



Learn more than the theory - learn to apply it. At Solent Law School, you'll become an agile legal professional, equipped with the skills, mindset and experience to adapt to the fast-changing legal environment.

Looking to become a solicitor? We are one of the first law schools in the country to design a programme informed by the new central assessment. A barrister? Our LLB (Hons) Law meets the Bar Standards Board requirements for a qualifying law degree.

But law means more than courts and criminal justice. There's a whole world of legal practice out there – from commerce to the civil service, charities to big business, in-house to start-ups, you can find the organisation and the work that matters to you.

Top 20 for learning resources, learning opportunities, learning community and academic support Law courses, NSS 2022 Whatever path you choose, you'll need flexibility, versatility and a hunger to keep learning. That's what we offer, at Solent Law School – along with a highly sought-after set of legal skills, the kind that can open doors.

Our focus on professional practice? It's an approach that students seem to value. Our LLB (Hons) Law ranked highly for learning resources, opportunities and communities, as well as support, in the latest National Student Survey (NSS 2022). *The Guardian's* 2021 league table of best UK universities? We're in the top ten for law, the highest ranking uni south of London.

Workshops. Guest lectures. Work experience. Networking events. As well as industry-leading teaching, as well as exceptional facilities like our purpose-built Solent Courtroom, Solent offers the perfect chance to get inside the legal profession before you even graduate.

That's why you'll leave Solent feeling confident for life. Ready to impress, with the skills to embark on a successful career in law — or to use those transferable skills in a broader business career.



Southampton

Powerhouse of the central south

With close to 25,000 businesses in knowledge-intensive sectors, employing 163,000 people across the region, we're ideally placed for graduate jobs.





In the UK top three for green spaces (accor, 2021), with five city-centre parks right on Solent's doorstep and more than 300 acres of woodland and open space at Southampton Common



The home of world-famous Premier League team Southampton FC and international cricket at Hampshire CCC's home ground



Perfectly placed for access to the south and beyond, including Bournemouth, Portsmouth and the New Forest



A vibrant and diverse **student population of around 40,000**, in a city of over 250,000



Just 75 minutes from London by train



A fantastic shopping destination – Ikea, Westquay shopping centre, high street boutiques and more



180+ pubs, bars and nightclubs



Over £3 billion of city investment since 2012



















Our great city

Southampton is a vibrant maritime city at the heart of a healthy and growing regional economy. It's been one of the top three cities in PwC's Good Growth for Cities index for three years running, and it's home to some of the UK's flagship organisations, including Ordnance Survey, B&Q, Carnival and Ageas.

Hampshire is recognised as one of the most successful economies in the UK and has the largest sub-regional economy in the south east of England, with economic output totalling £50 billion. Southern England enjoys the largest business population in the UK, and the finance and business sector in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is worth around £4.5 billion.

The city also boasts Premier League football, world-class sailing, and international cricket. It has a wealth of live music venues, theatres and exhibitions, and was shortlisted for UK City of Culture 2025. The city's historic walls and old town bring to life Southampton's rich maritime heritage, with major redevelopments complementing this and bringing new leisure, retail and employment opportunities into the heart of the city.





Professional practice and real-world experience

Taught by experts with strong links to the legal profession, our law school gives you plenty of opportunities for practical experience and to develop your own professional network.

Building real-world experience is a key element of our law courses, and our Professional Practice option gives you the chance to interact with real clients as part of your studies. You will be encouraged to find placements during the summer period to develop your learning further, and you will also have the option to undertake a full-year industry placement between years two and three.

Whatever you choose, the law team's practical expertise and open-door policy ensure you will be well supported academically, while the University's dedicated support services offer plenty of help with any other aspects of student life.

And our regular Law Career Spotlight events – supported by law firms and the wider profession in the region – provide crucial networking opportunities to help inform your understanding as you decide which career path to follow. With practical exercises drawing on real-world situations – exploring a child custody dispute or land law mediation, or redrafting a contract – these opportunities have led many of our students to full-time employment and graduate level work.



