

Law

NAME OF COURSE

BA Jurisprudence
- 3 years or 4 years with year abroad (BA equivalent to LLB)

A-LEVELS REQUIRED

Essential to have a relevant modern language for Law with Law Studies in Europe. Helpful to have a subject involving essay writing.

ADMISSIONS TEST

LNAT

- Law admissions test

MINIMUM A-LEVEL GRADE REQUIREMENTS

AAA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Studying law will not only give you the opportunity to qualify as a solicitor or barrister: it will also help you develop a diverse set of skills which you will be able to apply in many different situations. You will learn to assimilate and analyse complex information, construct arguments, write with precision and clarity and think on your feet.

STRUCTURE OF MODULES

1st year:

Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Roman Law, Tort Law, contract law.

2nd year & 3rd year:

Tort law, Contract law, Trusts, Land law, Administrative law, European Union law, Jurisprudence + 2 optional subjects, chosen from a very wide range of options

Tutorials: 1-2 hours

Lectures (optional): 2-3 hours

Most of your working time (the faculty recommends 45 hours per week) will be devoted to reading, thinking, and writing your essays in preparation for the tutorial. In an 8-week term, you tend to write up to 12 essays.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK

TUTORIAL & SEMINAR TESTIMONIAL

Tutorials vary between tutors depending on their preferred styles and tend to be in groups of 2-4 students 1-2 times a week. Generally, tutors discuss the week's reading. This is usually done by discussing the weekly essay you submit prior to the tutorial, and by answering any questions you have. These challenge you to think about and consolidate the area of law you're studying.

Seminars are sessions with your tutor that happen in wider groups of 6-8. You discuss the difficult concepts to develop understanding and argument formation skills. These tend to deal more with specific problem questions (applications to real life). The tutor helps guide the conversation with other law students and often asks questions to help you strengthen your argument. The length of seminars varies between tutors and modules, but they tend to be 1-2 hours long.

WHY LAW?

Many applicants choose Law due to perceived better employment opportunities, especially for those who would like to become barristers or solicitors. While a strenuous degree, the argumentation and subject-matter involved also appeal to many students as the course gives you many transferable skills.

Most people imagine law to be quite dry, and with ridiculously long reading lists. While extensive, students find the degree to be extremely enjoyable and stimulating. The proximity with tutors and friends leads to very interesting discussions that often extend outside of just the law.

PERSONAL STATEMENT TIPS

- Could include references to specific interests in the law and back this up with reading that particularly engaged you
- Ensure that your reasons for wanting to study the subject are conveyed clearly
- There is no need to use bombastic words or to sound fancy.

ONE THING I WISH I KNEW WHEN I WAS APPLYING

I wish I knew how independently you have to work. Especially compared to some science degrees, a law degree has a lot fewer contact hours and you have to continually keep yourself in check. Also, everyone starts on the same page regardless of what school they went to or what they got in their A levels. You're all going to be on more or less the same playing field when you start.

LNAT TIPS

- For the test, practising reading through dense information helps
- There are only some free online tests that you can do to practice, but make sure you do those available. Practice under timed conditions!
- For the essay question, try to structure your essay with an outline. Ensure you have a strong introduction, state your argument and the scope of it. Define ambiguous terms or words that could have multiple definitions pick a definition that is most relevant to your argument and stick with it. In the first line of all your arguments, it is very helpful if you do a summary sentence of what the paragraph will entail. This will help you craft a clear paragraph.

INTERVIEW TIPS

- Usually the most difficult part of the process. You will be sat with experts in your subject and they will challenge you. Remember that they are looking for law students and not lawyers.
- You are likely to do two interviews. One will be more case or statute based. If it is statute based, they are likely to ask you to read the statute then present you different scenarios and ask whether the statute applies. What they are attempting to do is for you to develop definitions of certain key words in the statute that allow for an accurate application of the law. If it is case based, they will want you to not be overwhelmed by all the additional information and just discern the relevant key rule or principles. Or discuss the judgement and the reasoning. The second interview will be broader. It will usually be about a current affair or a topic which will help lead you to discuss law in the wider context.
- Your personal statement might also be discussed, so ensure you re-read that!

Example timetable

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Tutorial Criminal Law – Tutorial – 9am-10am					
		Constitutional law Lecture 1pm – 2pm	Constitutional Law Lecture 1pm – 2pm	Constitutional Law -Tutorial 2pm – 3pm	Criminal Law Lecture 1pm – 2pm	
				Criminal Law Lecture 4pm – 5pm		

Recommended reading/viewing

Work Experience

- Volunteer at Citizens Advice Bureau (helps you gain a real deep understanding of how law affects people in their daily lives and the significant impact it has on people).
- PRIME Scheme - Clifford Chance (this gives you an insight into what life at a magic circle law firm in Canary Wharf would be like. It would also give you a nice foot in the door for future employment opportunities and schemes).

Books

- Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do? (Michael Sandel) – easy but interesting read that introduces you to jurisprudence.
- Eve was Framed - this book is very insightful in relation to the law's treatment of women
- Philosophy of Law - Although you do jurisprudence in 3rd year, it is useful to read through some key concepts. The book will help guide you through key questions such as "what is law?"

Podcasts

- Law in Action
- Textbooks
- Learning the Law (Glanville Williams)