

Law for Non Law Students

Version 9.16

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You are advised to check material facts as although every effort has been made to ensure that the information given in this leaflet is up-to-date, reviews of legal education and training requirements are continually in progress and information is subject to change.

Qualifications & Courses

Do I need an Undergraduate Law degree to practice law?

No. Non-law Graduates are encouraged to consider a career as a lawyer. To practice as a Solicitor or Barrister in England and Wales, you need to take a one year (if full time) post graduate conversion course, the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), (sometimes called the Common Professional Exam (CPE)). This is recognised by the regulatory bodies and gives you the same status as a law graduate.

What further courses/training do I need to do to qualify as a Solicitor or Barrister?

After completing a recognised GDL/CPE, you need to complete:

For Solicitors:

- the Legal Practice Course (LPC), often referred to as the ‘vocational’ stage, plus;
- The Training Contract – also known as a Period of Recognised Training (PRT) - a two year period of work-based learning. This includes the Professional Skills Course, a compulsory test to be completed during the 2 years, and is usually arranged by the employer.
- A comprehensive guide to qualification can be found at www.sra.org.uk/students/resources/student-information.page
- A guide to what the role of Solicitor actually involves can be found at: www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_legal_profession.htm

For Barristers:

- Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), plus;
- Pupillage – at least 12 months' of paid, work-based learning. A guide to what the role of a Barrister actually involves, as well as training requirements and career progression can be found at:
www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_legal_profession.htm

Are there any other ways to qualify as a lawyer?

Yes. There have been recent changes that are opening up many other non-traditional routes to qualifying as a Solicitor and Barrister.

The Legal Executive route is one way, or is a career option in its own right, working in a law firm while you study on a part-time basis. Legal Executives have their own clients, have advocacy rights and can be Partners/Directors of law firms. They can specialise in all areas of law, but may tend to become more specialised earlier on in their careers than Solicitors.

The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX) is the professional body representing qualified and trainee Chartered Legal Executives, and they provide a graduate fast track Scheme which is suited to those with extensive and on-going work-based experience. The situation is changing all the time, so keep up to date via the CILEX website www.cilex.org.uk

A profile detailing the work of a Legal Executive, their training and career progression is at:

www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_legal_profession.htm

Since 2014, it is possible to qualify as a Solicitor via the Paralegal route. Nicknamed the 'Paralegal short-cut' this allows LPC graduates, who have sufficient work-based experience to satisfy assessment by the Solicitors' Regulatory Authority (SRA), to assume the same status as a Newly Qualified Solicitor. This is usually a longer process and the requirement for providing detailed supporting evidence of your experience is critical,

but more detail can be found at:

www.sra.org.uk/students/resources/equivalent-means-information-pack.page

Does it make a difference where I study?

It can do. A number of institutions around the country offer the GDL, LPC and BPTC. Courses are run in different formats and it is possible to study full time, part time and by distance learning (partial distance learning is available for the BPTC).

If you have secured sponsorship (see below) for the GDL and/or LPC from an employer offering you a Training Contract, they may require you to attend a specific course at a specific location. You should check this with the firms you intend to apply to before choosing where to apply to do your GDL/LPC. Also, LPC providers may have their own requirements about where students must have completed their GDL so it is best to check.

Some LPC providers offer courses with a specialism which may be of interest to students with specific career interests. You are advised to find out as much about the academic programme, links with the profession and facilities available before making an application.

Fees and funding

How much will it cost?

Legal training is expensive. You need to consider carefully the financial implications before embarking on any course. It is worth noting that the LPC and BPTC are vocational, meaning they are valuable only to those wishing to become a Solicitor/Barrister. Unlike your degree, it has little or no transferrable value in itself.

Expect to pay somewhere between £9,120 and £11,500 for the GDL, between £9,500 and £14,750+ for the LPC and between £13,000 and c. £18,150 for the BPTC (for full time courses starting in 2017). Add to this your living costs for the year and you will see it is a considerable financial undertaking.

Is it possible to get funding and/or sponsorship?

Sources of finance are scarce and very competitive, and some undertake this training on a self-financing basis. Deadlines for funding opportunities are often early. To make sure you apply in plenty of time, check the details on the websites mentioned in the sections below.

