



Teacher Champions

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Exploring Pathways to Law

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Session outline

Part 1: Making choices before applying

- Choosing the course
- Choosing the university
- Collegiate universities
- Outreach opportunities

Part 2: The Law application process

- What admissions teams are looking for
- The application process
- Supporting applicants
- Careers
- Myth busting & useful resources

Part One

Making choices before applying



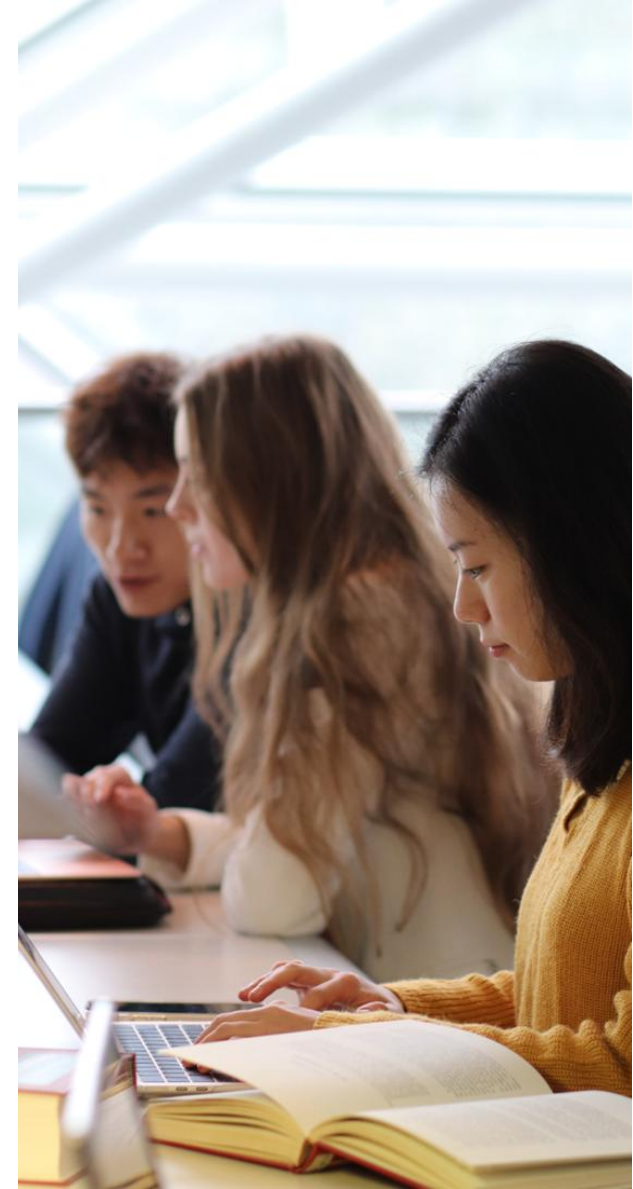
Choosing a course

- Course content
 - Topics covered – core modules / papers (and optional)
 - Inclusion of (seven) foundation papers
 - Dissertation or research project
 - Combining Law with another subject, such as a language
- Teaching style
 - Teaching methods
 - Contact hours
 - Size of teaching groups
 - Independent study
- Duration of course
 - Year abroad option
 - Work experience or internships



Choosing a course (continued)

- Assessment methods
- Entry requirements
 - Subject requirements
 - Is level 3 (A level or equivalent) Law required?
- Outcomes and employability
 - Graduate destinations
 - Employer links e.g. law firms
 - Career support
- Subject league tables



Foundation year

Foundation year is a stepping stone for students interested in studying Law who may have faced educational challenges

Apply via UCAS by January deadline

Check each university website for course details, eligibility criteria and entry requirements



Choosing a university

- Law course
- Facilities such as libraries, study spaces and accommodation
- Type of university: campus, city, collegiate
- Location
- Financial support
- University league tables
- Academic reputation



Collegiate Universities (Oxford and Cambridge)

