

Law - Careers in Law

Careers FAQs

A guide for academic advisors

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers

Encourage your students to start thinking about their plans as soon as possible.

Key messages to drive home:

- **A degree is not enough to get a job (even from Manchester).** Remind your students that they need to develop a host of skills. They should apply for work experience, voluntary work and/or be active in their extra-curricular pursuits.
- **Start early.** Motivate your students to start thinking about their career plans from Year One onwards.
- **Use the Careers Service before applying for jobs.** The Careers Service can help students improve the quality of their applications and CVs. We can also help students prepare for interviews and selection tests.
- Encourage students to attend the school Getting into the Legal Profession (GILP) programme of case studies, talks and workshops to help enhance their employability.

What should students be doing in each year of study?

Here are some suggestions to help students learn more about career options, many of which are interchangeable between years:

Year 1

1. Starting to explore career options and reading up on legal roles e.g. types of solicitor, barristers etc. (see info under 'useful web resources').
2. Developing employability through work experience, a part-time job or getting involved with activities (volunteering, societies) outside their course.
3. Looking out for work experience opportunities or arranging their own through contacts. Note, some law firms offer opportunities for 1st years (insight days, workshops etc.) - look on *CareersLink* or check emails from the school.
4. Getting involved with student societies e.g. MULS, FLUB, Streetlaw and mooting.
5. Attending employer/careers sessions.
6. Being mindful that when applying for formal work experience e.g. vacation schemes and mini-pupillages, first year grades may be taken into account.

Year 2/Penultimate Year

For those interested in being a solicitor:

1. Autumn onwards - researching and applying for Christmas and/or Easter & Summer vacation placements
2. Attending the school GILP programme of events, Law firm presentations and the Law Fair (22 Nov).
3. Looking for relevant experience on the School of Law intranet e.g. volunteering at the Legal Advice Centre.
4. Applying for training contracts, particularly for large corporate commercial firms recruiting for 2014 - most have 31 July deadline.
5. Aug/Sept - training contracts interviews - arranging a mock interview at the careers service.
6. Looking at funding options for LPC.

Year 2/Penultimate Year

For those interested in being a barrister:

1. Researching the Inns of Court and chambers.
2. Attending the school GILP programme of events and the Law Fair (22 Nov).
3. Applying for mini-pupillages.
4. Checking www.pupillages.co.uk for pupillages with early application dates.
5. Attending pupillage fairs

Final Year

For those interested in being a solicitor:

1. Applying for (full-time) LPC course via www.lawcabs.ac.uk (applications from Oct 2011).
2. Continuing to research/apply for training contracts especially with smaller and medium-sized private practice firms.

For those interested in being a barrister:

Autumn:

1. Applying for the (BPTC) via www.barprofessionaltraining.org.uk - first round applications accepted between Nov and Jan.
2. Joining an Inn of Court (if not already done).
3. Applying to Inns for scholarship/bursary for BPTC (closing date usually late Oct/early Nov).

Spring:

1. Consulting www.pupillages.com for pupillage vacancies in March and ones outside the online system.

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What services do we offer students?

Careers Website: www.manchester.ac.uk/careers

Information on careers in the law and justice sector, postgraduate study, career talks, events and the Law Fair (22 November 2011) and more... Students use **CareersLink** to access jobs and to sign up for events (www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink)

Vacancies - a wide range of legal vacancies, including training contracts and vacation schemes, online.

Careers Resource Centre in Crawford House (open Mon-Fri 9-5pm all year round)

Guidance Appointments - 30 min - book in advance
Discuss options, getting started, career planning

Quick Query Appointments - 15 min - book on the day
Feedback on CV, covering letter, applications and interview tips, plus other brief queries

Mock Interviews - 30 min - book when students have an interview scheduled

Law firm presentations - sign up required for some events, see *CareersLink* for details

Manchester Graduate Internship Programme - paid work placements (mostly non-law) in Greater Manchester for 4-12 months for new graduates

What can you do with a Law degree from The University of Manchester?

Law - undergraduate destinations 09-10

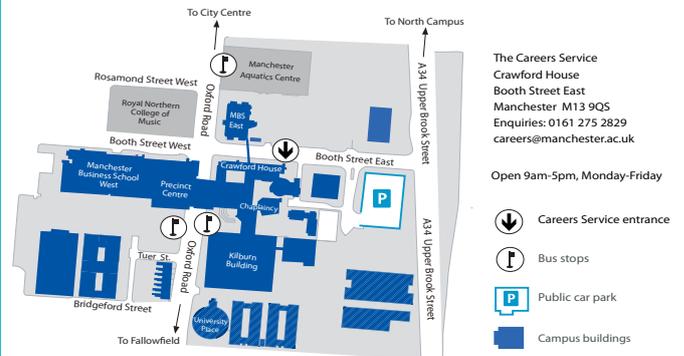
Of 175 students surveyed (EU/UK domiciled) six months after completing their course, 36 were in F/T employment, 10 in P/T employment, 13 in Work and Study, 72 in Further Study, 2 in Voluntary/Unpaid Work, 5 assumed to be unemployed, 9 not available for work, 8 explicit refusal and 18 unknown/no response.

Please encourage students to gain relevant work experience and to research career options early to reduce the risk of their transition into a career/further study being delayed.

Of those studying, majority were studying law - mostly the LPC but also BPTC or Masters.

Full time jobs include: Legal Costs Consultant, Assistant Legal Advisor, Paralegal, Trainee Lawyer, Trainee Accountant, Pensions Administrator, Project Co-ordinator, Recruitment Consultants (legal), English Teacher (Spain).

Where can you find us?



The Careers Service
Crawford House
Booth Street East
Manchester M13 9QS
Enquiries: 0161 275 2829
careers@manchester.ac.uk

Open 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday

- Careers Service entrance
- Bus stops
- Public car park
- Campus buildings

School Liaison Careers Consultants

Alison Metcalfe

alison.metcalfe@manchester.ac.uk

Dominic Laing

dominic.laing@manchester.ac.uk

Tel: 0161 275 2829

What other useful web resources are available?

For detailed information on careers in Law:

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/students/options/sectors/law
www.prospects.ac.uk/options_law_your_skills.htm
www.sra.org.uk and www.barstandardsboard.org.uk

Volunteering and Work experience e.g. vacation placements, mini-pupilages:

In addition to opportunities available through the school, for instance at the Legal Advice Centre, try:
www.lawcareers.net
Work experience: www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/students/jobsearch/workexperience
Law directories available free to take away in the Law School

For information on the Manchester Leadership Programme and Humanities Careers Management Skills module:

www.manchester.ac.uk/mlp
www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/cms/humanities

Useful graduate careers websites (career options, postgraduate study, etc):

Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk
Target Jobs: <http://targetjobs.co.uk>