Solicitors – financial assistance from firms

Students who have secured training contracts with international, City or large regional organisations will usually receive financial assistance from the firm for the cost of the GDL and/or LPC and even additional living allowances. Similarly, the Government Legal Service and Crown Prosecution Service have in the past offered financial assistance to their future trainees. Smaller organisations are less likely to cover all costs, but may make some contribution and it is always worth asking.

See www.lawcareers.net for a searchable list of legal employers offering training contracts to find out if they offer financial assistance. Employers offering financial assistance usually recruit to their training contracts two years in advance of the start date.

Solicitors – other sources of funding

Other sources of funding include; the Law Society Bursary Scheme, Law Society Diversity Access Scheme, high street bank loans, Professional and Career Development Loans (not available for the GDL), awards, scholarships and charitable grants. Details of all of these sources can be found on the Junior Lawyers Division of the Law Society website <http://juniorlawyers.lawsociety.org.uk/advice-support>

They also have a helpline to provide prospective students with information regarding financial help: 0800 856 131.

Financial support may also be available from the institutions offering the GDL and LPC in the form of scholarships, grants and competitions, check with each provider that you are considering applying to.

Barristers – scholarships from the Inns of Court

Prospective barristers must join one of the Inns of Court before the end of May of the year they intend to commence the BPTC. However deadlines for scholarships are usually in early November. There are four Inns, each offering competitive scholarship schemes, mainly for the BPTC but there are also some available for the GDL. It is worth noting that applications can only be made to one Inn. For links to each of the Inns of Court, see the Bar Standards Board website

www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/current-requirements/pupillage/training-during-pupillage/inns-of-court/

Barristers – other sources of funding

Other sources of funding for the BPTC include; the Bar Loans Scheme, other high street bank loans, pupillage draw-downs, and Career and Professional Development Loans. A comprehensive overview can be found at

www.barcouncil.org.uk/careers/general-information-and-faqs/funding-and-scholarships/

Financial support may also be available from the institutions offering the GDL and BPTC in the form of scholarships, grants and competitions, check with each provider that you are considering applying to.

Local Authority Grants

Your local authority will have information regarding their mandatory and discretionary award policies. Legal training falls into the category of discretionary awards. Contact your local authority for information. For further research see www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study.

Applications

Do organisations prefer law graduates to non-law graduates?

Not as a rule. The legal sector is undergoing considerable change and employers are taking a more flexible, open approach to recruitment.

Employers see real benefits to a non-law degree. They welcome experience in a subject offering a different perspective and approach. For example, consider the advantages to an international law firm of a candidate with an undergraduate degree in languages. Science graduates are always welcome to apply. Your different work experiences may also offer something valuable.

I have done some law modules, will this help my application?

It may do. Your law modules are useful to illustrate your commitment and interest in law. To check whether your law modules will exempt you from any parts of the GDL you will need to provide specific details of your degree to either the Solicitors Regulation Authority or Bar Standards Board.

Further information on exemptions can be found on the Central Applications Board website www.lawcabs.ac.uk

Do I need high academic qualifications?

Yes. An excellent academic record and a range of personal skills and abilities will be critical. Although it may be possible to get onto a GDL, LPC or BPTC course with a 2:2, many firms of Solicitors/Barristers' Chambers expect at least a 2.1 or above and good 'A' level (or equivalent) grades.

A consistent high academic performance is very important; however exceptional circumstances may be taken into account in an otherwise strong application.

How and when do I apply for the GDL/LPC/BPTC?

Applications for the full time GDL need to be made to the Law Central Applications Board www.lawcabs.ac.uk/ There is no longer a deadline for this but early applications are advised to secure choice of provider and location. You should apply from early October onwards in your final year at University.

There is no longer a deadline for the LPC but early applications are advised to secure choice of provider and location. The first round of applications for the BPTC closes in January and again early application is advised.

All full-time LPC courses should be applied for through the Central Applications Board online system www.lawcabs.ac.uk. The Solicitors' Regulatory Authority (SRA) has recently relaxed its entry requirements, but does require disclosure of issues relating to 'character and suitability'. If there are such issues, such as Criminal record or bankruptcy, students are advised to contact the SRA before enrolling on the GDL or LPC. For full details see:
www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/handbook/suitabilitytest/content.page

Applications to study the LPC on a part-time or distance learning basis tend to be made directly to the institution.

Applications for the BPTC must be made through the Bar Standards Board central application board <https://www.barsas.com/>.

