

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH YOUR LLM

SOUTHAMPTON LAW SCHOOL

FOUNDING
MEMBER OF THE
**RUSSELL
GROUP**

WELCOME

Southampton Law School LLM graduates pursue a range of high-profile careers in a variety of different industries around the world.

These include working as lawyers in international law firms, national governments, international governmental organisations and international commercial organisations, as well as outside the legal sector in government, insurance, finance, charitable organisations, consultancies and academia.

You will all have your own reasons for taking an LLM qualification. You may want to enhance or broaden your career opportunities, or add value and depth to your CV. Whatever your motive, this booklet contains a wealth of information about what your next step could be once you graduate.

We will explain more about the typical job opportunities open to you in the UK and further afield; and how to qualify as a barrister or solicitor in England and Wales. We have also gathered together a collection of useful resources that you can consult.

At Southampton Law School, we are fortunate to have the support of a dedicated Careers Adviser from the University's Careers and Employability Service who delivers bespoke events for our LLM students, as well as offering individual careers appointments in the Law School. Make sure you make the most of this valuable opportunity. You will also be invited to numerous careers events and activities and these are an invaluable way of finding out more information, and meeting with prospective employers and contacts to grow your professional network.

Our alumni are also an intrinsic part of the Law School, and we are grateful for their contribution to this booklet by sharing their experiences and their advice.

We look forward to working with you to enable you to attain your career goals, and wish you every success during your time at Southampton and beyond.

Professor Uta Kohl
Director of Law Postgraduate
Taught Programmes

Jan Steele
Senior Tutor and Careers
and Employability Co-ordinator



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DEVELOPING YOUR SKILLS

As a member of Southampton Law School's LLM community you will develop high-level intellectual skills and professional expertise in a specialist area of law. These include:

- Maritime Law
- International Law and Human Rights
- International Commercial and Corporate Law
- Master of Laws

We are also committed to ensuring you gain a wide range of transferable skills and attributes that will be valued by employers at all levels throughout your career, including:

- legal research and writing
- analysis
- critical evaluation
- logical thinking
- written and verbal communication
- teamwork
- leadership
- presentation skills

All of our LLM students will participate in the LLM Challenge where you will be tasked with debating topical legal issues chosen by Law School academics. You will use your research skills to develop a briefing document and creatively present your argument as part of a team in a legal debate in front of academic staff. This challenge will help improve your teamwork and presentation skills.

An important part of all our LLM programmes is the dissertation. This is a significant research project which requires a number of additional skills including project management, time management, organisational, problem solving and innovation.

You will also get the opportunity to benefit from our Wednesday Seminar Series that has been running for more than 20 years. The weekly seminars are delivered by expert law practitioners who share their experiences and general knowledge, to give you an insight into the maritime, commercial and insurance sectors. The speakers also include brokers, claims handlers and other professionals from outside of the legal sector.

GRADUATE PROFILE

"I chose to study at Southampton because it is one of - if not the best - places to undertake a LLM degree in Maritime Law. Southampton Law School is known for being a multicultural school, giving students the opportunity to interact with the English culture and language and to get an understanding of the different cultures from all around the world.

"I am from Norway, and I really enjoyed getting to know students in my class who have travelled to Southampton from all around the world. Southampton offers you endless opportunities to develop as a person outside the classroom.

"During my study I participated in (and won) the annual 'LLM Challenge'. Its purpose is to test intelligence, creativity, energy and teamwork skills. It was a great opportunity to develop and experience working in a team.

"My advice to students would be to get involved, be curious and push yourself outside your comfort zone. Only then you will get the most out of your time here in Southampton."

Beate Nygaard

LLM Maritime Law, 2017
Winner of the Gard Prize for the Best Performance in Carriage of Goods by Sea



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE GLOBE

Southampton Law School graduates are highly sought after by employers and many currently hold prestigious international positions – with some returning to their home country to practise, while others secure a career in other countries across the world. Here we look at some of the different areas of law your LLM can lead to.

