



Undergraduate Law Programmes at Northumbria Law School

Northumbria Law School
Law in Practice



Northumbria Law School

www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk

Northumbria Law School... Law in Practice

Welcome to Northumbria – one of the most famous law schools in the UK. Northumbria is justifiably renowned for its unique undergraduate programmes, and for the excellence of its range of postgraduate and vocational law programmes – which include the Graduate Diploma in Law, the Legal Practice Course and the Bar Vocational Course.

What makes Northumbria Law School so special is its focus on Law in Practice – the learning of law through the understanding of law as it operates in practice. Out of almost 90 academic staff, more than 70 staff are qualified as solicitors or barristers – with considerable (often continuing) experience of practice. All of us are committed to ensuring that our students learn Law and Legal Practice in a way that equips them for careers as legal professionals in the huge range of different roles that lawyers can occupy in our society.

The School is not only distinctive for the excellence of our teaching – and our commitment to the highest standards of student experience – but for the outstanding quality of our resources. The School is part of the award-winning new City Campus East, in the heart of Newcastle.

Based in a £70 million building, we are justifiably proud of our facilities, with stunning state-of-the-art lecture theatres, dedicated courtrooms (with all the video-link facilities that are increasingly found in the modern courts in practice), our skills suites, and our superb Law Practice Library.

The intake of students across all our courses reflects the national and international reputation of the School – with students from across the UK and from all the major



common law jurisdictions. The students comment on the high levels of support and encouragement from the staff, and the commitment by the School to supporting their studies. By making full use of e learning and other modes of distance learning provision, we have designed courses that support full time students, while opening up access to qualifications for students who have work or life commitments which mean that they need the flexibility of part-time and distance-learning studies.

I look forward to welcoming you onto our undergraduate law courses.

Professor Philip Plowden (Dean)

A Law School for the 21st Century

Northumbria Law School is located on a brand new, state-of-the-art £70 million development in central Newcastle – City Campus East. As well as being a prominent landmark within the city, this development offers a world class learning and social facility.

The Law School, which shares its building with Newcastle Business School, incorporates 16,000 square metres of purpose-built accommodation including three large state-of-the-art lecture theatres and workshop rooms equipped with the latest technology as well as student hub areas. There are courtrooms modelled on those that students will experience as qualified practitioners, with the ability to use technological developments to be found in a modern court. The School's original courtroom, installed courtesy of South East Northumberland Magistrates, has been reconstructed in the new building.

A specialist law library contains practitioner materials, journals and law reports and, in addition, students have access to IT and wireless facilities throughout the building and both study and social space, including a cafeteria.

The new building also houses the School's internationally renowned Student Law Office, which will continue to provide students with the opportunity to provide legal advice and representation to members of the public and thus experience life as a professional lawyer.

The futuristic and environmentally friendly design includes a light well in the middle of the building allowing natural light to flood in, reducing

the need for artificial lighting. Solar panels shade the building reducing the need for heating in the building by 50%. Carbon emissions have been reduced by 40% of the

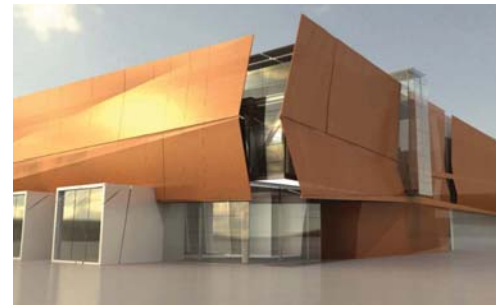
current standard and 95% of the original cinema which previously stood on the site has been recycled in the construction of the new building.

The University's overall £135 million campus redevelopment is its largest investment programme to date and demonstrates Northumbria's commitment to its future success and that of its students. Work is now underway at City Campus West to develop the existing facilities and build a new sports centre.

