



Supporting Law Applications



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the hub for sixth form leaders

Routes into the law: Law degree plus law training

- At least a 2.1 in a law degree and then further training and qualifications.
- For barristers, the one-year Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) followed by at least a 12-month pupillage in a barristers' chambers costs £12,000-18,000.
- Solicitors take the one-year Legal Practice Course (LPC) followed by a two-year training contract, usually with a firm of solicitors, or the legal section of a commercial firm or government department.
- LPC costs from £7,500-£14,000.



Routes into the law: Law degree plus law training

- A degree in subject other than Law can still lead to qualification as a solicitor or barrister by taking the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) before embarking on the LPC/BPTC although this entails an extra year's study and more expense. GDL fees range from £3,500 to £10,200, not including living and other expenses.
- The GDL prepares non-law graduates for a legal career covering foundations of law, contract, tort, criminal law, equity and trusts, EU law, property law and public law.
- Around a third follow this route but 50% of lawyers who have been to Oxbridge



Click the image above to watch an interesting Cambridge debate on merits of taking a Law degree before working in the law

Entry requirements for Law degrees

- Good GCSEs
 - The thirty or so most competitive courses require at least AAB or AAA or more
 - Law A level not required
 - Many law schools will require the LNAT test: www.lnat.ac.uk
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Helpful pointers!

- Qualities: work intensively, analytical, logical, draw fine distinctions, communicate and listen effectively
- Need knowledge of current legal issues in the news and of how British legal system work
- Not all law degrees are the same and not all are vocational
- In Personal Statement and interview be able to show how interest in law began and what has been done to develop it
- Problem solving activities to do with legal issues
- Court visiting



Law Personal Statement

- No formula
- Show individuality
- Commitment
- Work experience
- Wider reading
- Engagement with cases in the media
- Ability to write well and argue well

The UCAS logo is centered within a large white circle. The letters 'UCAS' are rendered in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is uniquely stylized, appearing as a red triangle with its base at the bottom and its apex at the top, pointing downwards.

UCAS

UCAS Advice...

Read more here:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/personal-statement-advice-law>

- Why you want to study law: bring this to life by focusing in on aspects of law that are of particular interest to you, how it relates to your current studies, and what additional reading you've embarked on. But keep it concise – three or so paragraphs is probably fine.
- How your skills fit: demonstrate that you have, or are developing, the skills needed for success in law – from public speaking to persuasive writing, or your meticulous attention to detail when writing essays.
- Current affairs: the University of Cambridge (and many other universities) like applicants who keep up-to-date with current affairs and who are interested in the legal implications of the latest news stories.
- Good written English: sentence construction, spelling, and punctuation are absolutely vital, and sometimes a cause for rejection.
- Combined course applications: if you're applying for law in combination with a different subject, make sure you demonstrate something relevant to the other subject too.
- What you've drawn from extracurricular activities: this is another good way to demonstrate your motivation, skills and enthusiasm for the course.

Get involved early!

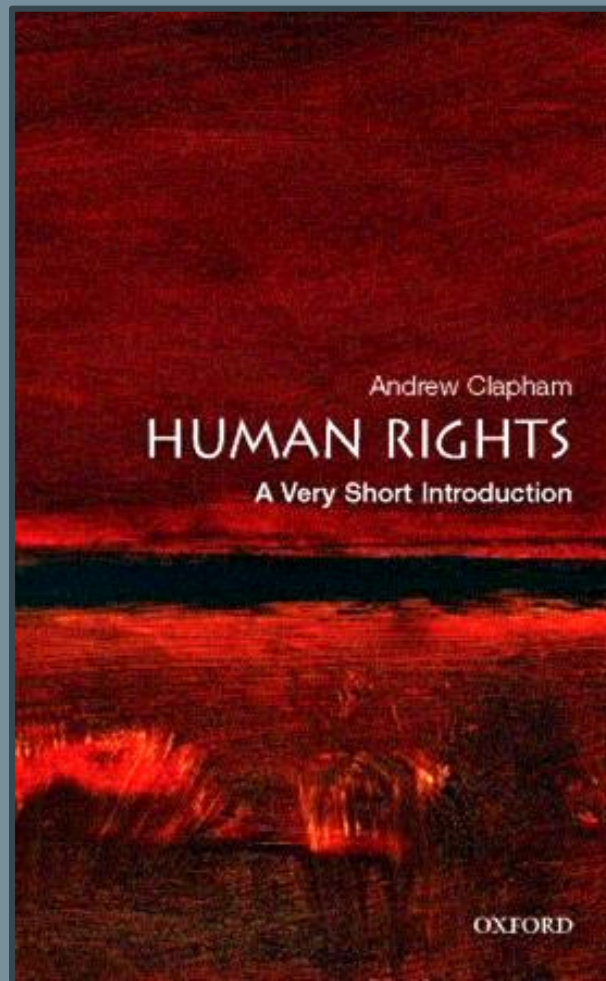
- A book you've read that had a legal dimension to it.
- Work experience, which could be in a solicitor's firm or a mini-pupillage, but equally could be shadowing at your local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), some charity work, or even your Saturday job.
- Visiting your local magistrates' court, the Crown Court, or your nearest employment tribunal.
- Join a debating club, or start your own. If you have the opportunity to conduct a personal project or the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), consider giving it a legal focus.



