

The magazine of
Nottingham Law School

ALL THINGS LAW

Spring/Summer 2014

Celebrating



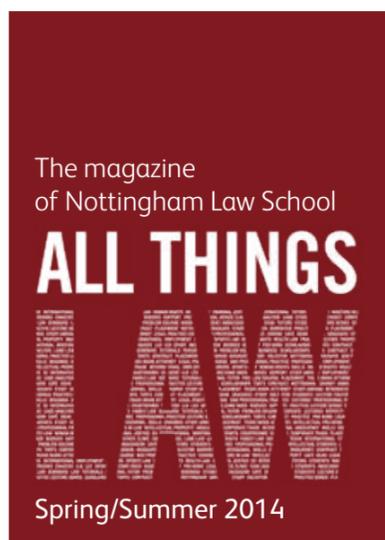
Years of Law

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NOTTINGHAM
LAW SCHOOL
Nottingham Trent University 

Welcome



I am delighted to welcome you to this very special edition of *All Things Law*, celebrating the 50th anniversary of Nottingham Law School.

Legal education has undergone many changes in the past five decades – as Professor Jane Ching notes in her opening article – and throughout that time Nottingham Law School has continued to adapt, develop and thrive, securing its place as a leading UK University Law School. Take a look at the 50-year timeline in the centre pages to see some of our major achievements.

Our success has always been built upon the same foundation – the dedication and enthusiasm of our staff and students – and I am delighted that this issue contains stories of so many tremendous achievements. From Adel Abozaima's prestigious Stephen Lawrence scholarship to Holly Cornford's captaincy of the GB ice hockey team; from mooting victories to pro bono awards, our students continue to excel in all areas of university life. It has also been fascinating to read about Robert Hann and Amerdeep Somal, two of our alumni whose stories demonstrate just where a Law degree can take you.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue, and indeed to all staff and students of Nottingham Law School over the past 50 years. You have helped to create an outstanding Law School and a community of which we can all be proud.

I hope that you enjoy reading this special edition.

Professor Andrea Nollent
Dean of Nottingham Law School



Professor Andrea Nollent, Dean of Nottingham Law School

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Want to feature in this section? Be a contributor

If you are a current Nottingham Law School student or member of staff and would like to feature in a future edition of *All Things Law*, contact the Editorial Board at nls.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk



Nottingham Law School: 1964 - 2014

Celebrating



Years of Law

Did you know that Nottingham Law School launched the first Law sandwich degree in the UK in 1968?

Or that our Graduate Diploma in Law was adopted as the national standard back in 1993? Nottingham Law School has a long and proud history and this year we are delighted to celebrate an impressive 50 years of excellence in legal education.

We began life in the early 1960s as Nottingham and District Technical College, delivering the Law Society solicitors' final examinations, as well as undergraduate Law courses which later became the BA Legal Studies and LLB (Hons) Law course.

Through the decades, we have grown into the one of the largest university law schools in the UK, delivering the full range of undergraduate, postgraduate, professional and

practitioner courses. Take a look at the timeline on pages 16 and 17 to see some of the major milestones achieved along the way.

As we look to the future, we continue to build upon our reputation for innovation. It is fitting that in our 50th year, the Attorney General Dominic Grieve will officially open the Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre – a new and groundbreaking teaching law firm providing a multitude of opportunities for our students.

2014 is a time to celebrate our past, but there is also much to look forward to. Here's to the next 50 years.

www.ntu.ac.uk/50years

Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre

A pivotal moment in our history took place in 2006, when we established our own in-house law clinic. The clinic currently provides opportunities for pro bono work and legal outreach activity, and it is fitting that in our 50th year these facilities will be greatly enhanced with the launch of the new Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre.

This new, not-for-profit Legal Advice Centre will become a leading university provider of the highest quality legal services to both individuals and communities. It will provide access to justice and seek to fulfil an otherwise unmet legal need. It will also create outstanding educational opportunities for our students, providing you with the skills required to excel in your chosen career, whether that be in a legal or a non-legal profession.

Look out for photos and a full report of the event in the next issue of *All Things Law*.

The latest in Law

Nottingham Law School now part of Tullow Group Scholarship Scheme

Nottingham Law School has been selected by the British Council, Ghana, to join the prestigious Tullow Group Scholarship Scheme.

The Tullow Group Scholarship Scheme offers postgraduate scholarships for individuals in Tullow's operating countries in Africa and South America. The scheme aims to build long-term socio-economic development in countries where it operates especially – but not exclusively – around these countries' oil and gas industries.

Scholarships are available to those who are committed to making a contribution to their own country's development.

Nottingham Law School offer four Masters in Law awards which are included in the Tullow Scholarship scheme:

- LLM Intellectual Property Law
- LLM Corporate and Insolvency Law
- LLM International Trade and Commercial Law
- LLM Oil, Gas and Mining Law

www.ntu.ac.uk/tullow

Fast Forward to innovation

Congratulations to Nick Johnson, Jane Jarman and Janice Denoncourt, who were part of a successful proposal – in conjunction with the School of Art and Design and The Hive – for the Intellectual Property Office's 2014 Fast Forward competition.

The proposal is to help businesses and students in the creative industries gain a better understanding of how to protect, manage and exploit their ideas and intellectual property.

This will be delivered through a series of themed workshops, in which industry experts and IP lawyers will be invited to join with Nottingham businesses and students to share their knowledge and experience.

www.ntu.ac.uk/fastforward



2014 Fast Forward Competition

Nottingham Law School signs deal to take law students from CUPL

Nottingham Law School has signed an agreement with the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), one of the largest law schools in the world, to enable students to study in the UK.

Students will complete the LLB Comparative Legal Studies in Nottingham, designed to allow Chinese students to progress on to our highly regarded postgraduate courses. www.ntu.ac.uk/cupl



Global Week debate

Political campaigner Peter Tatchell recently visited the University to take part in a debate as part of Nottingham Trent University's Global Week. Peter has been campaigning for human rights and global justice since 1967 and founded the Peter Tatchell Foundation to support his work, both in Britain and internationally.

Peter proposed the motion, 'Where there is public interest, even sensitive State information should be placed in the public domain', which was countered by Tom Lewis, director of Nottingham Law School's Centre for Conflict, Rights and Justice. Becky Huxley-Binns moderated a lively debate, which also included contributions from NTU's Debating Society. The audience enjoyed a stimulating contest, with absorbing arguments from both sides, before Peter Tatchell was declared the winner.



The latest in Law

International Advocacy Teaching Conference

Nottingham Law School's Centre for Advocacy, the only centre of its kind in the UK, will host its inaugural event in June. The International Advocacy Teaching Conference will bring together those with an interest in advocacy training from the professions, judiciary and academia to share best practice in advocacy teaching.

High Court judge Mr Justice Green, chairman of the Advocacy Training Council, has been unveiled as the keynote speaker at the international conference, and legal journalist Joshua Rozenberg will also appear as a guest speaker. Other high-profile experts lined up to take part include New York-based lawyer and chairman of the US National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Dan Arshack; his Honour Judge Michael Stokes, Honorary Recorder of Nottingham and a visiting professor at Nottingham Law School; and Jo Cooper, director of the International Defence Attorneys Association.

Centre director, senior lecturer and practising barrister Jeremy Robson said, "It will be a chance for trial advocates, the judiciary and academics from around the world to share best practice in advocacy teaching."

"This year's theme is Advocating Standards in Advocacy and we will explore ways to ensure standards are maintained against a backdrop of great change in the legal services sector."

There will be a variety of presentations, expert panel debates and workshops that will engage anyone with an interest in teaching advocacy, from undergraduate to practitioner level.