A college is like a mini campus providing a base for students

Role of the College

- Admits students
- Academic and pastoral care
- Accommodation, meals and recreation
- Small group teaching (supervisions and tutorials)

Role of the University

- Determines course content
 - Organises teaching and timetables
 - Sets and marks examinations and awards degrees
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Collegiate Universities (Oxford and Cambridge)

- Apply to one College or submit an open application
(Students are allocated a College if offered a place)
 - College choice does not affect applicant's chances of success
 - Students at each College cover the same academic content, with the same lectures and exams
 - There is no "best" College for the course
 - Each collegiate university has multiple Colleges, which vary in size, age, character and location
 - Area Links Scheme: every UK region is linked to a Cambridge & Oxford College, giving schools and colleges a direct contact.
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University Outreach – Supporting Prospective Students

Delivered in person and/or online:

- Open Days – university, departmental and Oxbridge college
- Subject taster events
- Sample lectures
- Residential events
- Online courses
- Webinars
- Online resources



Part Two

The Law application process



What admissions teams are looking for

- Academic excellence
- Potential to cope with the demands of the course
- Motivation and enthusiasm for the course
- Evidence of aptitude for course and subject
- Demonstration of reading and subject exploration outside of school curriculum
- Evidence of good time management



Information used to assess applicants

Every application is considered individually, taking all aspects into account. No part of an application is considered in isolation. Universities differ in their application requirements, but information includes:

- Academic record
- Personal statement
- School/college reference
- Any written work submitted (if required)
- Performance in LNAT (if required)
- Contextual data
- Interview (if required / offered)
- My Cambridge application (Cambridge only)



The Law Application Process – most UK universities

Choose a
course

1



Choose a university

2



Book LNAT from 1
August (if required.
Sit LNAT by relevant
university deadline

3



UCAS application
(January)

4



Submit written
work (where
applicable)

5



Interview
(if required)

6



Decision
(by May)

7



The Law Application Process – Cambridge and Oxford

Choose a
course

1



Choose a college
or open application

2



Book LNAT from 1
August. Sit LNAT by
mid September

3



UCAS application (15
October)

4



My Cambridge
Application (1 week
after application
deadline)

5



Submit written
work (where
applicable)

6



Interview (usually
December)

7



Decision
(January)

8



LNAT (Law National Aptitude Test)

Some universities require the LNat for admission. It tests verbal reasoning, comprehension, inductive and deductive reasoning, and analytical capabilities for Law admissions. The LNat is not an intelligence test or a test of your knowledge of Law

- Test is 2 hours 15 mins:
 - Section A - 42 multiple choice questions on 12 argumentative passages (95 mins)
 - Section B - essay on 1 of 3 possible questions (40 mins)
- LNat tests are run by Pearson Vue at test centres across UK/world
- Registration usually starts on 1 August. Plan ahead & book early. Test centres fill up quickly!
- Sit LNat by October UCAS deadline for Oxbridge / January UCAS deadline for other unis.
- Access arrangements (e.g. extra time) must be approved well in advance.

£75 – UK/EU
£120 – non-UK/EU
Bursary support available.
Apply early!

More info at
www.lnat.ac.uk

- How to book
- Test centres
- Precise uni deadlines
- Example questions

Russell Group universities using LNAT

- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- Durham University
- University of Glasgow
- King's College, London (KCL)
- London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
- University of Oxford
- SOAS University of London
- University College London (UCL)

Note: Law courses at universities that do not require LNAT are not automatically lesser courses

An effective Law personal statement

- Showcases the student's passion and motivation for the course
- Highlights the skills and knowledge they have gained from formal education which can be transferred to a Law degree
- Explains how they have explored Law outside of formal education

Personal Statement – Top Tips

- **Make it ‘personal’** – admissions teams want to read students’ own ideas and interests in relation to Law
- **Cover interests** in the course, relevant subjects studied, skills learned, and supercurricular exploration
- **Show active steps** taken to explore the interest in Law
- **Be selective** – Focus on small number of good examples
- **Think critically** – What questions did examples raise? What are student’s opinions?
- **Only include** extracurricular activities and work experience if relevant to Law and/or show evidence of time management / organisation
- **Do NOT plagiarise** others’ work / personal statements