<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/personal-statement-advice-law>

Issues to think about...

- See law in context
- Law is not just criminal law
- Human rights issues
- Critical Thinking a good preparation
- Relationship between law and government, policy making, politics
- Laws about which there is not agreement: cannabis, detention
- Interest in the law in other societies
- Awareness of flaws in the law: corruption, bias, differing interpretations



Useful Resources

- Prospects: the UK's Official Graduate Website: good for careers advice, job descriptions, pay and conditions, contacts, case studies
- What About the Law: Studying Law at University by Barnard, O'Sullivan and Virgo (Hart Press)
- Becoming a Solicitor PDF on Law Society website
- How to Become a Barrister pages of Inner Temple website
- Philip Allan Law Review
- Being a Juror webpages good on how courts work



Visit Magistrates' and Crown courts

- Observe a case
- Background sheets about each case available.
- Exhibition about history and work of the supreme Court
- Experience the challenges of being a Justice activity in the exhibition



The screenshot shows the 'Visiting The Court' page on the official website of The Supreme Court. The page features a navigation menu with categories like 'Decided cases', 'Court procedures', 'Visiting The Court', 'About The Supreme Court', 'News and publications', and 'Current cases'. Below the navigation, there are several content tiles with red headers and white text, each containing a list of links. The tiles include: 'How to find us' (with links for Visiting us, Guided tours, and School & college tours), 'Exhibition' (with a link for Exhibition), 'Art at The Court' (with links for Art collection and New artwork), 'Architecture' (with links for The building, Archaeology, and Renovation), and 'Facilities' (with links for Courts, Cafe, and Shop). A vertical sidebar on the left contains a list of links: Court Sittings, How to find us, Exhibition - what's on, Art at The Court, Architecture, Facilities, and Venue Hire.



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Online Resources



Videos relating to the Faculty of Law at the University of Cambridge.

About this course

Videos: 16
Duration: 3 hours, 2 minutes

About the creator

CambridgeUniversity
479 videos
19,712 subscribers

Law

Lectures in this course (16) Hide watched

Votes for Prisoners? Democracy and the European Convention on Human Rights
Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights holding that the UK's blanket ban on voting by convicted prisoners violates Article 3 of Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights have caused controversy in the UK. Professor David Fel...



1,399 views

Why study Law at University if I don't want to become a lawyer?

A lot of people who study Law at University do so because they want to become practising lawyers, whether as barristers or solicitors, but it is not necessary to read Law at University to become a practising lawyer. Equally, studying Law at Univer...



by Graham Virgo | 7,444 views

House of Lords Reform

The House of Lords Reform Bill, which is currently before Parliament, is the latest of many attempts to reform the upper chamber of the UK Parliament. It is over a hundred years since the enactment of the Parliament Act 1911, which changed the bal...



by Dr Mark Elliott | 3,070 views

Law at Cambridge: Nicky Padfield

The Faculty of Law holds an annual Open Day for undergraduate students, at which members of the Faculty discuss the Faculty, the Cambridge admissions system, and the benefits studying Law at Cambridge. The Open Day gives potential students, and th...



