

ADV OCA TE

magazine
The University of Nottingham
School of Law Magazine

A Fresher's Guide to Getting Ahead in First Year

An all-in-one guide to your
first year of your law degree

Fresher
Edition 2014

EDITORIAL



Dear Freshers,

Welcome to the Freshers Edition of Advocate Magazine. Everyone here at Advocate would like to congratulate you on gaining a place to study here at the University of Nottingham and warmly welcome you. This edition is intended to inform you about different aspects of university life here, primarily for law students.

Advocate is the University of Nottingham's law student magazine. It is written and published by students for students. The magazine features a wide range of articles, ranging from commentary on current affairs to careers advice. This year, the magazine is expanding; particularly its online presence and we have multiple new permanent features Editors.

Students like you are the backbone of Advocate; we receive, edit and publish the articles you send us. We accept articles from all students on a wide range of topics. If you would like to write an article on a particular topic, or attend an event and write about it, we encourage you to communicate with us and we will aid you if at all possible.

We are looking for a team of journalists and an associate design editor. If you are interested in working with our team, please send your CV and a 300-word application statement to: uonadvocate@gmail.com.

Finally, we would like to thank all our sponsors and contributors for their support. We look forward to your contribution!

Best wishes for the upcoming academic year.

Lauren Turner

Lauren Turner President, *Advocate Magazine* 2014/15

Editorial Board

Lauren Turner President

Victoria Rowley Vice Presidents
Nikhita Saggu

Alex McIntyre Head Content Editor

Beverly Tran Head of Design

CONTENTS

An Introduction to your Legal Studies	4
Starting to Understand	5
An Introduction to Contract Law	6
Tort Law	7
Public Law	8
Law with a Language	9
Studying Abroad	9
Law School Societies	11
LawSoc	12
Pro Bono	13
The Mooting Society	14
The Bar Society	15
Young and Abroad	16
A Fresher's Guide to Getting Ahead in First Year	18
Things I wish I had known as first year	21
A Freshers Guide to Careers	22

Our Media Outlets

<http://advocate-magazine.co.uk/>

https://twitter.com/uon_advocate

<https://www.facebook.com/advocate.uon>



Online version also available on
<http://www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/getinvolved/society/AdvocateMagazine/>



An Introduction to your Legal Studies

The majority of first year law students have never studied law prior to arriving at University. This adds to the confusion and mystery surrounding the start of term. The short summaries of modules on the next few pages hope to dispel any myths about first year and give you some idea of what to expect.

Starting to Understand: An Introduction to Understanding Law

by Katrina Fogarty

Understanding Law is a module you will study in your first semester. The module itself is split into two halves: a Critical Introduction to Law and an Introduction to Legal Method. You will have to attend four lectures a week and a two hour seminar every fortnight although this varies for BA Students. Seminars are similar to the tutorials that you will have in other modules, however group numbers are increased in seminars creating more opportunity for group work, debate and practical skill learning (such as a moot in seminar six).

The module is more practical than the others you will study in your first year and aims to get you thinking like a law stu-

dent. The Introduction to Legal Method will teach you how the English legal system works, the difference between statutory and common law and guide you on citations. The Critical Introduction to Law introduces you to various legal topics with a difficult moral element such as embryo preservation, the ownership of the human body and the politicisation of law in relation to the European Convention of Human Rights.

For this module, you will be set coursework which will determine your grade. Good preparation is vital as you will need to collate your sources before leaving for the Christmas holidays. I would also recommend writing it as early as possible to ensure

you have enough time to amend it before submitting! You will have a choice of two questions and a compulsory case analysis; your essay will be linked to one or more of the seminars you attended during term time, so it's very important to keep your notes as these will help! The coursework will draw on both sections of the module, asking you to constructively analyse the issue given to you and to support your overall opinion with legal evidence, all easier in practice than it sounds.

Overall the module is engaging and a good introduction to your legal studies!

An Introduction to Contract Law

by Victoria Rowley

The law of contracts is an important module which has relevance to virtually all aspects of day to day life. From signing a lease for your new student house to buying a coffee in the Hallward café, in each case a contract is involved and understanding how it is formed and the relevant legal principals is essential. Contracts also provide the foundations for major transactions in the commercial world (think Walgreens buying Alliance Boots or the project financing of a new nuclear facility) and so for those aspiring to work in the commercial field, doing well in contract law is a must. The module begins with Contract Law A in the first semester

which sets out what is needed for a contract to be formed and takes students through key concepts such as consideration and privity of contract. Although these terms seem alien at first, it will soon be second nature for you to be asking whether there was consideration for the promise or whether the postal rule applies. Contract Law B in the second semester considers certain vitiating factors of contracts such as whether a contract has been made under duress and then moves on the content of contracts, how they are performed and remedies available if a contract is breached. Although known for being a tough subject, contract law raises

