School of Law and Politics

Law

Undergraduate
Degree Programmes 2025
Top 20 for Law

The Complete University Guide 2025
Law – the constant in our lives

On the edge of Cardiff’s historic civic centre sits a 1950’s concrete monolith, quite different to the Victorian houses that surround it. That’s ok though because the ideas that we cultivate within its walls are quite different too.

We know that the law profession has changed during the last few decades. In the past, high earning careers and sealing deals were often what was thought of. However, when we talk about the law sector today, altruism, activism and reform are also important for law students.

Although law has been taught at Cardiff University since 1970 that doesn’t mean we’re stuck in the past. Our ideas and programmes have developed and evolved over those years and now, our mission is to make meaningful and positive change in the world.

If you think about it, law runs through the fibre of everything we do. The receipt in your pocket, the speed you drive at, your contract of employment. Every single news broadcast mentions a new law being debated and how many of us are obsessed with true crime podcasts? Law is a constant in our lives and our undergraduate programmes reflect what’s going on in the world. Of course we teach the fundamentals, the foundations of what law is but we also go beyond this. Optional modules are topical, meaningful, and extensive. Depending on your interests, you could be studying money laundering and financial crime one day, human rights and homelessness, environmental regulations and healthcare ethics the next.

We also know that theory and academic knowledge isn’t all you need once you leave university. It’s essential that you have real life and practical experiences to put on your CV and to help you stand out. So, we give you those too. If you want to volunteer on a pro bono scheme, you can. If you want to apply for a paralegal placement, you can, if you want to study abroad, you can!*

These opportunities combined with what you learn on your programme will arm you with all the skills you need to succeed. Whether that’s in the legal field or other sectors and industries.

*All additional opportunities mentioned here are usually offered through a competitive process which means that you may need to apply to take part.
Prepare yourself for today and tomorrow

One of the things we do really well is help you develop the skills that will set you apart from your peers when you leave us.
The legal sector is competitive so getting experience under your belt before starting work is essential. There’s no point learning theories and ideas without being able to put them into practice, and with confidence.

We have a whole host of initiatives and schemes available each term but the following will give you a picture of some of the things you can take advantage of should you join us.

**Pro Bono**

A term you’ll hear time and time again in the law sector is *pro bono*. If you’ve never heard it before, this is a Latin term which means *professional work undertaken voluntarily and without payment*. Helping our community while giving you the chance to gain new skills is important to us. This is why we have a range of pro bono schemes on offer, which will allow you to develop your skills in client care, legal research, writing and public speaking. These varied schemes can change each year depending on demand and teaching staff but they have included the Cardiff University Innocence Project (which is the only university Innocence Project in the UK to have overturned 2 cases at the Court of Appeal to date), Ukraine Project Cymru, the Environment Project, the NHS Continuing Healthcare scheme, the Arts Partnership and Family Law and Self Help Clinic.

If you’d like to find out more, scan this QR code to hear from Jack who has worked on 3 pro bono schemes while studying with us.

**Mooting and negotiation**

Mooting is an essential element of legal training where you take part in simulated court scenarios to hone your speaking, persuasion, research and analytical skills. To help develop these skills we run mooting competitions which are sponsored by local barristers’ chambers. The stakes are high with the winners being awarded a period of work experience (known as a mini-pupillage) as their prize.

Negotiation is part of our everyday lives, and key skills can be learned, which are useful for any future career. We run a training programme for a national negotiation competition each year, which our students often excel in. Maybe it’ll be you next time.

**Expand your horizons**

Even though we know you’ll love Cardiff as much as we do, we know that seeing other parts of the world helps you grow personally and academically. All our undergraduate law programmes have study abroad opportunities in Europe and beyond! You’ll be taught through the medium of English at a partner institution where you’ll develop independence, respond to intellectual challenges, and be exposed to new and exciting cultures.

If you’d like to read about our current schemes, this QR code will take you to our dedicated website.

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Madrid has been the most life-changing experience. I am now able to have the privilege of having so many friends all over the globe!

Studying in Spain not only provided me with an enriching new cultural experience and many new friends, but it also allowed me to become confident in another language and study many law modules I would never have had the opportunity to study at home.

**Callum Pitfield, Law (LLB) who studied in Spain on his year abroad**
Our Degree Programmes

We’ve been teaching law here for over 50 years and during that time we’ve learned that students like choice, so we offer you a range of varied modules which change term on term depending on what’s going on in the world.

Our students also tell us that they like to combine law with other subjects so as well as our standalone law LLB offering, we offer you the chance to team law with a number of subjects that we think are complementary, both for study and post university when you get out into the world of work.

Whichever programme you choose, study abroad, pro bono and Welsh language opportunities will be available to you plus you can choose to join one of the many student-run law related societies which are managed via our Students’ Union.

