Law School

Providing a stand-out education

#WeAreBristol
“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 the University is top 50 in the world for employability**

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 Masters programmes and numerous opportunities to explore within and 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, whether you are studying at undergraduate or postgraduate level, 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.

* 2020 Complete University Guide (9th in England and Wales / 14th in the UK)  
** 47th in the QS World Employability Rankings 2019

“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.”

Oluwaseun Matiluko, LLB student
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 one of the world’s ‘cool list’ destinations*, Bristol is the perfect size, offering all the excitement of a big city packed into an area easily explored on foot or 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 and historic 8-10 Berkeley Square, you will have access to the very latest facilities and expertise and, on graduating, be 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

* National Geographic Traveller 2018
** 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. (HighFliers research 2018)

Teaching excellence

With our dedicated staff, a diverse range of student societies and a vibrant and involved alumni network, we are able to deliver a robust and innovative curriculum that will enable you to build essential skills as well as knowledge.

We have embedded the ability to gain pro-bono experience into our curriculum by giving third year undergraduates the opportunity to participate in the Law Clinic as part of their formal degree programme. More recently, we have introduced a commercial awareness/simulation unit to expose students to the realities of a commercial transaction as part of their formal degree programme.

We are also very fortunate to have an inspirational alumni network with individuals actively involved in the life of the school. Dedicated to nurturing the talent of new generations of Bristol law students, they provide tailored careers advice and mentoring schemes, host networking events and conferences, 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 opportunities to experience careers, both in and out of law, whilst still a student.

“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
One in three of our students are international – with 40 countries and every continent represented. Over 20% of our intake are from the BAME community.

International and inclusive

We are dedicated to attracting the very best talent from around the globe - and to encouraging student mobility, giving you the chance to develop your career, engage with diverse sectors and promote justice, wherever you end up working.

The Law School is committed to creating a diverse student community. Our established and successful outreach activities nurture talent amongst groups under-represented in higher education, encouraging them to consider applying to study at university. Our Widening Participation intake figures for 2018/19 illustrate the impact this work is having with growing participation from those who may not otherwise have considered university as an option.

75% of our students are from state schools

We also provide a diverse range of student mobility opportunities. Our LLB Law with Study Abroad and Law with Study with Continental Europe programmes are four year courses that offer the opportunity for a third year of study at one of our partner universities - currently this includes institutions in Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia, Mexico, Columbia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain - before returning to Bristol for a fourth year.

Coming to Bristol means coming to a major centre for the study of modern languages and cultures. Our four-year joint honours courses, LLB Law and French, LLB Law and German and LLB Law and Spanish, are designed to give you training in the core English legal subjects and knowledge of the legal system, language and culture of another European country. The third year of the course is spent studying French, German or Spanish law at a European university or (for Spanish) in Latin America. During the three years in Bristol, students devote approximately 60 per cent of their studies to law and 40 per cent to the language and culture of their choice alongside modern languages students.

“At Bristol I was inspired by individuals from various backgrounds, with beliefs 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. Here, there are many opportunities, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level, to put your learning into practice and build skills, empathy and more to deepen your experience here.

Whether you are preparing for a career in or out of law, our unique community will support you in developing the key skills and attributes that 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 a dedicated employability adviser with specialist experience and knowledge of the legal sector and related industries. Providing one-to-one, tailored careers advice, you will be supported in enhancing your skills to ensure you are well prepared for the world of work and able to flourish in a career that best suits your skill set.

“The 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.

8-10 Berkeley Square is a symbol of our commitment to student employability with a research hub for PhD students, a state-of-the-art moot court and home to the Human Rights Implementation Centre and the University of Bristol Law Clinic.
Financial support**

To ease some of the financial burden of university life, the Law School has 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.

**Eileen Drummond and Sheila Anderson (EDSA) Legacy Scholarship** – provides £9k* to cover first year tuition fees for LLB students from lower income backgrounds.

**Denise Coates Foundation Bursary** – a £2k* 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.

For international students

Dedicated to attracting the very best talent from around the globe, we have recently introduced a number of **Global Justice Scholarships** worth £9k each.

Applying for a Global Justice Scholarship generates an automatic application to the University’s **Think Big Scholarship** which provide up to £10k per year to support both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

* More information on all the support services available at the University can be found at bristol.ac.uk/students/study.

** More information about all the financial support provided by the University can be found at bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding.
Being at university can be exciting with many new experiences and opportunities. However, there may be times when the demands of studying, or life in general, can be challenging.

Support

We want you to get the most out of your time here: to feel safe, supported and able to reach your full potential. You will have access to appropriate and practical support, with a range of student services that are continuously reviewed and developed, to ensure we offer the best support* possible.

**Small group teaching** creates a supportive environment based on trust and mutual respect between students and tutors - a safe place to ask questions and build confidence in the classroom. Small group tuition can also help develop ‘soft’ skills, such as oral communication and debating.