LLM Maritime Law

As an LLM graduate you could work in a specialist maritime law firm/chambers or companies that have a strong maritime practice. Firms who target Southampton graduates and regularly visit the Law School include:

- Addleshaw Goddard
- Burges Salmon
- Campbell Johnson Clark
- Clyde & Co
- HFW
- Ince & Co
- Reed Smith
- Stephenson Harwood
- Tatham Macinnes
- White & Case
- Womble Bond Dickinson

LLM graduates also work in insurance with Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Clubs - mutual insurance associations that provide risk pooling information and representation for their members. Well-known examples include Gard, Skuld, Britannia Steam Ship, The Standard Club and Steamship.

For a full list visit: www.igpandi.org/group-clubs

Other maritime opportunities exist in ship brokerage, ship finance, and transport planning, logistics and operations.

“Southampton’s LLM is the best in the world for students who wish to pursue a career in shipping law. The Law School has the most experienced legal scholars and practitioners to lecture all the subjects of maritime and commercial law.

“As a paralegal at Clyde & Co’s Shanghai’s office, I benefitted from my LLM study by contributing articles and case commentaries to Lloyd’s Shipping & Trade Law and Arbitration Law Monthly – leading shipping law and arbitration law newsletters.”

Edward Liu
LLM Maritime Law, 2009



LLM International Commercial and Corporate Law

As an LLM Commercial and Corporate Law graduate there are a huge variety of firms and chambers you can consider. It is important to research which would suit you best.

Factors to consider include:

- Mixed practice or specialist/niche or in-house/ Employed
- Size of firm/chambers
- Location – global, London or regional

For example if you have a strong interest in international arbitration, you may wish to consider the following firms:

- Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
- Skadden
- Allen & Overy
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Hogan Lovells
- White & Case

Chambers with a strong reputation in this area include:

- Essex Court
- 7 King’s Bench Wall
- Twenty Essex
- Brick Court
- Fountain Court
- Keating
- One Essex Court

LLM International Law and Human Rights

As a graduate in LLM International Law and Human Rights, you could work in a specialist solicitors’ firm or chambers focusing on human rights or international law.

You could also consider working for:

International organisations - such as the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the World Health Organization, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Trade Organisation and the World Bank.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) - non-profit, voluntary citizens’ groups that are organised on a local, national or international level, including Amnesty International, Liberty, Human Rights Watch, Justice and Redress. www.wango.org

Governments - across the globe who are dealing with national and international legal issues. In the UK government departments include the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Home Office and the Department for International Development.

Think tanks – a body of experts providing advice and ideas on specific political or economic problems such as Chatham House, the Foreign Policy Centre, Reform, the Social Market Foundation and the International Peace Institute.

International Courts and Tribunals - including the European Court of Human Rights, the International Criminal Court, International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of International Justice.

LLM Master of Laws

As an LLM Master of Laws graduate there are a very wide range of opportunities that you will be able to pursue, both as a lawyer and outside the legal profession. These opportunities may be influenced by the modules you study during your LLM. You may have the choice of a career in several practice areas by following a very broad course, specialise in a particular area of law, or follow a non-legal career.

Many of the firms and organisations listed on this page will welcome applications from LLM Master of Laws students.

“At Allen & Overy we actively seek to recruit students with exceptional academics, a commitment to law, strong communication skills and an international perspective – which is why we welcome applications from LLM students. Our preference is for LLM students to join an Allen & Overy office in the jurisdiction where they are qualified or qualifying into.”

Allen & Overy

“We have a number of Southampton alumni who are building successful careers at Linklaters. From these experiences we’ve come to expect Southampton graduates to be both academically and commercially prepared for a career in law. We also expect them to have a real enthusiasm for continuous learning and development.”