To fully explore what each programme offers, review their entry criteria, and dig deeper into the modules you’ll study, visit our website.
Law LLB
UCAS code: M100

Our flagship law programme explores the rules and principles that govern people and how they affect the ways in which we interact with each other and society.

You’ll gain an understanding of laws, regulations, how courts work, the roles of legal practitioners, and how laws are made and enforced.

We’ll make sure you develop a thorough understanding of the English and Welsh legal systems by studying foundational modules of Contract, Criminal, Legal Foundations, Public, Tort and Land Law together with a wide selection of exciting optional modules. This could include Environmental Law, Human Rights Law, Commercial law, Media Law and Family Law to mention just a few.

Many of our law team are former practitioners from outside academia who bring with them a wealth of knowledge and expertise.

What I’ve enjoyed most about my studies is the amazing education I’ve been given as well as the mindset that I’ve developed.

The lectures at Cardiff University heavily encourage you to think outside the box, looking for case law and statutes that may be able to help you argue your hypothetical case, which is of course a central skill when applying the law in practice.

Laura Viggers
Law (LLB)
Law and Politics LLB
UCAS code: ML12

The relationship between law and politics is an interdependent one.

Both subjects have a huge impact on our lives regardless of age, ethnicity and social background. So much so that we brought the two disciplines together, under the same roof in 2014, when the School of Law and Politics was created.

It is the political systems within a country that generally creates its laws. This means that the legal-political dynamic is fundamental if you want to observe and explore society. You’ll study the foundational aspects of law to prepare you for life in the legal sector but alongside that, you can study modules that explore how parliaments and governments function and evaluate political ideas such as power, freedom, democracy, conflict, legitimacy and accountability.

I sit on several student panels which has helped me ensure positive, meaningful, and impactful change for my peers.

I have developed transferable skills such as the ability to present a reasoned argument and accept constructive feedback. I’m honoured to have been elected Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the new academic year, where I can continue to represent individuals, who are traditionally left behind, pursue their dreams and goals.

Aeden Rooney
Law and Politics (LLB)

Find out more about this course.
Law and Welsh LLB
UCAS code: MQ15

Since 1999, Wales has had secondary legislative powers in a variety of areas including agriculture, education and housing.

This means that knowledge of our specific legal context in Wales and the ability to work through the medium of Welsh are sought after skills in 21st century Wales.

Our Law and Welsh programme gives you a comprehensive grounding in the English and Welsh legal systems. You’ll also develop a high level of written and spoken Welsh, a thorough academic understanding of the language and our country’s literature and culture.

I have participated in 2 pro bono schemes, the Environment Project and Cardiff University Innocence Project.

Working on the Innocence Project has aided my research abilities and knowledge surrounding the law. It has been interesting and stimulating work and I would definitely recommend it to any prospective students. The Environment Project looks at the law on climate change and how that impacts transport, agriculture, waste and biodiversity. I’ve also thoroughly enjoyed this project and again would urge individuals to consider it, especially those who have a passion for the environment.

Gabriel Hill
Law (LLB)

Find out more about this course.
Law and Criminology LLB

UCAS code: M190

Law and criminology is an ideal pairing.

Whereas law examines a system of rules, criminology focuses on what happens when those rules are broken, criminalisation, victimisation, and social responses to crime and disorder.

The programme is taught in collaboration with the School of Social Sciences and provides you with the opportunity for in-depth study in both fascinating areas.

As with all our law programmes, you’ll gain a comprehensive grounding in English and Welsh law, but in addition, you’ll examine how to approach problems of crime, justice and control as a social scientist before applying your new research-driven skills to real world issues and debates.

The diverse range of modules I’ve studied in law and criminology has profoundly broadened my understanding of how the world operates.

Topics such as law in practice, politics, and social studies have given me new perspectives on societal functions. I’m now more aware of various social issues and the legal challenges that impact our lives.

Chloe Lewis
Law and Criminology (LLB)
Thinking about your future

Believe it or not, we’re thinking about your future from the minute you join us.

That’s why we have a dedicated Law Careers Manager who can help you from day one. Helen McNally works for the Student Futures team and is responsible for a whole host of activities to get you ready for the world of work.

Remember, although you’re planning on studying law, that doesn’t mean you have to take your skills into the legal sector. Law can open doors to a range of careers aside a legal one and Helen can help advise on that too.

More information about the focussed support Helen provides can be found on our careers and employability pages.

The Student Futures team have been an invaluable source of support. As a first-generation university student, I was clueless as to the routes into a legal career, but an initial meeting with them helped to cement my aspiration of becoming a barrister.

