Law at Keele

“Keele is a good example of a law school that is making great strides in engaging with the professions. I’ve gained so much from continuing a relationship with Keele and encourage other alumni to do the same. Anyone who has returned to Keele recently will quickly recognise the vision which has modernised the campus and facilities. Keele Law School educates its undergraduates not only in the discipline of law but orientates them to the modern market for legal services.”

Boyd Morwood, 9 St John Street Chambers
Peter joined Keele in 1976 to begin his Foundation Year before transferring to study Law as part of his Dual Honours degree in English and Law. After graduating, Peter moved to London to take his Bar Finals. He undertook his first 6 months pupillage in Construction Law and this is the area of Law within which he has forged an enviable reputation as one of the leading authorities in the country. In 2002 he was appointed a QC and added to his reputation in the field with the publication of his book Construction Adjudication, which is now in its Second Edition. This book has quickly become the definitive work in the field. Shortly after his appointment as a QC, Peter was appointed a Recorder (a part-time Circuit Judge in the Crown Court).

His career as a Judge has progressed rapidly. After 18 months as a Recorder, he was appointed as a full-time judge in the Technology and Construction Court and shortly after that to the High Court. He is the first Keele graduate, in fact, to be appointed to this position. He is the Director on the Board of three Charitable Trusts; addressing needs as diverse as the Arts to supporting young people with learning difficulties. He has also been heavily involved in supporting the development of the Law Rocks! charity. Peter is a regular visitor to Keele and an enthusiastic supporter of our students. We were delighted that he returned to Keele in the Summer of 2012 to accept an honorary doctorate and to award prizes to our own graduating finalists.

I studied Law with Criminology at Keele from 2006-2009, and am now a solicitor with City firm Berwin Leighton Paisner. My three years at Keele confirmed my first thoughts, and I can say whole-heartedly that the support and opportunities I had at Keele are second to none. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Keele, and the chance to study Law and Criminology gave me a different perspective and enabled me to see not only what the law is, but also how it works. The combination of law with another subject enriches your understanding and makes the law really come to life. The lecturers in the School are so supportive and encouraging. The main reason why I love Keele is the range of things you can do to complement your degree. I was Treasurer of the Keele Critical Legal Group, and through this society we organised a trip to attend the National CLG conference, which was an amazing experience. I was also lucky enough to be able to study in Australia for a semester. The chance to see how law works in another jurisdiction, whilst being able to revise in the sun on the beach is one that I will never forget!

Throughout my time at Keele, 2007-2010, I have been encouraged not only to get the most out of my subjects, but also to take a wider perspective on life and the world in general. All my lecturers gave me great support and inspiration. Without them I would not have been able to achieve a First Class Honours Degree in Law with Politics and certainly would not have achieved British Law Graduate of the Year 2010. I enjoyed every moment of my three years at Keele and I am sad that my time there has come to an end. However, the foundation that my experience there has given me is invaluable and will stay with me throughout my career.

Sophie is now an Associate Solicitor with DLA Piper.

It was during my final year of my law degree that I was sure that any legal career I pursued would be in the Human Rights field. The reason being was the inspirational International Human Rights module that I undertook.

I think I was so inspired that I still, to this day have the module handbook, which I can’t bear to put to rest in the recycling bin! It appears the foundations were laid upon completing the module and having the world of human rights and politics opened to me.

I suffered, as others did, the frustration of finding the ideal job when graduating. Over time I realised that there is no ideal job for a recent graduate and it takes time to find an opening in your area of interest. Sure enough I leapt upon a job with the Official Solicitor’s, where I worked on some of the most varied and interesting cases to date – acting as Litigation Friend to those without capacity and minors. I then moved on to specialise in Asylum and Immigration law.

My dedication to legal aid work eventually lead to me attaining my pupillage with Renaissance Chambers in London and becoming a Fellow for legal action charity Reiprie. I am now a tenant at 2 Kings Bench Walk, and specialise in Immigration, Asylum and Family Law.

It all began at Keele.
Fiona Woolf, CBE, an Alderman in the City of London, recent past President of the Law Society of England and Wales and Keele graduate, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Keele University in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Law in July 2008. Fiona is a consultant at CMS Cameron McKenna, and has been at the cutting edge of all the major reforms in the electricity sector for over 20 years. She has worked on over 38 jurisdictions on electricity market implementation, regulation and power and transmission projects. She is now focusing on large regional infrastructure projects and trading arrangements and regulatory regimes to attract investment. She was a non-executive director of a water company and a former member of the Competition Commission.

Neelam Tank
“Family. Community. Homey.”

I studied for my undergraduate LLB law degree and thereafter, completed my Masters in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice. I very much enjoyed my time and experience at Keele: I felt that the law school was very much its own little community that was always available to offer support and opportunity. Keele was able to offer me meaningful extra-curricular opportunities that no doubt helped me boost my legal profile; I was able to spend one month at a university in India conducting research for a postgraduate module and I also spent a month in Geneva as a research assistant for the UN-CERD.