All students applying to do the BPTC need to pass the Bar course aptitude test (BCAT) before beginning the course. Important deadlines and further information about this test, which assesses your critical thinking skills, can be found on the Bar Standards website:

www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/becoming-a-barrister/

I want to practice outside of England and Wales, what qualifications/training do I need to do?

The information in this leaflet is valid for England and Wales - separate arrangements exist for other jurisdictions:

- For Northern Ireland, see the Law Society of Northern Ireland www.lawsoc-ni.org and the Bar of Northern Ireland www.barlibrary.com
- For Scotland, see www.lawscot.org.uk/education-and-careers and the Faculty of Advocates www.advocates.org.uk
- For the Channel Islands, see www.jerseylawsociety.je/ and www.guernseybar.com/
- For the Isle of Man, see www.iomlawsociety.co.im.

Work Experience

Do I need to get legal work experience?

Yes. As with any career, work experience confirms your aspiration to work in the legal sector and demonstrates this to future employers. In a competitive market, you must gain exposure to law in practice to demonstrate your interest in and understanding of different practice areas. All work experience is valuable, from informal work shadowing to paid vacation placements and mini pupillages.

There are also opportunities for taster days and summer schools for you to experience what it would be like to study the GDL and work in law.

What is a vacation placement?

Larger law firms offer paid vacation placements which are structured to allow you to experience different areas of work. These are usually aimed at final year non-law students and are mostly available over the summer vacation, with some firms also offering Christmas and Easter placements too.

Applications for paid vacation placements are competitive and are often the first step to gaining a Training Contract. There are strict deadlines so be sure to check which firms are offering paid vacation placements and diarise the deadlines. See:

www.lawcareers.net/Solicitors/WorkPlacementDeadlines.aspx

If you are not able to secure a formal scheme, it is also possible to find informal work experience in smaller firms. Research firms by practice area on www.lawcareers.net or www.lawsociety.org.uk/choosingandusing/findasolicitor.law and apply speculatively using a strong CV and covering letter.

What is a mini pupillage?

For those interested in the Bar, mini-pupillages and short work experience attachments are offered by some sets of Chambers. A mini pupillage may last between a few days and two weeks, working alongside a Barrister. The work will differ depending on the Barrister's practice and his/her current cases. Some Chambers run assessed mini-pupillages, which give you the chance to demonstrate your potential for a career at the Bar. There is a searchable list of Chambers offering mini pupillages on www.lawcareers.net/barristers/minipupillages.aspx

What if I don't secure a vacation placement or mini pupillage?

Think more broadly about the potential opportunities to gain an insight into legal work. For prospective Solicitors, check with the firms you are interested in to see if they are holding an open day. Try in-house or smaller firms, and consider pro-bono and community legal advice centres

such as the Citizens Advice Bureau. For advocacy experience, consider marshalling a judge, shadowing a local Barrister, mooted competitions and pro bono work such as the Free Representation Unit. Contact your local Courts to explore opportunities.

Work experience in non-law settings, or voluntary work in the community, can also demonstrate a wide range of transferable employability skills and qualities valued by legal recruiters.

Applications for Training

How and when do I apply for training contracts?

The training contract starts after completion of the LPC. The recruitment cycle for larger commercial firms is usually two years in advance of the start date. There is an unofficial deadline of July 31st of that year, ie for non-law students, apply in your final undergraduate year of study.

Medium to small firms may recruit one year before the start date, whilst some smaller local or niche firms have deadlines in the year you would be expected to start. You are advised to apply as early as possible as, with high numbers of applications, recruiters often begin sifting before the closing date.

Individual firms will have a preferred method of application. Some use application forms which are usually online, some require a full CV and covering letter and some even require an application form and CV.

You can view a searchable list of training contracts, along with application details and deadlines on www.lawcareers.net

Training contract vacancies are also listed on CareersLink, the Careers Services' job database www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink

How and when do I apply for pupillage?

For barristers, you will start pupillage after completing the GDL and the BPTC. This is a one year period of supervised training, usually as two six

month seats. All pupillage vacancies are advertised on the Pupillage Portal www.pupillagegateway.com

Some sets use the portal for applications others require you to apply directly. Check the preferred application methods of the sets of chambers you are interested in.

Be aware of the recent changes in the deadlines for applications. The system currently runs from April, when the system opens, to August when offers must be accepted. **NOTE: From 2016** this window for applications opens mid-January with offers to be made at the beginning of May.

If you are applying to chambers directly, check their individual closing dates.

How do I choose where to apply?