**Personal tutors** are assigned at the start of your course and, wherever possible, will be with you for the entirety of your degree. Personal tutors are available to discuss matters specifically related to your studies and can help develop the skills you need to realise your full potential.

**The School’s Senior Tutor** provides pastoral support and guidance - working with your personal tutor to help you build resilience and skills to cope with the ups and downs of study.

**The Law School Employability Adviser** can help you visualise what your future might look like. Having a clear picture of your future career, whether that’s in or out of law, can keep you motivated and connected to your course.

We understand that whilst being at university can be exciting, there may be times when the demands of studying or life in general are challenging.

**A dedicated team of wellbeing advisers** are located in the School. These experienced and well-trained staff provide you with access to advice on how to manage your wellbeing, address any personal and emotional difficulties you may be experiencing – and put you in touch with the right service within or outside of the university if you need additional support.

“I am passionate about helping students. Sometimes this is just by listening, other times it is helping them access the right services or build on their own skills to manage the ups and downs of life.”

Laura Wardle, Wellbeing Adviser
Undergraduate courses
The University of Bristol Law School combines 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.

Single Honours
LLB Law
three years M100
LLB Law with Study Abroad*
four years
LLB Law with Study in Continental Europe*
four years

Joint Honours
LLB Law and French
four years MR11
LLB Law and German
four years MR12
LLB Law and Spanish
four years MR13

* Entry by transfer from M100 at the end of the first year

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2019). However, you are advised to check, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.

Making your application
Typical offer for LLB Law**

- **A-levels** A*A or A*A*B (contextual AAB†).
- **IB Diploma** 38 points overall (contextual 34†) to include 18 points (contextual 17†) at Higher Level.
- **English Language profile** B††
- **GCSEs** No specific subjects required.
- **Visit** bristol.ac.uk/ug19-law for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

**The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications.

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

You will also have to sit the National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT), a test which must be taken by all candidates applying to an undergraduate law course at participating institutions, including the University of Bristol. The test is designed to provide an assessment of a candidate’s potential for law degree courses. You can find more information about the LNAT*** and how it is used in the admissions visit www.lnat.ac.uk.

Selection UCAS or Common Application and LNAT. *** The LNAT comprises two parts: a multiple choice section and an essay section.
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 with a thirst for knowledge and reading, who are able to assimilate information rapidly, think logically and contextually and who have a desire to understand how law 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. The curriculum incorporates the core compulsory subjects required by the legal profession, such as criminal, land and tort law. There is also a wide variety of optional units to choose from that reflect the diversity of approaches to legal research adopted by the scholars in the Law School. At the end of the first year of LLB study, you can apply to transfer to the LLB Law with Study in Continental Europe or the LLB Law with Study Abroad (more information on page 9).

In the final year all students produce a 5,000-word project on a topic of their choice, supported by a member of staff in the law school with relevant expertise.

Course Structure 2019-20 *subject to change

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

A note on changes to qualification
From September 2020 the route to qualify as a barrister will change, with the route to qualify as a solicitor changing in Autumn 2021. More information is available at bristol.ac.uk/law/study/ugdegrees/accreditation

“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
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 programmes with an MA (which is also a qualifying law degree), more than ten LLM programmes, an MSc in Socio-Legal Studies and a number of PhD research themes.

**MA**

Our MA enables you to study for a qualifying law degree in 21 months rather than the standard three years. A fast track, full-time Masters that 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 in several jurisdictions across the globe. 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 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 social sciences and law.

**LLM**

This programme is an intensive one-year course. It 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. There are LLM pathways available to law and non-law graduate.

**Specialist LLM programmes**

- Commercial Law
- Company Law and Corporate Governance*
- Employment, Work and Equality*
- 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

* New for 2019/20
** This programme is being revised for 2019/20. Please check the website for the latest information before applying.
“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 Senior Lecturer in Law at University of Lincoln

Research

Legal research spans the social sciences and humanities. As a top five Law School for research intensity*, the diversity of the projects our PhD students are working on reflect the specialisms of our academic staff to ensure a robust support system.

**PhD in Law**

As a PhD Law student, you will become part of the school’s primary unit system. PhD Law is a disciplinary supervised higher degree, awarded on presentation of a thesis on a specialist legal topic.

**PhD in Socio-Legal Studies**

This is an interdisciplinary degree, addressing the pressing social issues of sustainability and the maintenance of human wellbeing in the face of a global rising population, limited resources, and a fragile environment.

**MSc + PhD in Socio-Legal Studies**

This course is a one-year, interdisciplinary Masters degree into the study of law and legal phenomena, followed by three years doctoral training. This is achievable if you are awarded ESRC funding.

* 2014 Research Excellence Framework
Contact us

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Book an open day
bristol.ac.uk/opendays

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