



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL

With the new academic year just over a month away, I thought we would put together a special Law School newsletter containing some of the highlights of the last 12 months. Hopefully, this will give students who are considering whether to come to Leeds Beckett an insight into life @LeedsLawSchool.

One highlight of my year comes in July when I tell students they've won an academic prize for excellence; we award about 60 each year. Most are sponsored by solicitors' firms and barristers, though some come from businesses too. It's really nice to receive the replies from the winners, like this one from Sarah Jordan who has just graduated with a First Class degree:

"My three years flew by and I can't believe it's all over! The Law School has been incredible in supporting me throughout my studies and I wouldn't be where I am now without everything you have all done for me... so thank you!"

Please enjoy this special edition of our Leeds Law School newsletter.

Deveral Capps, Dean

FREE ACCESS TO LAW TEXTBOOKS ONLINE FOR LEEDS LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS

At Leeds Law School we're working hard to make sure students joining in September will receive the best possible university experience during these challenging times. This includes our recent subscription to the online service offered by Oxford University Press called Law Trove, which means all of our students will be able to access a wide range of law textbooks online for free.

FOLLOW #LeedsLawSchool Follow us on social media to keep up to date with all the latest news and information going on at #LeedsLawSchool:

Twitter – @leedslawschool

Instagram – leeds_lawschool

LinkedIn – Leeds Law School



MY THREE YEARS AT LEEDS LAW SCHOOL

I'm finding it difficult to believe that my three years at Leeds Law School has come to an end. I've definitely made the most of my time here and, looking back, cannot imagine myself attending any other university to study law.

There are lots of modules for everyone to choose from. The final year is made-up completely of electives and so you have a free hand in your third year to pursue the areas of law that interest you the most.

Two of my modules were the Law Clinic and the Day-Release Placement. The Law Clinic involves interviewing and advising clients under the supervision of qualified solicitors. This helped me develop my interpersonal skills as well as my professional writing skills.

The Day-Release Placement gives you the chance to work almost anywhere you want for one day per week for a semester. I was fortunate enough to secure a placement with a barrister who was a Queens Counsel (QC), meaning I spent one day each week in court attending murder trials.

Mooting is another highlight that consists of mock court cases, where you pretend to be at the Court of Appeal arguing over points of law. The University hosts an internal competition, where tutors take their own time to judge and run the moots. I was fortunate enough to make the team to compete in the external competition.

The Law School also offers an advocacy module. This was a particular highlight for me, and I spent each seminar, bar one, up on my feet performing as an advocate.

The Law Society also helped me enjoy my time. Run by students, it was a great way of socialising with everyone on the course outside of the classroom. The Law Society Ball is also a fun and popular event.

Another opportunity was the Access to the Bar Award, which I was given on behalf of Middle Temple. The award aims to improve access to the bar for students who come from non-traditional backgrounds. Each university can select up to two students and I was fortunate enough to be one of them.

I didn't find the jump from college to university easy and was so used to the college environment that I found the independent learning challenging at first. However, with support from tutors, I was able to achieve above and beyond what I thought I would. I am extremely grateful for their care and encouragement throughout.

Victoria Greenhalgh, Level 6 LLB student

STUDENT WINS AWARD FROM HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES



Law with Criminology student, Charleigh Morritt, won the prestigious Delta Air Lines Rising Star Award at the ceremony held at The Palladium in London.

The event, hosted by Ant and Dec, was attended by celebrities including Pierce Brosnan and Harry Kane.

Charleigh received the award after tackling her anxiety and improving her grades which led to her joining Leeds Beckett. Her anxiety meant she was unable to do day-to-day tasks. Deciding that it was holding her back, she shut herself away from everything and everyone: "I just felt like I couldn't do anything and I didn't feel needed. It got so bad that my mum contacted the Mental Health Services for support, and that's when I found out about The Prince's Trust."

"I then started to attend college and my grades improved so much that I got an unconditional offer to study law, where I'm now in my second semester."

MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR TO DATE IN SECURING INNS SCHOLARSHIPS

Four students were successful in gaining Inns of Court Scholarships to train as barristers – our best year yet. Huge congratulations to James Rowney, Verity Barnes, Maariyah Ismail and Isaac Rajakaruna.

Isaac tells us about the process and what it means to securing a Lincoln's Inn Scholarship:

"The process started when all four of the Inns of Court opened their application portals for the Bar course scholarships. Once I decided I wanted to join Lincoln's Inn I wrote my application; answering all the generic questions such as why I wanted to be a barrister, what area of practice interested me and why, and sections covering my interests and achievements during my time at school and university."

"In January I received an email inviting me to an interview, the final stage of assessment. In preparation, the Law School held a mock Inns Scholarship interview day with none other than the lady who had overseen scholarship interviews at Lincoln's Inn for nearly two decades! The feedback I received from this mock interview assisted me greatly in preparing for my actual interview, and I am very pleased to say I was awarded a scholarship from Lincoln's Inn!"

I TRUSTED MY INSTINCT AND IT PAID OFF...



Dew Uwadia, who graduated with a first-class degree in 2019, remembers her time at Leeds Law School.

I can't believe it's almost been a year since I graduated! I remember being discouraged from choosing Leeds Beckett University by some people whose opinions I sought when deciding where to study; the naysayers kept pointing me towards the league tables. However, I am glad I followed my intuition, because studying at Leeds Law School has been one of the best decisions I have made so far!

Being part of the first cohort to study the Law with Management LLB course (now Law with International Business and Management) was not the easiest course but there was support available at each challenging turn. From day one, I had access to some incredible resources: the open-door policy with my tutors, the 24/7 library and dedicated legal librarians, the online academic subscriptions, career advice, work experience and networking opportunities and a lot more.

In my first year, I had the opportunity to apply for and participate in the legal mentorship program. My mentor, a practicing solicitor, gave me some advice that helped me make the most of my time at the Law School and Leeds Beckett in general. She said that gaining a first-class degree was good, but it would be better to have a 2:1 with a lot of experience that would show prospective employers the skills I acquired and how well-rounded I was. I took that and ran with it.

There are so many highlights of my time at Leeds Law School. One would be going to a law firm in Bradford as a first year, with some third-year students, for an experience day. To have this insight into what practicing law looked like so early on in my legal studies was such a rewarding experience. Another such experience was the Law Clinic module in my third year. Working with my course mates to interview actual clients and research their problems to be able to properly advise them, was a surreal experience.

To read more about Dew's story, please visit:

leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/leeds-law-school/

MATURE STUDENTS WITH CHILDREN CAN STUDY LAW – FIONA HAIGH



After having my son at age 22, I slipped in and out of careers and never felt fulfilled. And so I decided I wanted to better myself and gain a qualification.

The Law School has been amazing. They have been fully supportive of me being a mother and I've met some great friends. I didn't need to be worried about fitting in, because the friends I have met have all admired me for coming back into education and being a mother.

Being at university studying law has unlocked my desire to succeed and made me strong minded and determined. The Law School have some great opportunities available which you should make the most of.

I believe I have made the most of the guidance given by tutors and sought additional work experience at other law firms. I walked into university thinking I wanted to be a criminal barrister and I'm leaving deciding to be a solicitor. I've had the most amazing time and I will always be thankful that I chose Leeds Beckett.

My advice is to never let anyone put you off going to university; you're never too old to set a new goal or dream. If I had listened to the people who tried to put me off going back into education, then I wouldn't be writing this now and telling you I just graduated at age 31.

To read more about Fiona's journey, and other stories from Leeds Law School, please visit:

leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/leeds-law-school/

TWO STUDENTS AWARDED NEW HALIFAX LAW SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

Two talented law students have each been awarded a £1,500 scholarship to help boost their ambitions of joining the legal profession.

Mariam Shahid and Zain Khan are the first ever LBU students to receive the Halifax Law Society Scholarship.

The initiative was set up to support students who have excelled in their entry qualifications but might not have the means to support themselves financially at university.

First-year law student Zain said: "The financial support that this scholarship offers encourages me to strive to achieve my potential."

