

Studying Law

June 2020



project access



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The goal of this webinar



Three goals of this webinar



Is Law for you?

What are these courses and what topics will you study?

What are the job prospects afterwards?



Where to study these courses?

Which universities offer degrees in Law courses and how do they differ?



Your Questions

What did you always want to know about studying Law?



Today's panelists

Who we are and what we studied



Cheam Tung Shaun



From: **Malaysia**

Undergrad: **BA Jurisprudence @ Oxford**

Year of study: **Rising 2nd year**

Legal Interests: **Corporate Law, Tax Law**

Internships: Malaysia – **Skrine, Wong & Partners**; UK
– **A&O First and Hogan Lovells First Year Scheme**

Role at PA: **Oxford Recruitment Officer**

Interests: **Swimming, Travelling, Dancing**



Siba Auf



From: **Austria**

Undergrad: **LLB Business-Law in Vienna**

Year of study: **3rd year**

Legal Interests: **Corporate Law, Civil Law**

Internships: **OPEC Fund for International Development, Postponed DLA Piper Spring Programme**

Role at PA: **Project Management Officer @ PA Austria**

Interests: **Piano, Diving, Fencing, Basketball**



Joseph Khaw



From: **Singapore**

Undergrad: **BA Jurisprudence @ Oxford University**

Year of study: **Incoming 1st year**

Legal Interests: **Corporate Law**

Internships: **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Allen & Gledhill, LVM Law Chambers, Anthill Ventures**

Role at PA: **Team Member @ PA Singapore**

Interests: **Cats, Reading, MUNs**



Introduction to Law

What does it mean to study Law?

What is Law

Law is

a social science that investigates the rules that govern personal, social, economic and political relationships. Its importance lies in the fact that it is located at the heart of any society that expects to function efficiently.

- Not simply memorising the black letter of statutes – will involve questioning if reform of the law is required.
- Requires both reviewing arguments academics have debated and applying your own independent thinking

Why study Law?

- Trains your critical thinking and ability to communicate reasoned arguments
- Develops transferrable skills that are useful in any job

The different jurisdictions

	Common Law	Civil Law
Major Source of Law	Legislative Statutes, Judicial Precedent, Custom, Convention, Practices.	Legislative Statutes & Codes
Case Law	Strong Reliance	Weak Reliance
Trial Format	Adversarial	Inquisitorial
Role of Lawyer	Debate and oppose	Advise and inform
Role of Judge	Referee	Examiner



Law in the UK

What is studying Law like in the
UK?

Law in the UK

Common Law System in the UK

- Unwritten Constitution
- Judicial Precedent

Example of Statutes

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Consumer Rights Act 2015

Example of Case Law

- R (Miller) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union [2017] UKSC 5
- Fagan v Metropolitan Police Commissioner [1969] 1 QB 439
- Donoghue v Stevenson [1932] UKHL 100

Examples of questions in law



Constitutional Law

Does the Human Rights Act 1998 give the courts too much say on political issues?



Criminal Law

Henri, a student enraged when his university's computer network fails for the fifth consecutive day, bangs his hand down on the terminal at which he is working, which belongs to his college. The blow damages the computer. Henri had not considered whether it would do so. Have any offences been committed?



Contract Law

Is the doctrine of consideration still relevant? Has it ever been?

Myth busters

“If you want to work as a lawyer in the UK, you have to study a law degree”



“You have to study law at A-Levels to study a law degree”



“It's all work and no play”



To become a barrister, there is the option to take the GDL to convert into legal study.



To become a solicitor, there is no degree requirement to take the SQE

You are at no disadvantage if you have not studied law at A-Levels.



While it is no secret that there is a lot of reading to be done, lawyers find plenty of time to relax and have fun!



Spotlight: Law @ Oxford

Law Moderations (Mods)

(Exams take place end of Term 2)

Year 1 (Term 1 & 2)

Constitutional Law

Criminal Law

Roman Law

Final Honour School (FHS)

(Exams take place end of Year 3)

Year 1 (Term 3)

Contract Law

Year 2

Tort Law

Trusts Law

Administrative Law

Land Law

Jurisprudence

Year 3

EU Law

Option 1

Option 2

A typical week in 1st Year...

- 2 tutorials ea. 1h, 2 essays ea. 10-30h, 3 lectures ea. 2h (Optional)



A look into joint honours degrees

Who should consider a joint
honours degree and how does this
affect the course?