A little over a year later, I undertook a mock interview in preparation for a Bar Course Scholarship with the Honourable Society of Middle Temple, and I am delighted to say that I was awarded the Jules Thorn Scholarship - fully funding my Bar Course! I couldn’t have achieved this without the guidance, advice and support from the Student Futures team, and I am incredibly grateful for the work they do.

Holly Laugesen
Law and Criminology LLB
Get ahead, get a placement

When you’re applying for jobs, you’ll inevitably be asked about your experience. But how can you build up experience if you’ve just spent the last 3 years studying at uni?!

We offer lots of placement opportunities where you can apply what you’re learning in a real working environment.

If you’d like to gain paralegal experience, we offer you the opportunity to apply for a paid placement in a law firm which will take place in your third year*. If successful you’ll develop key skills including case management, legal research and legal writing, time management, team working and commercial awareness.

You can also take a module in your third year which allows you to apply to carry out a work placement at an organisation that plays a key role in Welsh governance. This placement provides you with a theoretically grounded, yet practical introduction to devolved governance in Wales where you’ll develop highly transferable skills and forge long-term professional relationships.

The placement year is a great way to make connections and expand your network. I have been able to mix with a range of individuals from trainees, right through to senior partners and clients.

For students who have no or few connections in law, a placement is a brilliant way to start these initial relationships and showcase your capabilities to those that have succeeded in their field as well as seek advice on future career steps from those that know best.

Alice Phelps, Law LLB (with a Professional Placement Year) who carried out her placement at Capital Law, Cardiff

96% of graduates were in employment and/or further study, due to start a new job or course, or doing other activities such as travelling, 15 months after the end of their course.

Graduate Outcomes survey 2020/21

*If you successfully apply for the paralegal placement year, it will take place during your third year meaning that your programme will become 4 years instead of 3.
What makes Cardiff different?

Our academics and their expertise are the foundation of our department. Not only do they drive our research agenda they also engage our students in critical thinking and ask the pertinent questions that need answers in 21st century academia and beyond.

Here are just a few of the faces you might come across if you join our school. We asked them what they think makes Cardiff different.

Reece Lewis  
Lecturer in Law

Having been a student at the school a decade ago, when I returned as a lecturer, I saw that very little had changed in the way that students are supported, cared for and encouraged to achieve their dreams.

It was fantastic to see that the supportive and friendly community that I knew, clearly endured and that was something special.

Sharon Thompson  
Reader in Law

Cardiff is a leading international hub of socio-legal research, and this enriches our LLB programme enormously.

Our lecturers’ socio-legal backgrounds mean they often ask students to consider how law influences the society in which we live (and vice versa), to challenge assumptions about the law, and sometimes to criticise law’s guise of neutrality. You’ll be encouraged to examine the broader social context that may be absent from judgments yet is nevertheless vitally important to our understanding of the law in practice.

Caleb Wheeler  
Lecturer in Law

Cardiff has a growing community of international law scholars who possess a wide array of legal specialities.

Law is such a vast topic and having these different areas of expertise has allowed us to develop a truly, engaged and inquisitive academic community. This provides a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary inspiration and collaboration that does not exist at many universities.
Nicholas Ryder  
Professor of Financial Crime

My research focuses on financial crime, but with particular focus on terrorism financing, fraud, corporate economic crime and money laundering. Lectures here are research focused and practice orientated which means that students are better informed on contemporary financial crime issues. Our lectures are based on impactful research which has been commissioned by national and international financial crime stakeholders. Cardiff University is a very exciting place to work.

Roxanna Dehaghani  
Senior Lecturer in Law

There is a clear focus on ensuring that research brings public value and that staff fulfil their civic duties. We are nationally and internationally renowned as a centre for socio-legal excellence, and research colleagues use their expertise to instigate positive changes in law and society. We have Welsh Government on our doorstep and, although criminal justice is not (yet) devolved, there are lots of opportunities to work with Welsh Government on improving the operation of the criminal justice system.
Important Legal Information

The contents of this brochure relate to the Entry 2025 admissions cycle and are correct at the time of going to press in July 2024. However, there is a lengthy period of time between printing this brochure and applications being made to, and processed by us, so please check our website at: www.cardiff.ac.uk before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to other facilities and services described here.

Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.

Your degree: Students admitted to Cardiff University study for a Cardiff University degree.

This brochure is printed on paper obtained from well managed sources using vegetable-based inks. Both the paper used in the production of this prospectus and the manufacturing process are FSC® certified.

The printers are also accredited to ISO14001, the internationally recognised environmental standard.

Mae’r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Cardiff University is a registered charity, no. 1136855

This prospectus can be made available in alternative formats, including large print (text), Braille and on audio tape/CD.

To request an alternative format please contact Laura Roberts:
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To find out more about the School of Law and Politics please visit our website:

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