The new sport facility will provide some of the most outstanding fitness and training facilities in the country. The centre will offer a 25 metre pool with a variable depth floor, a sports hall provision equivalent to the size of four netballs courts, a Health and Fitness suite with more than 150 pieces of the highest spec Technogym equipment, a climbing wall, glass backed squash courts, a dedicated strength and conditioning suite, a 60 metre sprint track and specialised training environments for a number of different sports. At the heart of the facility is an indoor arena, fully media-enabled and with over 2,600 seats.

The striking new development is due to open to students, staff and members of the community in 2010.

Artist's impression of new sports facilities



The Law School at night



Why choose Northumbria Law School?

- We are the largest Law School in the North East of England and have a national and international reputation for excellence in legal education
- We are the only University in the UK to offer a five year Solicitor's Full Qualification route enabling students to graduate as fully qualified solicitors
- We are based in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne – a first class student city – and have invested £70m on a futuristic new building which opened in September 2007
- Our M Law programmes equip students with a masters level qualification while at the same time achieving a qualifying Law degree and exemption from the Legal Practice Course
- Our LPC received the highest possible rating across all of the monitoring categories in the most recent Solicitors Regulation Authority visit
- We have a philosophy of combining academic development with practical experience
- We have a groundbreaking Student Law Office – the largest scheme of its kind in the UK where law students advise and represent members of the public with real legal problems
- We have specially designed courtrooms equipped with DVD recording facilities, enabling students to gain real-life exposure to what they can expect to experience in a courtroom scenario
- You will be taught by professionally qualified academic tutors with experience in corporate and high street practice and the School maintains close links with the legal profession
- We have developed a wide range of innovative Masters programmes on a distance learning basis, providing a flexible approach for those with career and family commitments
- You will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities including moots or mock trials
- We have the largest student society in the University, the Grey Society.



Undergraduate Law Programmes

M Law Exempting (incorporating LLB (Hons))

This route is an integrated Masters programme. Graduates obtain a Masters level qualification while at the same time achieving a Qualifying Law Degree and exemption from the Legal Practice Course, the vocational qualification for prospective solicitors. It enables graduates to go straight into a law firm as a trainee solicitor subject to obtaining a training contract. Students are introduced to legal rules and concepts in both their theoretical and practical contexts from day one. They engage in clinical and experiential learning throughout the course culminating in full case work on behalf of real clients in the final year.

Year 1

- Business 1: Contract Law
- Public 1: Foundations of English and European Legal Systems
- Disputes 1: Criminal Law, Litigation and Evidence
- Property 1: An introduction to Property Law and Practice

Year 2

- Business 2: Commercial Drafting
- Public 2: Constitutional, Administrative and Human Rights Law

- Disputes 2: Tort, Litigation and Evidence
- Property 2: Property Law and Practice including Land Law and Equity and Trusts

There is also an optional subject enabling students to begin to develop specialised knowledge in the field of Business, Public, Disputes or Property.

Year 3

The third year combines undergraduate subjects with those from the Legal Practice Course.

- Business 3: Law of Business Associations
- Public 3: Jurisprudence
- Disputes 3: Student Law Office
- Property 3: Advanced Property Law and Practice including Conveyancing and Wills and Probate

The Student Law Office module gives students their first experience of interviewing real clients and develops their skills of advocacy, research and drafting. There is also a LLB half option.

Year 4

Final year students undertake a research project plus two options. A major element of the final year is participation in the Student Law Office.

Lucy Bamber Solicitors Exempting

Why Northumbria University?

I'm originally from a small town in Lancashire and wanted to study in a lively city. With two universities, Newcastle has a huge student population and is a really vibrant city, famous for being a brilliant night out. Newcastle also has some great theatres and galleries and has a good music scene.

What was it about the course that particularly appealed?

I've always been interested in law (thanks Ally McBeal) and the law degree at Northumbria was unique. I wanted to study the Exempting degree so I could develop my practical skills through the Student Law Office alongside the academic part of the degree.

How did you feel during your first week at Northumbria?

I was nervous but I soon made some brilliant friends and was so busy that I didn't have time to be nervous or homesick.

What do you like most about the course?

The facilities in the Law School are fantastic and the Student Law Office programme, where 4th years work on real cases, is an amazing experience. The Student Law Office really sets Northumbria students apart, which is great as the law is so competitive.