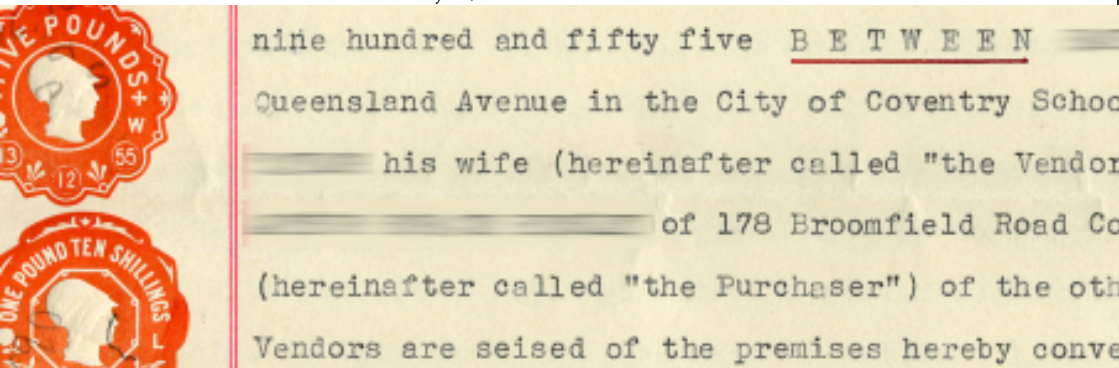
some interesting thought-provoking legal questions and will give students a real understanding of the common law. A three hour exam at the end of the year will test all the material covered since September so taking good notes throughout the year and learning case names as you go along is extremely valuable. The exam will be a mix of problem questions and essays so you have some flexibility to pick questions that meet your strengths. Nonetheless, as a module with a lot of material, it is best to stay on top of the subject matter from the outset to give yourself the best possible opportunity in the exam.

Tort Law

by Nikhita Saggu

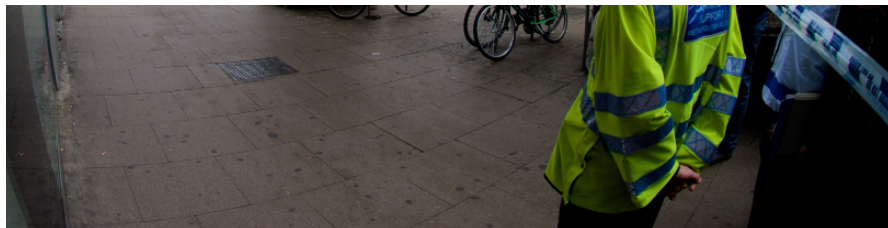
In the first semester you will start by understanding what interests the law of torts protects by considering in what circumstances there may have been a duty of care and where the defendant may have breached such a duty. The course will then take you through the type of loss or injury which may occur, and what remedies the law may be able to award. The second semester will give you a chance to learn more about civil wrongs you may be aware of now, such as nuisance, trespass to land, and defamation - all interesting topics which will no doubt allow for some thought-provoking debates in tutorials. As with Contract Law, you will end the year with a three hour

exam with a mix of problem and essay question, testing you on all you have covered since September. It cannot be stressed enough how important your lecture and tutorial notes are, and starting to learn case names as soon as you can will only help you. Tort law is an enjoyable course due to both the lecturers and the very interesting and sometimes bizarre cases you will cover: *Donoghue v Stevenson* being one of many that you will remember way past your law student days!



Public Law

by Victoria Rowley



If you enjoy politics then public law is likely to be a favourite module of yours as it touches on many political areas from a legal perspective – think the type of debates surrounding Scottish independence and devolution. However, even if you don't particularly like debating politics there is plenty of relevant modern day material in this module that may appeal to you.

Public Law A in the first semester looks at the nature of constitutionalism and the structure of the UK state whilst analysing core concepts

such as governmental power, the rule of law and human rights. A lot of interesting changes have taken place in this field which you will have an opportunity to explore including the UK's membership of the European Union, devolution and the adoption of the Human Rights Act. The second semester Public Law B course focuses on administrative law. A major part of the semester is spent examining the procedures and major principles of judicial review of administrative bodies. You will notice familiar names of public organisations such as

Greenpeace cropping up during your studies. The course then moves onto aspects of civil liberties law including the powers of police to carry out stop and searches. Compared to other modules such as Foundations of Tort and Contract Law, Public Law A has relatively little case law with the focus being on understanding core constitutional law concepts. Nonetheless, be prepared for more case law to arise in Public Law B so have note cards at the ready to begin learning more case names!

