

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 some of the typical job opportunities open to LLM students.

What skills does a LLM develop?

As well as intellectual skills and professional expertise in a specialist area of law (e.g. Maritime, IT Law etc.) the LLM course also enables you to develop a wide range of generic key 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.

Your teamwork and leadership skills will also be enhanced through participation in the LLM and associated activities.

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:

Many law firms recruit trainee solicitors. This involves 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 current training route to become a solicitor (LPC and training contract) will be replaced by a super-exam, the **Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE)**, due to be introduced 1st 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.

For further information see:

- www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/solicitor
- www.sra.org.uk/students/sqe

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

Occasionally overseas qualified lawyers practice in the UK without requalifying. You should contact

Southampton Law School

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 in the past at different levels (including trainees) include:

- Allen & Overy
- Linklaters
- Norton Rose Fulbright
- Hogan Lovells
- White & Case
- Holman Fenwick & William
- Clifford Chance
- Shearman Sterling
- Wikborg, Rein & Co
- Clyde & Co

These opportunities are often in their overseas offices.

Quotes from global law firms' websites, 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 and 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:

1. 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.
2. Vocational Stage: the Bar Training Course (BTC), which involves one year of full time study or two years' part time study. In order to start the vocational component of training, you'll need to pass the Bar Course Aptitude Test (BCAT), which tests your aptitude for critical thinking and reasoning. You must also join one of the four Inns of Court: Gray's Inn, The Inner Temple, Lincoln's Inn, Middle Temple
3. 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.

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:
www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/bar-training-requirements/transferring-lawyers

Other opportunities

Depending on the specialist field of law which you have studied in your LLM, you will be able to consider career opportunities relevant to this area of law. Examples include:

- Insurance
- IT
- Finance
- Banking
- Ship financing
- The UN
- The World Health Organisation.

A good example of this is the Protection & Indemnity (P&I) Clubs who have traditionally targeted Southampton students doing the LLM in Maritime Law. Examples of P&I Clubs include Gard, Steamship, Thomas Miller, Spinnaker and American Steamship. Typical examples of jobs include claims handler and claims executive.

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

There is further information on the different options and routes at:
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 firms:

- **Cyprus:** Christos S Christoforou, Chryssis Demetriades & Co LLC, Ellis & Co LLC
- **Greece:** Amoiridis Law Services, Polina Rakka & Kontantinos, Varnavas & Co, Scorinis Law Offices
- **The Netherlands:** Smallegange, van Dam & van der Stelt Attorneys at Law AKD Prinsen van Wijmen
- **Norway:** Statoil ASA, Kvale & Co Law Firm, Wiersholm, Mellbye & Bech, Vogt & Wiig Advokatfirma, Gram Hambro & Garman
- **Turkey:** Ersoy Bilgehan Lawyers and Consultants, Cavus & Coskunsu
- **UK:** Freshfield Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Hill Dickinson, Holman Fenwick William, Hogan Lovells, Ince & Co, Reed Smith, Rustem Guardian LLP, Waltons & Morse LLP

- **Others:** Niteen Pradham & Co (India), Yoon & Co, Choi & Kim, Lee & Ko (South Korea), Hengfu, Sloma, (China), Uria Menendes (Spain), Ribcon-Cuellar & Asociados (Columbia), Fichte & Co (Dubai), Clyde & Co (China and Libya), ABNR Counsellors at Law (Indonesia), Ministry of Justice (Qatar), Maples and Calder (Cayman Islands), Ministry of Legal Affairs (Oman), and PTT Group (Thailand).

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

American Steamship Owners Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association (UK), ACM Shipping (UK) Tindall Riley (UK), Gulf Agency Company UAE), Far Eastern International Leasing Co. Ltd. (China), Kuehne & Nagel (Norway), ABS Marine Services Pvt Ltd (India), Westfal-Larsen Shipping (Norway) and Starz Shipping Group (Nigeria).