Do you have the opportunity for any work placements during your course?

We don't have any formal placements as part of the degree, but we are encouraged to seek placements during our vacations. I did a three week placement with a large law firm in the summer of my second year which was a great experience. My guidance tutor was really helpful during the application process and gave me lots of support.

What do you do when you're not studying?

I'm a member of the Northumbria Musical Theatre Society and the Law School's mock trial society. There are loads of societies at Northumbria and there's definitely something to suit everyone.

What would you like to do when you graduate?

When I graduate, I'm completing my training contract with a large London law firm, Allen and Overy. My degree course has exposed me to lots of different areas of law and has helped me to decide what kind of law I want to go into.



Adam Slawson

Barristers Exempting

What appealed to you about Northumbria University / studying in Newcastle?

I was attracted to Newcastle because it is a vibrant compact city, with everything you need and plenty to do all within walking distance. I was particularly drawn to Northumbria's modern and practical approach to learning.

Why did you choose this course?

I find the area of law to be both fascinating and intellectually testing. In particular I was drawn to the challenges of legal problem-solving and advocacy.

I chose the programme because it combines learning the academic subject of law with the practical skills you need to work in the profession.

What do you like most about the course?

The academic topics are interesting, however it's the practical skills elements that I enjoy most. These are exercises where you get a mock brief to prepare and undertake the type of work a barrister would do. This could be conducting a negotiation, drafting legal documents, or my personal favourite, performing advocacy.

Can you give an example of a piece of work you've been involved with?

Probably the most memorable and meaningful work I have undertaken relates to a claim for Judicial Review I have been involved with in the Student Law Office. Most notably I've conducted legal research on behalf of a leading human rights barrister (which was then submitted to the High Court and helped to secure our client's victory!) and been given the opportunity to attend hearings at the High Court in London. Whilst very challenging and often time consuming, this has provided me with invaluable experience of the type of work I am likely to undertake in my legal career.

How do you get on with your tutors?

I have a very good working relationship with my tutors. I have found them to be knowledgeable and understanding.

What would you like to do when you graduate?

I started my degree with the intention of becoming a barrister, and if anything the course has only confirmed to me that I have the skills and abilities necessary to work in the profession. I will shortly be applying for pupillage.

What three words would you use to summarise your time here?

Interesting, challenging and rewarding.



LLB (Hons)

The first two years of this three year programme are common to the M Law Exempting programme. The final year involves either jurisprudence, a research project and two LLB options or jurisprudence and three and a half LLB options.

Students following this route who wish to become solicitors and barristers will need to enrol on a further programme of study namely the Legal Practice Course or the Bar Vocational Course to satisfy the relevant vocational requirements.

LLB (Hons) Barristers Exempting

The Barristers Exempting programme integrates the undergraduate stage of legal education with the requirements of the Bar Vocational Course (BVC), the vocational stage for prospective barristers and is the only programme of its kind in England and Wales. This programme provides the opportunity to develop the skills essential for practice at the Bar. There is opportunity for contact with the practising Bar via moots, mock trials, court visits and social events. In addition, lectures

are given by distinguished visitors. This degree again follows the same modules as the M Law Solicitors Exempting for the first two years.

In order to progress onto Year 3 and the remainder of the Bar Exempting Programme, students must achieve a minimum 50% mark in all Year 2 assessments. A maximum of twenty students may progress onto the programme in Year 3. Additionally, please note that the Bar Standards Board is considering introducing other entrance criteria for all Bar Vocational Courses which will apply to this route.

In Years 3 and 4, undergraduate subjects are combined with those from the BVC. Modules include jurisprudence and undergraduate options, remedies and sentencing plus the BVC case skills modules and the Student Law Office module.

The BVC case skills modules include opinion writing, advocacy, conference skills, negotiation and drafting. The Student Law Office modules culminate in Year 4 with students acting in firms and advising real clients.

Please note this programme is subject to re-validation by the Bar Standards Board.