by Mrs Nicky Padfield | 2,459 views

Law by CambridgeUniversity

7/16

Legal Problems: Graham Virgo and Janet O'Sullivan by CambridgeUniversity

Why study Law at University if I want to become... by CambridgeUniversity

Hannah, Law - 60 Second Impressions by CambridgeUniversity

Legal Aid Reform by CambridgeUniversity

Deporting Abu Qatada: the European Court of Hum... by CambridgeUniversity

Law by CambridgeUniversity

Right, good afternoon. My name is Graham Virgo and this is Dr Janet O'Sullivan and we are

00:03 / 44:09

Legal Problems: Graham Virgo and Janet O'Sullivan

CambridgeUniversity · 442 videos

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1,985

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The Faculty of Law holds an annual Open Day for undergraduate students, at which members of the Faculty discuss the Faculty, the Cambridge admissions system, and the benefits studying Law

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Listening Comprehension - Legal by JonTeachesEnglish 48,100 FEATURED

Law at Cambridge: Nicky Padfield by CambridgeUniversity 2,433 views

Admissions to Cambridge Law: Kirsty by CambridgeUniversity 2,971 views

Why study Law at



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Where do our laws come from?

The law covers everything from robbery to who owns washed-up whales (it's the Queen). But where does it all come from? Lawmaking in England is broken...



Understanding the criminal process

Once a person is charged with a crime they enter a maze of courts and appeals. Untangle the criminal process with this guide. Charging After the police...



Types of offence

How a criminal offence is tried depends on what kind of offence it is. Find out more about summary, indictable and either-way offences. Summary offences...



Civil laws and county courts explained

What is civil law? What are county courts? And what has it all got to do with a snail in a ginger beer bottle? Read on to find out. Civil law mainly handles...



Magistrates' courts explained

What is a magistrates' court? And what kinds of cases are handled there? Read on to find out. Nearly all criminal cases start in magistrates' courts...



Who can be a magistrate?

Most people imagine courts are run by an experienced, legally-trained judge in wig and robes. But many cases across the country are heard by community...

My job explained: Commercial lawyer

David Camp is a commercial law solicitor working at Baker & McKenzie in the city. Find out what his fast-paced life is like and discover why he finds the work so rewarding.

What inspired you to study law?

I studied history at university, and wasn't quite sure where it could take me. My parents are both lawyers so I visited a law fair, read a lot of student guides on law, and was accepted on two vacation scheme placements at law firms. I finally decided that being a solicitor was the job for me because I enjoyed my placements, and really wanted a job in the city.



How long did it take to train and what did the training involve?

After my degree, I did a law conversion course, which was intensive because it's basically a three-year degree condensed into one year. After that I did a one-year Legal Practice Course, where we were taught how to practically apply law in a work scenario. I didn't enjoy that quite as much, although it required much less work.

My training contract was at Baker & McKenzie. They gave me a choice of which departments I wanted to work in and I chose EC law and competition law. I also was sent to work with a client in Switzerland for three months. Baker & McKenzie kept me on after my contract finished, and I've been working there ever since!

Can you describe a typical working day?

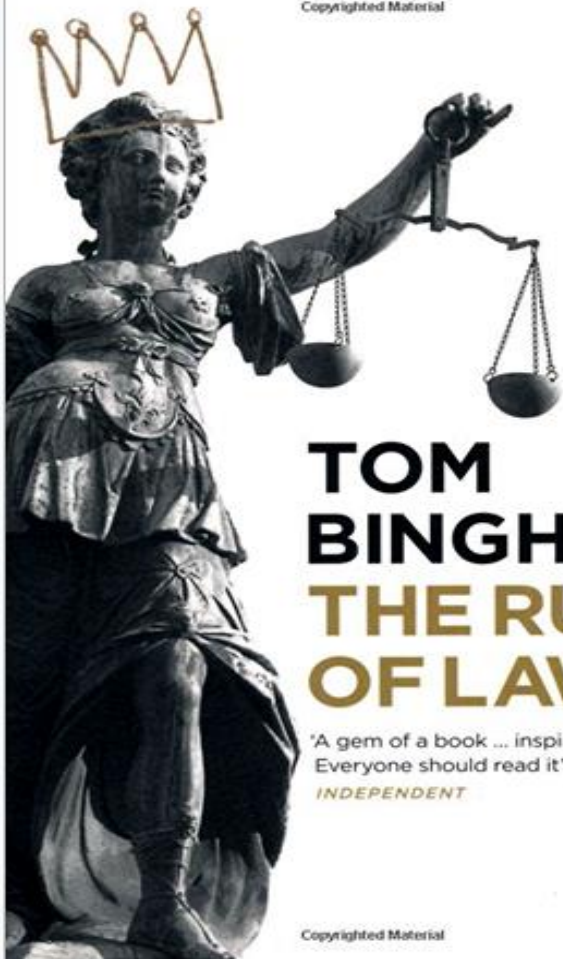
I usually arrive at my desk between 9am and 9.30am. A lot of my work will be based around contracts; speaking to clients about what they require and then making amendments. There is also quite a bit of reading and document management.