Supercurricular law exploration

Any activity that gets the student thinking about law and legal ideas, for example:

- Read an introductory law book, article or law blog
- Follow legal issues in the news
- Attend sample lectures or seminars run by universities (in person / online)
- Try a legal podcast
- Attend local Crown Court (in person / on demand) or Supreme Court
- Take an online course e.g. FutureLearn Exploring Law course
- Law department video resources

The Interview - outline

Some universities offer an interview as part of the application process – most commonly Oxford and Cambridge (interview round in December)

What interviewers are looking for:

- Interest, aptitude and motivation for Law
- Clarity of thought and analytical ability
- Enthusiasm for complex and challenging ideas
- Intellectual flexibility – being open to new ideas and applying existing knowledge and skills to new and unknown situations
- Potential to cope with the demands of the course

Note: all universities have their own criteria & approaches



Interview Structure

- 1, 2 or 3 interviews
- 20-45 mins each
- Conducted by Law academics
- Mainly academic and subject-focused

The Interview - preparation

How to prepare for the interview

- Stay on top of news and current events
- Review the application / personal statement
- Discuss academic or supercurricular work and legal topics of interest
- Practise thinking aloud & explaining reasoning behind answers
- Practise analysing legal texts
- Avoid rehearsed answers

Note: there is no dress code for interviews



Top tips for interview

- Read any texts thoroughly
- Listen carefully to questions
- Reason aloud
- Take a moment to think if needed
- Be yourself

The Decision

Conditional Offer (Acceptance)

Most offers are conditional on student achieving certain grades. Offers may also carry a condition for student to prove their English language ability

Unconditional Offer (Acceptance)

Offered less commonly.
Predominantly for post A level applicants

Rejection

Although not the desired result, it is important to support students with mental health and investigating alternative options. Including other universities, other courses, clearing and reapplying next year.

Bear in mind:

- An Oxbridge applicant may receive an offer from a Cambridge or Oxford college they did not apply to (pool system)
- The applicant can choose to accept or decline their offer but cannot choose a different Cambridge or Oxford college at this stage
- Oxford and Cambridge do not participate in UCAS Clearing
- Once students arrive at an Oxbridge college or at another university, nobody knows who applied direct or arrived there via the Pool or Clearing

How can teachers support students?

- Subscribe to university newsletters for law taster events and subject information sessions
- Encourage students to sign up to newsletters and attend outreach events
- Identify & share useful subject and application resources
- Follow Law department & Link Area college social media accounts
- Encourage applications – we can only offer places to those who apply!
- Support applications – read through personal statements & offer mock interviews
- Contact university outreach staff for advice at university, departmental or Oxbridge college level
- Encourage & signpost supercurricular exploration
- Keep informed of changes in application processes

All Law courses require Law at A level X

- Some BA Law and LLB courses have no subject requirements.
- If there are no subject requirements, A level Law will not necessarily put an applicant at an automatic advantage or disadvantage.
- Each applicant is assessed individually, and admissions teams will want to find out *how* the student thinks, instead of what they already know.
- The majority of Law applicants haven't studied Law. The first year will give everyone a thorough overview to get up to speed.
- Essay subjects are considered good preparation for Law at university but students from other academic backgrounds can also do well
- Check each separate course for entry requirements