M Law Solicitors Full Qualification (incorporating LLB (Hons))

A law degree leading to full qualification as a solicitor (5 years)

Northumbria Law School is the first ever Law School to be approved by the Solicitors Regulation Authority to run an academic programme where graduates will be fully qualified solicitors. This groundbreaking programme enables students to combine traditional study with skills development, clinical legal education and placement in practice in

order to develop the knowledge, skills and abilities required to work as a solicitor. Graduates are exempt from the Legal Practice Course and will complete their Work Based Learning (equivalent to the Training Contract) during the course of their studies. This exciting programme is an extension to the M Law Exempting Degree. Entry onto this programme is not guaranteed. It will have limited numbers of places and entry is dependent upon securing an approved placement on a competitive basis. The availability of placements is dependent upon employers offering them and is not in the control of the Law School. Selection for this programme will take place during year 3 of the Exempting Law Degree.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should possess one of the following:

Five GCSEs at grade C or above including English Language and Mathematics

GCE and VCE Advanced Level

320 UCAS tariff points (ABB)

General Studies is not accepted

Edexcel/BTEC National Diploma

Distinction, distinction, merit

Scottish Highers/Advanced Highers

ABBBC at Higher, ABC at Advanced Higher

Irish Highers

AABBB

Progression Diploma

Only acceptable in combination with Additional and Specialist Learning (ASL)

Advanced Diploma

Grade C in the Progression Diploma, plus GCE/VCE A Level grade A

HEFC Access

Three distinctions and three merits, plus Toolbox

Other QAA-recognised Access programme

Full Access Award. Some units must be achieved at Distinction grade, others at merit

Return to Learning

We positively welcome applications from mature students and are willing to consider, on an individual basis, those who do not meet traditional entry criteria. However, that should not be read as meaning

that we will generally accept applicants with no formal qualifications, and, where we do so, we would normally be looking for an appropriate level of relevant experience. We are strongly supportive of the University's Access to Higher Education course, the HEFC, which provides an excellent basis for preparing adult students for entry to Higher Education – more details are available from the Return to Learning Service.

Additional notes

Post-application Open Days are held during the academic year and UCAS applicants will be invited to attend

UCAS code

Entry onto all routes is common and applicants only need to apply once on code M100 LLB

Programme length

3, 4 or 5 years

Attendance mode

Full-time

Location

City Campus East

Enquiries

Law Admissions Tel: 0191 227 4433

Email: nb.admissions@northumbria.a.c.uk

Web: www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk



Modules

Each route allows the student to study seven main foundation areas for the academic stage in Years 1 and 2. These are:

- **Criminal Law**
- **Contract**
- **Property 1**
- **Property 2**
- **Public Law**
- **Tort**
- **English Legal System and European Law**

In addition, all students take Litigation and Evidence and begin to develop a range of legal and transferable skills.

On the Exempting programmes, students take further vocational subjects. For the Solicitors route these are:

- **Property Law and Practice**
- **Law of Business Associations**

For the Barristers Exempting programme, the further vocational subjects are:

- **Case Skills**
- **Remedies**
- **Sentencing**

Students on the Exempting programmes also complete a final year project and participate in the Student Law Office.

During the programme, students also select a number of options, allowing them to pursue individual interests.

Options may include:

- **Animal Law**
- **Child Care Law**
- **Civil Liberties**
- **Commercial Contracts**
- **Commercial Leases**
- **Competition Law**
- **Consumer Protection**
- **Corporate Management**
- **Critical Perspectives on Law**
- **Employment Law**
- **Environmental Law**
- **Family Law**
- **Housing Law**
- **Intellectual Property Law**
- **International Human Rights**
- **Jurisprudence**
- **Law and the Elderly**
- **Law of International Trade**
- **Medical Law**
- **Remedies**
- **Sale of Goods**
- **Sentencing**
- **Trials of Dissenters**

The wide range of optional subjects enables students to specialise in 'high street' or 'commercial' areas or simply to choose subjects they find interesting.

