

Career Choices with Law

Where else can I use my law degree without qualifying as a lawyer?

Not all students want to qualify as a lawyer, yet they want to work in an area that involves legal content whether it is in business or in the wider community.

The examples below are just a selection of types of jobs and organisations that may be worth exploring and it is **not** an exhaustive list. The purpose of the list is to get you to think more laterally and appreciate the breadth of work and organisations that carry out important work with legal overtones.

Carrying out career research is important and to enter some of these occupations you will have to obtain professional qualifications or experience prior to entry. To succeed you will need a planned approach to your career research and it is never too early to start!

Another issue to consider is that many of these areas do not operate typical structured “Graduate Recruitment schemes” that you are used to seeing advertised on Careers websites and in the Graduate press. You may have to adopt a proactive approach to gaining experience or paid work, networking and/or using a ‘stepping stone’ approach towards getting the job you want. Consult the Careers Service if you need more information about proactive job-hunting.

We hope this list will help you to begin to explore your options thoroughly, and make you aware of the wide range of possibilities with a legal ‘flavour’ for law graduates, other than Solicitor or Advocate.

*As well as using the links on the following pages, also make use of the comprehensive links on the Careers Service’s website for exploring your options further, particularly **I want to work in ...** pages:*

www.strath.ac.uk/careers/occreources

Table of contents

Criminal Justice System	2
Related Organisations.....	4
Advisory Services.....	5
Regulatory Services	6
Legal Support.....	6
Business and Finance.....	8
Interest Groups and Lobbying	9
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	11

Criminal Justice System

Probation Work – Scotland

- [Scottish Social Services Council](#)
- [SSSC Careers and Education](#)

Probation work in Scotland is part of the social work profession. The Scottish Social Services Council is the regulator for, and develops education and training for, the social services workforce in Scotland. There is information on all aspects of training including how to qualify as a social worker and what funding is available.

National Probation Service – England and Wales

- [National Probation Service](#)
- [Probation Officer](#)
- [Prison and Probation jobs](#)
- [Probation Services Officer](#)

The National Probation Service is a statutory criminal justice service that supervises high-risk offenders released into the community. In England and Wales, probation officers working for the National Probation Service work to rehabilitate offenders by enforcing the conditions of court orders and release licences, conducting offender risk assessments in order to protect the public and ensuring offenders' awareness of the impact of their crime on their victims and the public.

Police Service

- [Police Scotland](#)
- [Police.UK](#)
- [Metropolitan Police](#)
- [British Transport Police](#)
- [Ministry of Defence Police](#)

The police work to reduce crime and the fear of crime. Officers work in partnership with the public and other organisations making a difference in the local community. There are uniformed and non-uniformed opportunities.

Prison Service

- [Scottish Prison Service](#)
- [Opportunities in the Scottish Prison Service](#)
- [HM Prison Service](#)
- [Prison and Probation Jobs](#)

In addition to custodial duties, Prison Officers are called upon to build-up and maintain close relationships with those in their charge.

Ministry of Justice

- [Ministry of Justice](#)

The Ministry of Justice works to protect the public and reduce re-offending, and to provide a more effective, transparent and responsive criminal justice system for victims and the public.

The Scottish Law Commission and The Law Commission

- [Scottish Law Commission](#)
- [The Law Commission](#)

The role of the Commissions is to keep the law under review. Both commissions recruit recent law graduates as legal assistants, usually on one-year fixed contracts, to work on current legal reforms.

Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service (Scotland's Prosecution Service)

- [Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service](#) (COPFS)
- [COPFS Working with us](#)
- [COPFS Job profiles](#)
- [COPFS Current vacancies](#)

Fiscal officers in Scotland carry out administrative, typing and support work in many areas throughout the Fiscal Service. They receive specific instructions from their line manager and legal staff working within their office/unit, but will often work on some duties without specific direction, after sufficient training and experience.

In England and Wales, caseworkers assist prosecutors in case management through initial preparation and processing of cases.

Revenue and Customs

- [HM Revenue and Customs](#)

HMRC is responsible for collecting the bulk of tax revenue, as well as paying Tax Credits and Child Benefits, and strengthening the UK's frontiers.

Border Force

- [Border Force](#)
- [Working for Border Force](#)

Border Force is a law enforcement command within the Home Office. It secures the UK border by carrying out immigration and customs controls for people and goods entering the UK.

Scottish Government and The Home Office

- [Scottish Government](#)
- [Home Office](#)

The Scottish Government in Scotland and the Home Office in England are responsible for ensuring society is safe, just and tolerant. They are responsible for the police service and the justice system in their respective countries.

