

# Extracurricular Opportunities for Undergraduate Students 2021 – 2022



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# Welcome



## School of Law



**Professor Penny Green**  
Professor of Law  
and Globalisation  
Head of the Department

The Queen Mary Law Department is dedicated to providing you with a range of innovative, exciting and enjoyable ways to enhance your skills, improve your prospects of employment, and develop your CV. We include many of these methods in our innovative optional modules on our undergraduate programme. We recognise, however, that our students have a diverse range of interests and career aspirations. Some wish to practise as a barrister or solicitor; others in alternative legal roles. We also recognise that some of our students do not want to work in law at all but will move into the charitable, human rights or government sectors. Others may wish to develop a career in academia. As such, we have devised a broad and wide-ranging programme of extracurricular activities both within our Law Department, and with the central university careers team, so there will be opportunities to suit all paths.

We also know the importance of extracurricular activities in supporting diversity and inclusion, and in providing opportunities for all to learn and gain valuable experience.

We encourage our students to acknowledge the importance of gaining experience in good time, and to start engaging with opportunities from the beginning of their first year with us.

University is a time to grow, develop confidence and also have fun. Many of these activities provide wonderful opportunities to develop life-long friendships, build communities and inspire career choices. Activities are supported by a talented pool of our staff committed to providing you with the best all-rounded educational experience.

To help you navigate all the opportunities we have compiled this two-part brochure, which covers:

- a. what we offer, and
- b. targeting certain skills and competencies.

I hope you are able to take part in as many of these activities as possible during your time at Queen Mary, and embrace the rich culture our Law Department offers both inside and outside your academic studies.

**Professor Penny Green**  
Head of Department,  
School of Law

# Part A: what we offer

Queen Mary University of London is ranked in the top 20 for universities targeted by employers. A degree from the School of Law provides you with a wide range of transferable skills, making you very attractive to potential employers.



I am extremely grateful for the wide range of opportunities the School of Law and the numerous student societies have offered me. As someone who has not decided on a specific career path yet, and was curious to explore as much as possible, at Queen Mary I could always find activities that challenged me and suited my ambitions and various interests, and, most importantly, supportive people willing to help me exploit my full potential.”

**Andra Tofan**  
undergraduate Law student

# Law careers support

There are a number of roles open to our Law graduates and many choose to apply their degree knowledge directly by taking up legal positions, such as a barrister, solicitor, paralegal and legal adviser. Others decide to apply their skills to other sectors, including public administration and business.

As a Law Department student, you will have access to a bespoke careers programme which includes:

- one-to-one appointments and interview practice with a dedicated Law Careers Consultant or School of Law Peer Career Coach;
- workshops and events to help you explore your career options, train you in recruitment and selection methods and provide you with networking opportunities; and
- opportunities to apply for Queen Mary and external mentoring schemes for the chance to be mentored by practising solicitors and barristers.



## Law firms and chambers we have engaged with include:

- 3 Temple Gardens
- 25 Bedford Row
- Baker McKenzie
- Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
- Covington & Burling LLP
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Hogan Lovells
- Latham & Watkins LLP
- Reed Smith LLP
- Slaughter and May
- Travers Smith LLP

There is an annual Law Fair, which will take place virtually between 16:00 – 20:00 on Wednesday 13 October 2021, where you will have the chance to meet solicitors’ firms and barristers’ chambers; and learn more about work experience, graduate training and pupillage opportunities.



I am writing to let you know that I am now a Campus Ambassador for Herbert Smith Freehills! At interview, I answered two competency-based questions the way you taught me. It would not have been possible without your help.”

**Eva Burkhart**  
undergraduate Law student



### Essential websites for information about the legal sector

[www.lawcareers.net](http://www.lawcareers.net) - news, advice and profiles of firms and vacancies for those considering law careers as solicitors or barristers

[www.chambersstudent.co.uk](http://www.chambersstudent.co.uk) - great companion to 'Law Careers' with articles on becoming a lawyer in different practice areas in the UK and abroad

[www.barcouncil.org.uk/careers](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/careers) - a wealth for information for aspiring barristers

[www.thelawyer.com/lawyer2b](http://www.thelawyer.com/lawyer2b) - wide range of advice and insight into the legal profession for anyone interested in a career in law

Remember to regularly check **QMplus** for law specific career resources  
[qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=8832](http://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=8832)

Look out for our weekly law careers newsletter, which features information on upcoming career events both on and off campus, work experience opportunities and useful resources to help you develop your employability skills and get career ready.