Fees

All students pay an additional, non-refundable fee for the first 2 years of all programmes. The fee reflects the skills and vocational elements of the programme and is currently £900 per year. Students who continue on the M Law Solicitors Exempting and M Law Full Qualification routes also pay this fee in Years 3 and 4. Even so there are potential savings to be made compared to the typical three year LLB plus LPC or BVC programme.

Scholarships

The Northumbria Scholarship is available to home students who are eligible to pay fees. It is an annual, non-repayable scholarship of £250. In the first year, all home students who meet the entry requirements set out in the offer letter will automatically receive the scholarship. From Year 2 onwards, the full scholarship will be awarded to students who score more than 60%. Students achieving less than 60% will receive 75% of the scholarship but may make up the remaining 25% if their marks reach the target level through the year.

Ward Hadaway Bursary

Ward Hadaway, a top 100 UK Law Firm has teamed up with Northumbria Law School to offer two exceptional law students a bursary

of £1000 towards the cost of their studies in the second and third year of their Exempting Degree.

During each of those years, the two bursary students will also carry out four weeks paid work experience at Ward Hadaway's Offices on Newcastle's Quayside and in the heart of Leeds and, while a training contract will not be guaranteed, the students will be offered a place at assessment centre and a final interview.

Honour Roll

The purpose behind the Honour Roll is to support and motivate students. The Honour Roll is recognition of academic achievement and thus there is a requirement for students to have attended regularly, passed all assessments at first attempt and achieved an average of 60% or above. The top 10% of students on each year of the degree will make the Honour Roll for that year.

Sponsored by Dickinson Dees Law Firm in Newcastle, successful students will receive a certificate to confirm their achievement and will also be invited to attend a celebratory drinks reception at Dickinson Dees Offices.

A place on the Honour Roll will be of real value when students apply for training contracts or vacation placements as it will enhance CVs and thus employability.



Careers Support

Enrolling on one of our programmes may be the first step you take towards a career in law but it should not be the only step. From day one, you need to plan your career and find out how best to progress it.

Here at Northumbria Law School, we provide a comprehensive careers support programme to help you make the best career move.

Our extensive careers programme offers regular sessions throughout your course

Information regarding these events is shown on the individual programme e-learning sites together with notification of any placement/training contract opportunities. In addition, each of the programme sites provide general careers information.

Talks by a wide range of legal practitioners about the different careers available in law

If you are undecided as to which of the many types of legal work you would like to go into, we provide numerous sessions from practitioners explaining more about the type of work they do. So whether you are interested in commercial work, high street practice, legal aid work, in-house or local authority practice you can come and find out more about the job and ask questions of experienced lawyers in the field. Local firms hold open evenings where our students can attend their offices, participate in a range of skills sessions and gain a flavour of what they do.

Practical sessions to assist you with applications and interviews

Legal recruitment is a specialised area. We arrange talks by a range of employers and recruitment experts to explain how to navigate this process successfully. We provide guidance on completing applications for training contracts, vacation placements and pupillages (through the PACH system) as well as assisting you to prepare for interviews or typical assessment centre exercises.

One to one assistance with preparation of application forms, CVs and interviews

All students have their own guidance tutor. You will have regular meetings with your guidance tutor and will be able to discuss with them your plans and application forms. Your guidance tutor keeps track of your progress, plans and interests through the year and will be able to write an informed and detailed reference for you if requested to do so.

Contacts with local and national firms and Chambers

We have extensive links with local firms and Chambers. Many of the teaching staff continue to practise and many more maintain links with the profession, with practitioners regularly contributing to the teaching sessions. You will be able to approach staff members who are up to date with the main issues facing legal practice and who have an extensive knowledge of the firms and Chambers you may be making applications to.

Experience of practice through the Student Law Office and its associated programmes

On the M Law programmes, you will have an opportunity, as part of your course, to try out legal practice for real through the Law School's own Legal service – the Student Law Office. You will be advising and representing members of the public under the supervision of qualified members of staff and may even need to represent your client at court or tribunal. All students can participate in the Street Law programme which gives you an opportunity to present legal information to interested community or business groups in the Newcastle area.