Law with a Language

by Katie Parr

We are constantly told how highly employers regard the ability to speak a foreign, especially in today's increasingly globalised market. If you've chosen to study Law with a Language, you've already gone a long way to make yourself stand out in the ever competitive Training Contract market.

Having just completed my first year on the BA Law with French and French Law programme, I can say that whilst juggling two disciplines can be a challenge, I have found that studying Law with a Language has definitely been the

right decision for me.

In first year, you will study a compulsory 20 credit language module, along with 20 optional credits from your chosen language. The optional modules vary from language to language but can include history, literature and even film studies. You may find there is a temptation to prioritise your law modules over the language ones, but the trick to doing well overall in your degree is to make sure you are finding the right balance between the two.

I have found that studying law with

a language has helped me to become more rounded academically, and, as unexciting as it sounds, conjugating verbs in the subjunctive can provide welcome respite from reading 30 page contract law cases! And of course, whilst your other law friends are busy applying for the competitive year abroad places in second year, you can relax in the knowledge that you will definitely be spending third year in the country of your chosen language, having an incredible time immersing yourself in a foreign culture and enjoying new experiences.

Studying Abroad

Law with the Opportunity to Study Abroad

by Nikhita Saggi

The study abroad scheme run by the law school is an incredible opportunity provided to third year students of the undergraduate law degree. With the law school having contacts at over 20 universities worldwide, third year law students have the chance to study for a year in Europe or further afield in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, America and Singapore (to name but a few)!

The year abroad experience is completely unique - with all the knowledge gained from your first two years at Nottingham, you are thrown into the deep end once again, but this time with only a couple of suitcases and (in many cases) the inability to understand the local language! What is gained from the year is totally invaluable. Students will become familiar with the legal system of their 'new'

country, giving them the ability to compare and contrast with the English legal system, as well as developing the skills to critically analyse the law in greater depth. Students will also become familiar with the culture and traditions of their foster country, and fully take advantage of all new experiences offered.

If you are not a Law and Language student, you are given the opportunity to transfer to the four year course at the beginning of your second year. Those lucky enough to gain a place will have no regrets because the year abroad scheme will give students more than just academic progression, it will develop the hugely important transferable life skills setting you apart from your peers. And you will have the time of your life!

5 Tips



By Victoria Rowley

For a Year Abroad

Study abroad at the University of Connecticut from September 2013

Moving to a new country, away from the familiarities of home, can feel like a daunting concept. Yet, that was the decision I made when I chose to embark upon the opportunity to study abroad for a year as part of my law degree. In August last year I packed my bags and embarked on an adventure that took me across the Atlantic from University Park Nottingham to the University of Connecticut Law School in Hartford.

For each person, what they want to gain from a year abroad can differ but for me it was about meeting new people, learning new skills as well as experiencing a whole new culture. My hope was that by the end of my year abroad I would go back to the UK enriched in multiple ways and with many stories to tell to those back home. From my experiences in the US, I have set out my five tips to get the most you can from a year abroad.

1. Be Yourself and Be Confident 2. Try New Things

Going to a new place and starting at a new university can be daunting but always remember to relax and be yourself. As an international exchange student, people will be interested to hear about your background, your home country and what you think about your being abroad (Often they will be fascinated with your accent as well!). Be Confident talking to others about yourself and what you hope to gain; it will often be the basis for valuable new friendships!

3. Take the Opportunity to Travel

Wherever you go in the world, there will always be plenty of places to travel. In less than 3 months, my year abroad has taken me across various state borders from Connecticut to Massachusetts to New York. Each new place you go will present you with new sights, new people and new opportunities. Make sure you seek out the best priced travel and plan your trips around your university work, but when you get there, sit back and enjoy where your year abroad has taken you.