You can book a one-to-one careers appointment or practice interview by contacting the central Careers and Enterprise Team on **020 7882 8533** or emailing [careers@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:careers@qmul.ac.uk).

All undergraduate law career events are published on the Queen Mary careers website ([www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/events](http://www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/events)) and have UG Law in the title. Events can also be found in the events section on QM Careers Hub.

## Central careers support

**QTaster:** gain first-hand insight into different sectors, working environments and roles across a range of graduate employers. You will learn about the day-to-day culture of different companies, their internship and graduate application processes and e-meet their employees. A great way to explore your career options and help you make more informed decisions.

**The Student Consultancy Project:** an employability programme that places Queen Mary students into mini consultancy projects in London-based businesses and charities. This provides you with a chance to develop your professional skills, CV and networks by working on a real-life business project in a multidisciplinary team.

**QTemps:** a unique opportunity for Queen Mary students to gain meaningful work experience and improve their employability skills alongside earning money. The roles are either based on campus or in the local area and span a wide range of sectors and industries.

**EAST:** EAST is the Queen Mary student career journey, and is designed to help you prepare for life after graduation, whether that be work, study, or launching an enterprise. EAST consists of four stages: Explore career options, Acquire experience, Show your skills and experience and Tell your stories. Visit the Careers and Enterprise website for more information: [www.qmul.ac.uk/careers/east](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/careers/east)



QTaster gave me the tools and knowledge to tackle commercial awareness discussions, which is crucial nowadays to be employable. It has also confirmed the areas I would like to work in the future."

**Department of Law  
QTaster participant**



**QMentoring:** receive one-to-one mentoring and careers support with a member of the Queen Mary alumni community or a UK-based professional. This programme can help you to gain insight into an industry or profession; build your professional network; acquire skills to improve your chances within the application process and find out about and apply for work experience opportunities. Students who are in receipt of the Queen Mary Bursary will be prioritised for this programme and it is open to students from any undergraduate year group.

85% of mentees agreed they felt more confident about their career development as a result of QMentoring.

**Enterprise support:** the Enterprise team are dedicated to supporting entrepreneurship at Queen Mary. They offer funding opportunities, exciting programmes and events and one-to-one appointments to support you in bringing your business idea to life.

Visit [www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/jobs-and-experience/](http://www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/jobs-and-experience/) to see the full list of extra-curricular opportunities.

There are a wide range of employer engagement events run throughout the year by the central careers team for those of you interested in exploring non-legal careers. These include sectors such as education, business and finance, media and not-for-profit. These are published on the Queen Mary careers website: ([www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/events](http://www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/events)) and can be found in the events section on Target Connect.

You can also find a range of career resources, information and advice on the Queen Mary careers website [www.careers.qmul.ac.uk](http://www.careers.qmul.ac.uk)

Follow the Queen Mary Careers & Enterprise team on

-  @qmcareers
-  @qmcareers
-  QMUL Careers and Enterprise (@qmcareers)

## The Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre



I've massively enjoyed my last three years at the LAC. I'm really grateful that I was chosen to be a part of the team. I just want to thank the whole team, past and present, for making me feel so welcomed and supported. Hopefully, I can come back to the LAC one day as a supervisor!"

**Abisola Bishi**  
QMLAC Student Adviser





The LAC was one of the reasons Queen Mary appealed so much to me as a law school, and I was not disappointed at all once I got involved with it. In fact, it ended up being one of my favourite things about coming to university. If I had to choose one thing, what I enjoyed most about being in the LAC is the fulfilment of knowing I am helping another person when they are at their most vulnerable and have nowhere else to turn.”

**Matilde Antunes**

QMLAC Student Adviser

Queen Mary University of London is a leader in the field of Clinical Legal Education. In 2019 we were recognised for our ‘Outstanding Contribution to Pro Bono’ in the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards. In 2020 the Centre was awarded a national award for Collaborative Teaching Excellence by Advance HE. Our Legal Advice Centre was formed in 2006 and engaged 330+ students a year in its activities. Its work is in two streams:

- 1) As a community Legal Advice Centre we invite over 350 clients per year to come into the Centre for an appointment, and receive written advice from our Student Advisers afterwards. We provide advice in many areas including family law, social welfare benefits, landlord and tenant and employment issues.
- 2) Through engaging in a variety of community projects aimed at boosting public legal literacy. An example is our SPITE for Schools project, where teams of students design bespoke workshops for secondary school students on the illegality of image-based sexual abuse.