Linklaters

LLM DEGREE CAREERS TIMELINE



September to December

- Visit the Careers Centre (Building 37, Highfield Campus) to find out how they can support your career and employability-related needs.
- Research careers directly and indirectly linked to your LLM degree: www.southampton.ac.uk/careers/students/subject-info/law.page
- Get actively involved in university life by joining clubs and societies.
- If following a career pathway as a Solicitor or Barrister in the UK, check the training routes and entry requirements eg will you need to do the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) before the Legal Practice Course (LPC)? Will the Solicitors Qualifying Exam (SQE) impact on your training route to become a solicitor in the UK?
- If considering a career pathway in law, apply for legal work experience (vacation schemes/mini-pupillages for Christmas/Easter, visit courts, pro bono, talk to solicitors/barristers) or, if relevant, training contracts/pupillages. Closing dates can vary – make sure that you check these carefully.
- Research other work experience opportunities (e.g. volunteering, Business Innovation Programme, Excel Internship, attend open days at companies) and apply for those of interest:
mycareer.soton.ac.uk
blog.soton.ac.uk/opus/
www.nationalprobonocentre.org.uk
www.southamptonvs.org.uk
- Attend the bespoke careers sessions for LLM students delivered by the specialist Careers Practitioner from the University's Careers and Employability Service.
- Attend any sessions of interest during the Law School Careers Programme in November.
- Attend the 'Law Fair' organised by the Law School in November.
- If wishing to become a Barrister, apply for scholarship at the Inns (closing date: early November) and look into the Bar Course Aptitude Test (you have to pass the BCAT before undertaking the Bar Professional Training Course).

January to April

- Be aware of application deadlines – many graduate schemes close early.
- If wishing to become a Barrister, in order to begin the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), you must join one of the Four Inns of Court by 31st May of the year in which you intend to start your course.
- Research institutions offering the LPC/ BPTC and also funding opportunities. Attend open days at LPC/ BPTC providers. Apply for the LPC (www.lawcabs.ac.uk) or BPTC (www.barsas.com).
- Prepare/update your CV ready for applications. Receive a review of your CV from an adviser during drop-in hours at the Careers and Employability Service.
- Prepare for assessment centres and interviews by attending workshops and employer advice sessions at the Careers and Employability Service: mycareer.soton.ac.uk
- Attend the 'Spring Careers Fair' organised by the Careers and Employability Service in March.
- Start building your network by networking with employers – develop your LinkedIn profile.
- Attend industry insight events offered by the Careers and Employability Service: mycareer.soton.ac.uk
- If wishing to become a Barrister and undertake the BPTC, book your BCAT (you can usually take the BCAT between April-July): www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases-and-news/register-and-schedule-your-bcat-now

May to August

- Research and generate a career 'Plan B'. If necessary, seek support from the Careers and Employability Service.
- Plan regular time for further job searching - identify key employers in your chosen career/sector area, read industry publications, and familiarise yourself with appropriate job-seeking strategies for the jobs and sectors that interest you.
- Seek support from the Careers and Employability Service on psychometric testing preparation.
- **REMEMBER:** The Careers and Employability Service supports you up to five years after graduating!

THE NEXT STEP

Working as a lawyer in England and Wales

Every LLM student has a different background and experience and it is important to realise that there are a number of different ways in which you can qualify as a lawyer in England and Wales. We have included a guide to the various routes available but would strongly advise that you also carry out your own research into which path is the most relevant and appropriate for you.

Qualifying as a solicitor in England and Wales

The majority of solicitors work in private practice firms which vary enormously in size from sole practitioners to global firms with more than 1,000 partners. This is reflected in the range of work they undertake from larger firms taking on a mixture of work to more niche firms carrying out specialist work in one area of law.

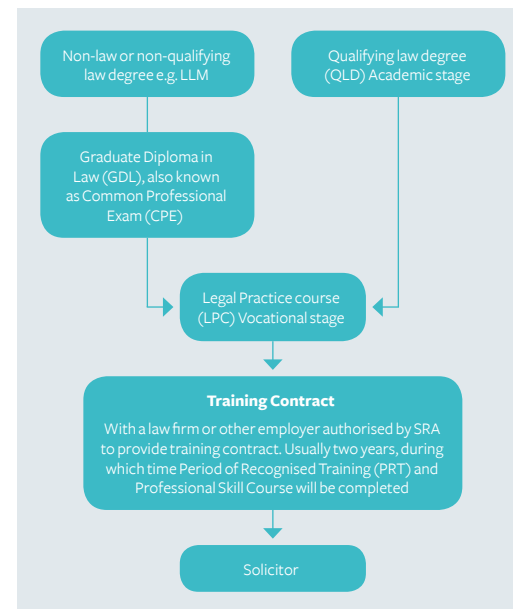
Whatever LLM you study, the routes to qualify as a solicitor remain the same. The stages are:

The academic stage - this is met by completing a qualifying law degree or a degree in any other subject followed by a conversion course called the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)/Common Professional Exam (CPE).