Find out more at www.ntu.ac.uk/advocacy2014



Expert opinions

Footballers are employees, just like you and me

Simon Boyes examines the case of Nottingham Forest striker Dexter Blackstock, who is claiming compensation against Seyi Olofinjana and his former club Cardiff City over a tackle which Blackstock claims was "negligent". www.ntu.ac.uk/nlsfootball



Online copying is a crime that kills creativity

As the government considers what action it should take following a major report into supporting the creative economy, Nottingham Law School's intellectual property expert, Janice Denoncourt, calls for measures to help fund better policing of intellectual property crime. www.ntu.ac.uk/ipcrime



Press coverage

Emma Ireton discusses the Inquiries Act 2005 in the Local Government Lawyer. bit.ly/inquiriesact

Rebecca Huxley-Binns features on the HEA Social Sciences Blog with a piece entitled, 'A new approach to problem based learning in Law - turning pedagogy upside down.' bit.ly/learninginlaw

Rebecca Huxley-Binns calls for the abolition of the mandated seven subjects in the Young Lawyer. bit.ly/reformlawdegree

Samantha Pegg says there is little Facebook and Twitter can do to stop things like Nominat. bit.ly/nominate

Simon Boyes urges the Football Association to make it easier to overturn red card decisions when referees have made obvious mistakes. Simon argues that the current system needs overhauling by the FA so it is simpler to argue that a referee has "got it wrong." www.ntu.ac.uk/redcard

Andrea Nollent discusses why Nottingham Law School continues to attract students in the Law Society Gazette. bit.ly/whylns

John Tingle discusses a recent report on the NHS complaints system in the British Journal of Nursing. bit.ly/nhscomplaints

Jane Ching discusses the impact of the 2013 Legal Education and Training Review on Law Careers.net. Jane suggests that we are starting to see qualification mechanisms emerging that might recognise a wider range of forms of legal experience. www.ntu.ac.uk/letr2013

Insolvency Service contract

Rebecca Parry has been awarded a contract with the Insolvency Service to investigate whether the reach of foreign director disqualification orders should be extended to the UK. This project will examine the laws of several jurisdictions where those laws enable restrictions to be placed on a person's involvement in company management. It will consider whether the effects of disqualifications in these jurisdictions should apply in the UK, either automatically or by judicial discretion.

Student success

The future looks bright for Freshfields Stephen Lawrence Scholarship winner



Adel Abozaima (centre) with broadcaster Jon Snow (left) and Freshfields mentor Jeremy Cronk (right).

Student success

LLB Law student Adel Abozaima has been awarded a career-enhancing opportunity by Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer working with Baroness Doreen Lawrence. The Nottingham Law School student is one of only six candidates selected by the international law firm to take part in the inaugural Freshfields Scholarship scheme.

The scholarship aims to address the under-representation of black males in large commercial firms and the University was asked to nominate eligible individuals with exceptional talent.

Adel started reading about the law and legal reform at a young age and developed a particular interest in commercial law.

He sharpened his commercial acumen with work experience in a variety of sectors including engineering, banking and law, and was encouraged to put himself forward for the award.

After gaining a reference from his tutor, Adel was interviewed by a member of Law School staff, before his nomination was submitted. This was accepted and he was invited to an 'Inside Freshfields' event, to get a better understanding of the scholarship and the firm.

Adel explains, "Meeting the employees and seeing the office reaffirmed my decision to apply and further developed my ambition to work at Freshfields as a scholar, trainee and beyond."

As part of the application process he submitted a 90-second video answering the question 'Why me?', and then went on to complete a gruelling two-day assessment, comprising interviews, commercial awareness tasks, team working exercises, and aptitude and psychometric testing.

The assessments were specially designed to gauge potential across many areas and to identify exceptionally talented individuals with the ability to become top-class lawyers.

Adel's hard work paid off and he learned that he had managed to secure one of the coveted awards. He will now benefit from financial contributions as well as one-to-one mentoring and training, the opportunity to spend time at the firm during university holidays and a guaranteed interview for a training contract.

He says, "I was euphoric the day I received the phone call from Freshfields stating that I had been selected for the scholarship. It was the glimpse of hope which many others do not have to become a leading city lawyer."

"I have trainee, associate and partner mentors who help me with written skills, interview techniques and oral communication, as well as a Goldman Sachs mentor who focuses primarily on commercial awareness."

"In the future I hope to be a lawyer at Freshfields or another international law firm. I currently want to specialise in banking and finance or corporate law. I further want to help dispel the perception that one must go down the red-brick route to become a leading city lawyer. Ultimately I hope that I can contribute towards the creation of greater diversity in the legal sector and beyond."



Student success



Holly Cornford captains ice hockey GB team in World Games

Third-year Law student Holly Cornford says captaining Great Britain's Ice Hockey team in the World University Games is an experience she wants to use to help boost women's sport back in the UK.

Holly has been balancing her studies with travelling long distances to train and compete in the sport she was introduced to ten years ago and which has become her passion.

Her hard work was rewarded when she was selected for the GB team and chosen as captain for the competition in Trentino, Italy, at the end of last year. The World University Games sees nations compete in sports including curling, cross-country skiing and ice hockey.

"It was overwhelming when they asked me if I wanted to be captain. It was a silly question because of course I wanted to be!" said Holly.

With teams such as Canada, Russia and Japan in the competition – all of whom are ranked in the top ten in the world – Holly was aware just how seriously it would be taken.

"We knew it was going to be tough. In the Russian team there were players who had taken part in the last Winter Olympics, that's the calibre you are talking about. Our focus, realistically, was not on the score line but on our performance and bringing something back to the UK to help the sport here," Holly said.

The GB team beat Spain in a fifth place playoff with Holly scoring one of their goals.

"It was my first GB goal and at the time you don't take it in but afterwards, when they present you with a puck for scoring your first GB goal, it starts to sink in and is great," comments Holly.

As a final-year Law student, Holly still has a busy schedule to maintain now that the Games are over. She continues to play for her hometown team of Kingston Diamonds, and travels back to Hull from Nottingham each Tuesday to train from 9.30pm to 11pm before driving back to Nottingham ready for lectures again the next day. When she is in Nottingham, she uses the University's gym for her off-ice fitness training.

"I'd be lying if I said it wasn't tough," Holly explains, "Sometimes, when I have a lot of deadlines for work, I try to complete assignments a week or so early to fit around

games. When I'm at competitions, sometimes when I should be resting, I'm on the laptop doing work, which isn't ideal but it's what I need to do."

Alex Bailey, elite sports development officer at Nottingham Trent University, says, "It's fantastic to see students like Holly competing at the highest level in university sport and representing Great Britain. Holly deserves great credit for her efforts and ability to combine her academic studies with her sport as it clearly requires a great amount of commitment to achieve in both.

"We're proud to support Holly as one of the many student athletes studying at the University and I'm sure there are further successes to come in her academic and sporting career."

Sophie Warren-Evans shortlisted for Law Undergraduate of the Year

LLB student Sophie Warren-Evans has made the shortlist for the Mayer-Brown Undergraduate of the Year award. This leading law firm are looking for students with an excellent academic record, personal skills and career motivation, and successful mooter Sophie has made it through to the final few candidates.

The winner will be awarded a place on Mayer Brown's three-week Summer Work Experience Programme with accommodation allowance plus an iPad, and will collect their award at a gala in Canary Wharf.

Student advice

MAKING THE MOST OF LAW SCHOOL !

Law school is not a walk in the park. You need to be prepared to face the difficulties and the competition to get the most out of your time.