The Centre has a staffing team of seven (which includes two practising lawyers) and engages over 120 volunteer lawyers to help

supervise students. This gives students a valuable opportunity to work side-by-side with lawyers from the City of London.

In addition to our client appointments, the Centre offers a diverse range of student activities which include advocacy at tribunals, delivering workshops in prisons and writing legal blogs.

For more information on our legal advice and community projects, please see our website: [www.lac.qmul.ac.uk](http://www.lac.qmul.ac.uk). We publish our annual report each summer here: [www.lac.qmul.ac.uk/about/annual-reports](http://www.lac.qmul.ac.uk/about/annual-reports)

The QMLAC advertises opportunities to first-year students during Welcome Week and student places for second and final-year students are advertised by email and on QM Plus in February or March for the following year. If you have any questions about the QMLAC, please don’t hesitate to get in touch at [lac@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:lac@qmul.ac.uk).

Follow the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre on



@qmlac



facebook.com/QMLAC

# Student societies

Students are actively encouraged to help shape the culture of our extracurricular activities by forming and running student societies. Student societies run events, undertake student competitions and promote extracurricular activities. There are some Queen Mary-wide societies registered with the Student Union which you can join ([www.qmsu.org/clubs-socs/find/](http://www.qmsu.org/clubs-socs/find/)), and there are others more specific to Law ([www.qmul.ac.uk/law/undergraduate/student-societies/](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/law/undergraduate/student-societies/)). Societies form when our students have a particular interest in a topic or area. For the coming year 2020/21, we have the following student societies;

**Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Society**

Gain exposure to and greater knowledge of alternative means of dispute resolution, with a particular focus on arbitration. Improve your negotiation skills, network with well-renowned arbitrators, and start working on your commercial career today.

**Queen Mary Bar Society**

Find out about life at the bar as a barrister, including the application process, the areas of practice and the practical realities of work and finance.

**Queen Mary Commercial Awareness Society (QMCAS)**

Commercial awareness is a vital skill not just for lawyers, but for a wide range of other careers. This Society explores what that means and how to develop it.



**Queen Mary Criminal Justice Society**

QMCJS is for all students who have a general interest in criminal justice. The society aims to educate people on prominent issues within the CJS and in addition to career and social events, we also provide a space for students to be open and expressive, whilst being challenged to think outside the box.

**European Law Students’ Association (ELSA) at Queen Mary University of London**

ELSA QMUL is the local group of ELSA for students at Queen Mary University of London. ELSA inspires and connects law students locally, nationally and internationally through social, academic, and professional opportunities.

**Law and Business Society (LaBS)**

Fully affiliated with The School of Law and The School of Business Management, this Society provides events and forums of discussions on the intersections between law, business, and their interplay in other fields.

### Queen Mary Law Society (QMLS)

QMLS exists to represent all students seeking a career in the legal sector. Throughout the year, the society offers a multitude of events, opportunities, and access points for students at any academic level to gain exposure to all possible legal careers – from working for a City firm to being part of an in-house legal team.

### Lawyers without Borders (Student Division at Queen Mary University of London)

Part of the wider network of the Lawyers without Borders international NGO, this society is dedicated to advancing access to justice, human rights and the Rule of Law through raising awareness and promoting pro bono activities.

### Queen Mary Legal Innovation Society (QMLIS)

Learn about the innovative and dynamic legal technology sector and receive valuable insights from members of the profession at our events.

### Queen Mary Mooting Society

A society dedicated to supporting students in developing the long-established skill of mooting, which is the verbal presentation of a legal issue or problem. Mooting is designed to give students the closest experience to appearing in court.



### Open Law Society

The Society supports both law students and non-law students and introduces them to ‘niche’ areas of law. Its main objective is to ensure equal access and support in future career prospects.

### Queen Mary Pro Bono Society (QMPBS)

QMPBS’s primary focus is to increase access to justice and an understanding of the law itself in a vast array of areas by engaging members in placements, volunteering, fundraising, diversity initiatives, and networking opportunities.

### Senior Status Society

Geared towards students on the Senior Status LLB programme, the Society’s aim is to support their members both socially and academically throughout their time at Queen Mary. Many of their members are international and have different career objectives from other law students at Queen Mary, so they organise some events tailored to those needs.