The vocational stage - this is the Legal Practice Course (LPC) and can be studied full-time, part-time or distance learning.

The practical stage - this is a two-year period of recognised training in a solicitors' firm or other legal organisation. This is usually taken following the LPC.

Current path to qualifying as a solicitor in England and Wales



Future changes to qualification

These current qualification routes are due to be replaced by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) in 2021. The new Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) is a two-part examination that will be taken by anyone who wishes to qualify as a solicitor in England and Wales. There will be transition arrangements put in place for those undertaking qualifications under the current system.

The new route will require you to:

- have a degree in any subject (or equivalent qualification or work experience)
- pass both stages of the SQE assessment - SQE 1 focuses on legal knowledge and SQE 2 on practical legal skills
- have two years' qualifying work experience
- pass the SRA's character and suitability requirements

Find out more: www.sra.org.uk/sra/policy/sqe

Proposed Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) path from 2021



Working as a qualified and experienced solicitor in England and Wales

If you are a qualified and experienced foreign lawyer in a jurisdiction outside England and Wales then your recruitment will be subject to the rules of the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

To find out more about qualification routes and practise for Registered European Lawyers and Registered Foreign Lawyers: www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/ethics-guidance/registered-foreign-lawyers

Some firms and organisations will recruit qualified and experienced overseas lawyers as a 'lateral hire'. It is worth checking this with any firm/organisation that you are interested in working for. You may also get the opportunity to work as part of an in-house legal team.

Large organisations such as supermarkets, financial organisations, global pharmaceutical and telecommunications companies have their own lawyers and welcome applications from those with overseas experience.

If you have less than three or four years' experience, you may want to consider the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme (QLTS), which enables international lawyers from a jurisdiction recognised by the Solicitors Regulation Authority to be admitted as a solicitor in England and Wales. Please note that passing the assessment DOES NOT guarantee a job.

www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/qlts/recognised-jurisdictions

www.sra.org.uk/sra/regulatory-framework/qualified-lawyers-transfer-scheme-regulations

The QLTS assessment is comprised of two parts and the current fees are around £4,000 excluding any training costs.

qlts.kaplan.co.uk/the-assessment

From 2021 the QLTS is due to be replaced by the Solicitors Qualifying Examination.

www.sra.org.uk/sra/policy/sqe/lawyer-persona

THE NEXT STEP (CONT.)

Qualifying as a barrister in England and Wales

As a barrister you can train and work in chambers and practise in a variety of legal areas - including the more common areas of crime, civil law and employment, as well as more the more specialised areas of admiralty and shipping, human rights and sports and entertainment. You can also practise at the Employed Bar working for in-house legal departments, government or solicitors' firms.

There is a defined route to qualifying as a barrister which is the same irrespective of where you work. The stages are:

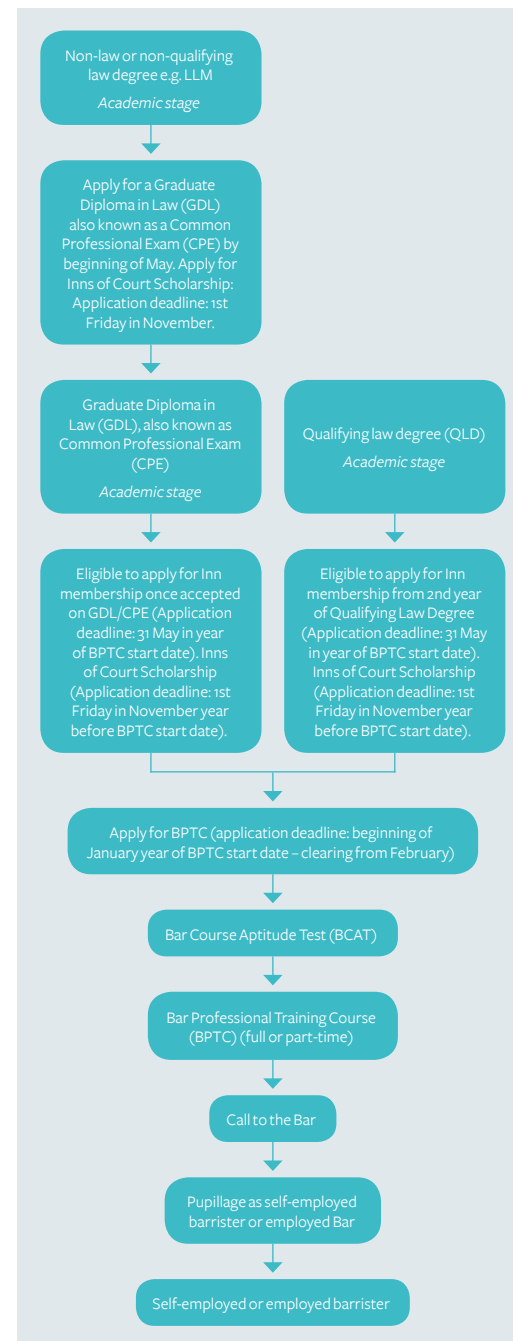
The academic stage - an undergraduate degree in Law or a degree in any other subject followed by a conversion course called the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)/ Common Professional Exam (CPE).