There is a lot to learn, but the opportunities to expand your potential are countless and of course it is a very versatile subject as there are people with Law degrees in all walks of life. Starting a Law degree can be intimidating, and feeling a little nervous is natural. Here are a few very valuable tips, tested by myself, for a less stressful law school experience.



Set up automated backups on your laptop. If there is one thing to do before you start your degree, this is it. No doubt we have all been in a situation where we have lost months of work in a hard drive crash and this usually happens the day before your exam or a deadline – it has the potential to be a nightmare.

The easiest way to do this is to go to Dropbox, sign up for the free version, create a folder called "Law School" and add it to your Dropbox. Then save every file you have ever created there.



Find at least three places to study that are not your university library. The library can be a very convenient place to study with free access to books and wi-fi – however, there will come a time where you can't stand to enter your library.

Go ahead and search for other locations that make you feel comfortable and relaxed, eg. a coffee shop, another campus library or your best friend's kitchen table.



Read the backstory of each case. Law is mainly based on cases which might not always be the most interesting. Appellate cases are the worst, with pages and pages of what seems to be a huge never-ending puzzle made out of words.

My first advice would be to accept the fact that without understanding you won't pass, and secondly, find out more about the people involved and details of what happened in the case. Imagine you are reading a book, and what a waste it would be to finish it and have no idea what it was about.



Start thinking about your exams on the first day of the semester. This is simple: the more work you get done before Christmas, the more time you will have to revise before your exam.

Don't make my mistake and open your lecture notes for the first time a week before your first assessment. Work accumulates quickly once you've lost track of it and it will take a lot of sleepless nights to catch up.



Stop being a perfectionist. Being excellent at everything you did in high school is probably what got you here, however perfectionism has its place. In my A-level Law, I got 97% which was the best feeling ever, but a year later I was struck with shock when I saw my overall first year 62% result.

My problem was that I was trying to perfect my answers. Many people starting a law school have a mistaken belief that they will be taught "the law" which will give them the answers to complex problems. The reality is there is no right answer, and unless you break the habit of trying to be perfect and get the "right" answers you are not going to be able to deal with the hard questions.

So, there you have it. Best of luck!
By Anastasiya Lutsenko



Alumni

Paperback writer

Over the past 50 years our students have gone on to vocations in many walks of life. Here we talk to alumnus Robert Hann, who balances a successful legal career with life as an award-winning author.



Robert Hann (left) with fellow NTU alumnus and illustrator Howard Barton.

Alumni

Robert graduated from Nottingham Law School 30 years ago, completing both the BA (Hons) Law and the Law Society Part II examinations (the forerunner of the LPC). He qualified as a solicitor and forged a successful career in local government interspersed with periods as a solicitor with commercial law firm Eversheds in Nottingham.

Today he is Director, Legal Services for Local Partnerships LLP, an organisation established by the Local Government Association and HM Treasury to provide the public sector with commercial expertise. But Robert's work as a lawyer also sparked another passion, and he is now the published author of a number of works ranging from legal handbooks to children's fiction.

He tells us, "I first began writing books through my work as a lawyer as a way of explaining complex topics to myself. My first book, published by Sweet and Maxwell, was a guide to local authority charging powers – it involved a huge amount of research through Halsbury's laws and was designed to help councils to better understand when and how they could generate income through identifying statutory powers. This topic has been very controversial and has come back into vogue during the credit crunch and recession. In 2012, with the help of local firm Browne Jacobson, I updated the book. LexisNexis have now taken the book online where it will be updated along with my other book, 'Local Authority Companies and Partnerships' (LACAP). LACAP is the main reference book for local authorities setting up companies and partnerships with other bodies."

When Robert's children were born, his writing took a completely new direction.

“Being a lawyer inspired me to write law books to help me in my career, but when my children came along they led to inspiration of an entirely different kind. I wrote them stories on the train home from London to Nottingham. I loved reading them nonsense poetry, and the first story that popped into my head was a rhyming tale about a terrifying creature called ‘The GrumbleGroar’.”

Robert wrote the words for ‘The GrumbleGroar’ – the tale of fire-breathing, smoke-snorting dragon-like creature who lives at the earth's core, but he had no illustrations. That's where graphic designer Howard Barton stepped in. The two men met in the school playground waiting to pick up their respective children and discovered that they were both Nottingham Trent University alumni. The pair worked together to produce a beautifully illustrated rhyming book that was published in 2009. ‘The GrumbleGroar’ went on to receive great acclaim from local schools and won the New Writers UK Children's Book of the Year in 2012. More stories followed and Robert is now focussing on his newest character – Sidney Sneed the football-playing centipede.

Robert loves writing for children, but he gained the most personal satisfaction from another of his books – a wartime tale of bravery behind enemy lines, written from the perspective of his father.

“‘SAS Operation Galia’ was my first attempt at a serious novel and was based on the experiences of my father in the SAS during the Second World War. The book formed part of the dissertation for my MA in Creative Writing, something that I also studied at NTU, and was awarded the Impress Prize for New Writers in 2008/09.”

“I have just republished the book following great reviews by famous military personnel and after many of the descendants from the Galia squad got in touch.”

So what next for the solicitor scribbler? Robert says:

“I would like to get more children's books illustrated and published. Sidney Sneed the football-playing centipede and star of the mini-beast football league has signed for Brentford FC and might soon play for a local side. If I can export Sid's fantastic skills to all football clubs in the UK and showcase him in schools across the East Midlands, I might even give up the law!”

Find out about all of Robert's books and current projects at www.hannbooks.com

Alumni

Fighting for justice

Amerdeep Somal graduated from the LLB Law in 1988 and went on to complete the Law Society Finals Part II examinations. Much of her work has focused on ensuring that women have an equal place in society, and she gained an Asian Woman of Achievement award in 2011. Here she gives us a rundown of her career.



Amerdeep had her eye on a career in law from an early age. She said:

“From the age of 11, I was determined to become a lawyer, despite the fact few children from my school went to university. I used to rush home from school to watch the television series ‘Crown Court’ and I wanted the wig and gown! But when I went to my school’s career adviser, she laughed and said, ‘Don’t you mean a legal secretary?’ ‘I got a pat on my head – but I proved her wrong.’”

Her mother encouraged her to study and she went on to read Law at university.

“Nottingham Trent Law School had a first-class reputation, particularly for the Law Society Finals, as it was called then. This made moving into the employment market smoother.”

After university, Amerdeep worked as a defence and prosecuting lawyer. She then moved to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) where she worked as a Commissioner for ten years, responsible for overseeing investigations, casework and the promotion of public confidence in the complaints system. She was also the Commission lead on gender abuse and domestic violence, and it was her work in this area that led to a particular career highlight.

“I was overjoyed to win an award at the Asian Woman of Achievement ceremony in May 2011. It was great to get recognition for the work I did whilst being at the IPCC and standing up for the rights of the people I support, regardless of the consequences.

“I was delighted because I am very proud to be of Indian origin. My parents were first-generation migrants – they weren’t affluent and they weren’t educated. I would never have achieved anything if it wasn’t for their sheer graft, and the opportunities the UK has given me.”

More recently Amerdeep was awarded a Honorary Doctorate by the University of Roehampton for her work at the IPCC in holding the police service to account on domestic violence failures. After a decade at the IPCC, it was time to move on, and Amerdeep is now an Independent Assessor for the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS), dealing with consumers and financial businesses who are dissatisfied with the service they have been provided by the FOS.

Throughout her career, Amerdeep has also developed board and governance skills to complement her legal background. Today she sits on a number of boards in an advisory capacity, including the Board of Nursing and Midwifery and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and is also a Judge of the First Tier Tribunal, Asylum and Immigration Chamber where she hears appeals against deportation and asylum.