Courts Service

- [The Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service](#)
- [HM Courts & Tribunals Service](#)

The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service employs over 1000 people in Scotland in court administration. HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) is responsible for the administration of the civil, family and criminal courts in England and Wales. It is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice.

Youth Justice – England and Wales

- [Youth Justice Board for England and Wales](#)

The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) oversees the youth justice system in England and Wales. They work to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people under the age of 18, and to ensure that custody for them is safe, secure, and addresses the causes of their offending behaviour.

Youth Justice - Scotland

- [The Scottish Government](#)
- [Children and Young People's Centre for Justice](#)

The Scottish Government's youth justice policy aims to tackle the causes of offending by young people and supporting them to change their behaviour, with the aim of avoiding them entering the criminal justice system. The Scottish Government funds the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), which is dedicated to supporting improvements in youth justice, contributing to better lives for individuals, families and communities.

Related Organisations

SACRO/NACRO

- [SACRO](#)
- [NACRO](#)

Sacro/Nacro work towards building a safer society where everyone belongs, human rights are respected and crime prevented by means of tackling social exclusion and re-integrating those who offend.

Apex Scotland

- [Apex Scotland](#)

Apex Scotland are the specialist organisation, working with offenders, ex-offenders and those at risk, to give them the necessary skills to change their behaviour and lead fulfilling lives.

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration/ Reporter to the Children's Panel

- [Scottish Children's Reporter Administration](#)
- [SCRA Current Vacancies](#)
- [SCRA Core jobs](#) job descriptions and person specifications

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is a non-departmental public body which facilitates the work of Children's Reporters. Children's Reporters investigate situations where children may be in need of protection/intervention. Their website contains further information about the SCRA and current vacancies.

Victim Support

- [Victim Support Scotland](#)
- [Victim Support UK](#)

Victim Support is the independent charity which helps people cope with the effects of crime. They provide free and confidential support and information to help people deal with their experience.

Advisory Services

Advice workers work with the general public and provide information and confidential advice on a wide range of topics, including employment, housing, debt, finance, drugs, health, refugee and asylum and many other issues. There are a few graduate training schemes in this area of work, however, many graduates will start at entry-level positions to gain experience and work their way up from there. Job areas need to be researched fully before applying.

Citizens Advice

- [Citizens Advice Scotland](#)
- [Citizens Advice](#)

The Citizens Advice Service helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing free information and advice, and by influencing policymakers.

Refugee Council

- [Scottish Refugee Council](#)
- [Refugee Council](#)

The Refugee Council is the largest organisation in the UK working with asylum seekers and refugees. They give help and support to asylum seekers and refugees and work with them to ensure their needs and concerns are addressed.

Advocacy

- [Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance](#)

According to the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance, the main themes of advocacy are:

- Safeguarding people who are vulnerable and discriminated against or whom services find difficult to serve.
- Empowering people who need a stronger voice by enabling them to express their own needs and make their own decisions.
- Enabling people to gain access to information, explore and understand their options, and to make their views and wishes known.
- Speaking on behalf of people who are unable to do so for themselves.

SIAA's website provides further information and includes a Directory of Advocacy Organisations in Scotland.

Charities

Typical roles include fundraiser, charity officer and advice worker. Try these job and information sites on many charities operating in Scotland and the rest of the UK:

- [Good Moves](#)
- [Jobs in Charities](#)
- [Third Sector Jobs](#)
- [Charity Job](#)

Regulatory Services

Health & Safety Executive

- [Health & Safety Executive](#)

H&S Inspectors work to protect public health in a wide range of contexts undertaking inspections and investigations. The role requires an excellent understanding of legal and technical issues.

Trading Standards

- [National Trading Standards](#)
- [Trading Standards Scotland](#)
- [Chartered Trading Standards Institute](#)
- [Chartered Trading Standards Institute: job opportunities](#)

Trading Standards protect the public and businesses from rogue traders and illegal practices.

For jobs also try local authorities.

Patent Attorney

- [The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys](#)

Patent Attorneys are qualified to advise on trademarks, designs and copyright as well as patents (collectively known as Intellectual Property).

Trade Mark Attorney

- [The Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys](#)

Trade Mark Attorneys are specialist legal professionals qualified to advise clients about protecting and enforcing their trade mark rights.