The Vocational Stage - the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) which is a one-year full-time or two-year part-time course.

Pupillage - one year spent working as a pupil in a barristers' chambers or in another organisation approved by the Bar Standards Board as a Pupillage Training Organisation.

Find out more: www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/becoming-a-barrister

Current path to qualifying as a barrister in England and Wales



Future changes to qualification

The qualification to become a barrister is currently being reformed by the Bar to make it more accessible, affordable and flexible. Known as Future Bar Training, there will be a phased approach to adopting the changes.

Find out more: www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/future-requirements

Working as a qualified and experienced barrister in England and Wales

If you are a qualified foreign lawyer who is a member of a legal profession regulated in a jurisdiction outside England and Wales and entitled to practise as such or as a European lawyer, there are a number of different ways you can be admitted to the Bar. However, being admitted to the Bar is no guarantee of a job and you will need to find work in chambers or at the Employed Bar.

Find out more: www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/bar-training-requirements/transferring-lawyers

Opportunities to work as a lawyer outside England and Wales

If you are interested in working as lawyer in your home or other non-UK jurisdiction, you will find that some UK corporate law firms recruit LLM graduates (with a law degree) for their offices outside the UK. These include: Allen & Overy, Hogan Lovells, Mayer Brown, Linklaters, Clifford Chance, Sherman Sterling and Skadden.

You should also make direct contact with any firms/ organisations who have an office in the country in which you are qualified to work. The Law Societies (or equivalent) for these countries should be able to provide you with information on the requirements to work as a lawyer in that country. Guest lecturers at the Law School's Wednesday Seminar Programme often have information about these types of opportunities.

An academic career

If you are thinking about continuing on an academic career then it is usually a requirement that you complete a PhD. It is important for you to think about the area of law you wish to research and who may be able to supervise your PhD.

As well as opportunities in University Law departments, you can also apply for a research post in organisations such as the Law Commission, the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, the Legal Research Foundation and the Hague Institute for Global Justice.

PhD applications open in the Autumn. There will also be a closing date for you to submit your funding application. Find out what is available and what the deadlines are: www.southampton.ac.uk/law

USEFUL RESOURCES

Legal Careers Websites

Prospects - Gives an overview of the legal sector.

www.prospects.ac.uk/law_sector.htm

Targetjobs - Gives an overview of graduate law careers with information on work experience and training.

www.targetjobs.co.uk/law

Chambers Student Guide - Detailed information and insider views on firms and chambers.

www.chambersstudent.co.uk

Legal 500 - Guide to law firms in the UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific, United States, and Latin America.

www.legal500.com

Lex 100 - Guide to the UK's leading law firms.

www.lex100.com

Lawcareers.net - Information on training contracts, vacation schemes, pupillages and mini pupillages. You can sign up for a weekly newsletter.

www.lawcareers.net

All About Law - Advice and information on law careers.

www.allaboutlaw.co.uk

Lawyer 2B - Advice, resources and email updates for law students.

www.thelawyer.com/lawyer2b

The Lawyer Portal - A resource for everyone considering a career in law, whatever their stage or background.

