources for making applications
  https://www.southampton.ac.uk/careers/students/application-support/index.page
- Log into MyCareer to book onto Careers events
  https://www.southampton.ac.uk/careers/index.page?
- Go to Careers Centre B37 for Careers Drop-in Service and workshops. During Drop-in you will see the duty adviser. If you are then referred to a longer 30 minute guidance appointment, you can request to see the Law Career Practitioner
- Attend careers events and workshops organised by the Law School’s dedicated careers coordinator and by the student-run law societies. These will also be notified to you through Blackboard and include:
  - the annual Law Careers Fair, which attracts more than 50 law firms and other companies
  - industry seminars presented by major law firms
  - bespoke CV writing and job application workshops

- For Visa and Immigration Student Advice Service go to:
  https://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentservices/visa-and-immigration/index.page