Law School
Providing a stand-out education
#BeUnique
“For those of you considering law, be prepared for a challenge. You will be challenged academically, by a rigorous curriculum and by academics at the forefront of their fields. You will also have the best years of your life - and graduate with that added something that will make you stand out from the crowd!”

Hannah Gough (LLB 2018) Best Student Volunteer in the Law Clinic, 2018
We believe you can make a difference. That’s why we’re ranked a top 10 Law School in England and Wales* and top 50 in the world**

At the University of Bristol Law School, we believe every student is unique – with distinct strengths and ambitions. We offer diverse undergraduate units, a rich and innovative portfolio of LLMs and numerous opportunities to explore within or beyond law.

With a strong reputation for excellence, our heritage is complemented by a fresh outlook and cutting-edge research. We blend tradition and innovation in exciting ways to optimise the student experience. Our academics and alumni are leaders in their fields. And, like our students, they come from diverse backgrounds from around the globe to create a dynamic community of thinkers and doers who will support and guide you in your educational journey.

Here you will become part of a vibrant, creative community that makes change happen. You will embrace a global perspective that broadens minds and horizons and you will have stand-out opportunities to develop the skills employers are looking for. Here you will gain all you need to make a difference.

* 2019 Guardian University League Tables (8th in England and Wales / 11th in the UK)
** Times Higher World University Rankings 2018 (49th in the world / 11th in the UK)

“If you want to study at an institution where the quality of teaching is brilliant, where you will be taught by passionate, enthusiastic and internationally acclaimed academics - and where there is a strong commitment to your future career, this is the place to come.”

Professor Ken Oliphant, Head of School
“Here students have the power to create change. At school I often felt as though my thoughts and ideas were not taken seriously. At Bristol I have found space to grow and have been offered a variety of support from people to bring the ideas in my head into real life. During my time here I have organised a Black Lives Matter vigil and facilitated a new module in Law and Race at the Law School.”

Oluwasun Matiluko, undergraduate
An inspirational city

The University of Bristol Law School has a long and rich heritage as being one of the best in the UK. Attracting talent from all over the world, the Law School contributes to the thriving multicultural environment of the city.

Many of our students embrace opportunities to put their study into practice by providing free legal advice to some of the most vulnerable people in the local community. Others may join cultural groups, rallies and/or local movements to celebrate diversity or raise awareness of issues affecting both the community and students.

Recently cited as the most inspiring city in the UK*, Bristol is the perfect size, offering all of the excitement of a big city packed into an area easily explored on foot or by bike. It is also less than two hours from London by train and a top regional destination for law firms outside the capital**. Studying in the city’s iconic Wills Memorial Building, students have access to the very latest legal thinking and expertise and, on graduating, are highly sought after by many leading employers.

“I loved exploring Bristol. Based in the heart of the city, it is easy to escape the bubble of University life and feel part of the wider community. It’s a really vibrant place. The opportunity to undertake mini-pupillages at local chambers inspired me to return here to start my career.”

Grace Boorer (LLB 2015), secured a pupillage at Old Square Chambers

* TravelBird 2017
** CBRE 2016 Law in the Regions report
Mooting is a specialised form of legal debating that helps students combine their academic studies with a taste of what it is like to be a real lawyer. Supported by top-flight alumni they learn the skills to argue cases, often in front of a real judge.
With an enviable reputation for excellence, our teaching means students are proactively targeted by employers from a variety of sectors.

Teaching excellence

With our dedicated staff, vibrant and involved alumni network, as well as award-winning student societies, we are able to deliver a robust and innovative curriculum that enables students to build skills as well as knowledge.

In recent years, we have embedded the ability to gain pro-bono experience into our curriculum - and the local community - by giving third year undergraduates the opportunity to participate in the Law Clinic as part of their formal degree programme.

We are also very fortunate to have an inspirational alumni network. Dedicated to nurturing the talent of each generation of law students, they provide careers advice and mentoring schemes, sponsor networking events, judge mooting competitions, deliver guest lectures and much more.

Importantly, our students have choices. The opportunity to take non-law units, study a diverse range of subjects and work closely with local community groups, NGOs, human rights organisations, policy makers and other alternative legal networks - alongside leading law firms and solicitors - means access to the very best advice for careers both in and out of law.

“My fellow students are intellectually brilliant, my tutors sit at the top of their respective fields, often authors of the books we study - and the alumni community is truly inspirational. Seeing their achievements has given me the confidence to realise my aspirations of a career at the Bar. The compassion shown by all has made my time at Bristol the most enjoyable of my life so far.”

George Aubrey (LLB 2018), secured an advocacy scholarship at BPP
“The degree students receive at Bristol is not just a piece of paper, not just an academic degree - it is an invitation to use their voices, their minds, their lives to change the world and to create more justice. There is tremendous inequality and injustice in the world and a great need for a community of people to be champions. We look forward to Bristol law graduates taking up that opportunity.”