Amerdeep has learnt many things over the years, but one piece of advice has always stayed with her:

“The best advice I was given was from a female lawyer who has reached dizzy heights in her career and is now a household name. She said to me, ‘Always extend a hand behind you, to help the next Amerdeep to take that first step on the ladder.’ I remember it to this day. It is important not to get so self-absorbed that you forget the help you were given and try and help the next aspiring woman.” Read more alumni profiles at www.ntualumni.org.uk

Amerdeep Somal

Our staff

Out of practice

Discussing her transition from corporate lawyer to academic, LPC lecturer Jennifer Waterhouse talks to Andrew Hubback.



Jennifer Waterhouse

Originally a Politics graduate, Jennifer specialised in employment law at DLA Piper in Sheffield before joining Nottingham Law School last year. “I did really enjoy private practice,” Jennifer said, “but I wanted a more people-focused role where I could use my interpersonal skills.” In fact, Jennifer had known she wanted to be a lecturer when she was a student herself and she led a number of training events at DLA Piper that confirmed she liked teaching. “I really enjoy my job and have not looked back,” Jennifer concludes.

Reflecting on the differences between practice and lecturing, Jennifer says that “students tend to focus on learning the law from scratch” whereas “in practice, it’s crazy how little pure black and white law there is and, instead, the emphasis is on commercial options.”

“I bring real life experience,” Jennifer adds, “and I think students like that.”

For Jennifer, the most rewarding part of her job is watching students progress and “I get satisfaction from seeing things fall into place for them.” Jennifer was delighted that “all the [LPC] students I taught passed and got high grades. The emails of thanks I got from students after the exams really made it extremely rewarding.”

Jennifer’s advice to students is to:

“Keep on top of studying and make use of tutors and the resources available. Don’t leave revision too late and consolidate as you go.”

She also urges students to “get as much work experience as possible – paid or unpaid, any looks good.” Students should think outside the box: “Remember Law is a good degree and opens lots of doors so don’t be afraid to try something different. Don’t just approach law firms; consider the in-house legal departments of companies and public sector organisations. Get experience in as many different types of law as possible before you commit yourself to one in particular”.

Reflecting on the most significant developments in the law over the last 50 years, Jennifer singles out human rights as having had a huge impact on so many other different areas of law. “We tend to take human rights for granted,” Jennifer notes, “but 50 years ago it was just dawning. Now, it is a consideration for any litigation, judicial review, police powers etc. It’s important to reflect how far we have come – and, in practice, I saw ‘HR box-ticking’ arguably too much – but it is right they are enshrined.”

Looking to the future, Jennifer says firms face “a very challenging environment, particularly if major banks and City players start offering legal services. Ultimately, this could lead to the death of the hourly rate – firms will offer more fixed fee/retainer-type services as well as free helplines and training”. Technology will also play a huge role, Jennifer predicts, with teleconferences with clients replacing face to face meetings and “we may even see advice being delivered on secure online portals like Amazon Assist.” So watch out for clients pressing the Mayday button!

Timeline

1964

Students graduate from undergraduate Law degree and Law Society Part II Examinations

as part of Nottingham Regional College of Technology

1968

Nottingham Law School launches first Law sandwich degree in the UK

Nottingham Law School has always valued practical legal education and we were pioneers of the first Law sandwich degree, all the way back in 1968! Back then, the BA Legal Studies enabled students to spend three six-month periods gaining legal work experience, and today our LLB Law Sandwich degree is still going strong with students spending their paid placement year in firms such as Shoosmiths, Cartwright King, Capital One and Universal Pictures.

1979

Law Society Final Examination Course begins, replacing Law Society Part II examinations

1981

Nottingham Law School's first LLB replaces BA Law degree

1993

Law Society Final Examinations Course ends and Nottingham Law School begins teaching the Legal Practice Course in the newly opened Belgrave Building

The Legal Practice Course ushered in a new way of training for would-be solicitors in 1993. For the first time there was no single national examination and institutions were responsible for their own assessment. There was a greater focus on practical skills and students could choose optional modules appropriate to the type of firm they wanted to work in. The NLS LPC thrived, tripling its intake in numbers, housed in the brand new Belgrave Building. Today, our LPC continues to receive the highest possible rating from the Solicitors Regulation Authority in every area of the course.

1997

Inns Court of Law School loses its monopoly on the Bar and Nottingham Law School launches the Bar Vocational Course in the Taylor Building

Before 1997, anyone wanting to enter the Bar had to train at the Inns of Court Law School in London. This all changed with the launch of the Bar Vocational Training Course (now the Bar Professional Training Course) and Nottingham Law School became one of only a handful of institutions validated to deliver the training. Pupils studied in the Taylor Building, an elegant house renamed in honour of the former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, before moving to the Chaucer Building where a portrait of Lord Taylor still hangs today.

2012

Launch specialist research centres in Legal Education, Business and Insolvency Law and Conflict, Rights and Justice, followed by centres for advocacy and mediation.

2011

Entire Law School moves into redeveloped Chaucer building with suite of mock courtrooms and moot rooms.

1964



1964

First mention of Lex Law Society in Students' Union handbook

The student-run Lex Law Society has been around for as long as the Law School itself, organising mooting competitions, networking events and social activities for the past 50 years. In the 1974 Students' Union handbook, Lex President David Spencer wrote of cheese and wine parties, discotheques and the "social event of the year" – the Lex dinner. Today little has changed with students enjoying a full range of activities, culminating in the famous Lex Ball.

Nottingham Law School begins teaching own BA Law degree.

1973

Nottingham Law School moves from York House to newly built Chaucer Building.

1974



First edition of The Trent Law Journal published.

1977



1992

First summer school in Strasbourg

Since our first group of students went to Strasbourg in 1992, the Summer Schools have been a popular part of Law School life. Students spend a week exploring law from an international perspective and get to meet and socialise with students from other universities. We now run four summer schools and, as well as Strasbourg, students have visited Amsterdam, Berlin, Geneva, Tallinn and Nijmegen.

1992

Nottingham Trent granted university status

Nottingham Law School launches first Graduate Diploma in Law, which fast becomes the national standard.

1993

First Research Centre in Health Law established.

1994



1994

1995

Launch first LLM in Corporate Law.

Nottingham Law spearheads the integration of mooting into the curriculum.

2005

1997

Nottingham Law School develops MBA in Legal Practice, the first of its kind in the UK.

In-house Legal Advice Clinic opened.

2006

2014

Nottingham Law School celebrates 50 years of excellence in legal education.

First university in the UK to award an LLM in Advocacy Skills, a bespoke programme commissioned by the Attorney General of Malaysia.

2011

LLM Advanced Litigation begins, the first of a wide range of professional courses

The launch of the LLM Advanced Litigation signalled a new direction for the Law School, expanding to deliver training for practising legal professionals. We became a "full-service" Law School, developing bespoke courses and qualifications for law firms and barristers. Our outstanding reputation in litigation led to the development of the PG Dip Litigation and LLM in Environment, Planning and Regulatory Law, and today we utilise our expertise in intellectual property and insolvency law to offer practitioner qualifications in these areas.

Pro bono

Bridging the gap to practice – pro bono publico

Pro bono publico, or legal work acting 'for the public good,' is becoming a staple on the CVs of many law students. This is unsurprising: pro bono work provides the conscientious law student with much-needed legal experience and evidences a commitment to the legal profession, desirable attributes for future employers, whether they be law firms or chambers. Pro bono work provides the opportunity to apply one's legal knowledge in a practical setting.