The Cases that Changed Britain

- Part One: 1785-1869:
<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article4159194.ece>
- Part Two: 1870-1916:
<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article4165490.ece>
- Part Three: 1917-1954:
<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article4179652.ece>
- Part Four: 1955-1971:
<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article4197113.ece>
- Part Five: 1972-2006:
<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article4204409.ece>



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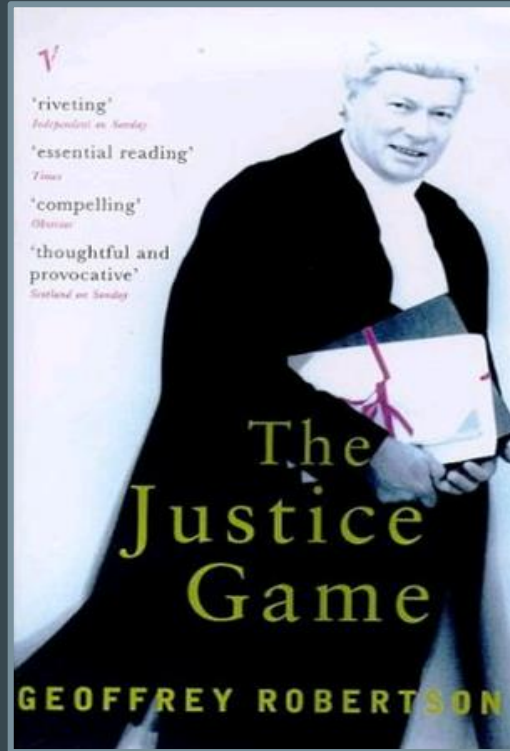
LAW

A Very Short Introduction

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Critical views of the legal system

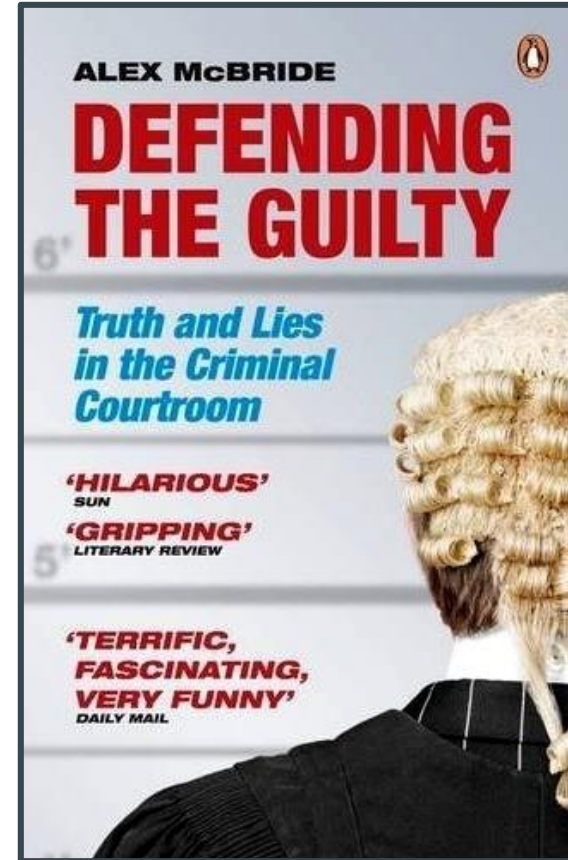


The Justice Game, Geoffrey Robertson



Just Law, Helena Kennedy

Entry requirements for Law degrees



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