The practice interview scheme

When you are called for an interview we can offer you a practice interview geared to the sort of firm you have applied to and offer feedback to help you improve your performance. This will give you the chance to refine your interview technique and to see how you handle unexpected questions.

Support from specialist careers advisers in the University Careers Service

We work closely with the University Careers Service which provides specialist support in the form of up to date information and one to one advice. They can also check through CVs and applications and can provide samples of the sorts of tests routinely used in the selection process for legal work.

Northumbria Careers in Law Fair

As well as specific sessions provided by employers we host a Law Fair in which local and national firms and Chambers are represented. It is a chance to find out more about a range of different firms and start networking. Exhibitors at our most recent fair included Allen and Overy, Ben Hoare Bell, Broad Chare Chambers, David Gray Solicitors, Dickinson Dees, Eversheds, Chancery House Chambers, Beecham Peacock, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Irwin Mitchell, Ward Hadaway and Watson Burton. In addition to the Northumbria fair, Newcastle and Durham Universities also have law fairs which you are encouraged to attend.

The professional contact scheme

We maintain a register of trainees and qualified solicitors and barristers who have volunteered to offer advice and support to Northumbria students considering legal careers.

Continuing information after you complete your course

When you have finished your course you can remain on our careers register and we will inform you of any vacancies we are notified of and any relevant careers events.



Graduates have obtained employment with a range of legal firms both regionally and nationally as well as in barristers' chambers. Examples include:

Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Allen & Overy LLP
Beacham Peacock
Ben Hoare Bell
Broadchare Chambers
Burnetts
Cartmell Shepherd
College Chambers
Crown Prosecution Service
Crutes LLP
David Gray Solicitors
Dickinson Dees LLP
DLA Piper UK LLP

Durham Chambers
Eversheds LLP
Hay & Kilner Solicitors
Irwin Mitchell
Kings Bench Chambers
Legal Services Commission
Lovells
Lupton Fawcett
Meikles Solicitors
Mincoffs
Muckle LLP
Nabarro Nathanson
New Court Chambers

No 8 Chambers
Osborne Clarke
Pinsent Masons
Plowden Chambers
Punch Robson
Sintons
Tilly Bailey & Irvine
Trinity Chambers
Walker Morris
Ward Hadaway Solicitors
Watson Burton LLP
York Chambers

Law graduates are also well placed to compete for a variety of jobs in commerce, industry, financial services and the public sector, where they can use their intellectual and practical skills in a more general context.



Emma Lavery

Solicitors Exempting

Why did you want to study law?

Law has always interested and amazed me. From a young age I could never just take somebody's word for it – I always had to solve problems and find out why!

Law is so diverse. There are so many elements to it. I love the fact that it is constantly changing so embarking on a degree in law I knew I was beginning a career that would constantly challenge me and that has a certain element of continuous learning. Everyday is different and for a girl that cannot sit still it is perfect!!

Why did you want to come to Northumbria?

It was the Law School's reputation that appealed to me. The Exempting degree stood out a mile compared to any other university's law course. Not only was it a much cheaper way of gaining my LPC as well as a degree (cost always seems to be a concern when thinking of law), but the exempting degree incorporates the theory with the practical. It's not just about reading textbooks – you get to advise actual clients in the Student Law Office.

It gives you skills which students from other universities have never experienced. This makes you stand out from the rest when applying to law firms, which is essential in such a competitive area!

What's it like studying in Newcastle?

The city is so diverse it's unbelievable. The two universities are right in

the centre of the city which results in a fantastic atmosphere, and the people are so friendly! I have never had a better night out than I have in Newcastle. It is bustling with pubs and clubs. I can safely say the shopping is first class. The Metro is great too. If you fancy a break, the beach is just 10 minutes from the city and everywhere is within reach!

What do you want to do in the future?

I want to be an in-house solicitor of a multi-national company. This would give me the ability to utilise all the skills I have learnt at Northumbria, be it my knowledge of employment law or developing my corporate drive. Perhaps I will even finish my career as a partner of a major law firm, who knows the world is my oyster!