Spotlight: Business-Law

Year 1

Introductory modules into

- business administration
- economics
- law

statistics and business
communication

**In the exams you have to
apply the learned contents
directly to cases**

Year 2 & 3

- **Private law:** Civil Law; Competition, Anti-trust and Intellectual Property Law; Business and Corporate Law
- **Public law:** Constitutional Law and General Administrative Law
- **Labour and Social Security Law, Tax Law**
- **Criminal Law**
- **Electives**
- **Specialisation in business administration**
- **Dissertation** (mandatory)

Other possible Law Degrees

Law and Anthropology

Law and Business

Politics, Philosophy and Law (PPL)

Law and Economics

Law with Criminology

Law with International Relations

Law and Sociology

Law and History

Law and Psychology

Law with French/ Law and English

Applying for Law

Insights into applying to UK
universities for Law

UCAS Application Deadlines

Oxford & Cambridge

- 15th October 2020

Equal Consideration (Most Unis)

- 15th January 2021

Late Application

- 30 June 2021

UCAS Personal Statement

What is it?

- 4,000 characters (incl spaces) or 47 lines (incl blank lines), **whichever comes earlier**
- Opportunity to demonstrate your suitability to study Law as a **subject**
 - Non-academic interests or activities should be linked to the **skills** and **experiences** required for the subject
- One personal statement will be used for **all your choices**

UCAS Personal Statement – Tips

Generic Advice

- Do **not** mention a university or college by name
- Be **authentic & original**
 - All personal statements are tested for similarity and admission tutors read thousands of them
- **No** spelling or grammatical errors

Content Breakdown

- Academic (75-80%)
- Transferrable Skills & Experiences (15%)
- Hobbies & Interests (5%)
- Summarise why you would be a good choice

UCAS Personal Statement – Tips

Law Specific

- **Interest** in law must be **clear** – extracurriculars, experiences, readings, etc
 - Why law?
 - What drew you to law?
 - How did you nurture your interest in law?
- Demonstrate **passion** and **commitment** for the subject
- Demonstrate relevant **competencies** – analytical skills, making reasoned arguments, communication, ability to form independent opinions

Studying Law ≠ Becoming a Lawyer!

Subject Tests – LNAT / CLT

Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT)

- MCQ (95 mins)
 - 42 questions based on 12 argumentative passages with three or four questions each
 - 5 choices per question
- Essay (40 mins)
 - One of three prompts
 - 750 words max
 - Essay must be **balanced**

Cambridge Law Test (CLT)

- Handwritten
- One essay question out of four prompts (60 mins)

Oxbridge Interviews – Overview

Simulates Close Contact Teaching

- Tutorial (Oxford) or Supervision (Cambridge)
 - Aims to ensure that applicants are well-suited to the close contact method of teaching, enjoy challenging discussions, and deal well with situations when their thinking is challenged
- Handled by the college you apply/are allocated to
 - Except Cambridge's overseas interviews
- At least two interviews usually

Common Tasks

- Discussion of one's personal statement
- Hypothetical-based interview
- Statute/Judgement-based interview (involves reading time)

Oxbridge Interviews – Tips

There may not be a “correct” answer

- Don't obsess over the end point, but focus on building the right process

Think out loud

- Show your tutor how you think
- Allows them to identify mistakes in logic and identify them for you

Don't assert, argue

- Make reasoned arguments and have a consistent position

Oxbridge Interviews – Tips

Defend your positions, but don't defend the indefensible

- Don't be afraid of backtracking if you realise a flaw in your argument

Be open to changing your point of view

- Listen carefully to the tutors' input and change your position if necessary

Tutors are there to guide you

- If you don't know what something means, just ask – but, you'll be expected to be able to apply it

Careers and Opportunities

The options are limitless – these courses teach you versatile skills, the extracurriculars matter too!

Legal Careers in the UK

	Barrister	Solicitor
Nature of work	Advocacy	Advisory
Work Pattern	Self-employed in a Chambers	Employed by a Law Firm
Qualification	1-year Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) + 1 year Pupillage	Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) + 2 years Training

Are you interested in Further Studies?

LLM

- Masters of Law
- Offered by most UK universities
- Great opportunity for in-depth study in your interested area of law
- Requires high 2:1 or 1:1

Oxford's BCL

- Bachelor of Civil Law
- Unique to Oxford
- Infamous for being more rigorous and intense than any other legal graduate program
- Very highly regarded, especially if you want to become a barrister
- Requires a 1:1

Q & A

You ask – we answer! What do you want to know about studying Law at university?

Q&A

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