School of Law - Undergraduate Live Chat - Studying Law at Warwick

Join us to chat with Professor Christopher Bisping, as he answer your questions on studying Law at Warwick.
Have you already applied to study Law at Warwick?

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<td>No</td>
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Studying Law at the University of Warwick

https://youtu.be/8nnm5P7Pyk48

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12 November 2019
Hello and welcome to the Law Live Chat.

Today there will be a short presentation about studying law at Warwick with Christopher Bisping plus a few quick poll questions to get to know a little more about you.

There will be opportunities to ask questions throughout but we will have time after the presentation for you to ask further questions about the course or the department.

Please remember that this is a public chat, so please do not share personal or confidential information. If you have anything that is confidential that you wish to ask, please contact us by email at law@warwick.ac.uk

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Hi everyone, could you let us know why you have joined this chat today? (Using the poll above) :)

To find out more about law at Warwick

Thank you for completing the poll, I’ll now hand over to Christopher

Hello. Welcome to the University of Warwick School of Law. Many thanks for your interest in our first virtual open day. My name is Christopher Bisping. I teach Contract Law and the Conflict of Laws here at Warwick, and have been course director for our Undergraduate Programmes for a number of years. I usually give the talk at our open days and this presentation is based on my open day talk.

If you have any questions, please do type them in at any time. But before you ask, we’ll come to our specific programmes and admissions process a bit later; you might want to hold those questions back until we get there.

Have you already applied to study Law at Warwick?

No 100.0%
Before we start, I'd like to get a feeling for the room to tailor my talk better to your needs. Could you please tell me whether you are an applicant already or not yet?

I am an applicant

Just about to apply

Thanks. On this slide there are famous people, some real, some fictitious. Are there any that you don't know? What do they all have in common? They do fall into two groups, with two specific characteristics. Can you identify them?

Applicant for 2021 intake

Lords, head of Supreme Court

Super. But what about the politicians? Why are they here?

I don't know the younger people

they studied law originally?

Some practicing law and the others didn’t?

they studied law originally?

Perfect! Goes to show that studying law doesn’t have to lead to a life as a lawyer. It qualifies you for lots of careers.

Some practicing law and the others didn’t?

Yes, you all got it. Let's move on.
What is your motivation for wanting to study law?

- I want to become a lawyer: 60.00%
- I want to keep my options open and think law is a good basis for various jobs: 20.00%
- Other: 20.00%

Let's see in which of the following categories you fall. Please use the poll function.

Thanks, future lawyers, moving on then.

The pictures on this slide illustrate various branches of law that you’ll be encountering when studying law – at Warwick or elsewhere. Are there any that you’d find of particular interest? Are there any legal issues that you picked up from the news recently?

Nothing? Are you sure you want to study law?

Brexit-related rulings. I am particularly interested in corporate law.

Getting money back if a flight is cancelled/delayed

Brexit-related rulings. I am particularly interested in corporate law.

Thanks, Alex. Brexit can’t be avoided. Our constitution is being thoroughly tested. And corporate law will also be affected by Brexit.
Some aspects of studying law at Warwick. The Law School was set up some 50 years ago around the twin themes of law in context and the international character of law. Law in context means that we don’t just teach what the law is; we want to find out what the law could be, how it can be improved, what its effects to people, businesses, the environment and other aspects of life are. The international character of the law points to the fact that law does not stop at England’s borders. It is influenced by international material, can be better understood by comparing the answers given by English law to those found by other systems.

Around those twin themes, a lot of other activities take place. We’ve got strong links with legal practice, both at the big corporate end and at the local end advising vulnerable clients in local law centres. Our students, via the student-run Law Society take part in lots of mooting competitions where they hone their advocacy skills. They support the US death penalty projects and other pro bono projects. Those interested in carrying out their own research projects can get financial support from the University. And we like to link studying law to other disciplines and to learn from interdisciplinary insights, such as when we study law and humanities.

Do you have any questions on studying law in context or any of our activities?

no. Thank you

Let me ask your view: should we still require you to study EU law post Brexit (if it happens)?
Yes

Absolutely

Thanks, both. I always tell my students never to say just yes or no. It always has to be followed by a "... because..." So?

We will still be greatly affected by EU law especially as the process of separately will take so long

Oops. Yes because we will still have all manner of relations and dealings with other European countries

We will still be greatly affected by EU law especially as the process of separately will take so long

I couldn’t agree more. Let’s have a look at our different degrees, shall we?

Here is a list of our degrees. More information on those is on our webpages. In ‘Law and’-degrees you’ll study law and the other discipline equally, roughly 50% of your time devoting to each discipline. In ‘Law with’-degrees you’ll focus on the study of law and complement it with another discipline as a minor.

Anything else you’d like to ask about our degree courses?

How flexible is it to change your mind during the first year - eg just start doing the LLB then decide to change onto one of the other joint honours later?