What's been the best thing about University for you?

I have been given the most fantastic opportunities from advising my own client to having drinks with solicitors. The university promotes growth of the person and because of that I have made the most amazing memories and met fantastic people!

Do you have any advice for anyone applying for the course?

Join the Grey Society (Northumbria's law society run by students). Not only is it a fantastic way of meeting people, but they organise all sorts of events from law socials, to balls and careers events. The advice and guidance at Northumbria is second to none and there is always someone at hand, be it another student in the year above who has been in that position or a lecturer! Whilst in Newcastle check out Osborne Road for the true student experience!



Student Law Office

Northumbria Law School's award winning Student Law Office is at the heart of our law programmes. In this unique environment the students work as lawyers, running real cases for real people, as an integral part of their studies.

The Northumbria Student Law Office programme is unique in its size and its scope. Over 180 students on the undergraduate and vocational courses work in the Law Office, dealing with in excess of 1,000 enquiries and almost 700 cases every year. The programme is a core element of the Exempting Law degrees – and runs as an option on the postgraduate vocational courses.

In the Law Office law students have the opportunity to put their learning into real life practice – and to learn what it means to be a lawyer in the real world.

The kind of work the students do

The cases that the students deal with are in a wide range of different areas of legal practice. Some groups of students specialise in criminal appeals work and have had cases at both the Court of Appeal and the Criminal Cases Review Commission. Other students specialise in housing law, including advocacy at possession hearings in the County Court. Other categories of work include: civil disputes, including areas as diverse as family law, inquests, and criminal compensation; employment work, where we have conducted cases not only at the local employment tribunals but at the Employment Appeal Tribunal and the Court of Appeal; human rights, where we have taken various cases to the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg; welfare benefits, where students not only run cases at local tribunals, but conduct judicial reviews and make applications to Strasbourg; education law; and small business advice work.

In the Law Office students do all the work that lawyers would undertake in practice. They interview clients, research the law, provide advice – and where necessary they draft the court or tribunal documents and represent the clients at the court hearings. In doing this work, the students are supported by practitioner members of Law School staff who supervise every aspect of the work that is done, helping the students to learn from the experience.

The students will often find themselves working alongside solicitors and barristers in private practice, who are invariably enormously impressed by the work that the students do. As one leading QC put it following a successful Court of Appeal case:

“Their efforts were quite brilliant and utterly outstanding. All I did was present the facts – they did all the work.”

The Law Office resources

In the new Law building the Law Office has stunning new premises – with 90 dedicated PCs, five client interview rooms with full recording facilities, and space for over a hundred students to be working on cases at any time. Over 20 members of academic staff, all practising solicitors or barristers, supervise the students' work – and the Office is supported by a team of administrators, trainee solicitors and bursary students.

The role of the Student Law Office

Winner of the best Law School, attorney General Pro Bono Awards 2008, the Law Office has an international reputation for excellence. Through running real cases the students have the opportunity to develop skills as lawyers that most law students will not begin to learn until they enter into training contracts or pupillages. The Law Office enables Northumbria students to go into practice ready to work as lawyers – and understanding how to learn from their experiences.

The Law Office programme is unique in the UK. Northumbria Law School has operated a programme of clinical legal education since 1980. The Law School is one of the founding members of the Clinical Legal Education Organisation (CLEO) and publishes the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education – and the Law Office has an international visiting professor programme which brings clinicians from leading international universities to lecture Northumbria students.

Examples of our recent successes include:

- The overturning of an unsafe conviction for robbery and the award of £170,000 compensation
- A successful challenge in the Court of Appeal on the nature of modern apprenticeships, affecting over 300,000 people
- Friendly settlement at Strasbourg of challenges to the discriminatory welfare benefits regime for widowers.

All of these were cases run by students – enabling them to enter into training contracts and pupillages able to show that they not only know and understand legal principles, but are already used to acting as lawyers.

Both students and their future employers tell us that it is the best possible training for entering into practice as a lawyer. And the clients tell us how impressed they are by the commitment and the energy of the students who handle their cases.