This involves your research! Think about the type of organisation/Chambers you want to work in, the sort of work you want to do and where you want to be based. Use the experience you have gained so far to inform your choice. Read as much as you can about different areas of law, and the specialist areas dealt with in firms or Chambers. It is always useful to talk to current trainees/pupils, so attend any law firm presentations, pupillage fairs and the Law Fair held on campus.

Directories have detailed information on training contracts at individual firms. See the list of directories at the end of this leaflet, available in hardcopy at the Careers Service and in the School of Law.

You may wish to consider in-house legal work within a business, company or organisation, working for a charity or for a public sector organisation such as the Government Legal Service.

How competitive is it?

Competition for both training contracts and pupillage places is high. Figures suggest an average of over 100 applications are received for every training contract position. Recent news suggests that the number of training contract places, whilst improving in line with an improving

economy, is not rising to meet the number of LPC graduates. Completion of the LPC is no guarantee of getting a training contract.

Information is available about the number of students who take the BPTC each year and the availability of pupillages. Figures suggest as few as one in twenty BPTC graduates successfully secure pupillage as the number of pupillage places available each year is falling. Following completion of pupillage, self-employed Barristers must then secure a tenancy in a set of Chambers. The Bar Standards Board publishes figures online at www.barcouncil.org.uk/about-the-bar/facts-and-figures/statistics

To encourage students to think carefully before embarking on the BPTC, a health warning has been produced by the Bar Council, Bar Standards Board and Inns of Court. To read the full document, go to: [www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/media/1768892/health warning for prospective bar professional training course students.pdf](http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/media/1768892/health_warning_for prospective_bar_professional_training_course_students.pdf)

It is important to remember that competition for training contracts and pupillages is compounded with some students taking time out before reapplying. BPTC graduates are eligible to apply for pupillage for up to five years after completing their course.

How many applications should I make?

Applications are time consuming, and usually take up much more time than anticipated, particularly at the outset. If you have done some careful and focused research, this will help you in deciding where to direct your applications. Apply to the number of firms that fit your criteria, and then make as many good quality applications as you have time to make. Quality is always better than quantity. Have your draft application checked by the specialists at the Careers Service to make sure you are on the right track.

What should I do if I have not secured a training contract before I embark on the GDL and/or LPC?

If you are hoping to secure sponsorship from an employer for your GDL and/or LPC you are advised to apply to those organisations who recruit two years in advance. If you have been unsuccessful in your applications you will need to give some serious thought to the financial implications of embarking on the GDL and/or LPC without sponsorship.

It is possible to secure funding from other sources (see funding section above) and some students decide to self-fund through part-time (and sometimes full time) work alongside their course. Flexible study options now mean that it is possible to study in the evenings and at the weekends, however students are expected to put in a large amount of self-study time outside of formal contact hours.

You may wish to discuss your ideas with a Careers Consultant to help you decide whether to embark on the LPC without the security of a training contract at the end of your course.

How can I make my application stand out?

Feedback from recruiters tells us that a strong application must:

- Be well researched and targeted to the specific recruiter
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of what a career in law involves
- Demonstrate clearly why you want to practice their area of law, and why you would like to work for them, specifically
- Be neatly and correctly presented (no spelling mistakes or typing errors)
- Draw on a wide range of experiences from formal work experience to extra-curricular activities and part time work
- Demonstrate strong academic potential with consistent high academic grades

Other frequently asked questions

If I complete the BPTC, can I switch to practice as a Solicitor?

No. However, BPTC graduates may be eligible for some exemptions from the LPC. The decision will be up to the LPC course provider so check it out directly with the provider first. Exemptions details are at:

<http://www.sra.org.uk/students/lpc.page>

Does paralegal work increase my chances of securing a training contract?

Paralegal work has doubled in the past decade and in an increasingly specialist and IT driven sector, this is set to increase. A broad title, a Paralegal role can vary enormously, and entry level can be from school, Undergraduate or Postgraduate levels. Many may have completed the LPC qualification.

Paralegal work provides practical, hands-on legal experience in areas such as; litigation, corporate, commercial property, banking, employment, insolvency and personal injury. This experience may count towards the period of work based learning required to qualify as a Solicitor.

As competition for training contracts increases, some legal recruiters employ LPC graduates into Paralegal roles, with the potential of an offer of a training contract after a fixed period, usually from one year. Students considering applying for paralegal vacancies should discuss the prospects of progressing on to a training contract with the firms they are interested in.