Any law school worth its salt will have widened its provision of legal education to include pro bono work, and Nottingham Law School is no exception. If you are looking for opportunities there are many of the pro bono variety available to the aspiring lawyer.

Legal Advice Clinic

An engine moving learning from the hypothetical problem scenario to the practical real-life legal issue, with all the practical considerations that come with it.

A Legal Advice Clinic provides a "middle path" to those seeking legal advice where all parties can benefit from the experience. From personal experience, a lot of casework typically covers land and employment law issues though some clinics have notable specialist areas or collaborate with local law firms to provide a wider range of legal services – these are the ones to look out for.

Casework is usually generated from within the local community as clinics facilitate a greater degree of access to the legal system; members of the general public may pursue a legal claim utilising the free legal advice they provide.

These clinics aspire to emulate practice in providing legal advice; though students must be supervised by a qualified solicitor engaging in group work, telephone conversations

and client interviews are all activities students are involved in. Thus clinic work provides experience that can be cited confidently to address practically any law firm or chambers competency question.

Many clinics, such as Nottingham Law School's, are run in association with the LawWorks Solicitors Pro Bono Group: www.lawworks.org.uk

The Free Representation Unit

Needless to say, he who holds advocacy experience without Rights of Audience is an impressive individual.

FRU, as I will affectionately refer to it, provides third-year or vocational Law students the opportunity to represent clients at tribunal level in social security, employment or criminal injury compensation cases.

Those wishing to undertake such advocacy must first undergo training, tests and observation. However, such advocacy experience is rare, making the process more than worthwhile to undertake; some chambers have gone so far as to ask applicants specifically why they have not joined and participated in FRU.

Students can expect to be supervised by a qualified solicitor and to be allocated their own case on a highly competitive first-come, first-serve basis. However, once a volunteer secures a case they are responsible for the entirety of its conduct; interviews, submissions, negotiation, drafting of statements and taking client instructions.

Nottingham Law School provides for the first FRU regional centre. For more information see the FRU website: www.thefru.org.uk

These two key pro bono opportunities can provide a prospective lawyer with experience of managing a case through to completion and are therefore gold dust in terms of experience.

Suneet Sharma
LLB Law – Third Year
Student Adviser – NLS Legal Advice Clinic
Social Security volunteer – Free Representation Unit

Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre

Nottingham Law School has an award-winning pro bono scheme and a vital part of this is our in-house Legal Advice Clinic. Launched in 2006, the Clinic opened to provide initial legal advice and a referral service to NTU staff, students and the local community.

Since then, the Clinic has gone from strength to strength and this year we are delighted to unveil the brand new Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre. These new and improved facilities in the Chaucer Building will provide enhanced opportunities for students and an expansion in the number of services we can offer to our clients.



All students have been invited to the official opening of the Centre on Wednesday 25 June by the Attorney General, Dominic Grieve. The ceremony will include speeches from the Attorney General, the Dean of Nottingham Law School, Andrea Nollent, and the Nottingham Trent University Vice Chancellor Neil Gorman, in one of his final engagements before retiring. Alumni, collaborative partners and Law School staff past and present have also been invited to the event and we hope to see lots of familiar faces for a memorable evening.

Pro bono

Faye Deverell – Supervisor at Nottingham Law School's Pro Bono Clinic

Faye Deverell qualified as a solicitor in 2011 with the Derby-based charity, Direct Help and Advice (formerly Derbyshire Housing Aid), and joined NTU in 2013 as a Supervisor in Nottingham Law School's Legal Advice Clinic.

What made you decide to become part of NTU Staff?

I was familiar with NTU as an alumna of the University and when I saw the opportunity to work in the Clinic I thought it would be an excellent chance for me to continue my work as a solicitor whilst providing supervision and guidance to present NTU students.

From working in a legal aid practice, I was very aware of the cuts in Civil Legal Aid and I was also keen to continue to assist the vulnerable clients that would be affected by the cuts by providing free legal advice at the Clinic.

So what aspect of supervising do you enjoy the most?

It is extremely rewarding to see NTU students developing their legal skills by assisting real clients from both the local and NTU community.

It is fantastic to be able use my own experiences from legal practice to help NTU students gain the necessary skills to succeed in their chosen career. Hopefully the skills they have developed under my supervision in the Clinic will put them in good stead for the future.

What would you say are the highlights from your time at NTU so far?

As a student at NTU for four years, I had many highlights both academically and socially, but as a staff member the introduction of the Free Representation Unit for Social Security cases in Nottingham and succeeding in our first case was a great feeling – although I can't take all the credit, as a student represented the client at the hearing.

It was also amazing to be able to collaborate with our neighbours at the Nottingham Women's Centre so we can now offer free legal advice and assistance to the women who use the Centre.

Could you tell us a bit about the differences between academia and practice?

There is a certainly a big difference between academia and practice. I miss representing clients in the County Court, though I have been working to introduce County Court work into the Clinic to allow students to develop advocacy skills. However, I don't miss the pressured deadlines that come with court work, such as applying to suspend a warrant of eviction minutes before the bailiffs are due to carry out the eviction at the client's property.

I'm also very relieved that I no longer have to time record – having said that, we get students to do it in the Clinic in preparation for practice!



Faye Deverell - Supervisor at Nottingham Law School's pro bono clinic

Do you have any advice for current students?

It is a shame that the Clinic was not running whilst I was studying at NTU, as it would have been a brilliant opportunity to have the experience of dealing with real clients. It would definitely have made client interviews in practice much less daunting.

I would advise current NLS students that any experience is good experience. Students should seriously consider getting involved with the Clinic and other similar NTU Pro Bono Projects early on in their studies, as such experiences are usually easier to obtain than work experience in practice (there are no assessment days at the Clinic). By utilising such amazing opportunities I think students can best develop legal and life skills that they will need in any career.

Interview conducted by Suneet Sharma, LLB Law – Third year

Pro Bono Awards

BPTC students Joy Lewis and Ella Davis were shortlisted for the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards 2014 in the category of 'Best Contribution by an Individual Student'.

The annual awards celebrate the best pro bono activities undertaken by organisations and individuals and the positive impact they have had on those helped. Joy and Ella were selected by a panel of judges that included Tom

Laidlaw (LexisNexis, Head of Academic Development), Isla Grant (Editor, LawCareers.net), Andrew Caplen (Vice-President, The Law Society) and Richard De Friend (Ex-Director of Pro Bono at the University of Law and PBUK).

Both students attended the awards ceremony at the House of Commons where they were highly commended for their work. Prizes were presented by Attorney General

Dominic Grieve, who will visit the Law School shortly to officially open the new Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre.

We extend our thanks to Nick Johnson, Faye Deverell, Vivien Earp, Stephanie Wright and Linda Green who have all supported the students in their work.



Mooting

Nottingham Law School has always had a strong mooting tradition and our reputation keeps on growing. The accolades have been flooding in over the past year and here we take a look at some of our more recent successes.

Undergraduate mooting club

The undergraduate mooting club was launched in 2012 and is rapidly going from strength to strength. President Antony Wood and Deputy President Sophie Warren-Evans have done a superb job training the mooters and mentoring the external teams. Antony is also the LEX mooting officer and he and Sophie have run numerous workshops under the auspices of LEX and the mooting club to support students, alongside a very successful internal LEX mooting competition.

In the past few months, Ellie Harrison and Ryan Simpson reached the quarter finals of the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting (ICLR) competition, and Sandish Kaur and Ryan Akhurst made it to the second round of the English Speaking Union (ESU) competition with an excellent display against the University of Derby.