Preparing you for your legal career

Our ground-breaking partnership with the College of Legal Practice means a preparation course for the first part of the Solicitors Qualification Examination (SQE) is built into your degree, giving you a real head start if you're considering becoming a solicitor. Covering the subjects required for a qualifying law degree, our course ensures you are prepared to become a solicitor or barrister, but also for a range of other careers in the legal, corporate or business world.

- Work shadowing and volunteering opportunities in the criminal justice system.
- Regular optional study visits, including to US criminal justice agencies.
- Based in the state-of-the-art Spark Building, in the heart of Southampton and close to the city's legal district.
- Regular Law Career Spotlight events, offering networking and real-world career experiences.
- Strong engagement with students, including our popular student Law Society and Mooting Team.
- Excellent postgraduate study options when you graduate, including LLM master's degrees and PhDs.

Taught by experts, with extensive industry links

The course team's close links with industry give you the chance to hear from legal guest lecturers, offering valuable insight into the profession and the range of careers available to you. Recent speakers have included legal professionals, judges and other key industry, business and professional figures.

Law facilities

Our purpose-built Solent Courtroom gives you the opportunity to practise your legal and professional skills and knowledge in a realistic setting.

Our library features a dedicated law library, access to online legal journals, a fully networked resource centre equipped with high-end computers, and both open plan and private group working spaces.







During my first year of studying law at Solent Uni, I have made the most of my time through a variety of different extracurricular activities and programmes offered alongside the LLB (Hons) Law degree.

Mooting

Mooting takes place once a week in Solent's mock courtroom and is run by one of our lecturers. It is specifically for law students and mimics the scenario of presenting cases in the magistrates' court. In mooting, we practise tasks a lawyer will have to undertake, like writing and presenting your client's case; acting as either prosecution or defence; or writing a plea in mitigation to secure your client a lesser sentence.

It's a great extracurricular activity, and it also gives you the opportunity to take part in competitions both internally and nationally. Just before Easter we took part in an internal moot competition judged by barristers from local chambers.

Mentoring

Solent has provided the opportunity to benefit from having a professional mentor; in my case I was paired up with a medical negligence solicitor from a local law firm. Your professional mentor is able to help with writing your CV or cover letters, give advice on work experience and job applications, and so much more.

Through Solent's Law Society, I've also joined a peer mentoring scheme where first-year law students are paired up with second- or third-year law students who act as mentors, giving us guidance and advice to help us succeed in our first year.

Career events

Since I started studying law at Solent, there have been ample opportunities to attend career events and skills workshops; these are great at building up your CV and giving you a greater insight into career possibilities, such as the routes to becoming a solicitor or barrister.

Course rep

During the first year of university, I volunteered to become a course rep — essentially a spokesperson for my coursemates, liaising with the University, raising any concerns the students might have, and communicating important information such as exam dates.

Together, all these activities have helped me make the most of my first year of university. And I'm very much looking forward to everything the second year has to offer!



Sebastian Graves-Read

Senior Policy Advisor, UK Home Office LLB (Hons) Law, 2019

Why did you choose Solent?

Solent jumped out at me because I knew it was a place where lecturers go the extra mile. They are there to teach and enjoy time with students, unlike other institutions which can be more research-oriented.

What was the best thing about your course lecturers?

When I showed interest in the subject, and put the effort in, the lecturers saw that and put a lot of time into making sure they were there to support me. This was especially the case when I presented my final-year thesis at the British conference for undergraduate research! My lecturers – particularly my supervisor – went out of their way to give me the support I needed to excel.

Do you feel like your studies helped prepare you for a career in the industry? How?

We had whole modules on employability, law in business and understanding the context that the legal system exists in. This approach meant that I was always able to contextualise a job in its wider industry – even if it wasn't legally focused – which really helped when I was applying for the civil service, as I was able to take what I knew about wider government projects and agendas and weave that into my interview answers.

What did you learn which really stuck with you over the years?

When we were introduced to mooting – legal arguments in front of a judge – I remember thinking that this is cool. Especially in criminal law, where there are surprisingly plentiful 'grey areas', I found it fascinating to think that this gladiator-style system between two barristers is still how we deal with issues in the twenty-first century.



"The proudest moment to date, though, was writing my first piece of ministerial advice."