A profile detailing the work of a paralegal, including entry requirements, training providers and sources of vacancies, is available at

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/paralegal>

If I cannot get a training contract or pupillage would an LL.M help?

We would advise that you carefully consider your motivation for embarking on an LL.M. Much will depend upon finances, and whether the organisations you are interested in attach any value to the LL.M you are considering.

So, seek the views of the firms/Chambers that you are interested in. See the list of law firm presentations and attendees at the Law Fair for opportunities to talk to law firm representatives.

Many firms/Chambers value more practical pre-entry experience rather than further study so it is important that you consider the value of an LL.M in the context of the rest of your experience.

What other careers are there in the legal sector?

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

The CPS represents the Crown in the prosecution of criminal cases and offers opportunities for qualified Solicitors and Barristers, and a range of other careers such as caseworkers, witness care officers etc. See www.cps.gov.uk for more information.

Government Legal Profession

Government lawyers provide legal advice to government departments and assist in formulating legislation in Central Government.

Both training contract and pupillage opportunities exist. Recruitment is two years in advance. See www.gov.uk/government/organisations/civil-service-government-legal-profession .

Local Government Lawyers

Local Authorities in England and Wales employ solicitors to advise on policy formation, property, child care & protection, commercial, litigation and planning. See www.slgov.org.uk.

In-house lawyers

In-house lawyers are employed by commercial and industrial businesses and organisations and deal exclusively with their employer's legal business. Not-for-profit organisations, such as charities, are also beginning to recruit their own in-house lawyers. There is no single source listing Training Contracts in-house, and some research is required. A useful reference guide is: <http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk/?Pro=True>. Enter the name of an organisation and it will show the current lawyers, if any.

This is, however, constantly changing as the legal sector continues to expand following de-regulation. More opportunities will become apparent in this sector as the market shifts.

You will also find a small number of in-house training contract opportunities listed on www.lawcareers.net, if you look in the training contract search and select 'in-house' in the 'type of practice' box. For more information, contact:

- The Commerce and Industry Group
www.cigroup.org.uk
- The Bar Association for Commerce, Finance & Industry
www.bacfi.org

Legal Executives (CILEX)

See earlier under 'Are there other ways to qualify as a lawyer'.

Many qualified CILEX choose to become qualified Solicitors by taking the Legal Practice Course (LPC) and those with sufficient work experience as a Legal Executive may be exempt from the training contract. It is not the quickest route to qualifying as a Solicitor, but does allow you to earn as you study and offers valuable practical learning and work experience.

Paralegal work

Includes anything from the type of work you could expect as a trainee solicitor, to legal administrative work. It can provide good experience for those yet undecided about a career in law, or is equally a career in its own right.

Although you do not need any legal qualifications to become a paralegal, in practice, many firms expect paralegal applicants to have completed an appropriate vocational qualification. See the Institute of Paralegals website www.theiop.org for information on routes to qualification. There is a profile detailing the work of a paralegal, including training requirements and sources of vacancies available from <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/paralegal> .

Legal aid

There have been, and continue to be, dramatic changes and cutbacks to Legal Aid in recent years which affect the provision of services. Keep fully appraised at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/legal-aid-agency .

Law centres

Non-profit-making legal services funded through local authorities. See local and national press for job vacancies. See also the Law Centres Federation for information and vacancies www.lawcentres.org.uk .

Citizens Advice Bureaux

Provide similar services to law centres, such as advice on debt, benefits, housing and immigration. Most offer legal advice and some employ in-house lawyers. See www.citizensadvice.org.uk for more information.

Court reporting

Involves recording verbatim court hearings. Requires no legal training, but in practice it can be advantageous. See the British Institute of Verbatim Reporters www.bivr.org.uk

Court work

Her Majesty's Courts Service recruits qualified Solicitors and Barristers as Justices' Clerks. In the Magistrates' Courts, Clerks advise lay magistrates on matters of law and procedure. The role also involves managing the overall running and administration of the courts.

See www.justice.gov.uk/about/index.htm for more careers information.

The Law Commission

Recruits law graduates, those who have completed the LPC or BPTC, and qualified lawyers to work as research assistants, to analyse areas of law to ensure they are kept fair, modern and cost-effective.

See www.lawcom.gov.uk for more careers information.

Events

Are there any events I can attend?

