

# Study law in the UK

## Where can I study law in the UK?

With some of the oldest and most prestigious law schools in the world, the UK offers an exceptional choice of courses to anyone embarking on a legal career, with over 2500 courses on offer at more than 75 institutions.<sup>1</sup>

Three of the world's top ten law universities are in the UK – University of Oxford (second), University of Cambridge (third) and London School of Economics and Political Science (seventh).<sup>2</sup>

## What qualifications will I need?

To get on to a law degree you will usually require a minimum of two A-levels (or equivalent) – A grades, across three subjects, may be a requirement for the most popular degrees. The typical requirement for International Baccalaureate is 35 points, with typical IELTS requirements being 7.0 overall and no lower than 6.5 in any one component.

## How long does it take to graduate?

Law degrees are usually spread over three academic years in the UK, though different fast-track courses are available if you want to accelerate your studies. Longer part-time course options are also available.

## What is the course structure?

Law courses in the UK vary depending on the qualification you choose. Common pathways include the Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Graduate LLB, Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), Master of Laws (LLM), and vocational routes like the LPC, BPTC or QLTS. Many universities also offer the option to combine law with another subject as part of a BA or BSc.

Most dedicated law degrees begin with seven core modules that provide a broad foundation for legal practice. As you progress, you can specialise by selecting modules aligned with your interests, such as criminal, corporate, banking, construction, commercial, constitutional, or contract law.

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<sup>1</sup> [UCAS, 2025](#)

<sup>2</sup> [QS Top Universities, 2025](#)

## What will I study?

In your first years, you'll study the core legal subjects that underpin the UK legal system, such as public law, torts, contract law, and legal systems and methods. Later, you'll have the chance to explore specialist areas like international law, intellectual property, human rights, or environmental law. Courses often include research skills, legal ethics, and opportunities for practical learning such as mooting and simulated courtroom exercises.

## Why is the UK a good choice to study law?

From the flexible, modular courses to the renowned academics leading them, the UK is a popular destination for studying law, known for its academic tradition and flexible degree options. As well as getting insights from leading professionals working in the UK judicial system, many universities offer leading learning environments to help you hone your skills, including simulation courtrooms used for practical legal training. You'll study in English from day one, strengthening your analytical and legal communication skills.

## What is the judicial system like in the UK?

The UK has a long and fascinating history when it comes to law and the expertise on offer is very well regarded internationally. The common law system copied by several countries is 900 years old, and many of our law schools are themselves hundreds of years old, too. With one in four world leaders studying in the UK – many of them choosing a law degree – the UK is one of the best possible choices for anyone seeking to succeed at the highest levels.

## Are there any scholarships for studying law?

There are often funding options available for international students who want to study law in the UK. These range from part-funding, for example paying part of your fees, to full-funding which covers programme fees, living expenses, and return flights to the UK.

You can search our database of scholarships at [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships-funding) and check with individual university websites for institution-specific opportunities.

## What are my work options after I graduate?

A UK law degree can lead to a wide range of careers — not only in legal practice as a solicitor or barrister, but also in fields such as politics, journalism, compliance, international relations, advocacy, and data protection. UK-trained law graduates are respected around the world, and legal roles often offer strong earning potential from early in your career. Typically, lawyers have high earning potential from early on in their careers, wherever they work in the world.

# Study UK

The UK's Graduate route allows international students to apply to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, upon graduation. International students who have successfully completed an undergraduate, master's degree or PhD have the option to apply to stay in the UK for an agreed period, following their studies. The Graduate route does not require you to secure sponsorship.

To find out more about studying law in the UK and find a course, visit [study-uk.britishcouncil.org/](https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/)