What was life like as a Solent student?

I was part of, and ran, several societies at Solent. I was the president of Enactus, a social entrepreneurial society which became one of the top 10 teams in the country! I was also president of the mooting society, taking part in the national OUP competition.

I was part of other societies as well; the variety of options really helped me meet a mixture of people and get a range of experiences, all of which were super useful when I applied for jobs in the third year and after.

Tell us a little about your career so far.

After doing a master's degree I joined the civil service, and have learned so much already, though I don't think I could have settled into my role so quickly without the experiences I got at Solent. Mooting taught me how to think on my feet, while social enterprises taught me how to run complex projects efficiently.

One of the challenges for me was something that is common to lots of new graduates – imposter syndrome. It felt like I was still a student and should not be dealing with such important projects! That wore off after a while, though.

Now I have some standard responsibilities, but the rest of my job is in a support role, so it's very varied. One moment I could be pulling together advice for ministers, the next I could be helping to write the plan for one of our business areas. Because the civil service is such a large organisation, you end up doing a bit of everything.

The proudest moment to date, though, was writing my first piece of ministerial advice. To me, that is the cornerstone of the civil service, and the fact that I was given the opportunity to pull together a piece of advice so early in my career was surreal.

How are you finding the industry?

Weirdly, it's exactly what I always dreamed it would be! I am working as part of the democratic system, in the delivery of a programme which will affect millions, and I'm absolutely loving my job.

The only thing that was unexpected is that I always heard public sector work is slow-paced. That is definitely not the case. Work is manic – in the best possible way!





Ellis Sweetenham Solicitor, Lawdit Solicitors LLB (Hons) Law, 2016

How did university prepare you for your career?

Not only did my time at Solent teach me the finer details of the law, which enabled me to navigate the path I wanted to take, but it also created a good foundation of core skills, such as time-keeping, maintaining deadlines and professional communication, which are essential to be a solicitor.

Favourite Solent memory?

Being able to build my knowledge and succeed alongside my fellow students, who have now become my friends for life.

Tell us a little about your career story.

I began my LLB Law degree at Solent in 2013. During my time there, with the support of my tutor, I secured a placement at a local intellectual property specialist, Lawdit Solicitors. This really sparked my interest in intellectual property as an area of law. I continued to volunteer at Lawdit on a weekly basis throughout the second and third years of my degree.

After graduating in July 2016, in September 2016 I began studying the LPC LLM at the University of Law in Guildford. I maintained my weekly attendance at Lawdit while studying, and following this I began my training contract with Lawdit Solicitors in July 2017.

Tell us about what you are doing now and what it involves.

I am a trainee solicitor at Lawdit Solicitors, a commercial firm based in Southampton which specialises in intellectual property and social media law. I am currently in the trademarks department, working closely with Lawdit's sister company, The Trademarkroom.

A typical working day involves sending emails to clients explaining the process of registering a trademark in the UK and beyond. I also talk to clients over the telephone, offering an insight into trademarks as an intellectual property right and giving an explanation of the registration process. Building on this, I complete pre-filing searches for clients and file trademarks in the UK and EU. I also assist the contentious trademark team in preparing for opposition.

What's your career highlight so far?

Meeting the team at Lawdit Solicitors, who have taught me so much already – and I have so much more to learn. Also achieving high grades in both my LLB Law degree and my LPC LLM, which was such a relief after the hard work I put in.

In one sentence, what is your area of study to you?

Law is not always popular, but as a bottom line, it is there to protect people and businesses.

What tips would you give to someone wanting a career in your industry?

Be prepared to work hard, as that hard work will pay off, even if at the moment you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. Enjoy your time at Solent – you will make friends for life. And take every opportunity with both hands as you never know what is around the corner.





Michael Coyle Director, Lawdit Solicitors LLM Intellectual Property, 1998

Solent alumnus and Director of Lawdit Solicitors, Michael Coyle, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Law by Solent University on Thursday 13 July 2017.

Michael formed the company back in 2001 and since then, Lawdit and Michael have represented clients in the courts of England and Wales, as well as giving aspiring solicitors from Solent University a platform from which to learn, train and qualify as solicitors.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1997 and in 1998 undertook the LLM in Intellectual Property at Solent while working in private practice in the city.