US Lawyer and Social Justice Activist, Bryan Stevenson on receiving his honorary law degree in 2018
International and inclusive

We are dedicated to attracting the very best talent from around the globe. We are also dedicated to growing our international alumni network, giving students the contacts to develop their careers, access the relevant sectors, and create more justice wherever they end up working.

Our outreach work aims to raise the aspirations and attainment of high-potential students both from and beyond, the local community. We provide them with an insight into what studying at a top university would be like, the confidence to apply and, once here, all the support they need to thrive. Our Widening Participation stats for 2017/18, reflects our drive to recruit a diverse student body:

We also provide a diverse array of student mobility opportunities with a study-abroad programme that currently helps us place students with universities in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Spain, Mexico, Australia, Colombia, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong.

“At Bristol I was inspired by the people I met; individuals from various backgrounds, with beliefs and viewpoints different from my own. Being part of a multicultural environment enhanced my personal development and academic performance.”

Nicoletta Bakolas, LLB 2018
Alternative careers with a law degree
From being considered a Top 5 Law School for student recruitment by leading law firms* – to academics making possible the global implementation of human rights – our community provides a unique package of support, whatever your career choice.
Diverse careers

With a rich calendar of career-focused activities and a strong collaboration between the School, our alumni, student organisations and community partners, you will graduate fully equipped to fulfil your career aspirations with many opportunities to experience all areas of law.

At the Law School, you may have the opportunity to secure an internship, a pupillage or a law firm mentorship; take part in student-led networking events with sector leaders; or be involved in initiatives such as the Bristol Law Clinic, the Pro Bono Society and the Human Rights Law Clinic – putting your learning into practice and building skills, empathy and more to deepen your experience here.

Whether you are preparing for a career in or out of the law, our unique community will support you in developing the skills and attributes employers seek. With an ability to think critically, evaluate evidence, and marshal sound, rationally-grounded arguments, you will graduate as enquiring individuals with a rich appreciation of law in both business and society.

Our expanding Law School Employability Team now includes an Employability Adviser with a specialist knowledge of the legal sector and related industries to provide one to one, tailored careers advice to support students to hone their skills and ensure they are work-ready to flourish in a career that best suits their skill set.

“Having a law degree from Bristol University gives you options. I decided to pursue an alternative career in law, working in the corporate governance and compliance field of an energy company, a sector that I first gained an interest in as a student.”

Marcia Owusu-Mfum (LLB 2015)

The interdisciplinary influences of law open up career opportunities in finance, politics, health, international development, journalism and more.

* Chambers Student Guide Survey, 2018
The Wills Memorial Building is at the heart of the University of Bristol and is home to a £3.1 million refurbished library, the historic Great Hall and great study spaces, such as the Old Council Chamber.

Always striving to provide a learning environment that blends tradition with innovation, the Law School has recently extended its facilities to include 8-10 Berkeley Square.

Another fantastic refurbishment that has secured a world-leading sustainability assessment from BREEAM, the building is a symbol of our commitment to student employability with a research hub for PhD students, a state-of-the-art moot court, space for members of the Human Rights Implementation Centre and home to the Bristol Law Clinic.
Financial support
Eileen Drummond and Sheila Anderson (EDSA) Legacy Scholarship – provides £9k to cover first year tuition fees for first year LLB students from lower income backgrounds.

Denise Coates Foundation Bursary – a £2,000 bursary to support LLB students from low income backgrounds in their first year of study.

Hardship Fund – small grants from £250 available for any student experiencing unexpected financial hardship.
Being at University can be exciting but there may be times when you struggle with the demands of studying or life in general.

Support

It can be difficult being away from your home, family and friends, but at Bristol, you are not on your own. We are here to help, committed to the personal and professional development of our students, with small group teaching and a personal

Your personal tutors will help you build confidence and develop resilience in relation to the ups and downs of study. You will also have a senior tutor and a dedicated wellbeing advisor who can provide advice on how to manage your wellbeing, deal with the pressures of studying an intensive and demanding undergraduate law degree – and put you in touch with the right service within or outside of the university if you need additional support.

To ease some of the financial burdens for students, we also have a hardship fund and a number of bursaries and scholarships to help prevent money worries affecting your wellbeing, your study – and your ability to make the most of your time here.

“I am honoured that I have been selected to receive this award. It means the world to me. This award has truly motivated me to strive to achieve the best possible degree.”

Adam James Tovey, law undergraduate and EDSA scholar
Undergraduate courses

The University of Bristol Law School is a centre for an intellectually demanding, research-informed legal education. We combine teaching and research excellence to deliver a challenging and rigorous curriculum that will provide you with excellent legal, analytical and reasoning skills – and empower you to pursue both legal and non-legal career options.