The Careers Service programme of events provides a wide range of opportunities for you to research your career in law. Details of all events are on our online events guide: www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/events

- Presentations – Many held in the first semester, from training course providers and law firms.
- The Law Fair – Held in first semester, and a critical ‘must do’ date for the diary. Speak to GDL, LPC, BPTC or LL.M providers as well as hundreds of recruiters from major internationals to local niche organisations and Chambers. Recruiters attend from locations across the UK and internationally, with strong presence from the local North West recruiters.
- The Careers Service holds a week of specialist events in semester one for non-law students considering a career in law. Have a look at the Careers Service events guide for details of what’s on.
- The National Pupillage Fair in London is held during the second semester <http://targetjobs.co.uk/targetjobs-national-pupillage-fair>

Resources

- Job Profiles for Solicitors, Barristers, Legal Executive - www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm under Legal Profession.
- Law Sector Profile - Includes information relating to the legal professions in England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. www.prospects.ac.uk/law_sector.htm

- The University of Manchester Law 4 Non-Law Society – check them out on Facebook

Publications available at the Careers Service

Take-away copies of the following publications may be available

- Prospects Law Annual guide to training opportunities both solicitors' firms and the Bar
- Target Law
Annual guide to career and study in the legal profession
- Target Courses Conversion and Vocational Law
Annual guide on conversion and vocational Law courses
- Target Work Experience Law
Annual supplement to Target Law focusing on vacation placements, mini-pupillages and Open Days.
- The Training Contract and Pupillage Handbook
Annual guide detailing training contracts and pupillages
- Chambers Student Guide to the Legal Profession
Annual publication on both Solicitors and Barristers
- The Lex 100
A student guide to law firms. Also available online at www.lex100.com.

Reference Books

- Chambers Guide to the Legal Profession
Annual reference guide to law firms and Barristers' Chambers
- The Law Society Directory of Solicitors and Barristers
Annual publication listing individual solicitors, firms and Chambers
- The Pupillages and Awards Handbook
Annual publication listing Barristers' Chambers offering pupillages and mini-pupillages. www.pupillagegateway.com

Newspapers & magazines

- The Gazette - Weekly Journal of The Law Society, available in the Main University Library
www.lawgazette.co.uk
- Legal Week - Weekly
www.legalweek.com
- The Lawyer - Weekly
www.thelawyer.com
- Lawyer 2B - Trainee Magazine, available to take away in the Careers Service.
<http://l2b.thelawyer.com/>
- A number of daily newspapers have Law sections eg:
 - The Times (Tuesday) and at www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/
 - The Guardian online at www.theguardian.com/law
 - The Independent (Wednesday)

Check the careers library catalogue for additional resources
www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/library.

Useful websites

- CareersLink, the Careers Services' job database
www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink
- The Law Society
Information about the Solicitors Profession in England & Wales
www.lawsociety.org.uk
- Solicitors Regulation Authority
Information on qualifying as a solicitor, qualifications, funding and training.
www.sra.org.uk
- Junior Lawyers Division of the Law Society.
<http://juniorlawyers.lawsociety.org.uk>
- The Bar Council - information about The Bar in England & Wales.
www.barcouncil.org.uk

- Bar Standards Board
Information on training and qualifying as a barrister
www.barstandardsboard.org.uk
- The Bar Council Pupillage website.
This includes a link to the on-line pupillage application system (OLPAS) which includes information about mini-pupillages and the on-line version of The Pupillages & Awards Handbook
www.pupillagegateway.com
- LawCareersNet - Site produced in conjunction with the Trainee Solicitors Group
www.LawCareers.net
- Prospects - Law Community section
www.prospects.ac.uk
- Doctorjob/Target Law
<http://targetjobs.co.uk/law>
- International Centre for Commercial Law/Legal 500 series
Details of major law firms in the UK and around the world
www.legal500.com
- Legal Resources in the UK and Ireland
site maintained by Delia Venables
www.venables.co.uk
- Waterlow Legal Online Solicitors' Directory and Barristers' Directory
www.waterlowlegal.com
- Chambers & Partners website
including a link to their on-line directories and their Student Site
www.chambersandpartners.com
- Lawyer2B
www.lawyer2B.com
- Careers Service website
www.manchester.ac.uk/careers
- Lawyer Locater
The following websites may help you to find law firms in particular geographical locations.
 - www.lawyerlocator.co.uk

- www.lawsociety.org.uk/choosingandusing/findasolicitor.law

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