### Queen Mary Interdisciplinary Legal Society

The Queen Mary Interdisciplinary Legal Society is aimed to educate our members about the ways in which law is linked to numerous disciplines like science, medicine, psychology, etc. It aims to bring together those who are interested in understanding and debating the socio-legal elements of our society. We want to widen our members’ knowledge of these correlations, and for everyone to participate and create a network of multidisciplinary relationships

### Queen Mary Student Advancement Society

QMSAS aims to propel students to their full potential by helping them garner essential skills, many of which fall outside the scope of traditional academia. These skills include networking, argumentation techniques, negotiation, public speaking, and many more. We aim to achieve this by hosting workshops, panel discussions, interviews, and other events centred around what it takes to be successful, whether in business, law, or other sectors.

### The InterLaw Council

Our Student Societies formed the Interlaw Council in 2019. It is a collaborative initiative which represents a joint endeavour to maximise the efficiency of society-organised events through partnership and cooperation. The InterLaw Council operates on behalf of School of Law affiliated and other legal societies operating within Queen Mary.



The InterLaw Council has been one of the most successful initiatives ELSA QMUL engaged with this year. It has promoted a spirit of collaboration between law societies and has helped us further improve students’ experiences. We now speak in one voice and I look forward to seeing future generations of societies’ executives relying on the strength and opportunities the Council has to offer.” Member of the European Law Students’

### Association (ELSA) at Queen Mary University of London



Our student societies are supported by our careers team which provides annual training to help them operate as effectively as possible. Topics explored include;

- communicating effectively,
- writing funding bids,
- marketing a society, and
- managing stakeholder relationships.

# The George Hinde Moot and the Plea in Mitigation Competition

## The George Hinde Moot

There is a rich culture of advocacy and mooting at Queen Mary, both internally and externally. The highlight of the calendar is the prestigious year-long mooting competition named after a much-loved professor, George Hinde. This culminated with its final being held in spring each year in front of an audience of students and staff from the Department. Over the last three years we have welcomed some of the best legal minds in London to judge the final: Lord Philip, Lord Mance and Lord Hoffmann.

Students receive training before the competition and many practising barristers and solicitors assist with judging in the initial rounds.

The two students running the competition (known as the Moot Master and Moot Mistress) advertise how to apply at the beginning of each academic year – look out for the email.

**Look out for other moots organised by the student societies**



## The Queen Mary Plea In Mitigation Competition

While a moot is focused on law, a plea in mitigation is focused on facts. This piece of advocacy is the final speech delivered by a defence advocate before a criminal defendant is sentenced, pleading leniency. Students are trained in the practice of how a court determines a criminal sentence, and the art of persuasive advocacy.

Once students have received case papers, they work out the likely sentence and pitch their submissions to the court on a range of facts to try and obtain the best sentence possible for the client.

Each year the school welcomes numerous barristers and solicitors to assist with the judging and the final takes place in a court room at the Central London County Court. The winner is offered a Marshalling Placement with HHJ Baucher and HHJ Freeland QC at the Central London County Court.

The Queen Mary Plea in Mitigation Competition is advertised to students each year in late September or early October via email and QM Plus.

**There are lots more internal and external advocacy opportunities and competitions that are run by our student societies.**

Queen Mary Law School has a proud culture and history of mooting. This year, students have had incredible mooting success.

- In January 2021 two LLB students, Joseph Toft and Joseph Hilditch won the Essex Court Chambers English Speaking Union National Mooting Competition. This was the 5th win for Queen Mary in this prestigious competition. The prize was both a financial award and a mini pupillage for each student!

- The Queen Mary team won 1st place at the Conflict Prevention and Resolution International Mediation Competition in March 2021. Well done to Jessical Sblendorio (LLM student) and Andra Tofan (LLB Student). Parnian Mohammadi (LLB student) also won the “Best Mediator” prize.”
- In July 2021 Rojae Brown, Mara Ionita and Basanti Mardemootoo won the Nuremberg Moot Court Competition 2021.

## The Commercial Negotiations Competition

Each year, three of our student societies (the ADR Society, ELSA and the Law and Business Society) run a commercial negotiations competition which undergraduate law and non-law students can enter. The competition allows students to increase their commercial awareness and negotiation skills.

## Reed Smith Business Skills Programme

Each year Reed Smith LLP run a four-part series of business skills covering the essential skills for professional life. These are sessions that help students to manage themselves, their work, their relationships and their communication skills. Students work with professionals from Reed Smith LLP to understand how to prepare properly for professional life. These are not specific to legal practice and can be used in all future careers.

