“The University of Bristol Law School is considered a Top 4 Law School for graduate recruitment by leading law firms”

Chambers Student Guide Survey, 2019
We attract the very best talent from all walks of life, from all over the world. We work hard to nurture that talent, and will support you to be the very best you can be. The activities developed and supported by our careers and employability team will help deepen your knowledge, enrich your experience and fast-track your development.

As a student at the University of Bristol, you already have high aspirations and the drive to pursue them. This guide is here to help you on your way. You may be set upon a career in law or you may be uncertain and want to learn more about employment opportunities beyond the legal profession. You may want to expand your range of work experience or learn more about what kinds of skills and competencies will increase your chances of securing your dream job. You may want to meet people who have trodden the same path upon which you are now embarking and learn from them how to make the most of the opportunities afforded to you whilst studying here.

Whatever your job aspirations, whatever your dreams for the future, we are here to provide a guiding hand. It is never too soon to start thinking about your career and we encourage you to discuss your ambitions and the path towards them with your personal tutor from the outset of your time here. Don’t forget, university is a space for growth, personally, professionally and intellectually. Make time for fun, for friendship, and for the sheer joy of learning, and look forward confidently to a future career and personal fulfilment.

Professor Ken Oliphant
Professor of Law and Head of School
Meet the team

Dr Roseanne Russell
Director of Employability
rosanne.russell@bristol.ac.uk

Roseanne is a Lecturer in Law and the School’s Director of Employability. Before moving to academia, she worked as a solicitor in regional and City firms and also spent a period working in-house. Working closely with the University’s careers service, employers, and other colleagues in the School, Roseanne leads on ensuring that the School’s learning and extra-curricular activities enhance graduate employability and help students achieve their individual career aspirations.

Jo Cooksley
Law School Employability Adviser
jo.cooksley@bristol.ac.uk

Jo joined the Law School last year after previously practising law and then moving on to a role working with legal apprentices. Jo provides vital careers support to all law students, offering one-to-one development sessions, runs workshops, provides tailored CV and application support and much more. Jo is based in the Law Marketing office (2.19) in the Wills Memorial Building.

Prof Michael Ford QC
Director of Advocacy
michael.ford@bristol.ac.uk

Michael joined the Law School in 2015 and specialises in labour law, human rights and public law. He is a QC in private practice at Old Square Chambers and a fee-paid Employment Judge. Working closely with student societies, he oversees advocacy activities in the School, (including mooting, debating and negotiation) with selection of intervarsity teams and supervision of their training a key part of his role.

Rosa Grainger
Portfolio Marketing Officer
rosa.grainger@bristol.ac.uk

Rosa works within the Law School Marketing team, supporting student communications and employability events and works closely with the Director of Employability, Law Employability Adviser and Careers Service. Rosa is on hand to deal with queries relating to the activities of student societies, the Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series, mentoring schemes, employability bulletin advertising and law school careers events.
All information regarding Careers and Employability will be available on the Law School web pages: bristol.ac.uk/law/careers-and-employability. We also send you a weekly employability bulletin outlining forthcoming opportunities, conferences and skills sessions.

Who do I contact?

Want to find out more about Law School events, mentoring schemes or CV and application writing tips?

Contact law-employability@bristol.ac.uk

Student organised events: See pages 16-17 for contact details.
Jo Cooksley, the Law School Employability Adviser, extends the provision of the Careers Service by providing bespoke advice and tailored activities to help you explore all the options possible with a law degree - and develop the skills recruiters are looking for.

Throughout the year, Jo works closely with the Law School Employability team to organise a varied programme of events specifically targeted at law students, including talks and interactive workshops that cover everything from CVs to networking to assessment centres.

Each Autumn, employers (inside and outside of the legal sector) visit the University to attend careers fairs and host company presentations. These events can be a great way to find out what different organisations do and the types of graduate roles that exist.

Look out for event updates on our website bristol.ac.uk/law/careers-and-employability/career-pathways and via the Law School Employability Bulletin, ‘mycareer’ portal and bristol.ac.uk/careers.

“You’ve worked hard to get here and deserve to be here. Know that everyone in the Law School and wider University wants you to succeed and that success can be very different for different people. Your time at University is yours to make of it what you will. There will be challenges but there will also be people there to support you on your way.”