www.thelawyerportal.com

Course Applications (for the GDL, LPC and BPTC)

Central Applications Board - Administers applications for full time GDL and LPC courses.

www.lawcabs.ac.uk

Bar Standards Board - Online applications for the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC).

www.barsas.com

Professional Bodies

The Law Society - Solicitors' professional body that includes the Law Society Gazette and Find a Solicitor search tool.

www.lawsociety.org.uk

Solicitors Regulation Authority - Regulatory information about becoming a solicitor.

www.sra.org.uk

The Bar Council - Information about becoming a barrister, and access to the Bar Directory to search for barristers' chambers.

www.barcouncil.org.uk

The Bar Standards Board - Responsible for overseeing the three stages which must be completed to qualify as a barrister.

www.barstandardsboard.org.uk

Directories

You can find copies of directories in the Law School and at Career Destinations, Building 37, Highfield campus.

The LawCareers.Net Handbook - Directory of training contracts, profiles of firms, pupillage directory, barristers' listing and careers advice.

Chambers Student Guide - Students' guide to becoming a lawyer, with information on solicitors' firms and barristers' chambers, including reviews by trainees.

Targetjobs - Various publications including Law Vacation Schemes & Mini Pupillages and Targetjobs Law.

Prospects Law - Careers advice and information on becoming a solicitor and barrister.

Legal News websites

Gazette - The Law Society's magazine.

www.lawgazette.co.uk

Legal Week - Legal news, analysis and jobs.

www.legalweek.com

The Lawyer - Website and weekly magazine containing news, analysis and jobs for the legal profession.

www.law.com/legal-week

Lexology - Legal newsfeed.

www.lexology.com

Specialist recruitment agencies and jobs boards

Garfield Robbins - London-based specialist legal recruitment consultancy. UK and international opportunities for lawyers including professional support lawyers.

www.garfieldrobbins.com

Chase Portland - Recruitment services for the legal profession including the Magic and Silver Circle firms and US firms in London. Primarily qualified lawyers.

www.chaseportland.com

Hughes-Castell - Legal recruitment in Asia.

www.hughes-castell.com

GMK Legal - Recruitment of lawyers, professional support lawyers and paralegals in the UK and internationally.

www.gmk-legal.co.uk

Laurence Simons - International legal and compliance recruitment with opportunities for qualified lawyers, legal executives and paralegals.

www.laurencesimons.com

Taylor Root - Recruitment of lawyers, professional support lawyers, legal executives and paralegals in the UK and internationally.

www.taylorroot.com

Hays - Opportunities for lawyers, paralegals and legal executives. Also contains information on job search and interview tips.

www.hays.co.uk/job/legal-jobs/

Spinnaker Global - Shipping recruitment agency including shipping lawyer and commercial shipping recruitment.

spinnaker-global.com

Sacco Mann - Opportunities in chartering, broking, marine insurance and protection and indemnity.

www.sacomann.com/shipping-and-maritime

Jobsite - Vacancies for solicitors, legal executives, paralegals, legal PAs and legal support roles.

www.jobsite.co.uk/jobs/legal

Legal Week Jobs - A legal recruitment website covering a wide range of legal including solicitor, barrister, graduate/trainee, paralegal, legal secretarial and support jobs.

www.legalweekjobs.com

Totally Legal - Specialist legal jobs board for solicitors, lawyers, barristers, paralegals, legal PAs and legal executives.

www.totallylegal.com

Simply Law Jobs - Advertises a wide range of legal jobs including solicitor, barrister, legal executive, legal assistant, and caseworkers.

www.simplylawjobs.com

Ten Percent Legal Recruitment - Legal recruitment agency for solicitors, barristers, paralegals, legal cashiers, legal executives, legal secretaries and other support staff.

www.tenpercent.co.uk

GR Law - Specialist recruitment company, recruiting a range of staff including paralegals and qualified solicitors.

www.grlaw.co.uk

Legal Jobs Board - Online legal recruitment website advertising a range of solicitor, paralegal and support roles.

www.legaljobsboard.co.uk

Michael Page - Recruitment agency that offers permanent, temporary, contract and interim opportunities.

www.michaelpage.co.uk



Find out more:

[www.southampton.ac.uk/
lawpg](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/lawpg)



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