## The Queen Mary Law Journal

The Queen Mary Law Journal is an The Queen Mary Law Journal is a generalist, peer-reviewed, online and open-access periodical, aiming to publish high-quality legal scholarship. Submissions should be

original and not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. We accept both long and short form articles, case or legislation notes, and book reviews. We are especially keen on articles that are interdisciplinary and place law in its many contexts including historical, cultural, technological, economic, transnational, and global. You can find advice on publishing adapted student work and our style guidelines at <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/law/research/journals/qmlj/>. If you are interested in submitting an article, please contact [QMLJ-submissions@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:QMLJ-submissions@qmul.ac.uk) and keep an eye out for our annual call for papers via our Twitter account: [@QMLawJournal](https://twitter.com/QMLawJournal).



# Student prizes and awards



Each year, the students who get the highest marks in individual modules are recognised by the Law Department. Many of awards are sponsored by law prestigious law firms and chambers. In addition to these module awards, there are other prizes awarded to students:

## *Students in all years are eligible*

- Outstanding Advocate and Communicator of the Year
- The 'Writing for the Future' Award
- Outstanding Research and Analysis
- The Law Student Award for Outstanding Commercial Awareness
- The Law Student Award for Creative Legal Innovation

## *Awards for first-year students*

- The Dechert Prize for best overall first-year student

## *Awards for second-year students*

- The Sweet & Maxwell Prize for the best overall second-year student
- The Sullivan & Cromwell Prize for best contribution to the Law School by a second-year student

## *Awards for final-year students*

- The Roy Goode Prize for Best Final-Year Student
- Roger Crane Medal for finalist showing academic performance and contribution to the life of the Law School
- Outstanding Contribution to the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre (final-year student)
- Outstanding Contribution to a Student-Led Activity (final-year student)
- Outstanding Personal Development Throughout a Law Programme (final-year student)

## **Many of our prizes are sponsored by law firms and chambers!**

Queen Mary Law School has lots of scholarships for Undergraduate students. See our website for the full list: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/law/undergraduate/bursaries/>

## **Re-ImagineLAW – a Queen Mary-sponsored legal careers podcast**

Queen Mary is at the cutting edge of innovative legal education and careers advice thanks to our careers service, Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre, Law in Practice Degree Programme, Student Societies and other initiatives. Queen Mary have partnered with two prestigious organisations; MyKindaFuture and Jarred Consulting to compile a student focused legal education and careers podcast. However busy your schedule is, tune in on the move to hear thought provoking discussions on current trends in legal education and student development to help empower you to develop your employability journey.



For more information see: <https://www.re-imaginelaw.org.uk/>. Follow the podcast on LinkedIn and on Instagram.

## **The Buddy Scheme**

Each year the Department asks progressing students to act as Buddies for incoming first year students. They can provide guidance, advice and support to first-year students as a mentor during their first semester.



### Widening Participation Initiatives

Our Law School is committed to striving for students from all backgrounds to have opportunities to enter the profession. As such, we offer some specific partnerships to assist with this.

### The Career Focus Partnership

Each year, City law firm Fieldfisher offer first-year law students on a three or four-year LLB from underrepresented ethnic backgrounds the opportunity to take part in the Career Focus Partnership scheme. The scheme includes skills sessions, year-long mentoring, and a short internship. Successful completion of the internship will guarantee you a spot in the firm's vacation scheme assessment centre.

**Fourteen students have participated in internships with Fieldfisher and two have gone on to secure training contracts, both through this scheme, so we know that it is extremely beneficial to our students.**

Applications will open in the second semester (January or February). We hold a drop-in session with representatives from the firm who give students more information on how to apply for this fantastic opportunity.

[www.qmul.ac.uk/law/undergraduate/widening-participation/current-students/career-focus-partnership/](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/law/undergraduate/widening-participation/current-students/career-focus-partnership/)

### Access to the Bar Award

The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple currently offers paid placements (which include one week in a set of barristers' chambers and one week of judicial marshalling) to university students. The purpose of these awards is to encourage able students from disadvantaged and/or underrepresented backgrounds with the potential to be successful barristers to make a more informed choice about a career at the Bar. The award winners will gain experience of what a career at the Bar involves. They will get to know practitioners and judges and have the opportunity to ask for informal advice. This initiative is in line with public policy that there should be greater diversity at the Bar.



