



The University of Edinburgh
Careers Service

What else can I do with my Law Degree? Investigating Careers Outwith Law

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What I'm going to cover

- What Edinburgh law graduates have done in the past
- A flavour of labour market news
- Ideas for where a law degree would be useful in the workplace
 - 'Any discipline' jobs
- Getting started on planning your career
- How the Careers Service can help you
- Law career planning website and blog
www.law.ed.ac.uk/careers



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What have Edinburgh Law graduates done (*known destinations*)?

- 48% Scots Law Diploma
- 28% into employment
- 18% Further study (LLM, conversion to English law, MSc, other)
- 4% Time out
- 2% still seeking...

LLB Hons - 2009/10 figures – surveyed six months after graduation. Only graduates resident within EU surveyed.



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- most do diploma in Edinburgh, some move on to Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee etc
- small percentage take time out at this point. If you are planning to go into Scots law it can be better to do so at this point, straight after your degree, rather than after your diploma, as your degree has no 'shelf-life' (though diploma providers may question your legal knowledge after 5 years if you have not been working in a legal capacity – However, your diploma does have a 'shelf life' of 2 years, after which you will need to consult the Law Society of Scotland if you have not commenced a traineeship. NB position may change – changes in legal education and training in 2011
- further study – PhD and LLM – in a wide range of subjects and countries – for interest, useful if you want an international legal career, or an academic career; Also a range of vocational courses

Range of jobs in recent years...

- Chartered accountant
- Claims underwriter
- Marketing executive
- Public sector accountant
- Investment banker
- Deputy property manager
- Management consultant
- Policy intern (Scots Govt/Brussels)
- Legal researcher
- House of Commons researcher
- Legal publishing editor
- Legal assistant
- Legal recruitment consultant
- TEFL teacher
- Cruise ship worker (!)

Range of courses...

- Diploma in Legal Practice,
- Law Conversion Course (GDL), England
- LL.Ms - Harvard, London, NZ, Hong Kong, Heidelberg, Madrid
- MSc Criminology
- MA - Gallery & Museum Studies; Journalism; Publishing; Library & Information Studies, Screen-writing; Intellectual Property Law
- BSc Medicine
- Diploma in Broadcast Media
- PGDE Primary

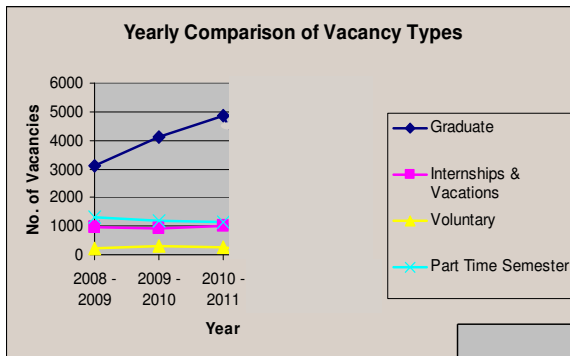
...and more!



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SAGE Vacancy Stats



Vacancy Type	08 - 09	09 - 010	10 - 11
Graduate	3103	4115	4850
Internships & Vacations	971	939	994
Voluntary	201	287	260
Part Time Semester	1331	1180	1145
Totals	5606	6521	7249



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All figures already showing upward trend for academic yr to date 11-12

Labour Market News

Bank of Scotland Performance Measures Index

- April 2011 report “*signalled ongoing expansion in the Scottish private sector economy...Private sector firms added to payrolls at fastest pace since Feb 2008... Rate of job creation strongest since Feb 2008 and only marginally weaker than that recorded for UK overall. Strong performance from service sector particularly welcome...service sector growth accelerated to the strongest since December 2009.*”
- <http://www.markiteconomics.com/MarkitFiles/Pages/ViewPressRelease.aspx?ID=7915>
- GE Capital survey reveals UK SMEs plan to create 470,000 new jobs in the coming year as optimism over future growth outweighs uncertainty over future of UK economy. Overall, 46% of UK businesses surveyed were optimistic about the growth prospects of the sector in which they operate...*Source: ICG Jul 2011*



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Jobs where a Law degree would be useful (examples)

- Financial work - Accountancy, Banking, Risk, Insurance, Pensions, Tax
- Policy and administration - Civil Service, CPS, Charities, HE
- Legal - libraries, journalism, publishing, research, recruitment
- Advisory work - debt, housing, employment, welfare, education immigration, discrimination (Citizens Advice; Local Authorities)
- Applying the law in practice - Police, Probation, Fraud, Social and Criminal Justice work, Trading Standards
- Regulatory work - Health & Safety, FSA, HMRC, Patent agency
- Human Resources work e.g. equality & diversity, employment law, contracts of employment etc...



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Still jobs in all these areas, but less of them and more competition - even more need to do your research, get experience, and apply as professionally as possible.

Many employers offering roles in these areas coming onto campus this semester!

About 50% of all graduate vacancies do not ask for a specific degree discipline

- **Degree sought**
- Any degree



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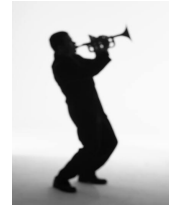
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* stress the need for vocational training for many of these jobs (though not all)

To make the right decision for you, you have to get involved in some career planning

See Employer Presentations programme on careers service website or SAGE for indication of how many employers specify degrees of 'any discipline' ...

Law degree – Transferable Skills...