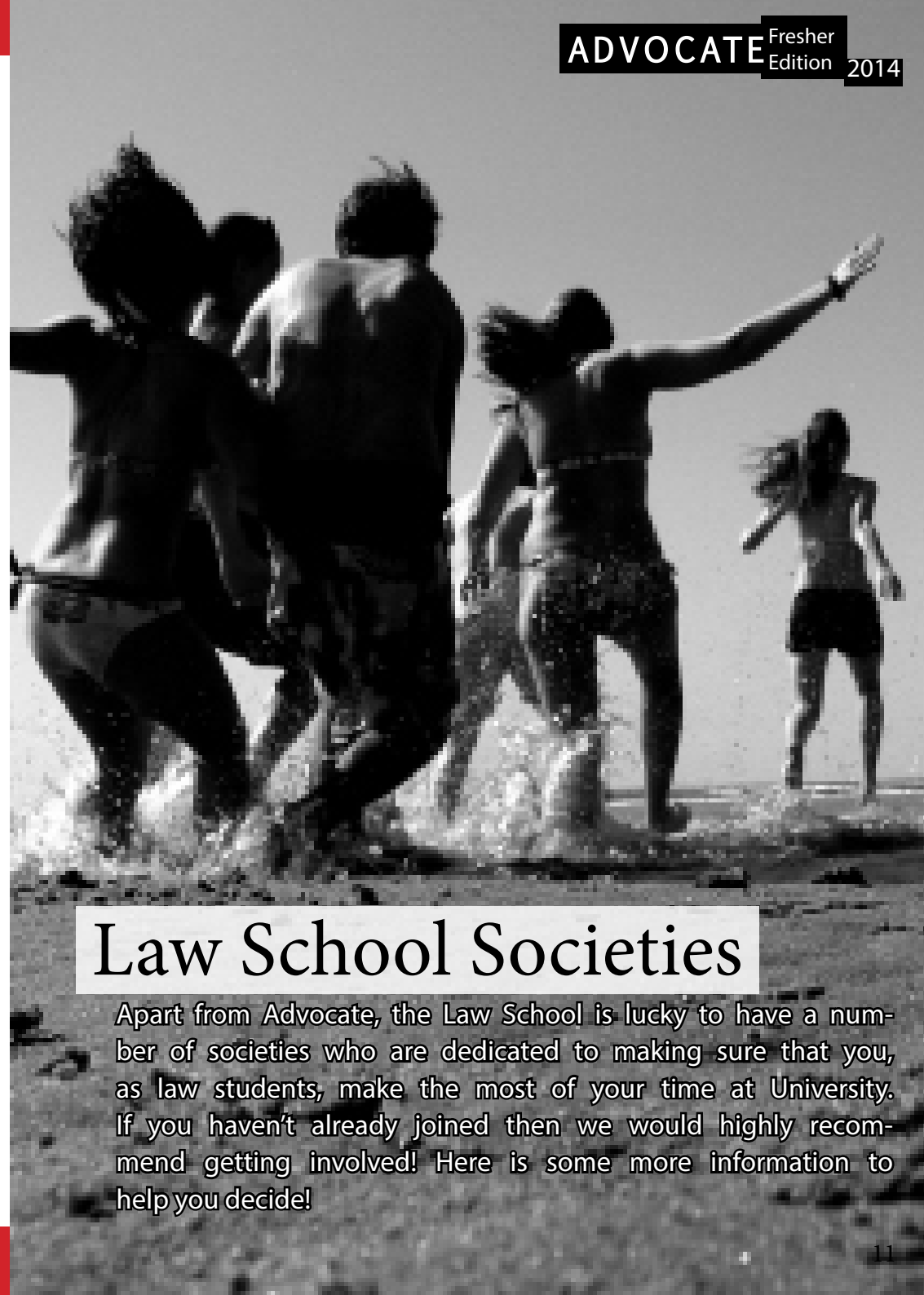
A year abroad will present you with many new things to try, whether it's a new sport, new subjects, new societies or just new food, but to all of these things you should take one mantra; try everything once! In the US, I've tried fried Oreos, watched an American football game and taken an American Legal History class, things that I would never have done back in the UK. Trying new things will make your experience much more valuable and exciting and allow you to really appreciate your host country's culture.

4. Keep in Touch

There will no doubt be times when you miss your friends, your family or just miss homely comforts. Make sure that when you are abroad, you have multiple methods to communicate with those you care about back home. Skype, Facebook, Emails and iMessages are just some of the easy ways that technology makes it easy (and cheap!) for you to see a familiar face and hear a familiar voice. Keeping in touch may be slightly tougher if you pick a destination with a significant time difference but knowing that you can pick up the phone or log online to send a message is always comforting!

5. Save the souvenirs!

If you're a hoarder then this is the best tip for you! My aim has been to take as many photos and keep as many souvenirs as possible to remember my year abroad by. Whether it's state fair tickets, UConn merchandise or Halloween fancy dress items, each bears its own memory and will be something I can look back to in the future to remember everything I got up to.



Law School Societies

Apart from Advocate, the Law School is lucky to have a number of societies who are dedicated to making sure that you, as law students, make the most of your time at University. If you haven't already joined then we would highly recommend getting involved! Here is some more information to help you decide!

LawSoc

by Michael Deane

Having been awarded the Best Society and Best Departmental Society Awards by the Students' Union, it's been an exciting few years for LawSoc. In addition to the biggest, cheapest and most famous social events across the University, there's so much more for LawSoc members to look forward to this year. We are proud to be organising more careers events than ever before. Having expanded our scope beyond our traditional focus, LawSoc is bringing more City, American and regional firms onto campus to headline a number of different, wide-ranging and, most importantly, useful events. From sector-specific mock interviews through to Nottingham-only open days, the

opportunities to gain invaluable insights to the career of your dreams are numerous.