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Anything else you’d like to ask about our degree courses?

Jennifer, you wanted to learn about Law with French law. This would give you a thorough intro into French law too and you would be spending one year in Bordeaux, Lille or Paris.

I am particularly interested in the LLB with French law over 4 years. How do these graduates go on to work in France? Do they have to do a separate French recognised diploma?
How flexible is it to change your mind during the first year - eg just start doing the LLB then decide to change onto one of the other joint honours later?

We don’t encourage it, but if you meet the entry requirements and there are spaces on the other degree, it might be possible.

Why is law and business 3/4 years?

I am particularly interested in the LLB with French law over 4 years. How do these graduates go on to work in France? Do they have to do a separate French recognised diploma?

It’s no double qualification. You get an English law degree but you learn about French law too. Many English law firms like employing lawyers who have a good grounding in a foreign law. And many French firms like employing English lawyers (as lots of international work is done in English) who are also familiar with the structures there.

Why is law and business 3/4 years?

In three year you don’t get enough law for a qualifying degree. You decide in year 2 if you are more interested in a law degree and then do the fourth year or if you want to go down a business route in three years only.

Speaking of qualifying degree: they will disappear as in the future every aspiring solicitor will have to do an entry exam irrespective of degree subject.

Yes that has worried me slightly - does it downplay the value of a law degree?

What career opportunities specifically with law firms are available?

Not at all. Graduate recruiters of large law firms have already said they are likely to prefer law graduates than other disciplines as they don’t know how much law anybody else might have done.

What career opportunities specifically with law firms are available?

We offer a lot of careers support (on which more later). All legal careers are open to our graduates.

Shall we move on to our international offering.

Yes please
If you wish to study abroad, this is a list of our current partner Universities. Remember, the year abroad courses have separate UCAS codes and changes after arrival at Warwick are only possible to a limited extent. Would you be interested in studying abroad?

Yes in France

Yes

Yes in France

Great.

I was considering the French law option too, but think I would prefer the straight LLB

I have heard there is more of a focus on commercial law after completely a law degree, in terms of careers.

Where are you interested in studying?

I was considering the French law option too, but think I would prefer the straight LLB

You can always study the French law module at Warwick without having to go abroad.

Singapore

France because I live in France, had my entire schooling there but I am British and would like a taste of Anglo-Saxon style teaching!

I have heard there is more of a focus on commercial law after completely a law degree, in terms of careers.

We’ll move on to careers in a bit. But our graduates go into a lot of areas of law, Human Rights, criminal, property, Intellectual Property, administration, NGOs etc
Singapore

Good choice! We never guarantee a particular destination though. In year 2 we’ll ask for your preferences and then make a decision.

France because I live in France, had my entire schooling there but I am British and would like a taste of Anglo-Saxon style teaching!

Welcome to the Socratic method!

I suggest we have a look at our curriculum after already mentioning teaching styles.

This is our current curriculum for the standard three year LLB degree. The yellow boxes are compulsory elements of the degree. Note that from the second year on you’ll have time to pick options. That means you can determine the content of your degree to a large extent yourself. It’s your degree, playing to your own strengths and interests.

Due to the qualifying degree disappearing soon, we are reviewing our curriculum. Let’s have a look.

We are currently reviewing our curriculum and this is how it might look like from 2021 onwards. The optionality of our offering will not change. Students will still be able to design their own degrees, either testing as many different areas of law as possible or build areas of expertise from early on in areas they want to focus on. Anything you’d like me to explain further about our curriculum?

how does the exam system work? Is it year by year or one large exam at the end?

No thank you.
I don't understand, how is the qualifying degree disappearing?

How does the exam system work? Is it year by year or one large exam at the end?

Good question. There is a combination of essays (coursework) and exams. Exams are in May/June. Essays over the Christmas and Easter breaks. You can choose modules depending on your preferred method of assessment.

I don't understand, how is the qualifying degree disappearing?

The Solicitors organisation is introducing a new entry exam meaning Universities can no longer say a degree is qualifying or not. We'll post more info on this later.

Let's move on to more teaching related info.

The academic year at Warwick is divided into three terms of 10 weeks each. You'll be taught in terms one and two. Some modules run across both terms, others (called 'half options') last one term only. Term three begins with several revision weeks before exams later in the term.

In a typical week, you can expect about 12 hours of contact time. You'll be studying four modules per week. Each module there is typically two hours of lecture and one hour of small group per week in most weeks. Week six of both teaching terms is reading week – an opportunity to catch up with reading and start preparing coursework that you complete over the next break at Christmas or Easter.

The rest of your time is spent on independent study, you'll be given plenty of reading assignments and material to prepare. Studying law is a full-time occupation.

Our teaching is consistently highly rated, and several colleagues are National Teaching Fellows and have been named, or nominated for, Law Teacher of the Year.

What would you like to find out about the academic side of life at Warwick?

A caring environment.