“You have a lot of optional units you can choose. I chose medical law and criminology which brought in aspects of ethics and sociology - even psychology. You have the freedom to explore what you think you might like.”

Annabelle Allen (LLB 2015)
trainee solicitor, Hogan Lovells
Is law for me?
Law crosses a number of academic disciplines, as well as being at the heart of some of the most interesting questions of what it means to live as human beings in society. It suits a wide range of students – particularly those able to assimilate information rapidly, think logically and contextually and who have a desire to understand why society is ordered as it is and how we might bring about progressive social change.

Courses
The Law School offers a range of accredited law degrees, taught with a combination of mandatory and specialised optional units. Our LLBs are all qualifying law degrees which means they are accredited and recognised by the Bar Standards Board, and the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

LLB
Our LLB programme is a three-year qualifying law degree. In the final year all students produce a 5,000-word project on a topic of their choice. The core and optional units reflect the wide variety of approaches to legal research adopted by the scholars in the Law School. We also offer the LLB with French, German or Spanish, which includes language, linguistics, literature and history components and a year of study abroad.

Course Structure

Year 1:
• Introduction to Law
• Law of Contract
• Law of Tort
• Law and State
• Constitutional Rights
• Criminal Law

Year 2:
• Jurisprudence
• Land Law
• Law and Policy of the European Union I
• Three optional units

Year 3:
• Final Year Research Project
• Trusts
• Four optional units

LNAT
All applicants must sit the National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT).

For more information
Visit bristol.ac.uk/law/study/ugdegrees
See back cover for full contact details.

A note on SQE
From 2020 the route to qualification will change, with the introduction of the Solicitors Qualification Exam (SQE). This will not affect students starting university up to, and including, the 2019/20 intake. More information is available at sra.org.uk.
Postgraduate courses

Studying at postgraduate level means an opportunity to further develop your legal knowledge and skills and explore specialist areas in depth, equipping you for a successful career in the legal profession, in academia and beyond.

We offer a diverse range of full-time and part-time postgraduate courses with an MA (which is also a qualifying law degree), more than 10 LLM programmes, an MSc in Socio-Legal Studies and a number of PhD research themes.

LLM
This programme is an intense one-year course that enables you to study law at an advanced level, providing you with the building blocks you need to explore at a deeper level the subjects you are most interested in or - with our General Legal Studies LLM – develop a broader general knowledge of law.

Specialist areas
- Commercial Law
- European Legal Studies
- General Legal Studies
- Health, Law, and Society
- Human Rights Law
- International Commercial Law
- International Law
- International Law and International Relations
- Labour Law and Corporate Governance*
- Law and Globalisation
- Public Law

* This programme is being revised for 2019. Please check the website for the latest information before applying.

MA
Our MA enables you to study for a qualifying law degree in 21 months rather than the standard three years. This fast track, full-time Masters offers non-law graduates a more in-depth study of the core areas of legal knowledge and skills than a traditional one-year conversion programme. Bristol’s MA in Law is recognised as a qualifying law degree for practice in England and Wales and widely valued professionally internationally. It is also available as a part-time option over four years.

MSc in Socio-Legal Studies
This Masters programme provides an opportunity to investigate the way that the law works in society for students of any discipline wishing to develop a career in the socio-legal field. Our experts deliver an interdisciplinary approach to law, providing solid research training through the study of different methodologies across the social sciences and the law.

MRes Sustainable Futures
This programme is one of five South West Doctoral Training Partnership interdisciplinary pathways. This field, with its clear applied focus and strong strategic future-directed policy implications, has social sciences at its heart. It requires a broad interdisciplinary approach and an understanding of the economics, law, politics and psychology of sustainability, as well as the geography and demographics of those affected.
“I wanted to study at the University of Bristol Law School as it has some of the most distinguished academics and experts in the world in the field of international law and human rights,”

Ben Hudson, PhD student, now Lecturer in Law at University of Lincoln

Research

Legal research spans the social sciences and humanities. As a postgraduate research student you will investigate the law’s possibilities; its provisions, implementation and practices – engaging with a wide range of approaches to legal research and exploring the impact of law on virtually all aspects of life.

The diversity of the projects our PhD students are working on reflect the specialisms of our academic staff – and ensure a robust support system is in place. This is further enhanced by the University’s drive to build capacity in world-leading research through growth of PhD student numbers and the further development of the Bristol Doctoral College as a comprehensive resource for them.

The University is striving to augment research capacity in areas of established excellence and strategic importance through the launch of the Vice-Chancellor’s Fellowship Scheme. For more information visit bristol.ac.uk/jobs/vc-fellowships.

We are a top five Law School for research intensity*

* 2014 Research Excellence Framework
Contact us

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**Book an open day**
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