Useful resources

Legal Careers Websites

- **Prospects website** www.prospects.ac.uk/law_sector.htm Gives an overview of the legal sector
- **Targetjobs website** www.targetjobs.co.uk/law Gives an overview of graduate law careers with information on work experience and training
- **Chambers Student Guide** www.chambersstudent.co.uk Detailed information on firms and chambers, including insider views
- **Legal 500** www.legal500.com Guide to law firms in UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific, United States, Latin America
- **Lex 100** www.lex100.com Guide to the UK's leading law firms
- **Lawcareers.net** www.lawcareers.net Information on training contracts, vacation schemes, pupillages and mini pupillages; sign up for a weekly newsletter
- **Layer Portal** www.thelawyerportal.com Inside guide to the top law firms, plus articles on careers and interviews
- **All About Law** www.allaboutlaw.co.uk Advice and information on law careers
- **Lawyer 2B** www.thelawyer.com/lawyer2b Advice and resources plus email updates for law students
- **Vantage** www.vantageap.io A resource for everyone considering a career in law to help develop connections with elite employers/firms.

Course Applications (for the GDL, LPC and BTC)

- **Central Applications Board** www.lawcabs.ac.uk Administers applications for full time GDL and LPC courses
- **Bar Training Course (BTC)** applications are made direct to the institution/course provider

P & I Clubs

- **International Group of P & I Clubs** Find details on P & I Clubs globally: www.igpandi.org

Professional Bodies:

- **The Law Society** 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 Regulatory information about becoming a solicitor
- **The Bar Council** 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 Responsible for overseeing the three stages which must be completed to qualify as a barrister
- **Chartered Institute of Legal Executives** www.cilex.org.uk Professional association for chartered legal executives

Directories

Available in the Law School (Building 4) and at the Careers and Employability Service (Building 37), Highfield campus:

- **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 The Law Society's magazine
- **Law.com International** www.law.com/international-edition Legal news, analysis and jobs
- **The Lawyer** www.thelawyer.com Website and weekly magazine for legal profession: news, analysis and jobs
- **Lexology** www.lexology.com Legal newsfeed

Specialist recruitment agencies and jobs boards:

- www.garfieldrobbins.com London based specialist legal recruitment consultancy. UK and international opportunities for lawyers including professional support lawyers.
- www.chaseportland.com Recruitment Services for the legal profession including the Magic and Silver Circle firms and US firms in London. Primarily qualified lawyers.
- www.gmk-legal.co.uk/index.php Recruitment of Lawyers, Professional Support Lawyers and paralegals in the UK and internationally.
- www.laurencesimons.com International Legal and Compliance recruitment. Opportunities for qualified lawyers, legal executives and paralegals.
- www.taylorroot.com Recruitment of Lawyers, Professional Support Lawyers, Legal Executives and paralegals in the UK and internationally.
- www.hays.co.uk/job/legal-jobs Opportunities for lawyers, paralegals and legal executives. Also has information on job search and interview tips.
- <https://spinnaker-global.com/> Shipping recruitment agency including shipping lawyer and commercial shipping recruitment.
- www.saccomann.com/shipping-and-maritime Opportunities in chartering, broking, marine insurance and P&I.
- www.jobsite.co.uk/jobs/legal Vacancies for solicitors, legal executives, paralegals, legal PAs and legal support roles.
- www.legalweekjobs.com A legal recruitment website covering a wide range of legal jobs including solicitor, barrister, graduate/trainee, paralegal, legal secretarial and support jobs.
- www.totallylegal.com Specialist legal jobs board for solicitors, lawyers, barristers, paralegals, legal PAs and legal executives.
- www.simplylawjobs.com Advertise a wide range of legal jobs including solicitor, barrister, legal executive, legal assistant, caseworker.
- www.ten-percent.co.uk A legal recruitment agency with offices in London and Chester, for solicitors, barristers, paralegals, legal cashiers, legal executives, legal secretaries and other support staff.
- www.grlaw.co.uk Specialist recruitment company, recruiting a range of staff including paralegals and qualified solicitors; London focus but also recruit globally.
- www.legaljobsboard.co.uk Online legal recruitment website advertising a range of solicitor, paralegal and support roles.
- www.michaelpage.co.uk A recruitment agency that offers permanent, temporary, contract and interim opportunities.
- www.vantageapp.io A platform sharing information on legal work experience, vacation schemes, training contracts, insight days and more.