We're once again fielding six sports teams to cater for all abilities. Whether you are a complete novice or a semi-professional, be sure to pop along to a training session. Details can be found on our website, www.nottslaw-soc.co.uk.

In addition to our longstanding Adoption Scheme, we've worked with a number of top firms to launch a new Alumni Mentoring Scheme, giving you the opportunity to be linked with and gain advice from former Nottingham students that are working in the legal profession. Be sure

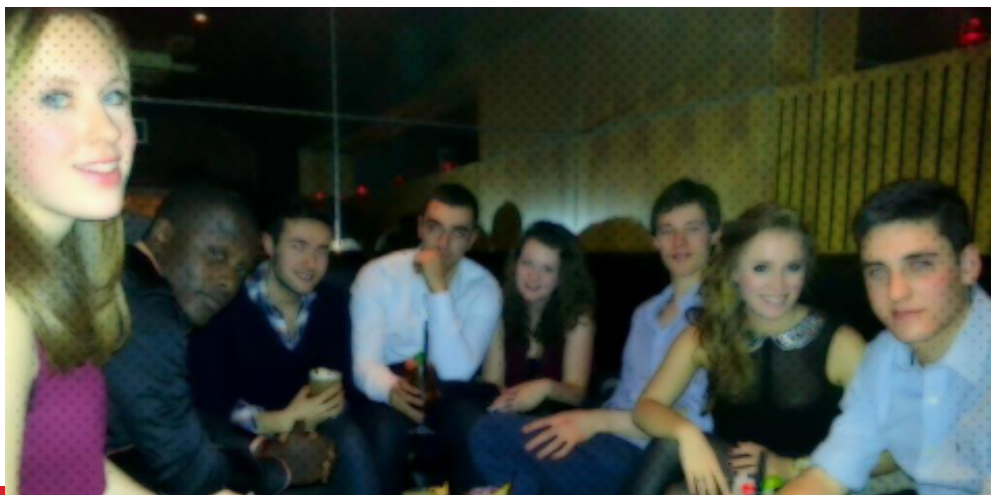
to look out for emails giving you the chance to get involved.

Whether you attend a social, run for a committee role or merely visit our website, be sure to get involved with LawSoc this year – everything we do is to make your experience as a law student that bit better.

lawsociety@nottingham.ac.uk

www.nottslawsoc.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nottslawsoc/>



Pro Bono

by Jacqueline Lewinton



"Pro bono" derives from the Latin "Pro bono publico" which means "for the public good" and originally took the form of voluntary legal services for the disadvantaged. However, it has now expanded to include the provision of other services covering activities that generally aim to help the community. Lord Phillip Sudbury described lawyers involved in pro bono work as those with a conscience, highlighting the grounding aspect of the work.

As University students we have the time, understanding and skills to be able to contribute to the community and there is a lot to be gained from becoming involved in pro bono work. It looks impressive on CVs and applications, and allows students to develop a transferable skills base. Ultimately though, it is the gratifying and inspiring feeling of assisting others which makes the experience so worth it.

Whilst most of our projects are based around legal matters, studying a Law degree is not necessarily required as some of our projects offer general community assistance. For example, our 'Aspire' project works with local primary schools and delivers interactive workshops on a

variety of topics including the law and human rights.

'Bars in their Eyes' is a project which may require a legal background. The project involves sending volunteers to local prisons who give presentations on the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 to aid the prisoners reintegration into the working world upon their release. Last year we were shortlisted by the Attorney General at the National Student Pro Bono Awards to win 'Best Contribution by a Team of Students'. This highlighted the society's commitment to making sure everyone has the opportunity to take part in exciting pro bono work. We look forward to working with you in this coming year.



The Mooting Society

by Joanna Green

What is Mooting?

Mooting is the skill of presenting a legal argument. The Mooting Society offers you the chance to develop both your knowledge of the law and your ability to apply it persuasively.

Why join the Mooting Society?

We will help you to develop your skills through workshops which teach you the different elements of a moot and help you to develop other skills such as confidence and court etiquette. We then offer you the chance to trial these skills in both internal and external competitions. In the past year our external mooting team reached the finals of the UKLSA moot (held in the Supreme Court) which truly demonstrates the opportuni-

ties that we offer. Our internal competitions also offer great opportunities, such as cash prizes and a mini-pupillage with Ropewalk Chambers.

But I'm not a law student?

This doesn't matter. If you are interested in a career in law or just fancy learning the skills, we are here to help! We run non-law mooting competitions on topics such as climate change and can help you get to grips with the law if you fancy entering other competitions.

How do I join the Mooting Society?

