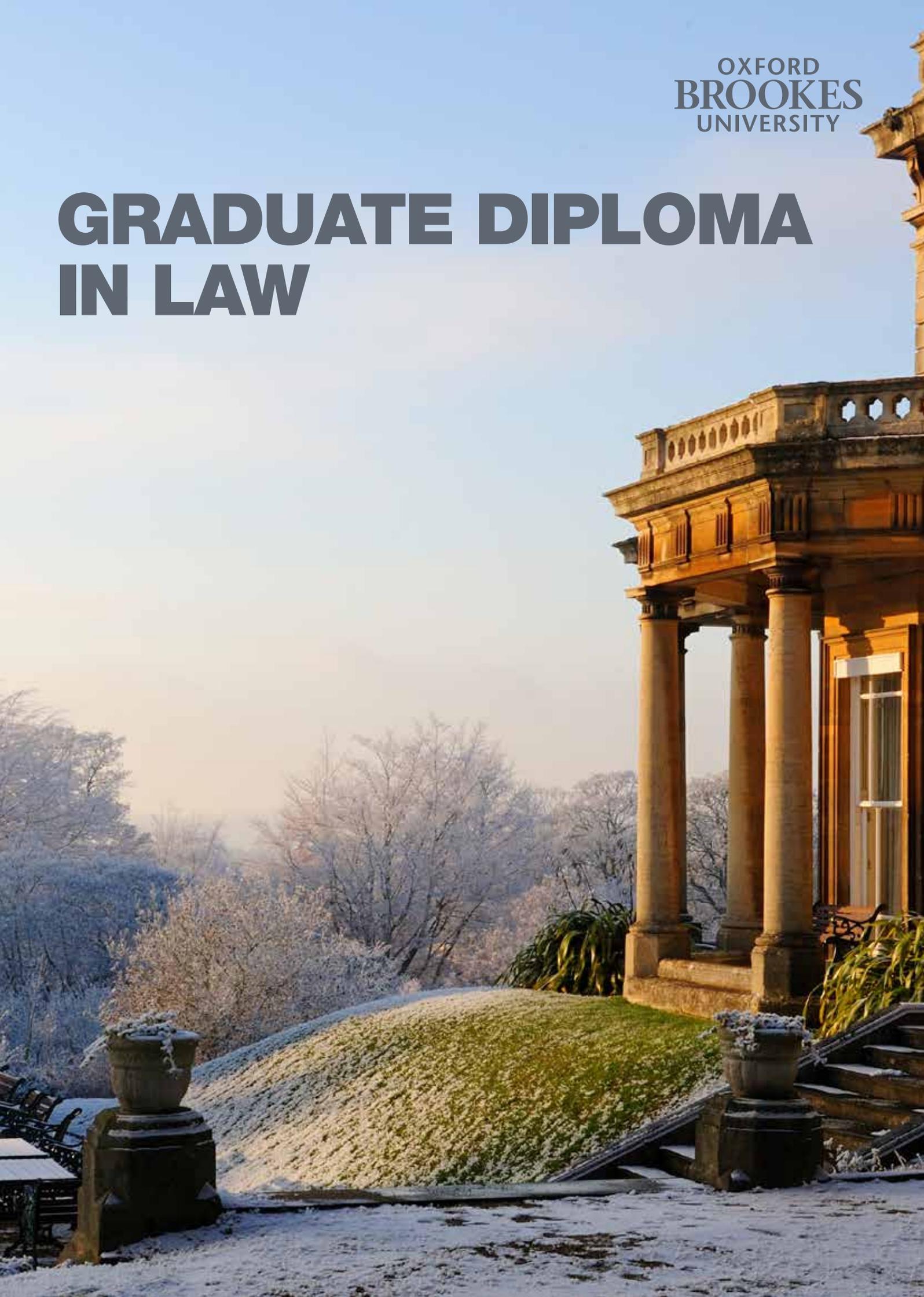


OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LAW





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SCHOOL OF LAW



I am delighted that you are considering the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) at Oxford Brookes. We are one of the UK's leading Law Schools and deliver quality teaching combined with extensive tutor contact time, all within a supportive and friendly learning environment. We have over 25 years' experience in delivering the Graduate Diploma in Law and our students consistently achieve exceptional pass rates.

Mark O'Brien
Head of the School of Law

What is the GDL?

The Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) is a conversion course for both non-law graduates and graduates with non-qualifying law degrees. Once you have completed the GDL, you can proceed to the Legal Practice Course (for intending solicitors) followed by a training contract in a firm, or to the Bar Professional Training Course (for intending barristers) followed by pupillage.



WHY CHOOSE OXFORD BROOKES?

University study

We understand the need for extensive teaching and contact time through lectures and workshops. You'll learn from experienced, qualified university teachers and have regular face-to-face contact with your tutors.

Links with the legal profession

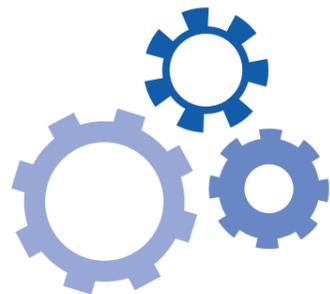
The School of Law has strong links with local law firms and legal professionals. Each year we host the Oxford Brookes Law Fair, offering valuable opportunities to meet and network with potential employers.

Career development

You will be offered careers advice and support from your tutors and from specialised counsellors at our Careers and Employment Centre, which provides a drop-in service offering one-to-one career coaching sessions, help with completing job applications, and interview practice.

Key features of our programme

- Top-quality teaching by experienced academic staff, several of whom are also professionally qualified lawyers
- Close, supportive learning environment with extensive tutor contact time, including your own designated academic advisor
- Assessment (coursework and examinations) is spread throughout the year
- Focus on essential legal skills such as problem solving and legal research
- Opportunities to develop practical skills, such as mooting, pro bono work and client interviewing
- Choose to study either full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years)
- Part-time students are fully, but flexibly, integrated into the full-time programme
- Barrister and solicitor mentoring programmes
- Access to the world-class resources of Oxford's Bodleian Library



Law at Brookes

Based in the magnificent Headington Hill Hall, the Law School has a long record of excellence and innovation in teaching, and has invested heavily in the development of a student-centred ethos.





World-class facilities - the John Henry Brookes building

Studying at Oxford Brookes gives you access to university facilities such as an excellent library and IT resources, sport and leisure activities, a dedicated student careers service, student accommodation, a nursery, medical and dental facilities and student support services including academic and personal counselling.



The John Henry Brookes Building is the newest space at Oxford Brookes University. It has become an iconic landmark in Oxford and has won multiple awards for its striking design and features.

STUDYING IN OXFORD

Oxford is one of the world's most beautiful and historic cities. It is also a rich cultural hub with a wealth of cinemas, theatres and museums, exceeding many other cities of its size. It is also a centre for debate on a wide range of law topics, with conferences, seminars and forums taking place within the universities, the city of Oxford, and nearby London. In addition to our own excellent libraries and resource centres, Oxford Brookes also offers you access to the world-renowned Bodleian Law Library.

Research seminars

During semester time you can attend seminars and conferences hosted by the Centre for Legal Research and Policy Studies. Oxford Brookes also offers a full calendar of guest lectures across a wide spectrum of interests.



Law Society

There is a lively Student Law Society to widen your interests and introduce aspects of law not covered formally. Examples of events hosted by the Law Society include:

- Wine Tasting
- Annual Christmas Ball
- Talks from leading lawyers
- Visits to the Old Bailey and Royal Courts of Justice



“Whether visiting a quirky bar in Jericho or taking part in the May Day celebrations, Oxford has a tangible 'buzz' which is very exciting.”

Justin Leslie, alumnus

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The GDL is offered both full-time and part-time. It is taught over three terms with assessment (coursework and examinations) spread throughout the year. This unique feature enables you to spread the workload and monitor your progress across the course as a whole.

Induction

This one-week course of additional lectures supplements pre-course reading on the English Legal system which will introduce you to:

- Legal study skills necessary for successful completion of the GDL, including legal problem solving and essay writing
- Legal theory
- Practical legal skills such as mooting and client interviewing

Foundations of Legal Knowledge

You will cover the foundations of legal knowledge as required by the professional bodies:

- Criminal Law
- Contract Law
- Tort Law
- Land Law
- Equity and Trusts Law
- Law of the European Union
- Public Law (including Constitutional and Administrative Law and Human Rights)

Legal Research Project

As part of your legal training, you will write a research project on a topic of your choice.