Jo Cooksley, Law School Employability Adviser
At the Law School, students are supported by alumni at the top of their fields; senior judges, top QCs and more. We have the most alumni reaching partner status within Magic and Silver circle law firms after Oxbridge* – and many more excelling in careers outside of the law. Our graduates are changing the world. You can join them.

*Laurence Simons report, 2016
Building your network

The Law School is proud to work with an inspirational network of alumni who actively engage in many areas across the School. By studying here, you will gain access to expert insights and valuable careers advice to help you make the right choices for you.

Professional Mentoring Scheme
Many of our alumni are very successful in a broad range of legal careers and are an excellent source of guidance and inspiration for students. The Professional Mentoring Scheme is open to all second year LLB and MA students and enables students to participate in at least a day of mentoring at a law firm, based in London or Bristol, or a Chambers. Our students are mentored by a Bristol alumni or non-alumni in some of the country’s top legal organisations.

Law in Society Mentoring Scheme
The Law School and Professional Liaison Network have teamed up to offer second year LLB students the chance to be mentored by experts in less traditional careers, such as human rights, government and policy and the charity sector. The scheme aims to highlight the diverse range of careers that a law degree can be applied to.

Browne Jacobson Mentorship Scheme
The Law School and law firm Browne Jacobson, partnered up to launch a new mentoring scheme in 2018-19. The scheme offers up to 10 students going into their final year the opportunity to take up a mentoring place with the firm. The programme provides a unique avenue for mentors and students to connect and engage with one another, share knowledge and help to define career goals.

Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series
Our Distinguished Alumni Lecturers include many leaders in the fields of law in practice and business, the judiciary and Parliament. The lectures help provide you with insights into varied fields of work, how this work applies to your studies and an opportunity to build your network with alumni.

Find further information on our mentoring schemes on the ‘Careers and Employability’ webpages.

Find further information on our Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series on the ‘Alumni’ webpages.
“I found the Professional Mentoring Scheme incredibly useful and got to find out a lot about what the graduate recruitment team were looking for, which is helpful for when I apply to the firm next year. My mentor gave me extremely useful advice before my vacation scheme interview which helped me to secure my place on it. I am really grateful for the opportunity to have had a mentor on the Scheme.”

Tien Tonnu, undergraduate
The Professional Liaison Network work across the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law aiming to develop subject-specific external links and a specialist network that is of benefit to Faculty students.

The types of organisations they engage with range from large companies and government organisations to charities and social enterprises. The PLN runs the Insight Lecture Series, which provides a platform for a range of social sciences graduates to speak about their roles and how the social sciences are used in the wider world. Look out for invitations to these lectures and their recently launched mentoring scheme in the Employability Bulletin.

bristol.ac.uk/fssl/professional-liaison-network
email: fssl-pln@bristol.ac.uk
A personal service
A wealth of support is offered through your personal tutor, whom you will have regular meetings with to discuss many areas including your career planning and aspirations.

Do more with law

Whether you aspire to work in the legal profession or beyond, the Law School will support and expose you to a diverse range of alumni and opportunities to help you explore the right path for you.

Expanding your professional network allows you to make informed decisions about your career. This year we will be providing an array of skills sessions to help you explore where your degree can take you, as part of our #DoMoreWithLaw series.

Key sectors that we will be exposing you to are:

- Human Rights and the Charity sector
- Media and Communications
- Technology and Innovation
- Public Sector, Government and Policy
- Niche areas of law such as Medical, IP, and Environmental law to name a few.

At these events you will be given advice on becoming a solicitor or a barrister – or how to forge a path in an alternative career related to your degree. There will be an emphasis on providing transferable skills such as negotiation, voice coaching and advocacy. You will have the opportunity to network with a wide range of employers to show how far your law degree can take you.

For more information, see pages 18 and 19.
Practising law

To help you prepare for careers both in and out of law, there are many opportunities to develop the necessary skills employers are looking for.