On receiving his honorary degree, Michael said: "This day isn't about me, however wonderful this award is. It wouldn't be possible without the students from Solent University who have lent their support and encouraged my firm over the years to help them progress into the law field."

Michael founded Lawdit to offer specialist services in intellectual property and IT law, focused on – but not limited to – SME businesses. The firm has offered a number of innovative services to the wider business community, such as trademarkroom.com, protectyourdesign.com and staylegal.co.uk.

In 2003, Michael qualified as a solicitor advocate and has recently started a course to become a notary public. He has not forgotten his time as a student at Solent; he and his firm continue to support the University through lecturing and working with our students in practice workshops.

He finished his speech with some top tips for graduates: "Law can be a brutal industry; it can be exhilarating and also disheartening; it is driven by money and driven by time. We encourage people to not forget where you have come from on your journey to becoming valued members of the law profession, but also valued members of society."

"Work experience is key - knock on every door possible, don't take no for an answer and never give up."





Sam O'Toole Solicitor, Briffa Solicitors LLB (Hons) Law, 2016

Why did you decide to come to Solent?

I came to Solent from college – though after doing very (very) badly in my A-levels I took two years out between college and uni to work as a ski instructor in Austria. I picked Solent because I wanted to do the law foundation year.

What was the best thing about your course?

Law at Solent is for you if you are looking to develop academic skills with real-life applications. All of the lecturers are down-to-earth, knowledgeable and approachable; they're very friendly and always happy to help. No question was a silly one to ask, and they all genuinely care about students' progression.

The library is also good, and for law the online subscription services that the University provides are industry-standard, so very up to the job.

What did you learn or study which has stuck with you over the years?

The things I learnt at uni, such as legal research and writing, are my daily tools for work.

But the thing that's really stuck with me is intellectual property — I think it's cool how brand owners use a range of legal rights to protect others from copying their brand. This certainly stuck with me as I now work with brand owners to protect their rights.

What opportunities did you get to build practical experience?

One of my lecturers put me in contact with a local specialist law firm where I ended up doing a work experience placement, and ultimately this led to me being taken on as a trainee solicitor once I graduated.

I also got the opportunity to work with the uni at Glastonbury Festival! I was a copyright clearance officer, meaning I was signing contracts with big artists. That whole experience was great for putting my academic knowledge into place while in a big, muddy field.

What's life like in law?

It's been fantastic. Sure, there are occasional late nights at the office, but getting a good result for a client is a great feeling.

I began as a trainee solicitor in 2016, and qualified in 2018. Getting used to the nine-to-five routine was a shock to the system – learning to be organised was tough at first, but it did come eventually.

Now, no two days are the same. I usually begin the day by dealing with emails; then it can range from preparing court documents to having meetings with clients whose rights have been infringed.

What are you working on at the moment? I recently moved to London to start at a new firm. At the moment I am working on a letter of claim – my client's intellectual property rights have been infringed and I am just finalising the first formal step towards court action.

What's been your career highlight so far? Winning my first case is probably the biggest highlight. I was a trainee solicitor who had never said a word in front of a judge, but somehow all the planning came together and we won.

"I also got the opportunity to work with the uni at Glastonbury Festival!"



Course list

| Course | UCAS tariff points | Work placement opportunity | Foundation Year available |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| LLB (Hons) Law | 112–128 | Υ | Υ |
| BSc (Hons) Maritime Business and Law (Top-up) | * | Υ | - |
| Business and Law Foundation Year | 48 | - | - |



How to apply

published in mid-August.



52 things to do

Prepare for university in less than an hour each week with our tips, guides and quizzes.

www.solent.ac.uk/52-things



Solent University, East Park Terrace, Southampton SO14 0YN

Course enquiries: +44 (0)23 8201 3039

Main switchboard: +44 (0)23 8201 3000

Email: admissions@solent.ac.uk

www.solent.ac.uk

f solentuniversity

@solentuni

solentuniversity

solentuni

(in) Solent University

@solentuniofficial