Do you believe that no one should be condemned except by the due process of law regardless of what the media might say? Do you have the ability to read and synthesise large volumes of information in a short period of time and able to cope with the stress of long hours, tight deadlines and immense responsibility? Are you willing to argue an unpopular cause? If you have answered ‘yes’ to the above then a career as a barrister might be for you...

The work of a barrister is attractive to those who would like an extremely challenging, rewarding and independent life. Much of the attraction for this area of work lies in the environment in which barristers work; in a ‘chambers’ (the term used for the office of a group of self-employed barristers; also sometimes referred to as a ‘set’) of like-minded individuals undertaking intellectually demanding work referred to them by other professionals, such as a solicitor. This aspect, combined with the opportunity to become, through one's own efforts, an expert in one’s chosen field, creates an opportunity to develop a stimulating career. The competition to become a barrister is extensive and entry standards are high; thus, you need to research this option thoroughly before committing yourself. In recent years the Bar has taken an assertive stance in encouraging entry into the profession of the ‘most able’ from all backgrounds.

There are approximately 12,500 barristers at the Independent Bar practising in 339 sets of chambers across England and Wales, of whom about two-thirds work in London. A further 3,000 barristers are employed in organisations working in a range of places including the Government Legal Service, the Crown Prosecution Service, industry, commerce and the armed forces.

The two organisations which have responsibilities and obligations to the profession are: The Bar Council, which looks after the interests of barristers, and The Bar Standards Board (BSB), which is the regulatory body. Additionally every barrister has to become a member of one of the four Inns of Court; Lincoln’s Inn, Inner Temple, Middle Temple and Gray’s Inn. The Inns provide support for barristers and students through a range of educational activities, lunching and dining facilities, access to common rooms and gardens and the provision of various grants and scholarships. Some areas of work at the Bar have Specialist Bar Associations representing the interests of that sector, e.g. the Commercial Bar Association, the Family Law Bar Association and the Criminal Bar Association. These are a useful source of information and advice about the profession and the different roles in which barristers work. Visit their websites for details.

Much has been written in the press about the future of the Independent Bar and whether it still has a role to play. This comment stems from a variety of issues including: constant government reforms in the way legal services should be provided (including the Legal Services Act), the increasing pressures on public funding and its allocation, the increase in solicitors’ rights of audience and, in some cases, from a lack of informed knowledge about the role of the Bar. However, barristers continue to provide essential and effective services. In particular, the commercial areas of the Bar are thriving, while other areas, such as criminal, are under greater pressure because they are dependent on public funding administered through the Legal Services Commission (LSC). The full impact of the Legal Services Act 2007, which reformed the way legal services are regulated and...
introduced the possibility of creating ‘legal disciplinary practices’ and ‘alternative business structures’ is yet to be seen. It is advisable to keep up-to-date with these issues because not only will it help you to decide if the career is for you, but it will also improve your performance at interviews for funding and pupillage.

It is important to be active in your own research; e.g. did you know that the Inns award around £4 million in scholarships every year; that some barristers almost never appear in court; and only 35% of pupils have a first (though most in the top sets will)?

This Briefing deals with the system for England and Wales. Scotland, Northern Ireland, The Isle of Man, The Channel Islands and Eire have different legal systems. However, most Commonwealth countries with Common Law systems do still recognise being called to the English and Welsh Bar for practice in their own jurisdictions.

**TYPES OF JOB**

The majority of barristers train and work in chambers across England and Wales. They practise in a wide variety of legal areas, some well known, such as family, criminal and property, and others less well known, such as planning, intellectual property and international border disputes. There are a number of barristers who practise at the Employed Bar, in organisations in commerce and industry, and in government departments. Any organisation with an in-house legal department is likely to employ appropriately experienced barristers and solicitors for its legal positions and a number of solicitor practices now employ qualified barristers in dedicated litigation departments. There are comparatively few training opportunities (pupillages) within the Employed Bar.

There can be considerable differences in the nature of a barrister’s work and some barristers almost never appear in court. Family or criminal barristers may appear in court most days, while barristers specialising in commercial work may spend the majority of their time drafting pleadings and opinions. It makes commercial sense to avoid lengthy disputes in court, so often barristers may be involved earlier in more complicated, demanding commercial matters. However, advocacy remains a vital skill for the barrister and is one of the most distinguishing elements of the barrister’s role.

**SKILLS NEEDED**

- A high level of intellectual ability
- Excellent advocacy and presentation skills
- Articulacy in written and spoken English
- An ability to think and communicate clearly under pressure
- Determination and stamina.
- The ability to remain calm whilst under pressure
- The ability to describe complex matters of law in a simple manner
- Ability to deal with a wide range of people
- Good judgement and problem solving skills
- Good research skills and able to synthesise large volumes of information
- IT skills
- Ability to operate with total integrity and confidentiality
It is also worth bearing in mind that as self-employed individuals managing an often heavy workload, barristers need to have excellent time management skills and the stamina to cope with the stress of long hours, tight deadlines and high level responsibility.

When applying for the Bar it is important to be able to demonstrate all of these attributes. In particular, the three key qualities that chambers tend to be looking for are: intellectual ability (which can be evidenced through your academic results), the potential to be a strong advocate (which can be demonstrated through mooting/debating/other public speaking) and commitment to the Bar (which can be shown through undertaking mini-pupillages and gaining other relevant experience).

ENTRY POINTS

There is a prescribed route to becoming a barrister, whether you wish to practise independently or be employed in an organisation.