Department research and expertise

You will be taught by active researchers with strong reputations. They draw on their own research to create a programme which incorporates the newest academic thinking.

Areas of staff research expertise include:

- Civil Liberties and Criminal Justice
- International Criminal Law and Human Rights
- International Environmental Law
- International Humanitarian Law
- International Trade and Commercial law
- Legal Theory
- Migration and Citizenship
- Property Law
- The Interaction of Law and Religion
- The Law of Small Jurisdictions

94% of our law research was judged to be internationally recognised.

REF 2014

DEVELOPING YOUR LEGAL CAREER

Students who want to become solicitors go on to take the Legal Practice Course (LPC). Students who want to become barristers go on to take the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC). While some would-be solicitors come with training contracts already, most obtain them during or after their GDL studies. Would-be barristers generally find pupillage after completion of the GDL with a significant proportion of our students gaining prestigious scholarships from the Inns of Court.

Getting pupillage or a training contract

It is vital when seeking a training contract or pupillage to have some experience of a legal environment to show both your commitment to a career as a solicitor or barrister, and that you are aware of the work and the demands it will make on you. You can gain legal knowledge and experience during your GDL by:

- Participating in our barrister and solicitor mentoring schemes
- Taking part in our pro bono scheme
- Participating in our mooting and client interviewing competitions

Other options you might want to consider include:

- Undertaking vacation work
- Gaining a place on a formal scheme at a law firm
- Shadowing a solicitor or barrister
- Working in a citizens advice bureau or legal advice centre
- Undertaking paralegal work
- Undertaking a mini-pupillage in a set of barristers' chambers.

'The high expectations of staff and the rigorous marking processes ensures that successful graduates from this school will have a high level of skills relevant to employment within a number of professional spheres. On this programme there are opportunities, embedded within the curriculum, as well as extra-curricular activities, which develop and assess skills which are also relevant to future employment.'

External Examiner 2015



CAREER PROGRESSION AND EMPLOYABILITY



As an Oxford Brookes law graduate you will be confident in communicating legal knowledge and you will have skills that are transferable to a wide range of careers, such as research, analysis and articulation.

We pride ourselves on maintaining strong links with major law firms, and we have an excellent reputation for creating high calibre and sought-after trainees.

Details of training contracts and other vacancies are circulated when possible and we have strong links with employers, some of whom come to us directly to recruit.

"I really thrived on the intellectual stimulation and excellent teaching that the GDL at Brookes offered and access to brilliant resources like the Bodleian Library really enhanced this."

Will Skjøtt, GDL alumnus, now a barrister at Lamb Chambers

"The GDL has an excellent reputation for quality of teaching and contact time with lecturers. The small year size as compared to most of the alternatives in London appealed. The class learning environment was excellent. There was a real effort to engage with the material in an academic fashion which I think is unique to the GDL at Brookes. Oxford is one of the best places in the world to study. It is a city on a manageable scale in which the opportunities to pursue academic goals and other interests are unending."

Oscar Schonfeld, GDL alumnus, now a barrister at One Essex Court

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Pro bono

Pro bono is the provision of legal advice without expectation of payment. The term comes from the Latin phrase *pro bono publico*, meaning 'for the public good', i.e. that legal knowledge helps not just the individuals and groups that obtain the knowledge, but also helps improve society itself.

Winner of a national pro bono prize, the School of Law pro bono scheme was set up by two students in 2001 to harness students' skills for the benefit of the community. Pro bono provides a valuable introduction to the world of legal practice and involvement in pro bono work is highly valued by employers.

Client interviewing

Client interviewing is one of the most important skills required of a lawyer – it is the practice of communicating with and advising a client on a legal matter.

Client interviewing allows you to develop the skills needed when conducting a legal interview, such as how to establish a relationship with the client, how to identify the nature of the legal problem and then how to obtain the relevant information from the client in order to reach a potential solution.

The School of Law hosts internal client interviewing competitions. This involves students working in teams of two, interviewing and advising a "client" (a role playing actor). They are observed and then marked on criteria such as their interpersonal skills as well as their ability to handle the legal problem.

Mooting

Mooting is a must-have on the CV of any aspiring barrister or solicitor advocate. It is the oral presentation of a legal issue or problem against an opposing counsel before a judge. This provides a valuable opportunity to test your advocacy skills, learn from the questioning of judges and to hear other students' legal arguments.

