



University of
Chester

UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER LAW SCHOOL

The School is an established part of the legal community based in Chester and the surrounding area. The School specialises in the delivery of undergraduate and postgraduate law programmes. The staff in the School are dedicated and experienced coming from both academic and practitioner backgrounds. The School is particularly interested in the development of Legal Education and is research active in this area. This research activity ensures that the teaching within the School is to a high standard. Student satisfaction ratings for the undergraduate law programmes are extremely high. For example the Law School came 7th in the NSS survey 2009 on overall satisfaction with the undergraduate law courses and in 2012 the Complete University Guide put us 9th for student satisfaction.



The School however is also research active in the areas of Family Law, Criminal Justice and the general area of Human Rights and Discrimination. This research activity is not only focused on the production of conference papers and journal articles but is also incorporated into the delivery of the various courses offered by the School at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

The School of Law is based at 67 Liverpool Road in its own self-contained premises about 5 to 10 minutes' walk from the main Chester Campus.

Lectures take place on main campus but the Law School has two designated seminar rooms where small group seminars are held. There is also a purpose built mooted courtroom which allows students to practice their mooted and advocacy skills in a courtroom environment. There is also an open access computer suite. Study space is available for the Law School's PhD students. The Law Library is based in the main library, which is situated on the main campus. The School has close links with the College of Law at Christleton, Chester and many of the Law School graduates stay on in Chester and complete their LPC with the College.



The School also has close links with the local legal professions and the judiciary. Support is offered in various ways from work shadowing opportunities through to giving talks on general career advancement and specialist legal topics. A good example of this support is the sponsorship of our internal mooted competition by Linen Hall Barristers Chambers, Chester.

In addition to the organised activities, students have their own Student Law Society which organises a range of both social and educational events throughout the academic year. It is expected that all law students join the society (there is a small annual fee) and actively participate in the events arranged.

Why Study Law?...

Law is widely recognised by employers as a rigorous academic discipline and knowledge of law is extremely useful in many jobs. However, law also provides an opportunity for students to study an interesting and thought-provoking subject that embraces many other disciplines, such as criminology,



business, politics and social policy. The single honours and combined honours degrees at Chester, together with post-graduate opportunities of study, reflect all of the above and are also structured and delivered in such a way that all students will

acquire generic, academic and transferable skills, and will be able to study areas of law that particularly interest them. By the end of either undergraduate or postgraduate studies students will not only have core and specialist legal knowledge but they will also have acquired research skills in a variety of mediums. They will also have developed analytical and critical skills and most importantly the ability to communicate these orally and in writing.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment...

The law courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels are delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops and directed study, although clearly at postgraduate level there is a strong emphasis on independent learning. The lectures, seminars and workshops take a variety of forms such as DVD's, class participation, student-led seminars and presentations. At appropriate stages, during the courses offered by the School, sessions will be presented or led by legal practitioners or those in connected professions. For example, in both of the last two years sessions have been led by the presiding criminal and civil judges for Cheshire and Warrington, both of whom are based in Chester.

The undergraduate law courses also offer students the opportunity to be involved in both experiential and work based learning. In the first year students are involved in court visits and talks from leading law professionals and in the second year students can either undertake work based learning or an experiential law project.

Modules are assessed through a combination of coursework, seminar preparation, presentations and examinations. Within each of these categories, there may be different formats to give students the widest opportunity to display their knowledge and skills.

Other Activities...

Life at University is not just about studying but also developing other skills and attributes that will enable students to reach their full potential. Extra-curricular activities are therefore also important. The School prides itself on being pro-active in organising and running various activities:

- The School arranges visits to outside agencies such as the courts. The College of Law and Employment Tribunals.
- Members of staff organise and run Damp Soc (the Debating Advocacy Mooting and Presentation SOCIety) which allows students to develop their general advocacy and presentational skills. Students from the Society have for example undertaken a mock trial in Chester Magistrates Court with the College of Law.
- The School holds an internal mooting competition. This is where a student argues a case on a point of law. The School also encourages students to enter the National Mooting Competitions where university teams compete against one another on a knock out basis.
- The School also organises a first year debating competition. This is where teams of first year students get the chance to develop and test their oral skills.
- The School organises a free coach for students to attend the North West's largest Law Fair in Manchester.
- To assist those students wishing to qualify as a solicitor, the School has forged close links with the College of Law, at Christleton, Chester and a number of joint activities are organised.
- The School has also sponsored talks and visits by leading lawyers such as Lord Justice Thorpe, Michael Mansfield QC and Baroness Scotland, the last Labour Attorney General.
- The School organises an annual series of lectures which are given each year by academics or leading lawyers from practice. In 2009 a lecture was given by The Supreme Court Justice, Baroness Hale of Richmond, in 2010 by Lord Justice Kay, a senior judge of the Court of Appeal and in 2011 a lecture was presented by Professor John Gardner (Professor of Jurisprudence at the University of Oxford).
- The School organised its first European trip for students to Pforzheim University in Southern Germany in May 2012 and it is hoped that this will become an annual trip available for students studying on the 2nd year law project module. For the first time this year the School has organised two trips to the European Parliament in Brussels (with financial support provided by 2 MEPS).