Come and judge us for yourself

Open Days

Open Days give prospective law students the opportunity to visit Northumbria Law School, view our stunning facilities, meet academic staff and current students and take part in mock trial sessions, workshops and sample lectures.

Throughout the UCAS cycle, there are several opportunities to visit us:

- Pre-application Institutional Open Days in June and October of each year
- Post application Open Days in January, February, March and April.

Please visit www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk for dates and further information about forthcoming open days.

Personal Tours

If you are unable to make one of our Open Days, we are happy to give you a personal tour of the Law School, where again, you can meet staff and take part in teaching sessions.

Please contact the Law School Marketing Team on 0191 243 7035 or email la.marketingenquiries@northumbria.ac.uk to arrange a visit.



Newcastle upon Tyne

As well as being dubbed the eighth best party city in the world, NewcastleGateshead is regarded, according to *Newsweek*, as one of 'the world's new cultural Meccas'. The city has developed from a student and party city to a vibrant creative and cultural centre which attracts all sorts of people interested in living and working in a modern European city. With several theatres, music, opera and dance venues and cinema complexes, there is plenty to exercise your brain cells too! Full of museums, galleries, and sculptures, Newcastle has lots to experience, BALTIC, The Centre for Contemporary Art is NewcastleGateshead's equivalent to the Tate Modern. There is also the well-known *Angel of the North* designed by Antony Gormley and Thomas Heatherwick's *Blue Carpet* means you can have modern art under your feet, literally!



Socialising

Newcastle has masses of bars, restaurants, pubs and clubs – from the stylish Quayside and the popular city centre, to trendy Osborne Road in Jesmond, the perfect place to sit outside in summer and enjoy a glass of wine. Newcastle is full of restaurants, and coffee shops, to suit all tastes, cultures and bank balances. In terms of sport, Newcastle has a world famous premiership football team, Newcastle United FC. There are also top sports matches, rugby, netball, lacrosse, hockey, etc. and Newcastle plays host to the Great North Run every year.

Music venues include the Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle City Hall, the Carling Academy and the Sage Gateshead, an outstanding music facility for all kinds of live music and a pioneering centre for music education. It also houses the internationally acclaimed Northern Sinfonia – the North East's own orchestra.

Legal Community

The North East legal community has a justified reputation for the breadth and depth of its work and provides a comprehensive range of legal services of the highest standard. The work of the firms and chambers in the region is viewed as both progressive and innovative. The North East, including Cumbria to the west, Berwick to the north and down to Teesside and beyond in the south, provides the prospective trainee or qualified practitioner with a wide range of opportunities. There are firms with regional, national and international reputations which have clients across the whole of the UK and internationally. There are also smaller practices that have developed niche specialisms and expertise to rival the best available. Whether you are looking to gain experience in the corporate or the public sectors, with private clients, with financial institutions or with educational establishments, there is work for you in the North East. Perhaps your preference is to handle personal injury or clinical negligence cases or to become involved in immigration or trade union work. If so, there are openings for you as well. For those with an eye to the Bar, the North East has a number of leading chambers and several smaller sets, covering all of the main areas of practice, in addition to a number of important specialist areas. Indeed, the busy Crown Court on Newcastle's Quayside presents opportunities to study leading and junior counsel in action on both high profile and mainstream cases, whilst the various sets of chambers allow for practical experience to be gained in a supportive yet challenging environment. Whichever way you look at it, the opportunities are here in the North East and in its thriving legal community.

Transport Links

Newcastle has a modern Metro system which is the envy of the rest of the UK. Linked with the bus service, the Metro makes getting around cheap, fast and efficient. By road, the A1 links Newcastle with London to the south and Edinburgh to the north. The A69 joins Newcastle to the M6 which serves the west of the country and Newcastle itself is car-friendly with lots of parking available. You can travel easily from most cities by train to Newcastle's Central Station and there is a high speed service to London and Edinburgh. Newcastle has an International Airport which operates both domestic and international flights and there are also National Express coach services.





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