Fellow recipient and first-year student Mariam added: "The scholarship will be a massive help to me in my time at Leeds Beckett."

INNER TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS



On Thursday 2 April 2020, I was really pleased to receive the news that I'd been awarded a Scholarship from the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple; this means I will receive financial support to train to be a barrister.

I have wanted to train as a barrister since studying the advocacy module on the LLB. I really enjoyed making the various legal submissions and arguing specific points of law and, after passing the module, I did three mini-pupillages to see what a barrister does on a day-to-day basis; I really loved the job, the people and the collegiality of Chambers.

As many will know, there are four different Inns of Court (Inner Temple, Middle Temple, Lincoln's Inn and Gray's Inn) and you have to be a member of one in order to train to be a barrister.

I chose Inner Temple for a number of reasons: first, because their outreach officer, **Daisy Mortimer**, was so helpful when I asked her questions; second, because Ivy Williams, who was the first woman called to the Bar in 1922, was a member of Inner Temple; and last, but by no means least, it is a beautiful inn set in scenic gardens and I felt a real affinity to Inner when I visited!

The process of applying for a scholarship started with me submitting a written application in November 2019, which required answers to a number of set questions. I needed to identify my interests and achievements at school and university and explain why I wanted to be a barrister. This application was followed by a twenty-minute interview in March 2020, before three members of the Inn: one judge and two barristers.

Throughout the entire process I received full support from Leeds Law School academic staff and the University's Careers team. I had the opportunity to have my written application checked by the Dean of the Law School, **Deveral Capps**, who, rather coincidentally, is also a member of the Inner Temple! Deveral has encouraged me to train to be a barrister since we spoke following a careers event in my second year; he provided some very useful information. I am also thankful for the help and the all-important reference I received from my advocacy lecturer, **Sorcha McCormack**, who is also a barrister.

Maariyah Ismail, final year LLB student.

MY MEMORIES OF LEEDS LAW SCHOOL



Alumni Billy Earl, who graduated in 2018, shares how his experience at Leeds Law School kickstarted his career in the industry.

On my final day at university, I chatted over cake with Supreme Court judge, Lady Black. We spoke, amongst other things, about my time at Leeds Law School and my plans for the future - when I was asked to write a few words about my time at university, this was the first memory I thought of. It's a nice reminder of how far I was able to progress, both academically and personally. Lady Black telling my parents how well I had done just about made up for my Year 11 parents' evening!

The opportunities for extra-curricular activity at Leeds Law School are immense; revising on sandy beaches, learning to surf, and diving with turtles to name but a few. All things I never expected to do when I first headed up to Yorkshire to study law, yet these are all things I did during my time at Leeds Law School. Well... some took place on a student exchange in Australia.

I participated in mooting, a form of debate which requires written and oral submissions on legal issues. It was so rewarding, helping to build my confidence and develop my public speaking skills. It looks great on my CV - particularly being part of the team who reached the semi-finals of the prestigious Essex Court Mooting Competition. This success was possible because of the guidance and encouragement of our tutors and the alumni who came back to train us.

Another stand-out feature of Leeds Law School is its commitment to pro bono activities. Initiatives such as the Law Clinic that not only help the local community, but provide the chance for students to develop the key practical skills employers need. Today, working in the world's leading litigation firm, I find myself undertaking many of the tasks I first learned as a Law Clinic volunteer.

I should also mention the Student Law Society. As a past president of the Society, I know how the socials, networking events (along with those organised by the University Careers Team) and other activities are central to what makes Leeds Law School such a great place to be.

My time at Leeds Law School was fundamental in preparing me for the demands of a career in law. I now work on some of the largest and most complex disputes in the world and make use of the skills I developed at university every day. Most importantly, I left Leeds Law School as a confident, inquisitive, and motivated graduate and with a wealth of treasured memories.

Whatever your passion or goal, at Leeds Law School you will be supported so you can reach your full potential.

To find out more about Leeds Law School, please visit: leedsbeckett.ac.uk/LAW



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
LEEDS LAW SCHOOL