After leaving Keele University, I was able to secure employment with the Home Office as an Executive Presenting Officer. This position involved advocating on behalf of the Secretary of State in the Immigration and Asylum First-Tier Tribunal. I realised that legal advocacy was something I was very good at and confirmed my beliefs that ultimately I wanted to go on and become a barrister. I consequently applied for a scholarship from the Inner Temple in order to complete the BPTC year. Fortunately, I have recently been granted the full award and will next year be studying for the Bar. I honestly feel that Keele University helped me to go on and achieve my dreams in this regard.

Fiona Woolf CBE

Shamin Khan
“academics at the cutting edge of their research”

I was really happy that I was able to complete my law degree at Keele University. The degree provided me with a tremendous legal and practical foundation to continue on to the Legal Practice Course and a career in the legal profession. I realise how much I developed during my time on the law degree key skills such as legal research, problem solving and the ability to critically think and analyse which are all important for any future careers.

Being an undergraduate student at Keele I was able to learn from academics who were at the cutting edge of their research and tutors who were genuinely interested in helping us as students to develop and challenge ourselves. I was also lucky that Keele offered a large choice of elective modules in the third year and getting the opportunity to study a diverse range of subjects helped me to decide which areas of law I enjoyed most. Overall my experience at Keele studying law is filled with positive memories!

Shamin is a Trainee with Naphthons Solicitors.

Charlotte Proudman
“academic knowledge in a legal and sociological context”

As a feminist legal activist, Charlotte is dedicated to legal reform to advance women’s and girls’ rights. To that end, Charlotte was instrumental in the criminalisation of forced marriage, and legislative changes concerning female genital mutilation introduced in the Serious Crime Act. Of recent, Charlotte has taken sabbatical from practice to work on a PhD at the University of Cambridge in Law and Sociology where she is researching female genital mutilation in the UK.

Furthering her commitment to ending violence against women and girls, Charlotte has worked in the Democratic Republic of Congo where she helped establish the first free legal advice centre for abused women. In addition, she worked for the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan researching transnational forced marriage, and at the Association for Civil Rights in Israel specialising in strategic litigation. Studying at Keele enabled Charlotte to expand her academic knowledge about women’s rights in a legal and sociological context.
Employability Support and Services

Career Support for Students
Keele Law School is known internationally for its outward-looking and distinctive law degrees delivered in a supportive and dynamic learning environment. Students at Keele Law School learn from leading, internationally recognised academics, and also have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of co-curricular activities and student societies. We provide numerous opportunities embedded into modules and outside the core programmes for you to develop key graduate capabilities, helping you to prepare for life after university.

Students have the opportunity to develop key employability skills and deepen their understanding of the contemporary legal marketplace in a number of ways:

• By developing key legal and professional skills, including analysis, communication and presentation throughout the LLB.
• By participating in outreach opportunities in the core curriculum; e.g. in Public Law and in Law in Action.
• By enjoying high-quality legal work experience as a Community Legal Companion, within CLoCK, an innovative national legal outreach initiative founded at Keele.
• By attending School and the Careers Service workshops and one-to-one support sessions.
• By receiving regular visits from the profession including Mills & Reeve, Eversheds, Inner Temple etc.
• By attending our programme of Student / Alumni networking events in London, Manchester, Birmingham and Keele.
• By gaining from the establishment of the Moot Court facility. The facility, which was constructed with alumni assistance, will provide students with high-quality space to develop their legal and professional skills.
• By attending Careers Early Warning Planning Sessions in core timetables, involving careers staff, academics and legal professionals.
• By being taught by staff with significant experience and links with the legal profession, through research activity, membership of professional bodies, and practice (including two judges on the staff).

In a more detailed document available to all current students (The Law Careers Event Planner), we provide further information about all the opportunities that are available to you. This document is designed to enable you to take charge of your personal and career development, helping you to track your learning and achievements, and make better use of the different opportunities available to you.

Through our close links with the University’s Careers Service you will be able to find out about careers options within the legal profession and more broadly. Students are encouraged to make full use of the dedicated legal careers workshops, which are offered throughout the year by the Careers Service, the Law School and the Student Law Society in combination with LPC/BPTC providers, legal professionals, and speakers from other professions and industries. There is also a member of academic staff with particular responsibility for careers liaison and advice within the Law School itself. Being armed with the correct information is a key part of career planning.

Keele Law School works hard to ensure that students have the opportunity to meet with leading members of the profession to learn more about the realities of the profession. We have strong links with the national and regional legal profession, and have current members of academic staff with past and on-going experience of practice.

Make the Most of your Degree
1. Read widely and evaluate what you read.
2. Get to grips early on with the electronic legal research databases.
3. Use the feedback provided on your work to improve your subsequent work.
4. Find out about legal careers or different careers pathways early on in your degree.
5. Engage in personal development practice (PDP) or some form of reflection and recording of your achievements.
6. Make the most of opportunities to develop presentation skills, whether as part of your core Law programme or the co-curricular activities.
7. Take every opportunity offered to talk with professionals in legal practice or other areas about their experiences and your ambitions.
8. Be proactive and bold in seeking work experience opportunities in Law and elsewhere.
9. Make the most of group work and the invaluable skills that these opportunities can help you develop.
10. Embrace new challenges.

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