- Personal tutor
- Peer study tutor
- Director of student wellbeing
- Student Services Helpdesk
- Malvern Hall Scheme

- Care with your degree
- Make friends.
- Make your life in the halls.

University is more than studying. It's an environment where you study, eat, socialise and live for the academic year. Moving away from home, making new friends, having academic demands thrown at you can create stress and other issues. Therefore, every student has a personal tutor to discuss anything that is important to them. There is a host of health-related, social and counselling services available to all on campus. Any questions, just ask!
Another service to highlight is our careers provision. While we do not want to just prepare you for future employment we recognise that getting a job is a key concern for students. Warwick has been voted most targeted campus by graduate employers a few years ago and in the Law School we have designated careers advisors, one of them is Valerie Matthews-Lane (pictured here), to help our students find out what careers are open to them and how to get to them. The student-run Law Society also hosts a wealth of careers-related events. Any questions on careers?

No not at this stage, thanks

Great, let’s move on to admissions then.

A few words on the admissions process at Warwick. If you have any questions on your individual situations, please email ugtlaw.admissions@warwick.ac.uk.

Our standard offer is AAA at A-level. We have tables of equivalences for other qualifications. For some degrees there are additional GCSE requirements. The standard offer includes GCSE Maths and English.
We judge applications by three factors: (i) actual achievement at GCSEs, (ii) predicted results at A-levels, and (iii) your personal statement. Most applicants are in a middle category that is kept till after the end of the UCAS deadline mid-January before we make a decision. So don’t worry if you don’t hear from us before then.

I have done an IPA which is my school’s equivalent of an EPQ. Is there any recognition for something like this?

The EPQ or similar gives you something good to talk about in your personal statement. Let’s look at those in more detail now.

In your personal statement you have to convince us why you want to study law as an academic discipline. Not just that you want to become a lawyer. Don’t just present a long list of law-related experiences, focus on selected events, news, articles or other occurrences that have triggered your interest in studying law.

Any questions on the personal statement?

No thanks you
We are proud of the work the Law School has done to widen participation in our programmes. If you meet two or more of the widening participation criteria, then you qualify for a reduced entry offer. There is more information available online and you can email individual queries to uglaw.admissions@warwick.ac.uk. Those who have been individually affected by adverse circumstances, without meeting the widening participation criteria can submit an AWARDS statement to the University to alert us of circumstances for which there is no place to mention on the UCAS form. Has your schooling been interrupted due to issues at school; have you been afflicted by illness, or has there been a disturbance in your home life? This is the way to tell us.

Thank you:
uglaw.admissions@warwick.ac.uk

This brings my presentation to an end. Thank you so much for joining us today. Are there any further questions before we sign off?

No, thanks for your help!

Thank you. It was very helpful in getting me prepared!

Here’s a blog post by our Senior Careers Advisor, Valerie about the new Solicitors Qualifying Examination: https://lawblog.warwick.ac.uk/2019/07/09/the-new-solicitors-qualifying-examination-sqe/

The new Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE)
In 2021 the route to qualifying as a solicitor will change with the introduction of the new SQE exam. Under the new system you’ll need 4 things to qualify: a degree (any subject) or equivalen...

No, thanks for your help!
My pleasure. Do be in touch if you can think of anything later.

Where can we get a copy of the presentation?

Thank you. It was very helpful in getting me prepared!
Good luck with your application!
Here's a blog post by our Senior Careers Advisor, Valerie about the new Solicitors Qualifying Examination: https://lawblog.warwick.ac.uk/2019/07/09/the-new-solicitors-qualifying-examination-sqe/
It might help to give you a bit more information on the SQE

Where can we get a copy of the presentation?
We'll send you a link to our prospectus.

Where can we get a copy of the presentation?

Thank you

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https://youtu.be/8inmn59Pyk48

I am currently studying abroad for my last 2 years of high school, does that deter me from getting financial aid?

Can I ask you to contact uglaw.admissions@warwick.ac.uk with this query, please.

Thank you for joining us. We really enjoyed chatting with you and we look forward to chatting with you again next time - you can find our chat schedule at https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/applying/live-chat. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us at law@warwick.ac.uk.
The UG Admissions Team are offering one to one chats with anyone wanting to discuss their application to Warwick today - they'll be online from 14.00-16.00. Links to join them are on www.warwick.ac.uk/livechat/oww.
Have a good day!

Warwick Online Week
We host regular chats all year round, and you can find the upcoming chat schedule here.

Warwick Law School Live Chats
Throughout the year we hold a number of online chats where you can chat ask our admissions staff, academics, and student ambassadors any questions you have about studying Law at the University of Warwick.
Sure. Thank you

This Thursday you can chat with current students, Raveena and Toby: [https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/applying/live-chat](https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/applying/live-chat)

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If no one has any further questions we will close the chat. Thanks for joining us and engaging with our live chat today :)}