

# Employability

Law School



University of  
BRISTOL

“The University of Bristol Law School is considered a Top 5 Law School for graduate recruitment by leading law firms”

Chambers Student Guide Survey, 2018



# Welcome

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 path 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 growing, 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**  
[roseanne.russell@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:roseanne.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](mailto:jo.cooksley@bristol.ac.uk)

Jo has recently joined the Law School after previously practising law and then moving on to a role in mentoring trainees at CILEx, the professional body for Chartered Legal Executives, legal practitioner, paralegals and apprentices. Jo will be providing vital careers support to all law students, offering 1:1 development sessions, running workshops, providing tailored CV and application support and much more. Jo is based in: Marketing office (2.19) in Wills Memorial Building.



**Dr Cian Murphy**  
**Director of Mooting**  
[cian.murphy@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:cian.murphy@bristol.ac.uk)

Cian Murphy joined Bristol Law School in 2016. He oversees mooting at the School, with selection of intervarsity teams and supervision of their training a key part of his role. Dr Murphy is keen to hear from students with novel ideas to develop mooting and advocacy and build practical skills for all of our students.



**Rosa Grainger**  
**Student Activities Officer**  
[rosa.grainger@bristol.ac.uk](mailto: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, Professional Mentoring Scheme and all themed week events.



## Who do I contact?

Law School events: Jo Cooksley or Rosa Grainger

Professional Mentoring Scheme: Rosa Grainger

CVs and application writing: Jo Cooksley

Student organised events: See pages 16-17 for contact details

All information regarding Careers and Employability will be available on the Law School web pages:

[bristol.ac.uk/law/careers-and-employability](http://bristol.ac.uk/law/careers-and-employability).

We also send you a [weekly employability bulletin](#) outlining forthcoming opportunities, conferences and skills sessions.



# Careers Support

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 will be working closely with Rosa (Student Activities Officer) and Roseanne (Director of Employability) to organise a varied programme of events specifically targeted at law students, including talks and interactive workshops that will cover everything from CVs to networking.

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](http://bristol.ac.uk/law/careers-and-employability/career-pathways) and via the Law School Employability Bulletin, 'mycareer' portal and [bristol.ac.uk/careers](http://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*

*“Bristol is the number one UK regional city for law firms\* - so our students benefit from the strong relationships we have built with leading employers.”* Chambers Student Guide Survey, 2018

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 Simmons, 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 and non-legal careers and an excellent source of guidance and inspiration for students. The Professional Mentoring Scheme is offered to some of our highest-achieving first-year LLB and MA students and enables students to participate in a day of mentoring at either a Commercial Law firm, based in London or Bristol, or a Chambers. Our students are mentored by a Bristol alumnus or alumna in some of the country's top legal organisations.

**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.**

## **Browne Jacobson Mentorship Scheme**


The Law School and law firm Browne Jacobson, have partnered up to launch a new mentoring scheme for 2018-19 academic year. 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 enhance the student learning experience and promote the excellence of the School through the success of former students.








“The Mentoring Scheme gave me the professional exposure I needed to engage with the firm during my interviews, revealed a firm culture (highlighted by my mentor especially) that became a significant reason for applying for my training contract, and was a stepping-stone to a very worthwhile experience”

Olivia Williams, undergraduate



**The Professional Liaison Network (PLN)** is a team working across the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law ([bristol.ac.uk/pln](http://bristol.ac.uk/pln)). It aims to develop subject-specific external links that form 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, in which a range of social sciences graduates come to speak about their roles and how the social sciences are used in the wider world. Look out for invitations to these lectures in the Employability Bulletin

**[bristol.ac.uk/fssl/professional-liaison-network](http://bristol.ac.uk/fssl/professional-liaison-network)**

**email: [fssl-pln@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:fssl-pln@bristol.ac.uk)**

## A personal service

A wealth of support is also offered through your personal tutor, whom you will have regular meetings with to discuss many areas including your career planning and aspirations.

# Nurturing talent

The Law School works very closely with the Careers Service throughout the academic year to offer a wide range of events to promote careers within and outside of the law – and expose you to a variety of employers.

Expanding your professional network allows you to make informed decisions about your career. This year we will be providing an array of skills sessions as part of our 'alternatives careers series' with themed weeks planned during the Autumn term to coincide with the central Careers Service recruitment fairs.

The themes are:

- Law Fortnight
- Finance, Technology and Innovation week
- International week
- Public Sector week
- Government, Policy and the EU week
- Global Entrepreneurship and Start Up week

At these events you will be given advice on becoming a solicitor or a Barrister – and on how to get involved in other areas of law, such as family and medical law. There will be an emphasis on providing transferable skills, with additional skills sessions that explore alternative careers. And you will be able 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 skills employers are looking for. Able to think critically, you will graduate as an enquiring individual with a rich appreciation of law in business and society.

## **Negotiation (UBLC)**

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 our annual Law Club organised negotiation competition.

## **Mediation (Law Clinic)**

Mediation is the involvement of an impartial third party to support those involved in a conflict to find a resolution. Mediation skills are often used by students working for our Law Clinic where they are encouraged to enter mediation competitions and continue to develop those skills.

## **Debating (UBLC)**

The year of debating at Bristol starts with the annual Hunt Cup Competition, named after the Lord Hunt of Wirral. This is another fantastic competition offered by the UBLC to students who can debate on a wide array of contentious topics, not limited to law but also questioning many wider societal issues.