Advocacy skills
Developing strong advocacy skills is recognised as a key component to succeeding in any future legal or non-legal career. Having a strong ability to communicate effectively is a core aim of co-curricular activities in the Law School. With the appointment of a new Director of Advocacy, the Law School and student society activities cover a wide range of opportunities for you to explore and hone these skills in the following areas:

Negotiation
Negotiation skills are crucial for the highly competitive recruitment process of leading law firms. You will need them to negotiate at interviews, open days and during vacation schemes. Developing negotiation skills will help in all aspects of your life and can be honed in various competitions organised in the Law School and beyond.

Mooting and Debating
Mooting is a specialised form of legal debating in which students combine their academic studies with a taste of what it is like to be a real lawyer, arguing cases for ‘clients’ through mock moots, often with real judges, within the university and in national competitions. The main competitions are run through our student societies, sponsored by the Law School and other top law firms.

Intervarsity Mooting
The Law School offers students a wide range of intervarsity mooting competition opportunities throughout the academic year. Taking place nationally or internationally, some students have seen great success participating in these competitions. The Law School regularly sends out at least two teams to competitions in India and numerous teams around the UK.
Commercial awareness

Commercial awareness is essential if you want to pursue a legal career. To build commercial awareness, students are given the opportunity to find out about a wide range of topical issues, ranging from immigration to mergers and acquisitions.

Non-commercial law career paths
Find out more about non-commercial law career paths during our #DoMoreWithLaw series (see pages 18 and 19) and by accessing information on the Careers and Employability Blackboard.

Further details on the advocacy activities and intervarsity competitions can be found by visiting the Careers and Employability pages on the Law School website.
Pro bono work experience

The core curriculum is richly supported by opportunities to participate in pro bono work, secure an internship, pupillage or mentor. Initiatives such as the Bristol Law Clinic and the Human Rights Law Clinic will help build skills, empathy and much more to deepen your learning experience.

The Law Clinic
With cuts to legal aid, the Law Clinic is a much-needed service, providing you with the chance to gain solid experience of law in practice by offering free legal advice and support to members of the public under the supervision of Law School staff.

Sign up for the Law Clinic commences in the first two weeks of term – check the website for more details and how to apply, at bristol.ac.uk/law/law-clinic.

The Human Rights Law Clinic
allows you to play a practical role in the drive to make social justice a reality for all. Integrated into the work of the Human Rights Implementation Centre you acquire knowledge and experience in international human rights law and practice.

Applications to be involved in the clinic will be open early in term one. For more details, see bristol.ac.uk/law/careers-and-employability/human-rights-law-clinic.

“My greatest inspiration during my time at Law School has come from the Law Clinic. It has been fantastic to see such a voluntary commitment from students and witness the amazing impact this has had on many in the community that would have otherwise not been able to afford legal assistance.”

Hannah Gough, undergraduate.
We offer a wide range of undergraduate units, a rich portfolio of LLMs and numerous opportunities to explore diverse careers with a law degree. Our academics are leaders in their fields and, like our students, come from diverse backgrounds from around the globe.

Diversity

We believe every student is unique, with different strengths and different ambitions.

International and inclusive
One in three students are international, with 40 countries and every continent represented, creating an extremely exciting community that celebrates differences and all that can be gained from them. Our student societies are award winning and have received the accolade of the ‘Most committed to increasing diversity’ award at the annual LCNCareers.net awards.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity
The Law School is committed to sustaining a positive and mutually supportive working environment for staff and students, ensuring individuals are treated equally and are able to access the same opportunities. To support this, the EDI Committee provides a point of contact for staff, students and external persons if they have issues or ideas concerning LGBT, Income, Gender, Disability or Racial inequalities, and to address ways to improve School policies in these areas.

Providing support
The School is committed to providing a number of ways for you to access further support with initiatives such as;

- the Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) helping all first-year students with their studies.
- the International Internship Scholar Scheme recognises international students who have undertaken work experience in the spring or summer vacation periods - rewarding on average 10 students each year with a cash prize.

For more information, see: bristol.ac.uk/law/careers-and-employability/work-experience/international-internship-scholar-scheme.
Student societies

Supported by the Law School, our student societies will help you prepare for the world of legal practice, seeing you work alongside peers to hone your legal skills outside of the classroom.

