Law

Undergraduate study
Why study law at Bristol?

Many students select law with a view to a legal career or employment in a related area. Others see it as an opportunity to learn about fundamental aspects of our society. Our course offers excellent analytical training. The academic study of law involves the ability to understand and apply legal concepts, principles and rules; to assimilate, sift and organise large quantities of data; and to offer reasoned, constructive criticisms of the law from a reforming standpoint.

The University of Bristol Law School is one of the largest and most successful in the UK. Students will study in the iconic Wills Memorial Building and the recently refurbished 8-10 Berkeley Square, which is home to the School’s Law Clinics, the Centre for Health, Law, and Society, and the world-leading Human Rights Implementation Centre. Berkeley Square also houses the new state-of-the-art Lady Hale Moot Court Room.

The school has over 80 academic staff, many of whom are acknowledged leaders in their fields. In the THE analysis of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, the Law School was ranked fifth in the country on the ‘research intensity’ measure. We have expertise and influence in all areas of law and policy.

Our students are much sought-after by employers. We have many opportunities for students to develop their key legal skills and interact with legal practitioners, as well as explore a range of alternative careers. From mooting, debating and networking opportunities to gaining real-life experiences of law in the community, we provide many opportunities to gain a practical understanding of law in action.

‘My experience at Bristol has helped me to focus my ambitions. While I have had the opportunity to engage in multiple networking and commercial law events, my experience at the University has also allowed me to study abroad in my third year at the University of Sydney, an opportunity I had not even contemplated prior to university.’

Patricia (LLB Law)
What will you study?

The Law School is a centre for intellectually demanding, research-informed legal education. We aim to produce well-rounded, enquiring graduates with a rich, ethically grounded appreciation of law in business and society. Our degrees are accredited by the Bar Standards Board (BSB) and the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). This means that students are exempt from the academic stage of professional legal training in the UK. The BSB and SRA are currently reviewing the accreditation process, and the SRA is proposing changes to the routes to qualification. If these changes were to be approved, they would come into effect no earlier than September 2020 – further details are available in the course and programme pages on the Law School website.

We are committed to the personal and professional development of our students, with small-group teaching throughout the course. Teaching takes the form of lectures, seminars and/or tutorials. You will have ten to 15 hours per week of timetabled study. Most of your day will be spent in private study, preparing for tutorials. Assessment is based on a mixture of examinations and coursework.

The undergraduate Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree takes three years. The curriculum incorporates all 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. Because we believe in research-led teaching, these optional units reflect the wide variety of work and different approaches to legal research conducted in the school (including doctrinal, socio-legal/interdisciplinary and theoretical research). In the final year, our students complete a 5,000-word research project on a legal topic of their choice.

At the end of the first year of study for the LLB Law, you can apply to transfer to the LLB Law with Study in Continental Europe or the LLB Law with Study Abroad. Selection is based on first-year performance and, where applicable, language proficiency. If you are accepted for transfer you will continue with the LLB course but spend your third year taking law units at one of the University’s overseas partner institutions, before returning to Bristol for a fourth year. Some places are available at European universities where classes are taught in English.

At present, the Law School has established student exchanges with universities in Belgium (Antwerp), Denmark (Aarhus), Finland (Helsinki), France (Bordeaux, Lyon, Paris, Poitiers and Tours), Germany (Göttingen and Würzburg), Hungary (Budapest), Italy (Bologna and Siena), the Netherlands (Groningen) and Spain (Granada and Valencia), and further afield in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Colombia and Australia.

Our Joint Honours degrees are four-year courses 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 university in France, Germany or Spain. During the three years in Bristol, students devote approximately 60 per cent of their studies to law and 40 per cent to French, German or Spanish, studying alongside modern languages students.

'Law is a tough but really interesting course that will allow you to go on and work in almost any industry. Employers will appreciate the academic rigour of the course and studying it here at Bristol is a great experience.'

Sam (LLB Law)
Our graduates are highly sought after in the employment market. Most enter legal practice, with many securing training contracts with solicitors’ firms and pupillages at barristers’ chambers. Our courses are also an excellent foundation for working in a variety of other sectors including business, the civil service and the media.

Many top law firms regularly give presentations at the University and attend the two-day Law Fair held every autumn. Support and sponsorship from leading law firms for Law School prizes and for societies and events such as University of Bristol Law CUB, mooting, Law Clinic and Student Law Conference, to name but a few, provide valuable bridges into the profession and potential training contracts.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).

Before applying to study law, it is a good idea to visit courts, undertake a work placement with a practising lawyer, talk to lawyers and read introductory law books to get a better sense of what the study and practice of law entails. 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 process on the following websites:

• bristol.ac.uk/ugdegrees/ugadmissions
• www.lnat.ac.uk

Making your application

Typical offer for LLB Law*
Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-law for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

A-levels A*AA 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.

LNAT, the National Admissions Test for Law, is also required.

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

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

Selection UCAS or Common Application and LNAT.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.
Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol  
[bristol.ac.uk/citybristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/citybristol)

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