Legal Support

Advocates' Clerk

- [The Faculty of Advocates](#)
- My World of Work [Job Profile: Advocate's clerk](#)
- Planit [Job Profile: Advocates' clerk](#)

Advocates' Clerks organise the daily workload and administration for a small group of Advocates (known as a "stable"). Each of the stables has an Advocates' Clerk and at least one Deputy Clerk, whose remits include organising members' diaries, scheduling court commitments, arranging consultations, etc, liaising with instructing solicitors, distributing work and negotiating fees. The Faculty of Advocates has established a service company, Faculty Services Limited, to provide administrative and other support services for Advocates who subscribe for those services. Advocates' Clerks and Deputies also assist solicitors, and members of other professions recognised by the Faculty for the purpose of Direct Professional Access, in selecting and instructing Counsel.

Barristers' Clerk

- [Institute of Barristers' Clerks](#)
- [Institute of Barristers' Clerks – jobs](#)
- [Prospects: Job Profile - Barristers' Clerk](#)

Barristers Clerks are responsible for running the business affairs and administration of a barrister's chamber. They are familiar with court procedure and etiquette and develop expertise in the area of law the chambers specialises in.

Council for Licensed Conveyancers

- [Council for Licensed Conveyancers](#) (regulated in England and Wales only)

Conveyancing is the legal process involved in transferring the title of a property (a house, flat, business premise or piece of land) from a seller to a buyer. A licensed conveyancer is a specialist who is trained and qualified in all aspects of the law dealing with property. Their function is to handle a contract for the sale and to draw up all the legal documents that sellers and purchasers sign on exchanging contracts. They may work on behalf of the vendor or the purchaser, but may not act for both in the same transaction.

Legal Executives

- [Chartered Institute of Legal Executives](#)

Legal Executives are qualified lawyers in England and Wales who specialise in a particular area of law.

Paralegal

- [Scottish Paralegal Association](#)
- [National Association of Licensed Paralegals](#)

A paralegal is a person qualified through education and training to perform substantive legal work that requires knowledge of the law and procedures and who is not a qualified solicitor or advocate. Paralegals may work for or be retained by solicitors within the legal profession or they may work within a legal environment within commerce, industry or the public sector.

Legal secretary/PA

- [ILSPA \(The Institute of Legal Secretaries and PAs\)](#)

Law Costs Draftsman

- [Association of Costs Lawyers](#)

Law costs draftsmen are concerned with all aspects of solicitors' costs which are controlled by statute.

Legal Cashier

- [The Institute of Legal Finance and Management](#)

Legal cashiers deal with the accounting and finance functions of a solicitor's practice. Variations on this job title include legal accountant, financial controller, accounts manager and practice manager.

Law Firms

- [Ashurst Advance Pathway Programme](#)

Ashurst Advance Pathway Programme provides a structured career path, with a variety of specialist opportunities for those seeking an alternative to a traditional legal role. Pathway opportunities include roles across a variety of areas including, Legal Project Management, Legal Technology, Business Services Functions.

Business and Finance

Many students who have studied law and do not want to work as a solicitor or barrister find successful employment in the banking and finance sector. The following websites will provide information on sectors and types of jobs.

Accountancy and Financial Management

- [Association of Chartered Certified Accountants](#)
- [Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy](#)
- [Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland](#)
- [Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales](#)
- [The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants](#)
- [Audit Scotland](#)
- [National Audit Office](#)
- Inside Careers [Accountancy Careers](#)
- Prospects [Accountancy, banking and finance](#)

Banks, Building societies, Insurance Companies, Retail, Manufacturers, Public Bodies, Management Consultants, and Firms of Accountants - in fact, most organisations, large or small, employ financial management professionals and many companies provide training schemes for graduates.

Taxation

- [The Chartered Institute of Taxation](#)
- Prospects [Tax Adviser](#)

Tax advisers use their knowledge of changing tax legislation to provide professional advisory and consultancy services to clients. They explain complicated legislation, and its implications for their clients, in simple terms.

Banking

- [Financial Conduct Authority](#)
- [Bank of England](#)
- [London Stock Exchange](#)

Banking (The City and Retail Banking) is very diverse and still offers many opportunities for graduates, despite the banking crisis and economic downturn.

The area of Compliance is a growing area (and of particular interest to those with legal interests) ensuring that organisations work within the rules and regulations set by the Financial Services Authority.

Chartered Secretaries and Company Secretaries

- [The Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland](#)

Chartered Secretaries are trained in corporate law, corporate finance, administration, management and governance. They are qualified to manage compliance with law and regulation, accounting, property, insurance, health and safety, personnel, risk, contracts, pensions and much more. Chartered Secretaries are employed in all types of organisation, in private and public limited companies, charities, health trusts, local government, educational institutions and more. Wherever they work, Chartered Secretaries play a central role in the governance and management of their organisations. They are trained to advise directors on regulation, legislation and best practice and to deliver effective operations.