- **Academic Stage**: an undergraduate degree in Law (LLB), or an undergraduate degree in any subject followed by a conversion course (Graduate Diploma in Law, GDL) or Senior Status Degree.
- **Vocational Stage**: the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), which entails one year of full time study or two years' part time study
- **Pupillage**: one year spent as a pupil in barristers' chambers or in another organisation approved by the Bar Standards Board as a Pupillage Training Organisation (PTO).
- **Tenancy**
  After training, the final stage is to obtain tenancy in a set of barristers' chambers as a self-employed barrister, or to go into practice as an employed barrister.

GETTING EXPERIENCE

There are a number of ways that you can gain relevant experience and insight into the life of a barrister:

**Mini-Pupillage**
These are short periods of work experience, generally lasting one or two weeks and usually in a set of chambers. 35% of pupils in 2010/11 completed a mini-pupillage in the chambers in which they secured pupillage. These work experience visits to barristers' chambers give you the opportunity to observe the work directly, to talk to barristers and to decide what area of practice you might like to work in. Some chambers use assessed mini-pupillages as part of their selection procedures. You can identify those chambers offering mini-pupillages through the Pupillages Handbook, also available online. Chambers will consider applications for mini-pupillages to take place at any time of the year. There are generally no deadlines; applications are considered when they come in. For some chambers you may need to apply up to a year ahead. In practice many people apply in December or January for Easter or summer vacation experience. August is a very quiet time at the Bar because the courts are usually closed, so you are less likely to be offered time then.

**Meeting Chambers in Oxford**
On Saturday 8th November 2014 we will be holding our annual Law Fair in the Examination Schools. Normally some 15 barristers' chambers attend to discuss their work and the opportunities available. Additionally other organisations, such as Young Legal Aid Lawyers and the Free Representation Unit, attend. As mentioned above, each Inn has an undergraduate society, and the student Law Society
has an active programme of visiting speakers and other events, including mooting competitions. The Inns hold presentations in Oxford too.

**Marshalling**
This involves sitting with a Judge (generally for a week) and provides opportunities to see barristers making submissions in court and discuss cases with the Judge. Inns of Court will help to organise these opportunities.

**Pro Bono Work (voluntary legal work)**
This is a great way to get experience of advising people on legal issues and representing them in tribunals. Once in your third year of a Law Degree or during the GDL there are a few organisations which take on volunteers for this role, including Citizens’ Advice Bureaux and the Free Representation Unit. The Law Faculty also offer pro bono work experience with Oxford Legal Assistance (for undergraduate law students) and Oxford Pro Bono Publico (for post graduate law students or post graduates from relevant disciplines).

**Public Speaking and Mooting**
Taking opportunities to debate, moot (check with the Law Faculty and student Law and Bar Societies) or otherwise talk to large groups is valuable experience. Taking part in mooting competitions is seen as very positive on CVs, particularly if successful.

**Other Experience**
Many Chambers are keen to see experience of other types of work that will demonstrate transferability of skills, such as in the voluntary sector, teaching and finance.

There is often confusion about whether you should be paid to do an internship or work experience. It will depend on your arrangement with the employer and also the status of the employer. To find out if you are entitled to be paid when undertaking work experience or an internship, visit the Government’s webpages on the National Minimum Wage (shortlink: gool/dYksX).

**GETTING A JOB**

To become a Barrister there is a series of steps that you will need to take:

1. **THE ACADEMIC STAGE**

To complete this stage you need first to have passed either a qualifying law degree, or a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), also known as the Common Professional Examination (CPE), or a Senior Status law degree, after a non-law first degree. 42% of pupils in 2010/11 had non law first degrees. Your chances of securing pupillage, and therefore tenancy (see below), are significantly enhanced if you have a First class degree. Of those who secured pupillage in 2010/11, 35% had firsts and 54% had 2.1s. Of those who secured pupillage in chancery or commercial sets, 63% had firsts. During the academic stage you will have to study the foundations of legal knowledge in the following areas: constitutional and administrative law, criminal law, contract law, law of tort, land law, equity and trusts, and EU Law. If you have an undergraduate law degree you will normally have already satisfied the requirements of this stage.

Gaining a distinction in a GDL can increase your chances of gaining a pupillage. You may wish to take your GDL at the same institution, or in the same geographical location, as the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC, formerly known as the Bar Vocational Course [BVC] below). An online application system at the Central Applications Board (CAB) contains details of, and links to, all GDL course providers, a number of whom will be attending the Law Fair on Saturday 8th November.
2014 at the Examination Schools. Applications for the GDL can be made on a rolling basis throughout the year and all applications for full time courses are made through CAB. Completed applications will be released to the institutions on a weekly basis and offers can be made shortly afterwards. Different institutions may respond and fill their courses at different rates. There remains a statutory cooling off period for acceptances made. Whilst there is no CAB closing date, some institutions may ask for applications to be made before a certain date in order to have a place guaranteed or to be considered for awards or scholarships (subject to meeting their criteria). We advise you to research the institutions carefully and, when ready to make your application in good time. Please check the CAB website for the latest up to date information.

Before you commence the vocational stage of training you must join one of the Inns of Court, institutions founded in the fourteenth century in central London. They provide educational and collegiate activities, library facilities, support for barristers and student members, advocacy training and other continuing professional development opportunities. If you are sure of your intention to train as a barrister, the earlier you join the better, as you will be well placed to network. The earliest point that you can join is usually in the second year of your law degree. The Inns also provide a great deal of valuable financial assistance for the various stages of becoming a barrister awarding around £4 million in Scholarships every year. You may apply to only one Inn for a scholarship, and you do not have to join an Inn until you either accept a scholarship offer or by 31 May of the year that you begin the BPTC. