

UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON



LAW SOCIETY

INFORMATION PACK

UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON LAW SOCIETY

WELCOME ADDRESS

On behalf of everyone at the Roehampton Law Society, a very warm welcome to the 2019/20 academic year. As one of the fastest-growing societies on campus, we offer a variety of academic, social and career opportunities to our members. As a law student, university can sometimes be demanding and overwhelming. I hope that you will find the Law Society a helpful guide, a strong support network and an enjoyable place to be during your time at Roehampton. During the academic year, our events will give you a detailed insight into a career in law, an opportunity to expand your network and exciting social occasions for you to attend. I look forward to welcoming you to flagship events such as the Law Fair, Mooting competitions and an End of Year Law Ball. Whether you wish to be a barrister, solicitor or pursue any other legal career we will do our best to guide and help you kick start your career. I hope you find your time studying law at the University of Roehampton enjoyable, and I look forward to seeing you at our events.

Yours Faithfully,
Jeffrey Arthur
President, 2019/20

To stay up to date with all our events follow us on:



@roehamptonlawsoc



@ur_lawsociety



Roehampton
Law Society



HOW YOUR DEGREE WORKS

Your LLB course will be three years in length.

First-Year: Although the grades you obtain do not count towards your degree classification, you must try and achieve the best grades possible, as they are considered by law firms and chambers when viewing applications. First year modules are compulsory and they consist of:

Law of Contract 1
Public Law and Human Rights
Criminal Law
Law Reform
Legal Systems, Ethics & Skills
Law in Practice 1: Legal Communication


Second Year: The grades you obtain in your second - year count towards your degree classification. Your second - year modules are also compulsory, and consist of:

European Union Law
The Law of Torts
Law of Contract 2
Law of Business Enterprises
Law in Practice: Commercial Awareness
Law of Property

Third Year: In addition to undertaking a compulsory Equities & Trusts module, you must pick 5 other modules to complete.

ACADEMIC GUIDANCE TUTORS

During welcome week, you will be assigned an Academic Guidance Tutor (AGT). Should you be unsure who your AGT is, you will find a list on the law school notice board on the third floor in the Duchesne building. Your AGT is there to ease your transition to university. Your AGT will be available to help and guide you through your time at Roehampton. To find out more about AGTs, please visit the University of Roehampton website and search 'Academic Guidance Tutor'.






STUDENT PORTAL: PROGRESSION, RESITS, MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

On your student portal, which can be accessed through the University of Roehampton website, there are links to all the information that you need regarding mitigating circumstances, resits, and the credits system. Should you have any further questions regarding progression, resits or mitigating circumstances, then please contact your AGT. The team at the law school will also be happy to answer any questions or worries you have regarding progression, resits or mitigating circumstances. Please contact Kevin Rogers, Deputy Head of Law School and Maris Kask-Polacko, Programme Convener, if you have any further questions.

OUTSIDE OF THE LAW SCHOOL:

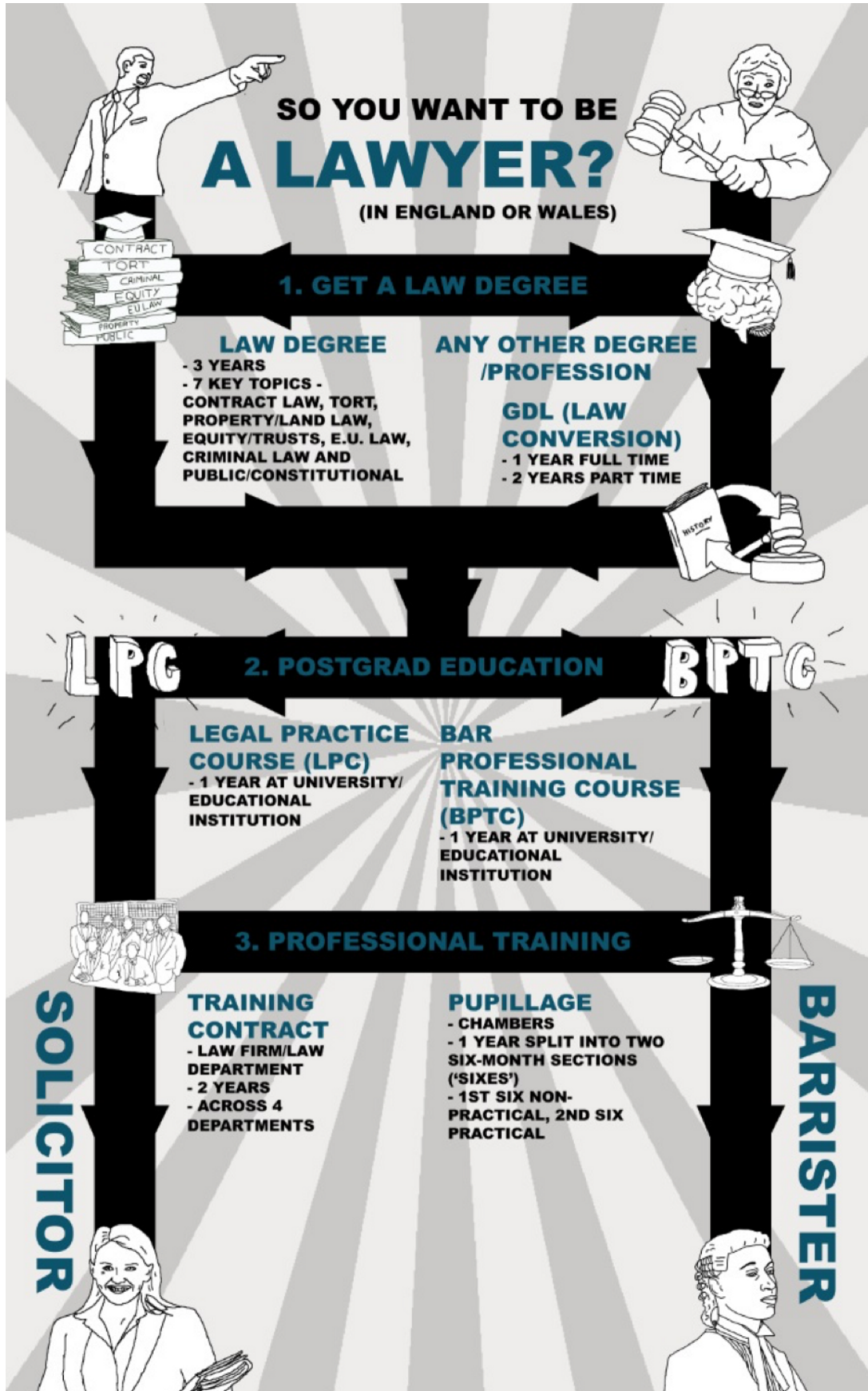
Although you are now a part of the law school, you are also a part of the wider Roehampton community, and so, if you need any help with any issue that may crop up throughout your time at university there are people you can talk to. Information on who to contact can be found on your student portal - there is a staff directory where you can search for specific people or links to resources. The Roehampton Students Union (RSU) is also a key part of the fun at Roehampton, as it is run by the students for the students; they are also on hand to help. They put on social events throughout the year (including non - drinking ones), and all information about tickets and events can be found at **www.roehamptonstudent.com**

If you would like to speak to a current law student, or ask any questions about studying law then please get in touch with any member of the Law Society committee. Our contact details can be found on page 10.



BECOMING A LAWYER

THIS GRAPHIC COURTESY OF LLMSTUDY.COM, EXPLAINS THE ROUTE TO BECOMING A SOLICITOR OR BARRISTER IN ENGLAND AND WALES. OUR EVENTS ARE DESIGNED TO HELP YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT A CAREER IN LAW THROUGH VARIOUS EVENTS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES. THE LAW SCHOOL'S CAREER ADVISOR, CHRIS NAUGHTON, IS ON HAND TO OFFER ADVICE ON APPLICATIONS AND ANY OTHER CAREER-RELATED QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.



MAKING YOURSELF MORE EMPLOYABLE

“In today’s competitive marketplace, employability skills are key. Law students tend to prioritise the acquisition of knowledge over the acquisition of skills, but this is not a good idea” (Legal Systems & Skills, 2017). Although good academics are important, prospective employers such as law firms, take a holistic approach to viewing each candidates application. You must develop along with good academics:

Your networking skills;
Your LinkedIn profile;
Extracurricular activities;
Commercial Awareness

NETWORKING

Essentially, networking involves building strong lasting relationships with others who can help you achieve your goals whether in your academic or professional life. You can improve your networking skills, by:

- Attending **Law Society Networking Events**;
- Attending networking events organised by **Bright Network, Legal Cheek and Aspiring Solicitors**;
- Creating a LinkedIn profile and connecting with like-minded people and professionals in your sector.

(For help with creating a LinkedIn profile, please contact Chris Naughton, the law school’s Careers Advisor. His contact details can be found on page 10)

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Whilst at Roehampton, there will be many opportunities to engage with societies, sports teams and other extracurricular activities. Prospective employers and law firms seek candidates who have a good academic record but also engage with extracurricular activities. To become a well – rounded person, and to gain valuable skills you should consider:

Joining a society (**We advise joining three: one associated with your academic studies, one associated with cultural, religious or general interests, and one where you can remain fit and active**);

Taking up positions of responsibility by running for a position on a society’s committee during elections;
Running in the RSU elections.

COMMERCIAL AWARENESS

What is it?

“Commercial awareness can simply be defined as staying up-to-date on daily happenings and developments in the business and commercial world. A significant portion of law today revolves around business and commerce in the marketplace, between cities and regions, and across geographies. Commercial awareness is, therefore, one of the key requirements that a good and competent solicitor needs to master” AllAboutLaw.co.uk

How do you become commercially aware?

You can increase your commercial awareness by keeping up to date with commercial news and understanding the impact they have on the legal and financial sector. Sign up to **Bright Network’s** or **The Corporate Law Academy’s** weekly updates on the important commercial issues facing law firms and their clients.

Why is it important?

“The role of a solicitor is not only a technician of the law but also a sound business adviser. This helps explain why firms are so keen for you budding lawyers to be commercially aware and not just a high achieving student. A lawyer must assist clients to achieve their business aims. As commercial awareness also involves being up to speed with the political, economic and social frameworks, firms only offer positions to those who can demonstrate this. Firms want to know you will keep up with being commercially aware after your training, so if you start it now and make a habit of remaining business savvy, this will benefit your applications” AllAboutLaw.co.uk

Key issues affecting law firms and the legal sector

Part of becoming commercially aware is understanding the impact that different issues have on law firms and the legal sector. Our termly briefs will contain articles about the key issues affecting law firms and the legal sector. Hopefully, our termly briefs will give you a better understanding of issues such as :

- The impact of Brexit on law firms and the legal sector;
- The impact of technology on law firms and the legal sector;
- How big a challenge the ‘Big Four’ pose to traditional law firms.



HELPFUL RESOURCES

Legal Cheek

A legal news website that aims to bridge the gap between the legal industry and law students through its many events that are great for networking and building commercial awareness. Through their free events, you will have the chance to network with partners, trainees and graduate recruitment teams from various law firms.

Aspiring Solicitors

“By providing information, advice, events, and one-on-one mentoring for Aspiring Solicitors, we aim to increase diversity within the legal profession” Aspiring Solicitors.

Bright Network


"Through empowering members with the tools, advice and insights you need to access brilliant opportunities at global companies, Bright Network ensures that you, as the next generation, find the future that you deserve. With 250+ leading partner employers and 200,000+ members already on board, Bright Network is future-proofing the workforce. Innovating how two sides of the job market connect, Bright Network enables companies to reach and recruit a diverse and inclusive pool of high-calibre talent and inspires and empowers the next generation to carve out their future". Bright Network

LawCareers.Net

An encyclopaedia of law firms, chambers, news, blog posts, insights and top tips for anyone trying to break into the legal world. LCN has great articles on hot topics to keep up with commercial awareness and perfect snapshots to learn about firms.

Chambers Student

A website with information about law firms, and what they specialise in, the bar and how it works, different practice areas and law schools. They also provide insights into what the training programme is like at different firms, with the input of trainees.





DIFFERENT TYPES OF LAW FIRMS

‘Magic Circle’ law firms

The Magic Circle refers to five UK- based firms “ considered to be amongst the most prestigious in the world” (Chambers UK) Their elite status comes from various factors, which includes their client base, revenue per equity partner and their international presence. The five members of the magic circle, in no particular order, are Allen & Overy, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Slaughter and May, Clifford Chance, and Linklaters.

The ‘ Silver Circle’ law firms

In essence, the silver circle refers to the band of firms that fall just below the magic circle when it comes to turnover, but post considerably higher profit per equity partner (PEP) and revenue per lawyer (RPL) averages than the rest of the nation's legal market. These are all traditionally considered to be London-centred firms too, though most of them have an international outlook and network of overseas offices (Chambers UK). The five members of the Silver Circle, in no particular order, are Travers Smith, Macfarlanes, Herbert Smith Freehills, Ashurst, and Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner.

Regional law firms

Some regional firms are large and might do work on a national level even if the firm doesn't have offices dotted across the country. Others are small to medium-sized outfits with their headquarters in a small city and several offices across one region of the UK. Others might just have one office in a provincial town serving local businesses and wealthy individuals. Like their London and big-city counterparts these are still commercial firms, distinct from high-street and public interest firms in that they don't take a chunk of their revenue from legal aid (Chambers UK).

National law firms

National firms are firms which have “at least three offices in England and Wales, and offices in different English Regions both in the North and the South; and at least three UK- wide or ‘national leader outside London’ Chambers UK ratings” (Chambers UK)



ADVICE FROM LAW STUDENTS

“Stay ahead of the curve with reading, it might seem like there’s no point in pre – reading but it makes lectures so much easier to understand” 2nd year law student.

“Law isn’t what it seems, its everything and more. It will change the way you view the world” 3rd year law student.


“Always seek feedback on your work. It will help you improve the quality of your work and your grades” 3rd year law student.

"Don't underestimate how important and helpful workshops are, Just go to them. No matter how boring you think they are" 2nd year law student.

"First year grades count when applying for vacation schemes and training contract. I found out the hard way" 3rd year law student.

"Need help? Ask" 2nd-year law student

"Having a lecture at 9am and going to grand or fez just isn't a good idea" 3rd-year law student.





IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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