Information on the award scheme will become available here:  
[www.qmul.ac.uk/law/undergraduate/widening-participation/current-students/](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/law/undergraduate/widening-participation/current-students/)

Don't forget to look online to see what Queen Mary Scholarships and Bursaries you might be able to apply for:  
[www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/feesandfunding/find-a-scholarship/](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate/feesandfunding/find-a-scholarship/)

### Lawyers Volunteering for the Arts

Lawyers Volunteering for the Arts (LVFA) began life in 2010 when a small group of interested law firms formed a working group to try and address the legal needs of low-income arts organisations across England and Wales. This scholarship will enable a Queen Mary law student to support the LVFA initiative whilst gaining practical experience of the pro bono advice sector and financial support.

The recipient of the LVFA scholarship will be awarded £1,550, paid in two instalments of £775. In return for the scholarship, the recipient will be expected to support the initiative's pro bono email referral scheme. The recipient of the LVFA Scholarship will undertake three hours of work per week over 48 weeks, around their study and work commitments.

More information can be found here:  
[www.qmul.ac.uk/law/undergraduate/bursaries/lvfa-scholarship](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/law/undergraduate/bursaries/lvfa-scholarship)

### Climate Action Group

The Department of Law's Climate Emergency Declaration has led to a Climate Action Group made up of students and staff. Look out for emails advertising how you can apply to be part of the Group and get involved in other climate change initiatives.

### Did you know you can be a Law Student Ambassador?

Becoming a Law Student Ambassador can be a deeply rewarding experience, both personally and professionally, in a fun and familiar setting with fellow students. Work flexibly around your studies, broaden your CV and improve your communication and leadership skills by assisting staff in a range of paid activities, such as:

- helping to deliver our Pathways to Law programme, which offers an introduction to the profession for local year 12 and 13 students from disadvantaged backgrounds,
- representing the School of Law at recruitment events and improving your presentation skills by sharing your experiences with prospective students,
- welcoming new students during Welcome Week, and
- giving tours of the campus.

# Part B: targeting skills and competencies



I believe that one can always improve.”

Student working on the Blog Project at the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre

We recognise that our students might have specific skills that they are looking to improve. Seven regularly cited skills which are valuable for law students are:

- ✓ commercial awareness,
- ✓ attention to detail,
- ✓ people skills,
- ✓ communication,
- ✓ research and analysis,
- ✓ creative problem solving, and
- ✓ working under pressure.

(Prospects Website accessed 20.05.2021 [www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/law-sector/7-skills-for-a-successful-law-career/](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/law-sector/7-skills-for-a-successful-law-career/))

We have listed our activities below and other useful external organisations, websites and resources that might interest our students who want to develop these skills.

## Commercial Awareness

Commercial awareness is much broader than it might first appear and does not just relate to commercial law. It involves an ability to stay up-to-date with developments within the practice area (relevant to legal careers) or wider sector or industry you are interested in. Investing time in developing your commercial awareness will help you gain knowledge of how specific companies you are interested in operate (such as their structure, functions, vision and mission), what the key priorities are for their industry, and recent developments that may impact their work.

In addition to joining the Queen Mary Commercial Awareness Society, there are a number of resources available to help you develop this crucial skill.

**Inner Temple Library:** [www.innertemplelibrary.com/](http://www.innertemplelibrary.com/)  
Sign up to receive their free daily blog on legal news.

**QMLAC blog:** a project for first-year students focused on providing current news stories from the fields of business, arts and culture, as well as access to justice matters. All articles are written in an easy-to-digest format, published on the LAC website [www.lac.qmul.ac.uk/our-legal-blog/](http://www.lac.qmul.ac.uk/our-legal-blog/) and posted on the LAC social media accounts.

The Law Department has a wide range of subscriptions to law databases, many of these do a daily digest on the law and are used by lawyers in practice.

Our subscriptions include; Practical Law, Westlaw, LexisNexis and The Lawyer. Explore the Queen Mary Library website for a full list.

Keep up to date with business news and current affairs in general through websites like the BBC [www.bbc.co.uk/news/business](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business), following reputable media outlets like The Economist and the Financial Times on social media and by looking at the news and media sections for individual organisations you may want to work for.

[www.lexology.com](http://www.lexology.com) is also a comprehensive source of international legal updates, analysis and insights.