The School of Law runs internal mooting competitions allowing you to practice and hone your debate skills within a supportive learning environment. In 2013 the Law School invested in a specially designed Moot Court, based in Headington Hill Hall, refurbishing the room to give a realistic court feel to staged moots.



STUDENT SUCCESSES



Mooting champions

The School of Law hosts an internal mooting competition at the start of the year; the winners then go on to represent the university in national competitions.

Our GDL students have performed consistently well in mooting competitions at both national and international levels.

In the last five years our students have won the ESU Essex Court National Mooting Competition three times; the Inner Temple Inter-Varsity Mooting Competition twice, and the Oxford Inter-Varsity Mooting Competition twice.

As a result of winning both the Inner Temple Inter-Varsity Mooting Competition and the ESU Essex Court National Mooting Competition in the same year, two Brookes GDL teams mooted against each other in the unique Magna Carta Moot in 2015, to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta at the Inner Temple.

In addition, our GDL team have represented the UK at the Commonwealth Mooting Competition twice: once in 2013, and then again in 2017.



Client interviewing finalists

The School of Law also enters teams into the National Client Interviewing Competition of England and Wales. The aim of the competition is to promote the development of lawyers' soft skills and to enable law students to practise them at a high level.

- In 2010 Oxford Brookes GDL students won the National Final and took second place in the International Client Counselling Competition.
- In 2012 GDL students won 'Best GDL Team' and were runners-up in the National Final. GDL students have also finished third in the National Final in 2009, 2011, and 2015; and they were finalists in 2016.
- In 2018 Oxford Brookes GDL students once again won the National Finals and were given the opportunity to travel to the Netherlands and represent England and Wales in the International Client Counselling Competition.

Pictured left: Nicole Kapu and Duncan Graves, GDL alumni and winners of the prestigious Magna Carta moot.

Pictured right: Christopher Wells and Helena Goddard, GDL Client Interviewing National finalists and international representatives at the 2018 International Client Counselling Competition.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING SOURCES

Entry requirements

You will normally have, or be predicted to have, a second class degree or above and your application should also demonstrate a commitment to the legal profession.

However, all applications are considered on their merits and exceptionally we will consider applicants who do not have or may not be predicted to have an upper second class honours degree who can demonstrate a commitment and aptitude to study Law at this level.

If your first language is not English, an IELTS score of 7.0 (including a minimum of 6.5 in each component) is required. Any applicant wishing to go on to become a barrister and not in possession of a UK Hons degree will need to apply for a Certificate of Academic Standing (COAS) from the Bar.

How to apply

For full-time applications please apply through the Central Applications Board.

www.lawcabs.ac.uk

For part-time applications please apply directly to Oxford Brookes.



Funding

The majority of student are self-funding, however you can seek funding opportunities from a variety of sources, including: awards and scholarships offered by law firms and legal organisations such as the Law Society along with the government's Professional and Career Development Loan (offered by The Co-operative Bank).

www.gov.uk/career-development-loans

The School of Law also offers a scholarship of £2,000 towards payment of GDL fees. To find out the eligibility criteria and the application process:

www.brookes.ac.uk/gdl-scholarship

£2000*

School of Law
scholarship available



Student story: Commonwealth mooting champions

“Mooting enabled us to practice a skill essential to furthering our ambitions to become barristers – oral advocacy. And by reaching the Commonwealth finals we had the extremely rare opportunity of mooting in the presence of three of the world’s most eminent judges – the Chief Justices of the Falklands, New Zealand and Trinidad and Tobago. There can’t be many other people able to put that experience on their CV. And, vitally, it has given an enormous boost to our confidence to become effective lawyers in the future.

The high calibre of students on the Brookes Graduate Diploma in Law course makes for some really stimulating, thought-provoking learning – you come away from classes

feeling challenged and invigorated. Plus the small class sizes mean staff really invest time and effort in their students. The coaching and support from our lecturer Marc Howe was invaluable in getting us through the heats that got us to Cape Town.”

Matthew Sellwood and Daniele Selmi, graduates of the Brookes Diploma in Law, and winners of the highly prestigious Commonwealth mooting competition.

*terms and conditions apply, please e-mail law@brookes.ac.uk for details.

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School of Law

For more information
about the Graduate Diploma in Law:

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