The University of Bristol Law Club
President: Justin Leung
(justin.leung.2018@my.bristol.ac.uk)

Founded in 1937, The UBLC is one of the UK’s largest law societies comprising of 1500 members, including non-law students. The society provides an avenue for students with legal career aspirations to engage with professionals and fellow peers. Their sponsored events enable students to engage with employers through career presentations, employability workshops and networking events.

The University of Bristol Bar Society
President: Rosie Muncer
(bs18384@bristol.ac.uk)

The Bar Society works to support students who aspire to be barristers, and to broaden interest in the Bar. They run advocacy competitions to give students courtroom practise and provide the opportunity for students to compete in national events. Their annual networking dinner is the largest Bar social event outside of London.

The University of Bristol Medical Law Society
President: Lucy Hitchens
(ex18075@bristol.ac.uk)

The Medical Law Society is aimed at students from all disciplines who are interested in medical ethics. Their aim is to build on Bristol becoming a hub for medico-legal debate between universities and developing their careers advice service. Members have the opportunity to take part in their annual intervarsity debating competition plus a range of talks by working professional and academics.

The University of Bristol Commercial Awareness Society
President: Kudzi Manase
(zo18507@bristol.ac.uk)

The Commercial Awareness Society is a newly founded society which aims to be an accessible introduction for all students to commercial affairs, whether they are looking at careers in law, business or finance. This year they hope to cover a number of commercially relevant topics, from artificial intelligence and blockchain to GDPR regulations.
The Pro Bono Society aims to offer a wide range of opportunities for members who are interested in the charitable aspect of legal work and promoting access to justice across the country. Members have the opportunity to accumulate practical experience through summer placements, networking and fundraising events.

The University of Bristol LWOB Society is a student division of the global, not-for-profit LWOB organisation. LWOB manages volunteering lawyers from around the world who donate pro bono service to rule of law projects, capacity building and access to justice initiatives. The Bristol student division aids LWOB in their mission by completing research projects for them and taking part in...
Do More With Law series* #DMWL

October: Law Exhibition
Our revamped Law Exhibition takes place on 4 and 11 October, showcasing around 80 firms and chambers with brand new breakout sessions on commercial awareness, application advice, life at the Bar, diversity within the Law and much more!

Public Sector and Policy
Hear from employers working in the Public Sector, Government and Policy to gain real insights into applying your law degree in these fields.

Media and Communications
A popular industry to work in, media and communications can be an exciting avenue to consider with your law degree. Hear from speakers to gain greater insight into how to enter these fields.

Technology
In such a fast paced industry, we hope to expose you to leaders in the fields of FinTech, LawTech, RegTech etc, for greater awareness of career paths that will be available to you.

Human Rights and Charities
Applying your degree into a human rights context can be very rewarding. Find out from professionals how this career path could look for you and the best ways to gain work experience.

Environmental Law
With climate change at the fore of many minds today, working in environmental law is ever-changing. Learn from experts on how this practice area has evolved and how you could make a difference.

Medical Law and other nice practice areas
We will not limit the exposure of career paths to you throughout the year so expect to see engaging speakers and content from practice areas and fields that buck the trend from commercial law.

*Events subject to change
Skills sessions*

One-to-one sessions
Introduced last year, Jo’s one-to-one sessions are an invaluable resource for you to ensure you are on the right track with your career planning - and to give you some guidance if you’re unsure of what you want to do.

Application and CV Review Session
Law Employability Adviser, Jo will be available for CV and application review appointments throughout the year to help during key recruitment cycles.

Demystifying assessment centres
Work with a graduate recruiter and employability adviser on developing your understanding and approach to assessment centres, through practical exercises.

Interview/Assessment Workshops
Herbert Smith Freehills will be providing hands on interview and assessment advice with their graduate recruitment team. Gain insights into best practice and assessment centre tips!

What next after your law degree
Explore the main career options open to you after your Law degree. Identify the key skills that employers value.

Finding work experience
Understand recruitment processes (legal and non-legal), deadlines, application tips and support to enable you to find the right work experience for you.
Supporting you...

The Law School community can support you during your time here and beyond. Whatever your goals, our team of academics, support staff and specialist advisers are all here to help.

Find out more at...

For information on supporting your learning, wellbeing, career and your next step visit:

bristol.ac.uk/law/supporting-you