...Valued by many employers. These include:

- ✓ research - using a range of sources, including questioning
- ✓ ability to interpret and explain complex information
- ✓ analytical skills;
- ✓ reasoning and critical judgement
- ✓ ability to formulate sound arguments;
- ✓ lateral thinking and problem-solving
- ✓ ability to write concisely;
- ✓ confident and persuasive oral communication
- ✓ attention to detail and the ability to draft formal documents

Perception of law as 'tough subject' but still vital to articulate strengths clearly and state full range of skills you can offer!



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(Source: Prospects.ac.uk/Options with your subject)

Summary – options and decisions

- Qualification – Lawyer v Alternatives
- What are the alternatives?
 - Use your subject - applying the law/regulatory work/ advisory/social and criminal justice
 - Use your subject indirectly - HR, Finance, Media, Policy
 - Avoid your subject! 50%+ recruiters take any discipline
- **What is your next step?**
 - Employment/Experience
 - Further study
 - Time out



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So, after graduation you have several options – straight into employment if you have the knowledge, skills and experience, or gaining the experience necessary for your chosen profession eg gaining experience in the field of social care and social work to enable you to get onto a professional social work course; gaining experience in a school/with children to enable you to get on a teacher training course.

- further study – for interest or vocational necessity – eg publishing, marketing, journalism, librarianship

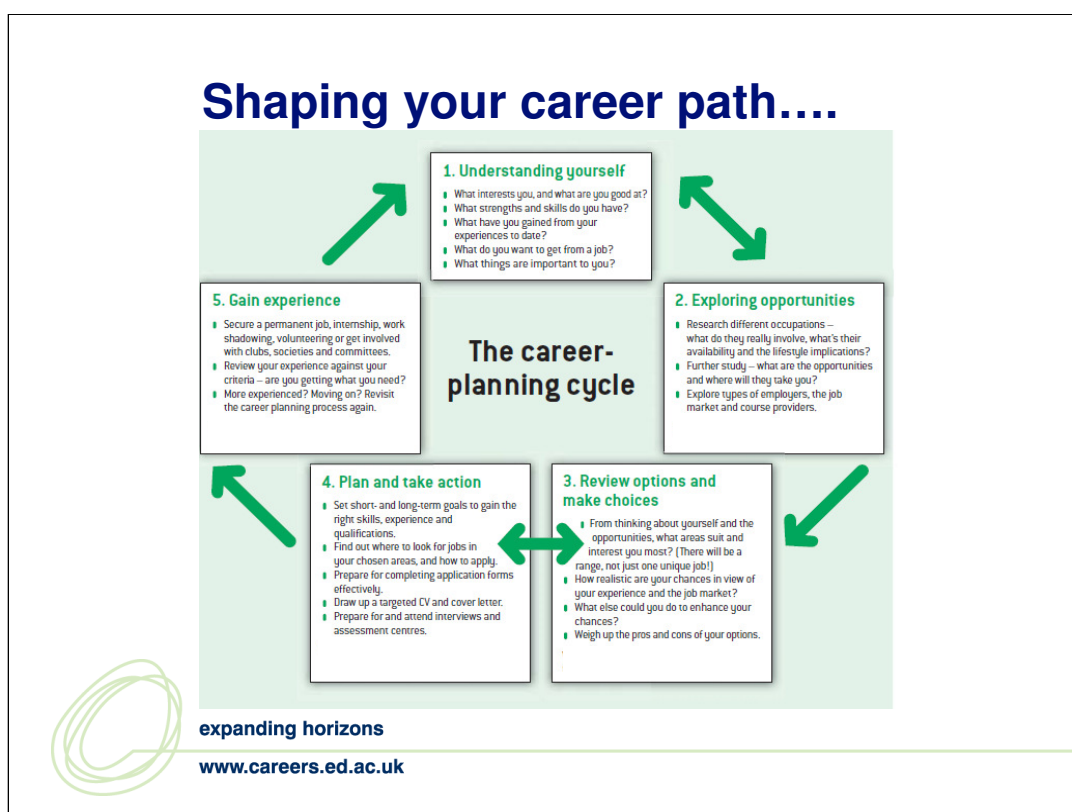
- time out – for personal development

Though the last 2 will eventually lead towards employment, unless you are in a very healthy financial situation!

Really important to do your research, get experience, present yourself as well as you possibly can

NB – do further study if you need to or are interested in it – not just to escape the credit crunch -

Employer advice - apply early, if you don't get your ideal job straight away, take some form of paid work, rather than extra study, unless it enhances your employability



This is an iterative process - not just a one-off - you'll do this whenever you have to move on in your career - either career development or changing career - good to get to understand it now

Understanding myself - knowing what I want and have to offer - getting started... help via the Careers Service

Orange 'Getting started in law' folder

'Career Planning' section of website, including computer guidance programme - Prospects Planner and Career Planning Programme

Individual guidance interview w Careers Adviser

Researching experience, jobs, employers and further study - help via the Careers Service

Information centre + website (www.ed.ac.uk/careers) - including information on **occupations**, **experience**, **employers** and **further study**

Employer Presentations programmes,

Careers Fairs - for Recruitment and Information - 5-6th Oct, Adam House

Travel and Volunteering Fair, 27th Oct, Teviot

Programme of Careers Service events - skills and information sessions (www.ed.ac.uk/careers)

Take-away material from Careers Service

Graduate Prospects - www.prospects.ac.uk

Making plans/taking action

- help via the Careers Service

Individual guidance interview

Finally...

Thank you!

*And don't forget the main Careers Fair
Oct 11th & 12th at Adam House, Chambers St
1.30pm - 6.30pm each day
~ over 100 organisations exhibiting!*



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