Sophia Baig and Eugenia Frimpomaa-Wiafe are also about to commence the trial phase of the Blackstone's Criminal Advocacy Competition. They are following in the triumphant footsteps of Joy Lewis and Sophie Warren-Evans who won the prestigious national competition for Nottingham Law School in 2013.



(left to right) Ellie Harrison, Antony Wood, Sophie Warren-Evans, Ryan Akhurst and Sandish Kaur



Mediation Skills Competition

Congratulations to Sophia Baig and Isabel Baylis, along with their coach Marguerite Kenner, for their outstanding victory in The Worshipful Company Of Arbitrators Mediation Skills Competition.

The aim of commercial mediation is to reach a settlement between two businesses, where the contractual relationship has broken down but they are trying to avoid going to court. At the mediation competition, the two businesses are played by a two-person team, divided into client and counsel. Isabel took the part of counsel, defending the client and probing for hidden information, and Sophia played the client, bringing her acting flair to a variety of different roles from hurt family friend to sharp CEO. Marks are awarded for skills such as problem-solving, advocacy, engagement with the other side and strategy development.

Sixteen teams took part in the competition, which began with a networking event in the swish London office of global law firm Linklaters. Isabel and Sophia abstained from the free bar in order to prepare, and the decision obviously paid off. They flew through their qualifying rounds the next day with the judge praising their opening statement for being of a professional standard.

After victory in the semi finals against Queen's University, Belfast, the team were left with two hours to prepare for the final against London Metropolitan University. They got to work learning the facts and figures, developing a strategy and writing and memorising an opening statement. The final was performed on stage in the Linklaters auditorium in front of the other teams, various lawyers, judges and coaches. Both teams were fully focused and unfazed by the esteemed audience in a tense and exciting finale that ended with Nottingham Law School declared as the winners.

The memorable weekend ended with the closing awards ceremony, where the team were presented with first prize by Michael Stephens, the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Isabel told us, "I'd love to say how happy I was collecting my award – but I was so exhausted I think it only hit me the next day how proud I was!"



Isabel Baylis and Sophia Baig

Mooting

Ian Hutton Memorial moot

The mooting club Deputy President, Sophie Warren-Evans, was the winner of the fourth Ian Hutton Memorial Moot, sponsored by Monckton Chambers.

This annual undergraduate mooting competition takes place the memory of alumnus Ian Hutton, who sadly died at the premature age of 47 in 2010. Ian had worked hard to rise above difficult personal circumstances as a child and teenager, initially as a professional actor. He then decided to change career and joined Nottingham Law School as an LLB student, achieving the most outstanding first class degree that had ever been awarded. He went on to study PhD, BVC and then became a member of the consultant faculty within the Law School before ultimately winning pupillage and practising at the prestigious Monckton Chambers in London.

The moot, which forms an integral part of the third year LLB mooting module, involved a tricky issue of human rights law in a problem written by Tom Lewis, NLS' human rights specialist and director of the NLS Centre for Conflict, Rights and Justice.

Special thanks go to Dr Nick Armstrong, NLS alumnus and successful barrister with the well-known Matrix Chambers, who kindly agreed to judge the moot again this year.



Ian Hutton

A brief history

Mooting at Nottingham Law School took off in the 1990s, largely due to the dedication of Mooting Coordinator Cliff Atkins. Jo Boylan-Kemp, a former Mistress of the Moots and Nottingham Law School student herself, remembers him well:

"Cliff was really enthusiastic and I think he saw how beneficial mooting could be before a lot of other people. He was passionate about mooting and encouraged anyone who had an interest to get involved as an extra-curricular activity."

It was during this time that the Law School first started competing in the Lincoln's Inn moot against local rivals The University of Nottingham.

"It was a great experience going down to London and getting to moot in the surroundings of Lincoln's Inn. Lord Walker used to act as judge and NLS are way ahead in terms of victories. In fact we've won so many times we haven't really needed to keep count."

The Law School's pioneering mooting activity is demonstrated by the publication of *The Cavendish Guide to Mooting* in 1997 – the first book dedicated solely to the instruction of student mooters. Written by former NLS tutors John Snape and Gary Watt, they thank Cliff in the preface for his "inspirational enthusiasm for mooting" as well as Jane Ching and Phil Huxley (Becky's Dad!). This passion for mooting is obviously infectious as both Jo Boylan-Kemp and Becky Huxley-Binns have gone on to lead the Law School's provision in subsequent years.

GDL Mooting Society Final

Staff and students enjoyed a closely fought final to the eighth annual GDL Mooting Society Competition.

The final, which was sponsored by local law firm Nelsons, saw Lloyd Lane and Hannah Connors appear for the Appellants, and Harriet Dudbridge and John Goss appear for the Respondents. The moot problem, which was written by Michael Patrick (Treasurer of the GDL Mooting Society), required the finalists to consider a scenario in which a future government, relying on primary legislation, sought to extradite a terrorist suspect to a country where evidence gained through torture would be used against them in criminal proceedings. Accordingly, the finalists had to debate whether Parliament's sovereignty could be overridden, either by express legislative entrenchment, or by the courts, following obiter comments to that effect in *Jackson [2006] 1 AC 262*.

The moot was conducted with great enthusiasm by all parties and the mooters dealt with questions from the bench extremely skilfully and eloquently. As ever, the standard of mooting demonstrated by the students was extremely high. All parties presented their case with distinction and the scoring was extremely close, with only a few marks between the top and bottom scores. The winner was Lloyd Lane, and the runner up was Hannah Connors. Lloyd's prizes include a marshalling placement with His Honour Judge Stokes QC, Recorder of Nottingham.

Great thanks must go to Jon Roberts, partner at Nelsons, for his excellent and rigorous questioning of the mooters and for so kindly judging the moot once again. All the finalists are to be congratulated for their performances on the night. Special thanks are due to BPTC students Helen Towers, Joy Lewis and Michael Patrick (who make up the GDL Mooting Society Committee) and to GDL Mooting Tutor Paula Moffatt for organising such a successful event.



The GDL Mooting Society Committee and finalists with Mooting Tutor, Paula Moffatt.

Mooting draws on a wide range of intellectual and practical skills and it can help develop your confidence in public speaking, research and advocacy. Visit www.ntu.ac.uk/mooting to find out more.

Careers



CV hints and tips

When applying to an employer, it is important to put together a carefully thought out and well-written CV that showcases your relevant skills and experience.

Here are some useful hints and tips to help get you started with the process of creating your own CV.

An employer is likely to skim-read your CV first and will then decide whether it is worth reading fully or not. Getting the right structure, format and layout is therefore extremely important:

- Decide on a layout and stick to it. Make sure you keep a consistent layout throughout your CV. A key example of this is to make sure that dates are laid out consistently throughout the document. This will help the reader and will make it easier for them to find the key information that they need.
- Don't overcrowd your CV. A clear font in at least a size 11 for the main text is recommended, and don't forget the use of headings to break up your CV.
- The typical student/graduate CV should be no longer than two sides of A4. Ideally these need to be two full pages – any shorter than this and it can give the employer the impression that you haven't been up to much.
- Don't rely on the employer making assumptions about your CV – make it clear what your contribution was and what you gained from any activities that you've been involved in.
- Consider the use of bullet points to make details clearer and enable you to emphasise key aspects. You don't want key details to be buried in a paragraph of text – it could easily be missed.

A good CV should stand out from the numerous other CVs that an employer could receive. To achieve this, make sure you emphasise:

- **Transferable skills that you may have gained from other roles. Teamwork, communication and working under pressure are all good examples**
- **Your experiences and their impact on you in relation to the role you are applying for**
- **An understanding of the post being applied for (or area of work for a speculative CV)**

Some CVs that you see may have a personal profile; however, there is a tendency for law firms not to be huge fans of them so you can leave it out. However, if applying to other areas they can be a welcome addition.