There are two ways in which

you can join the society. The first is by visiting us at the Freshers' Fair (23rd-25th September) where we can answer any questions you may have and help you to sign up. If you have missed the Freshers' Fair you can sign up online through the Students' Union website (<http://www.su.nottingham.ac.uk>). Once you have logged in, click on the 'My Memberships' tab and search for the Mooting Society. From there you can begin or renew your membership with us by adding the society to your basket on the right hand side of the page.

We hope to see you soon!

mooting society
THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM



The Bar Society

by Sam Peake

President, Bar Society 2014/15

Welcome back to the start of this new academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to explain some things about the Bar Society here at Nottingham, and the ways we'd love you to get involved.

The Bar Society is dedicated to providing opportunities for students who are considering a career at the Bar. Barristers have the privilege of representing people at vital moments in their lives. They are free to follow their own judgements, because they work for themselves. I would really encourage you to engage with the Bar Society and explore this rewarding career option. The Bar Society at Nottingham has a fantastic calendar of events, quite recently commended by the Bar Council of England and Wales as the best of any university in the UK. These events are invaluable not just

to aspiring barristers but to all students who want to forge a career in the Law.

Past opportunities have included trips to prestigious legal landmarks such as the Inns of Court, the Old Bailey, and the High Court. These outings provide a brilliant chance to see first-hand some of the institutions that have shaped our constitution and continue to administer justice to this day. The society also hosts talks from eminent figures within the legal profession, as well as advocacy workshops and mock trial competitions, which help members to develop the skills and knowledge essential for securing a pupillage. Generally the society meets every fortnight. The committee works hard throughout the year to ensure that as students we have the best possible chance of success in what is a

very competitive profession. Frequently however events are limited in capacity and so we adopt a first-come first-served policy. At all times though we try to maintain an open approach and if you have any questions about the Bar please do ask the current committee. We will try our very best to provide you with the correct information or advice. To keep up-to-date with our events, please join our Facebook group or keep an eye out within the School of Law for information.

Joining the Bar Society is a fantastic way to enjoy yourself in the company of like-minded people, whilst at the same time sharing the experiences and information which are fundamental to success as a lawyer. It would be great to see you at one of our events!



Tips for International Students

by Davis Tan

"Home is not where you live but where they understand you."

Christian Morgenstern

It was not too long ago that I first boarded my flight to the UK. At that moment, I was admittedly nervous – wary of the unknown, feeling strangely alone. I have never been so far away from home, or stayed away for so long.

Looking back now that I am in my third year, I have had some of the most amazing experiences in Nottingham. Indeed, many of my initial

worries were unfounded. Here are some things I wish I knew when I first arrived, and hopefully, they will allay that gnawing sense of anxiety once and for all.

Rumours about law school

While you may have heard remarkably outlandish tales of horror about law school, they are for the most part untrue. Neither should you expect law

school to resemble anything you have seen in *Suits*. Instead, expect a plain conventional academic setting. Be prepared to work hard, study smart, and display your understanding of the law.

Nobody said a law degree will be easy to obtain. Thankfully, tutors at Nottingham understand this and are around to guide you when necessary. Do not be worried about asking silly questions that you think

will make you look stupid; last I checked there are no penal sanctions for asking dumb questions at common law or in statute.

Ties that Bind

If you start to feel homesick, remind yourself that you are not the first person to study overseas, and neither will you be the last. Nottingham has a vast population of international students so you will find friends who are from a very similar upbringing. Talk to them, share your worries, and try new things together. With so many opportunities to explore the UK, you will be spoilt for choice.

In addition, tap onto the experiences of your seniors in law school. I cannot stress how important this is and I am very much indebted to the many seniors who have guided me along. Your seniors are the people who have completed the journey that you are now starting on, and they will invariably have insights on how to cope. Of course, be prepared to share your own experience with your juniors in time to come.

I take this chance to mention that the law school has an excellent mentoring committee, so look out for programmes that will be rolled out over the course of the year. Equally, we

have outstanding Societies that I wholeheartedly recommend you get involved in. A wide participation in activities will really add to your undergraduate experience.

The tips shared above are by no means reserved exclusively for international students. In fact, anyone who is finding it hard to settle into school will find the advice useful. Things may seem impossible initially, but you will soon adapt and grow as an individual and as a law student. Truly, you are embarking on a very exciting journey at this point in time, and I have no doubt you will find the experience both rewarding and enjoyable.

A Fresher's Guide to Getting ahead in First Year

by Lauren Turner

Here is a little all-in-one guide to the most important bits of your first year of your law degree.

Your lectures

You will shortly, if not already, have had some introductory lectures; as a real treat law students' lectures normally begin during Fresher's week. The introductory lectures tend to be useful so do make sure you get yourself to them. Lectures are the skeleton of your studying here and the method by which lecturers impart knowledge.

