

**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](https://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.

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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

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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, mooting, 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, Law Clinic and Data Protection & Legal Tech Clinic.

You should also consider joining and participating in the events and activities of the University's **Law Societies**. These include guest speakers, moots and debates.

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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 under the current training route. Some are taking **courses** to help them prepare for and pass the exams required as part of the new training route to become a solicitor, known as the **Solicitors Qualifying Exam (SQE)**. Some undertake the **Bar Training Course (BTC)** with a view to qualifying as a **Barrister**.

There are many alternatives to becoming a solicitor 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

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Finding Job Vacancies

Jobs notified direct to the Careers and Employability Service are advertised on our jobs board termed [MyCareer](#).

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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 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.

After completing the Bar Training Course (BTC), **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.

NOTE: To start the BTC, you will need to pass the **Bar Course Aptitude Test (BCAT)**. You must also join one of the four **Inns of Court** at least 12 weeks before you start this vocational component (BTC) of training for the Bar.

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: (typically 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.
- [**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
- Lexology – www.lexology.com

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Key occupational information on ancillary legal careers:

- Legal executive – official website for the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives 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
- Paralegal – official website for the Institute of Paralegals <https://theiop.org>

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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
- Speculatively approach firms. To find firms, please visit: www.yell.com

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 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.
- A-Z list of Barrister Chambers: www.barristermagazine.com/a-z-barrister-chambers

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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
- Lawcrossing – advertises vacancies for training contracts, pupillages, vacation schemes, mini pupillages and paralegal 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.traineesolicitor.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
- Ten Percent Legal Recruitment – specialist legal recruitment agency www.ten-percent.co.uk

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Other Vacancies:

- Prospects – www.prospects.ac.uk/graduate-jobs
- Target Jobs – <https://targetjobs.co.uk/>

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Postgraduate Study and Research Opportunities:

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

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

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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 BTC in England and Wales: www.thelawyerportal.com/free-guides/bptc-overview/bptc-course-comparison-table . 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 2021, 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 BTC. For details on the test including the timetable for applying and sitting it please visit

www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/training-qualification/bar-qualification-manual-new.html?part=94844A47-08D8-437D-A17440AD1A7C596C&q=

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

"You may wish to research the number and size of BTC 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)

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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.

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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.

1st 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
- Apply for the School of Law's BarLink, Streetlaw, Law Clinic and Data Protection & Legal Tech Clinic and other voluntary legal-related activities organised by Community Volunteering e.g. Citizens Advice, Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, Victim Support South Western Division.

2nd Year – Spring Term:

- Continue with applications for legal work experience (mini-pupillages (for Barrister, vacation schemes for solicitor, internships, insight days, competitions, firm representative opportunities, and **virtual learning and work experience opportunities through the Careers and Employability Service**).
- 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) 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).
- 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 (31st 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

After Graduation:

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

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Alumni Information and Profiles:

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

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