Draft your personal profile (this should be at the beginning of your CV) a few times and tailor your profile for each role you are applying to. Do be mindful that a poorly written profile can do more harm than good.

References should be one academic, plus one employer if possible, and both need to be recent.

There is no need to include a complete postal address on your CV as references are not usually sought at this stage. Name, position, organisation, a contact phone number and email address are sufficient.

Don't forget your covering letter. Some would argue that covering letters are more important than your CV. Just as with your CV you need to make sure you get the right professional layout, and that it includes specific information and not just general and vague statements.

Use the job advert, description and person specification, if available, and other sources (website/social media) to make a list of essential and desirable criteria. Make sure you use these in your covering letter.

You should be aiming for one page for your covering letter and there should be no spelling or grammatical errors. For a simple structure for your covering letter, remember the acronym ICME.

I = Introduction – A brief opening to introduce yourself and outline the position or opportunity you are applying for.

C = Competencies – Why you are suitable for the role? What competencies you have, linked to what the employer is looking for. Always provide evidence and examples.

M = Motivation – Why you are interested in the company/role/sector. Be specific and demonstrate your research.

E = Ending – Thank the reader for their time and state that you are looking forward to hearing from them. You could even provide details for your availability, depending on the role you're applying for.

Careers

What are employers looking for in graduates who want to enter the legal profession?

A legal degree provides an excellent background for a wide range of careers – both in and outside of the legal sector. Opportunities can be found across all sectors and in a number of occupations including: education, central and local government, finance, law, media, public services, marketing, consulting, campaigning and research. These professions want students who have the ability to:

- Put together reasoned arguments and question assumptions
- Understand the processes of change in society and its institutions
- Be commercially aware and understand impacts of events for clients and customers
- Analyse and critically evaluate information
- Communicate concisely and clearly with others
- Use ICT to research, identify and present information
- Manage time and take on responsibility for your own development
- Respond positively to critical feedback

Our career events

All current students and graduates from Nottingham Law School can access workshops that are specifically designed to help you realise your employment opportunities with a law degree. All events and opportunities are advertised on Futurehub.



What if I don't know what I want to do?

Some people know exactly where they want to be and what they want to be doing in five years' time, whereas others are not so sure. Take your ambitions seriously and take advantage of opportunities to speak to people about what they do and what they like about their jobs – whether this be family, friends, employers at recruitment fairs, presentations or at networking events.

Research current vacancies using national and local media, take note of the skills, experience and qualifications that they require. Then look at the progression and promotion vacancies, and skills, experience and qualifications needed for these roles.

This should help you develop a career plan. This needs to be done as a continual research process to understand the shifting needs of the employment market and your changing interests and priorities.

What we do to support you

Nottingham Law School and the Employability Team provide extensive services and facilities for all our undergraduates, postgraduates and graduates.

Your School's dedicated undergraduate careers consultant is available in Chaucer, 4th floor, NLS reception every Tuesday from 14.00 – 15.30 and every Friday from 14.00 – 16.00.

These drop-in sessions are an excellent opportunity to get specific advice on issues that matter to you, whether this is extracurricular activities to make you stand out from the crowd, CV reviews, interview preparation or to explore your next steps.

Erasmus

Erasmus and study abroad at Nottingham Law School

In 2011, the LLB (Hons) Law course was totally redesigned to allow students to take part in student exchange opportunities as part of their three-year course. Students complete their first year and the first semester of their second year at Nottingham Law School, before moving on to one of our Erasmus or Study Abroad partners for semester two. In their final year, they return to Nottingham to complete their degree.

To make this a success, we have partnered with universities that teach not only in their native language, but also in English, so that all of our students have the chance to take part. We have partnered with universities that teach law as you'd expect, but we've also extended our partner search to include business schools, and we allow students to study subjects that complement Law, such as Politics and International

Relations. We are aware that not all of our graduates follow a career into law, therefore this different course offering allows those students the chance to experience new subjects.

The 2013/14 academic year has seen the first students take part in this new scheme and they are currently studying at the University of Lucerne, Switzerland and Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey.

This year has also seen the first students from the LLB (Hons) International Law course take part in a year-long exchange, studying in France, Germany, Switzerland and Turkey. They have told me they are all having a great time – look out for articles on their experiences in future editions.

By Tracey Watson
Erasmus and Study Abroad
Coordinator

Erasmus experience in Turkey

Globalisation has made it impossible to have a purely domestic case and this has changed the way in which the legal profession operates. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that firms are demanding more globally minded candidates during their recruitment process.

I was interested in studying abroad as it would provide the international exposure all firms seem to advocate, but also because it gave me the opportunity to get away for six months.

I started by going to see the Erasmus coordinator, to discuss my interest and receive reassurance on any doubts I had. I submitted an application to Koç University in my first year after the initial presentation, which addressed all my concerns and summarised the different opportunities open to me. A while later, I received the congratulations email, but no formalities were required until the second year because I had yet to receive my first-year grades. These are important indicators as to whether entry to your chosen overseas university is possible.

To study abroad during the latter half of the Year 2 on the LLB (Hons) Law, you need to study Land, Criminal and Trust law in one semester. This was no doubt going to be difficult, but I knew that before I signed up and the opportunity was too good to miss. In the process I also developed

time management, self-discipline and organisation skills. These are typical skills future employers expect, and the chance to work on them was an added advantage. I had experienced Turkish culture before whilst on family holidays, but I had never lived away from home for such a long period. The opportunity was perfect for me to grow and experience independence.

Turkey is not yet an EU nation so I had to acquire a visa and health insurance which seemed impossible at times. However, on arrival, all the stress I had been feeling over the past few weeks seemed to melt away. Koç was, and still is, breathtaking. The students were incredibly welcoming and the food is amazing. Istanbul is filled with culture and every angle of it has something new for me to experience. Even after being here for almost two months I feel like a stranger to the many hidden treasures which elude normal tourists.

The language is not as hard as I expected and is another incredible asset for potential employment. It opens up the possibility to work here in the future, especially as I will gain an understanding of the culture and business here too. My language skills are also greatly assisted by the fact that I can practise with native speakers everyday on the streets or on campus, not just in a sterile classroom.

By Isra Abdi

International

Why Erasmus?

I applied to join the Erasmus scheme because I knew what a rare and amazing opportunity it was for both my academic and personal growth. It gives you a chance to embrace a new culture and also teach those you meet about your own.

I chose the University of Lucerne because I could practise and expand my French as well as learn some German. As if sitting along lake Lucerne and enjoying Swiss architecture is not beautiful enough, the surrounding mountains make for a great hiking trip or quick ski trip with everyone. Moreover, Switzerland is so centrally located, sharing its borders with France, Germany and Italy, that to explore Europe is just a train ride away. Though I was initially worried about language barriers given that I had no prior knowledge of German, the university offered a free German course for beginners to help and

everyone is friendly and speaks enough English to help you get by.

The general teaching style at Lucerne is not so different as to make it a big transition from the NLS style. The classes are small and interactive, allowing for discussion and there are occasionally group work activities which promotes class integration.

I think one of the best things is making friends with people from all over, such as America, Italy and France and we are planning a reunion in Prague at a later date. All in all, I would definitely recommend the Erasmus Exchange Programme. It was a great life experience that I will never forget and I feel fortunate to have been granted such an incredible opportunity.

By Christina Calafatis

Nottingham Law School and Radboud University partner to create unique dual Master's in Law

Nottingham Law School and Radboud University, Nijmegen, have partnered to provide an exciting and innovative new dual Master's in Law (LLM).