- Attendance is important. If you didn't hear a lecturer dis-

cuss a topic and make notes at the time, learning it later on your own will be a lot harder.

- Read the recommended pre-lecture material. This is always massively hard to keep on top of, but if you can read the recommended chapter in a textbook or article before the lecture, you may understand what the lecturer is saying.

Your tutorials

Most modules are taught by lectures and complimented by tutorials. Tutorials are a bit like school lessons but on a smaller scale, with about 6 students

and a tutor. You will have set reading to complete and then questions to answer in preparation for your tutorial. Tutorials are directly based on the topics covered in lectures and are designed to test your knowledge of a topic.

- It cannot be stressed enough how important tutorial preparation is. Read all of the cases, articles and chapters set and write answers to all of the questions. This is what is expected of all students but rarely what most students do. Re-read lecture notes as preparation too.

- If lectures are the skeleton, then tutorials are the muscles and flesh. The work you do in, and for, tutorials is absolutely crucial. You probably will not have time to revisit a tutorial topic again until you are revising.

- No tutorials are unimportant. Each tutorial topic will come up in the final exam and you could have to write an answer about it.

- Prepare for them. The recommended preparation time for each tutorial (which is one hour in duration) is eight hours. One can spend eight hours on tutorial preparation and be half way through the questions as the set tasks are

usually lengthy.

Your notes

Your notes are an accumulation of what you type (or write) in lectures, your tutorial preparation, what you record during tutorials and any additional work or revision you undertake.

- Notes become really quite precious as the year goes on. Come exam time, they are thoroughly sacred and many students would take losing a limb over their notes. Treat them as such throughout the year.

- Try to regularly update your notes, re-read them and add bits in from textbooks and

judgments. This is good as on-going revision and will ensure you have thorough notes for revision purposes.

- Revision notes are a condensed version of all of your notes, which in an ideal world would be created throughout the year, regularly updated and easy to pick up.

Your revision and exams

Although lectures have barely begun, exams will be rearing their ugly heads all too soon.

- Break up your revision time into blocks and set yourself achievable tasks.
- Utilise your tutorial ques-



tions, past papers, model answers and feedback on past exams. Use these as a core to revision.

- Practice essays are wise, especially if you spend the whole year typing instead of writing.
- In law essays, use subheadings and titles. Law essays are unlike English style ones. Give the reader directions and make sure they know what point you are going to make.
- Look at past questions and identify what they are asking. Every single part of the question is relevant.
- Create essay plans. Examiners want to see that you have done a plan and doing plans as revision is recommended.

Your societies

For information about all of the law based societies, please see the specific societies article.

You will soon discover that the societies linked to law are some of the best on campus. Getting involved in them can be immense fun and often massively beneficial to your future.

- Be realistic. It is not sensible to imagine that you can be highly involved in all of the law societies and maintain a superb academic record. Many people

are involved in a couple and attend events especially interesting to them.

- Attend lots of introductory sessions. Despite the above warning, it is definitely worth seeing what all of the law societies are about and then getting more involved in your favourite.
- Most societies have a kind of unofficial progression system. The president, for example, will usually be a final year and have been involved in the society since their first year.
- There are some opportunities for first years to hold posts, within societies and the law school itself. These opportunities will give you experience and are attractive on your CV. However, time management is crucial and being a societies' social secretary will not make up for a third class degree. Your degree should take precedence.

Your time management

If you aren't already well organised, time management is a skill you should be looking to learn as soon as possible. From getting up in time to attend lectures to balancing your workload with a social life, organising your time well is fundamental in doing well. Some

people learn this half way through their degree: if you can master it in first year you will really be helping yourself.

- Have a diary with you all the time. In lectures, there might be an announcement about an event or your tutor might re-arrange a session.
- And a watch. Being late to lectures is usually simply frowned upon and irritating, but will sometimes result in non-admittance or a somewhat public grilling about where you have been.
- Most weeks there will be multiple society events. Make sure you know when and where they are so you can plan your work around them.
- Allow yourself time off! A work-life balance is fundamental to remaining sane throughout a law degree.



Things I wish I had Known as a First Year

by Lauren Turner

- Use a laptop in lectures if you are able (it is so much easier to keep track of your notes) and download the module handouts from Moodle – this will allow you to copy and paste a case name where they're particularly difficult to spell and mean you're not flicking across countless pieces of paper.
- Lectures are generally not a hands-up affair. There are exceptions to this and lecturers who want you to interact will usually say so. Tutorials are the place for questions and discussions. Asking a lecturer a sensible question after a lecture can be acceptable. Be warned, they may well say you should have read about that already or to ask your tutor.
- Laptops in tutorials are not advised. Some tutors outlaw it, others allow it. Either way, looking at your laptop constantly does not make for a dynamic discussion. Some students print out notes and leave space to write additional comments.
- Don't be late to Lectures. Lecturers can refuse to let you enter the lecture theatre which is a waste of your £9000 a year fees!
- Make sure that you keep on top of the reading for tutorials – they are an invaluable resource and are the best preparation for exams!
- Make the most of your first year – there are incredible opportunities and projects to get involved in!
- All contributors to Advocate Magazine get taken out for dinner at the end of the semester – it is worthwhile getting involved!