Human Resources

- [Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development](#) (CIPD)
- CIPD [Career options in the people profession](#)

A personnel officer develops, advises on and implements policies relating to the effective use of human resources (HR) within an organisation. Personnel or HR work comprises a number of different but related policies, all of which are required by organisations that employ people, whatever the size or type of the business. These will cover areas such as working practices, recruitment, pay, conditions of employment and diversity. Personnel/HR staff need to ensure that the organisation employs the right balance of staff in terms of skills and experience, and that training and development opportunities are available to employees to enhance their performance in order to achieve the organisation's objectives.

Interest Groups and Lobbying

Human Rights

- All About Careers [What does human rights work involve?](#)
- [Human Rights Careers](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission

- [The Equality and Human Rights Commission](#)

The equality and human rights commission came into being on 1 October 2007. It 'champions equality and human rights for all, working to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequality, protect human rights and to build good relations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to participate in society.' The Commission also combines the responsibilities and powers of the three previous equality commissions, the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), which had responsibility for promoting racial, disability and sex equality in Britain.

The British Institute of Human Rights

- [The British Institute of Human Rights](#) (BIHR)

BIHR is an independent charity based in London which raises awareness and understanding about the importance of human rights. It works for some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities in the UK, seeking to ensure that the principles of equality, dignity and respect are incorporated into practice and policy at all levels of public service.

Bar Human Rights Committee

- [Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales](#)

The Bar Human Rights Committee is the international human rights arm of the Bar of England and Wales. It is dedicated to promoting justice and respect for human rights through the rule of law. The site provides extensive links to Human Rights organisations across the world.

Amnesty International

- [Amnesty International](#)

Amnesty International works to promote respect for all human rights. It undertakes research and action focused on preventing abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression and freedom from discrimination.

Association of Professional Political Consultants

- [Association of Professional Political Consultants](#)

Political consultants provide services to their clients, including: Media monitoring, Public affairs support, Profile raising, Lobbying, Strategic communications advice, Public relations and Audit.

Public Affairs

- [Public Affairs Networking](#)

Public Affairs is similar to public relations and marketing, but for political organisations and parties.

Public affairs consultants are often referred to as 'lobbyists', but their work is more wide-ranging. They use their understanding of the political system to offer political and public policy advice to their clients. Clients may include private sector companies, not-for-profit organisations, or overseas governments. Keeping abreast of political developments, in order to advise clients on a possible response, is vital to the role. Public affairs consultants also identify key stakeholders in the decision-making process in European, national, regional and local government bodies. They work to maintain relationships with these individuals and to assist clients to promote and protect their interests effectively.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

CSR covers an organisation's impact on the environment, its employees, business operations, ethical governance and the community in which it operates. CSR is an emerging career area for graduates to enter and for professional development opportunities as a practising professional.

Find out more about careers options in this area by consulting the Ethical Careers section in the Careers Service Resource Centre.

Central/Local Government

Central Government

- [Scottish Government](#)
- GOV UK [UK Government information](#)
- GOV UK [Civil Service Fast Stream](#)
- GOV UK [Civil Service job search](#)
- GOV UK [Information and advice on working for the Civil Service](#)

The Civil Service offers opportunities to work across a broad spectrum of Departments working on legal and non-legal activities. The role of the UK Civil Service departments is to help the Government develop its policies: the role of Government Agencies is to administer and deliver the public services for which they are responsible. The Civil Service is a major employer in the UK and has staff throughout the country and overseas.

There are a variety of roles available in a wide range of settings and a number of ways in which you can enter the Civil Service. A common misconception is that the Fast Stream is the only way for graduates to get a job in the Civil Service. In fact, many graduates work for the Civil Service without going through the Fast Stream.

UK Visas and Immigration

- GOV UK [UK Visas and Immigration](#)

Immigration officers work for the UK Visas and Immigration, which is part of the Home Office. Their aim is to provide high quality and non-discriminatory immigration control, all of which is underpinned by and in accordance with immigration law.

Local Government

- MyjobScotland [Local government jobs in Scotland](#)
- [Local government jobs in England & Wales](#)
- Local Government Association [National Graduate Development Programme](#)

There are many professional opportunities available in local government in Scotland and the rest of the UK. England operates a Graduate Development programme, NGDP.

Janet Forsyth, Careers Adviser, University of Edinburgh Updated (with permission)
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