### Attention to detail

This is the ability to ensure accuracy in all you do and spot information that others may overlook. Both legal and non-legal roles are looking for future employees who have this skill.

These are all skills you can pick up simply from reading additional books or articles outside of a module syllabus. You can also take part in skills workshops run by law firms and organisations like Aspiring Solicitors and Bright Network.

You can develop direct legal experience across various areas of law and improve your attention to detail skills through activities like document reviews, drafting contracts and translating legal documents.

Did you know that there is an online platform called Flex Legal which connects law students with private practices and in-house legal teams for paralegal roles? To find out more, visit: [flex.legal](http://flex.legal)

### People skills

Dealing with others is a difficult skill that we can help you to develop. Our students work in teams through our Student Societies, and in numerous community-based projects at the Legal Advice Centre.

At the Legal Advice Centre, students run client appointments, work in teams to deliver workshops to prisoners and school students, and represent clients in welfare benefits tribunals. All these activities help to build interaction skills.

Other ways to develop your people skills is through volunteering (eg at a Citizens Advice Bureau) and taking part in pro bono activities provided by the Queen Mary Lawyers without Borders Society.

**Don't forget that Student Societies and the Department of Law host many events throughout the term. Look out for more details in the regular UG Law Careers and LEGAL newsletters.**



### Communication

Communication can come in many forms, such as what you say, what you write and your body language. Mooting is a fun way to develop your presentation and verbal communication skills and you can take part in mooted competitions run on campus by the Queen Mary Mooting Society, as well as a number of external ones. Becoming a Campus Ambassador for a law firm is also a great way to strengthen your communication skills.

Entering essay writing competitions, writing for a university magazine or even running your own blog can also help to improve your written communication skills.

Did you know that the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre has a project where students can represent clients at the Social Welfare Benefits Tribunal?

Here are some examples of annual essay competitions:

The Bar Council Law Reform Essay Competition  
[www.barcouncil.org.uk/becoming-a-barrister/students-and-graduates/law-reform-essay-competition](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/becoming-a-barrister/students-and-graduates/law-reform-essay-competition)

One Essex Court Times Law Award  
[www.oecclaw.co.uk/times-law-awards](http://www.oecclaw.co.uk/times-law-awards)



### Research and analysis

As a law student, you will learn to read vast amounts of information, absorb facts, scrutinise material carefully and condense it into something that can be presented clearly to others.

The key is being able to identify what is relevant out of the mass of information and explain it concisely. Research and analysis are two skills you will develop throughout your degree, but there are lots of other ways to build these skills.

Mooting can help to develop these skills as you will be required to do the background work on a legal issue or problem, then orally present it in a mock hearing. Joining a society as part of the executive team (especially if you are responsible for overseeing events and marketing) will also help you develop these skills.

Every year, LexisNexis runs a Student Associate programme where you act as a representative on campus for their online services, advising and supporting your fellow students with their legal research. You can find out more about this role on their website <https://www.lexisnexis.co.uk/academic-law/students>

### Creative problem solving

Being a lawyer often involves a lot of problem solving, whether this is in a commercial setting or a social justice setting (individuals rarely spot legal issues, but have life events that need solving). For example, working with clients at the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre often requires students to research areas of law which are unknown to them and think of practical and legal solutions that run alongside each other to help the client.

Additionally, taking part in a Student Consultancy Project run by the Queen Mary careers service will develop these skills, as you work alongside others to come up with creative solutions to problems presented by businesses and charities.

Problem solving can also be developed in less formal ways – for example, developing and structuring a student society, or working in a team to resolve an issue.

### Working under pressure

This is something that you will be expected to be able to do in legal and non-legal roles. This involves being able to turn around large amounts of work under tight deadlines, while staying calm and focused.

You may want to undertake a specific activity to develop this skill, or perhaps being involved in multiple projects means you are working under pressure.

In the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre students deliver legal advice to a professional standard for clients within a set timeframe. They have to abide by the professional codes of practice that govern barristers and solicitors. This is a great way for students to develop their ability to work under pressure.



The thing I enjoyed the most as a Student Adviser was the client interview. It taught me how it is to be working with people. Sometimes it proved challenging, while other times it went smoothly and the people I've talked to were amazing”.

**Ilinca Maria Cojocaru Uleia,**  
QMLAC Student Adviser



The Legal Advice Centre has been the most educational, rewarding and challenging part of my legal education.”

**Elizabeth Andrewartha,**  
QMLAC Graduate

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