## **Mooting (UBLC and Bar Society)**

Mooting is a specialised form of legal debating. Our programme helps 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.

## **Medical Law Society Annual Debate**

Sponsored by a prestigious law firm, the Medical Law Society host an annual debating competition alongside students from another UK law school, taking part in a round of debates culminating in a final debate on an unseen motion.



# Commercial awareness

Commercial awareness is essential if you want to pursue a commercial legal career in the City.

To build commercial awareness, students work with leading law firms to gain an understanding of how macroeconomic stories and trends in the news affect law firms and their clients.

## **Non-commercial law career paths**

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

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, or secure an internship, pupillage or mentor. Initiatives such as the Bristol Law Clinic and the Pro Bono Society 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](http://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](http://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 believe every student is unique, with different strengths and different ambitions.

# Diversity

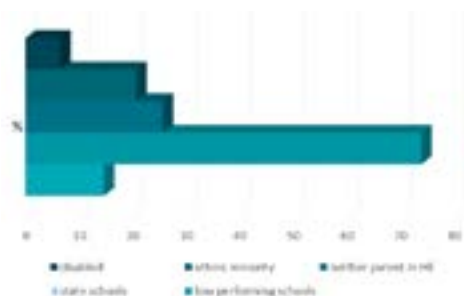
We offer diverse undergraduate units, a rich portfolio of LLMs and numerous opportunities to explore alternative careers with a law degree. Our academics are leaders in their fields and, like our students, come from diverse backgrounds from around the globe.

## 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 two main societies, the UBLC and Bar Society both won the prestigious 'Most committed to increasing diversity' award at the LCNCareers.net awards last year.

## Widening participation

Our recruitment stats from the 2017/18 domestic intake reflect our diverse student body:



## Providing support

The School is committed to providing a number of ways for students 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**, assisting overseas students with gaining merit for work experience undertaken in the spring or summer vacation periods.

For more information, see: [bristol.ac.uk/law/careers-and-employability/work-experience/international-internship-scholar-scheme](http://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: Daryl Seow**  
([ds17240@my.bristol.ac.uk](mailto:ds17240@my.bristol.ac.uk))

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: Felix Gibson**  
([fg14183@my.bristol.ac.uk](mailto:fg14183@my.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: Holly Murphy**  
([hm15614@my.bristol.ac.uk](mailto:hm15614@my.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: Hannah Berzins**  
([hb17598@my.bristol.ac.uk](mailto:hb17598@my.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 University of Bristol  
Pro Bono Society**

**President: Olivia Hunter**  
(oh16232@my.bristol.ac.uk)

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  
Women in Law Society**

**President: Eliza Kirby**  
(ek16825@my.bristol.ac.uk)

New to the School, the Women in Law Society aims to get the law to do more for women and get women to do more in the law. They are working to address issues faced by the legal sector regarding equality in the workplace and the progression of women into top, partner-level roles. They look forward to growing the society.

Getting involved means opportunities for work experience, mooting and debating, visits to chambers and courts, networking events, law and non-law careers advice and more.

# Events

## Postgraduate specific events

This year we will be working closely with the Careers Service and employers to showcase some postgraduate specific events such as:

- Support with finding a job back home
- Where Next: Confused about your future career?
- Finding the Right Job For You
- Finding an Internship
- Becoming an Entrepreneur
- Mock interviews and CV support

## Themed Weeks\*

### 1-12 October: Law Fortnight

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!

### 15-19 October: Finance and Technology and Innovation Week

Find out more about working in the world of finance and technology with talks hosted by firms on subjects such as FinTech and Intellectual Property law.

### 22-26 October: International Week

To coincide with the Careers Service International student employability week, we will be hosting a variety of sessions such as finding work in your home country, specific support for LLM students as well as a focus on international legal careers.

### 22-26 October National Pro Bono week

The Law Clinic will be hosting an information event to showcase their work and will be inviting speakers such as the Mayor of Bristol.

### 29 October - 2 November: Public Sector Week

During Public Sector week, a range of employers from this industry will be on campus in areas such as teaching and the Civil Service Fast Stream.

### 5-9 November: Government, Policy and EU Week

In a topical area of work at the moment, we will be inviting in speakers from a range of backgrounds to discuss the diverse careers available to you in working for the government or wider EU after Brexit.

### 12-16 November: Global Entrepreneurship & Start Up Week Week

Coinciding with the Careers Service themed week, we will be hosting a company start-up simulation workshop amongst a variety of other central events.



## Skills sessions\*

### Law Exhibition: 4 and 11 October

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!

### Application and CV Review Session

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

### Presenting Yourself with Confidence

Come to this session to make sure you are presenting the best version of yourself in your application, interviews and assessment centres for vacation schemes, internships or graduate roles.

### 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.

### Building Resilience

Learn how to build your resilience skills to set you up for the workplace and turn your setbacks into positive experiences.

## Join us on LinkedIn





Signing up to our Law School LinkedIn alumni group ensures you are well connected when you graduate.

Over 1,400 alumni are already signed up, providing the perfect opportunity to get networking and give yourself a head start with your career.

**Join at...**

**University of Bristol Law School alumni**  
[linkedin.com/groups/3004218](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3004218)

## Stay connected

-  University of Bristol Law School
-  @bristolunilaw
-  @bristolunilaw
-  University of Bristol Law School alumni

[bristol.ac.uk/law](https://bristol.ac.uk/law)