The new course has been designed for students who want to develop their understanding of corporate, insolvency and European law, and forge a legal career with a strong international focus.

At the end of one year of study, students will be awarded the LLM Corporate and Insolvency Law from Nottingham Law School and the LLM European and Insolvency Law from Radboud University. The course begins in September in Radboud and students will move to Nottingham in January.

Both Radboud and Nottingham Law School have a wealth of experience in business and insolvency law and students will benefit from the expertise of internationally-recognised professors and academics at both universities.

The Faculty of Law at Radboud is engaged in collaborative ventures with leading law firms, banks and multinational companies and is viewed as a centre of expertise in the area where commerce interfaces with law.

Nottingham Law School is home to the Centre for Business and Insolvency Law, a leading research centre that has hosted a number of high-profile events, including the INSOL International Joint Insolvency Conference. Director of the Centre, Professor David Burdette, is extremely active in the field of insolvency law and acts as a consultant for the World Bank along with colleague Paul Omar. Both academics will teach on the course, with modules utilising their considerable expertise in cross-border insolvency law, EU business structures and insolvency and corporate rescue.

Besides academic excellence, students will also value the opportunity to spend time in two different countries, gaining a truly international perspective on their studies. Nijmegen is a lively student city located on the banks on the River Waal in the Netherlands, only ten kilometres from the German border. The oldest city in the Netherlands, Nijmegen is an interesting mix of the old and new with beautiful countryside and plenty of entertainment and cultural opportunities.

Find out more about the course at www.ntu.ac.uk/lldual



Istanbul



Lucerne



Nijmegen

Share your memories

Share your memories

We're compiling a snapshot of life at Nottingham Law School and we need your help! To help us celebrate 50 years of Law, we want to gather your favourite memories and photos from your time here.

Send your Nottingham Law School highlights to nls.enquiries@ntu.ac.uk, tweet @LawNLS with #nls50 or post them to our facebook page at www.facebook.com/ntulawschool

"In September 1968, as an apprehensive 17-year-old I arrived for my first day in York House. Glan Griffiths was the head of the Law School and taught Constitutional Law, Mr. Chua was my tutor, and taught Contract. I remember the LEX society, and its annual sherry party. I also recall a remarkable proficiency of many students, especially in the Law School, at table football!

This year, I've reached my 40th year as a solicitor. I can say with absolute conviction that if the Nottingham Regional College of Technology had not given me an undeserved chance in 1968, I would never have begun a career in the law, let alone reached that landmark!"

Andrew Ashton, BA Law 1971

"I cannot fault the Law School at all. I was hopeless at accounts. Peter Jones shared a room with Bob White who lectured that subject and Peter bet me a fiver that I would pass the accounts paper. I did and Peter swiftly relieved me of the fiver. I was hoping he might have forgotten. I was given self belief."

Amerdeep Somal, LLB Law, 1988

"My experience at Nottingham Law School was the perfect basis for a normal existence in the real world – not stuffy or pretentious – but it was over far too soon!"

Roland Gray, LLB Law 1993

"Without the genuine support of Nottingham Law School and the Students' Union, I would never have had the full confidence to organise a networking event for fellow classmates, and I have a lot to thank them for."

Preet Johal, Graduate Diploma in Law, 2013



In 2013 Graduate Diploma in Law student Preet Johal organised a "Careers in Law" networking event with local solicitor Adam Mohammed and Young Lawyer of the Year 2012, Tunde Okewale.

NTU Alumni Association – here for you!

Following graduation from Nottingham Trent University, you will join the ranks of over 100,000 former students (alumni) that we are in touch with worldwide.

Your free and automatic NTU Alumni Association membership will help you stay in touch with your friends and keep you up to date with news from the University.

However, you don't have to wait until you graduate to benefit. Visit the Alumni Association website at www.ntualumni.org.uk/current_students to find out more, check out the bank of career profiles of those that have studied here before you, and see how you might be able to link up with a former student for mentoring.

Graduating this year?

Did you know that alumni can continue to get careers guidance from the Employability Team for up to three years after graduation, or that there is a jobs board just for former students on the alumni website?

As long as we know how to get in touch with you, you can enjoy a number of benefits and services after you leave NTU – from discounted gym and library membership to offers at local attractions. Visit www.ntualumni.org.uk/benefits to find out more.

And remember to visit the Alumni Association stand after your graduation ceremony to update your details and collect your free goody bag.

...and finally

Signing off the LEX Law Society 2013-14

The LEX Law Society is the largest academic society at Nottingham Trent, with over 350 members who benefit from a wide range of events and activities which are run by the society throughout the academic year. With membership numbers bolstered from Re-Fresher's Fair, the 2013-14 LEX Committee has certainly been busy these past few months.

Even before the first week of term had ended, LEX was collaborating with the Nottinghamshire branch of national firm Shoosmiths to organise and host a charity quiz in the local Spanky Van Dykes.

With twelve teams competing, students, postgraduates and staff members went head-to-head raising money for Barnardos. Proving an astounding

success, the evening raised £100 for the charity, with the LEX Committee team coming in at a respectable third place.

For the second year running, LEX organised dual trips to the UK Supreme Court, offering 50 members the opportunity to take a day trip into the heart of the capital to tour the highest court in the land. Attendees were treated to a personal tour and executive summary of the Supreme Court's landmark cases to date. Another of LEX's annual trips saw a group of eleven aspiring barristers return to London and The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn for their prestigious Dining Event.

The Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys kindly visited campus to deliver a talk

to LEX members that focused on the alternate, dynamic and specialist routes into practice offered by qualifying as a Registered Trade Mark Attorney.

A new initiative this year, the LEX Legal Workshops saw eight undergraduate members tackle those practical skills key to becoming a legal professional. Students undertook tasks typically reserved for vocational courses, focusing on subjects from legal drafting to client care. The scheme proved a success, with participants being offered the opportunity to gain experience at the student led community law clinic, Pro Ius.

LEX's Annual Mooting Competition brought those advocacy-minded members to the fore. The Law School's Courtrooms

were brimming for the first and second/third-year finals judged respectively by Ryan Murray and Rebecca Huxley-Binns. Winners Tom Davies and Ryan Noakes will have their names displayed upon a newly dedicated plaque for internal competition winners.

Following the completion of LEX's second Networking and Dining Event, a canapé and prosecco night and this year's Great Gatsby-themed Law Ball, the new Committee will certainly have their work cut out for them and we wish them all the best.

By Suneet Sharma
LLB Law – Third Year
LEX Assistant Legal Practice
Officer 2013-14



Upcoming events

LLM drop-in event
Wednesday 11 June 2014

GDL and LPC Open Event
Wednesday 11 June 2014

Official Opening of Nottingham Law School Legal Advice Centre
Wednesday 25 June 2014

International Advocacy Teaching Conference
Friday 27 and Saturday 28 June 2014

For more information on upcoming events visit www.ntu.ac.uk/nlsevents

Read our blog

Take a look at the latest posts from staff and students on the Law School blog: www.blogs.ntu.ac.uk/nlsblog

We're always on the hunt for new bloggers, so if you want to get involved send a sample post to nlsblog@ntu.ac.uk



Discounts and scholarships

Remember: NTU students who progress directly onto our full-time GDL, LPC, BPTC or LLMs in 2014 are eligible for a progression discount. You'll automatically receive a £1,000 discount on the LPC, BPTC and GDL or a 10% discount on the LLMs.

You can also apply for one of our scholarships, with a total discount of up to £2,000 available.

Find out more at www.ntu.ac.uk/scholarshipsnls



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