A Fresher's Introduction to Careers

by Lauren Turner

You may have just started your degree but preparation for your departure into the real world of work will be underway almost immediately. Some will revel in the planning and research. Some will be daunted by the prospect of finally leaving education and entering a profession.

The top law firms and chambers will want recruits with a 2:1 or a First; that is not to say that a 2:2 will leave you nowhere, but options will be severely limited. Ultimately, your degree classification should be a top priority for the time being.

However, in an attempt to calm some nerves, here is some basic information to help you get a head start with your future career.

Becoming a Solicitor

- Solicitors provide legal advice to clients, take instructions from clients and advise on suitable legal action. Clients can include individuals, groups, public sector organisations or private companies. Most solicitors work for law firms.

- To become a solicitor, graduates must undertake a Legal Practice Course (com-

monly known as the LPC), which is a one year course offered by some universities. After the LPC, graduates must undertake practice-based training, known as a training contract with a law firm, which usually lasts two years. The Professional Skills Course (PSC) is taken during the training contract and must be completed in order to qualify as a solicitor.

- To secure a much sought-after training contract and become a solicitor, completion of a couple of vacation schemes is unofficially necessary. Vacation schemes are essentially work experience at a law firm for a week or two and law students apply directly to law firms. Most law firms have a good vacation scheme programme in place and entry is very competitive. Ideally you will have completed a vacation scheme at the law firm with whom you seek a training contract. Vacation schemes can be very hard to secure, but some law firms interview following the vacation scheme for training contracts

Becoming a Barrister

- Barristers are advocacy specialists and represent cli-

ents in court. They are independent sources of legal advice and are generally hired by solicitors to represent in court – although some solicitors can represent clients. Most barristers are self-employed and work in offices called chambers.

- To become a barrister, there are three steps. Initially, a qualifying law degree (a 2:1 is almost essential) is required. Then the vocational part: completion of the Bar Professional Training Course (the BPTC), which takes one year. Finally, the coveted pupillage. Pupillage is a year of practical training under the supervision of an experienced barrister.

- To become a barrister, you must secure a pupillage which is notoriously difficult. As a precursor to pupillage, students should complete some mini-pupil-lages. These are often a week long, but sometimes just a few days. Students shadow a barrister in chambers and in court, experiencing the practical side of the job. To secure mini-pupil-lages, chambers should be contacted directly. It is often a less formal process than securing a vacation scheme, and some

may say easier. However, once a mini-pupillage is completed it is much less common for pupillage to be considered directly.

But you don't have to be a lawyer!

As radical as it may seem, you do not have to become a solicitor or a barrister with your law degree. Many come to university with a somewhat idealised version of what being a lawyer would be like, or perhaps about how easy it might be to get there. Practical experience and research is

important in deciding whether or not to pursue a specific career.

A degree in law is widely respected, cultivates valuable cross-disciplinary skills and can lead to many varied and fulfilling careers. Alternate careers and employers include:

- Law-related: paralegal, out-door clerk, legal executive, company secretary, patent attorney, recruitment consultant, law firm support services, or work for the Crown Prosecution Service, Government

Legal Service, Home Office, Law Commission, European Parliament or European Court of Justice

- Non-law-related: civil servant, police officer, bank manager, business, author, charity sector, events planning, PR, advertising, communications, recruitment, postgraduate studies, lecturer, academic, psychologist (requiring conversion masters and PhD)



Get Involved

Submit articles

uonadvocate@gmail.com

Visit us

<http://advocate-magazine.co.uk/>

Like us

<https://www.facebook.com/advocate.uon>

Follow us

https://twitter.com/uon_advocate

ADVOCATE



DENTONS

Meet Dentons.

The new global law firm created by Salans, FMC and SNR Denton.

Join Dentons and you will launch your career in a fast-paced, dynamic global firm. Join Dentons and you will have access to the calibre of training, support and practical experience that leads to success. Join Dentons and you will be given all the responsibility you can handle, right from the start. Interested?

Learn more and apply at dentons.com/uk-graduates

DENTONS

Know the way

© 2014 Dentons.

Dentons is an international legal practice providing client services worldwide through its member firms and affiliates. Attorney Advertising. Please see dentons.com for Legal Notices.