All Law students have to go into the legal profession X

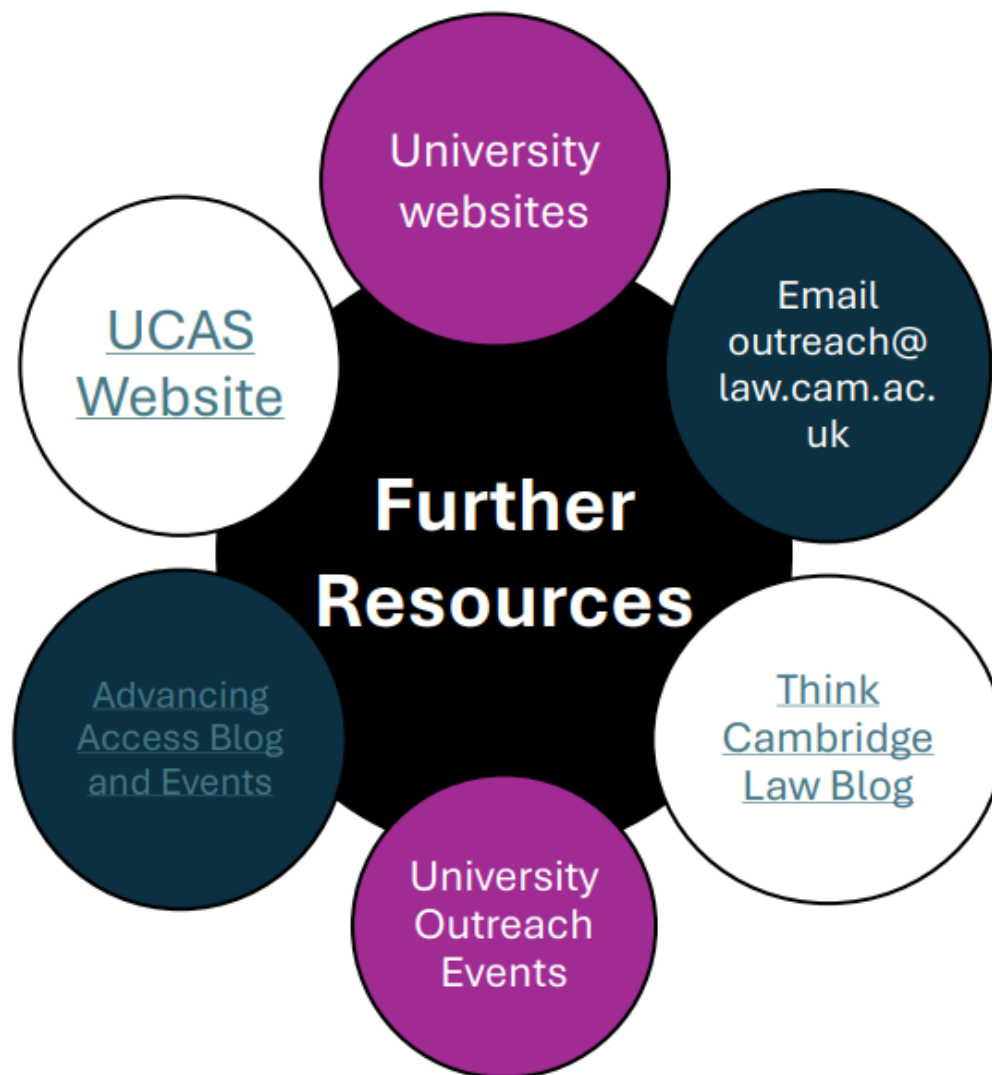
- Although a majority of Law students go on to law careers, many follow different paths
- A Law degree develops highly transferable skills, valued across a wide range of industries
- Transferrable skills include critical thinking, problem-solving, research, analysis, persuasive writing, negotiation and an understanding of how rules and systems operate
- Some students use Law as a starting point, combining it with further study in areas like economics, criminology, public health, international studies or education
- Law courses vary greatly. Some are more academic and theoretical, others more practice-based and career-oriented

Beyond Law at University

Law opens the door to a wide range of careers:

Careers with Law	
Legal profession	Barrister, solicitor, judge, legal adviser, paralegal, researcher
Public service & government	Civil service, diplomacy, local government, policy
Business & finance	Banking, management consultancy, recruitment
Creative & media	Arts management, journalism, broadcasting, film
Community & charity	Police or probation service, property & housing, youth work, charity work
Professional & specialist	Teaching & research, data protection, environmental campaigning
Sport & entertainment	Sports management, event management, venue management

Further resources



Thank you for listening

Questions?

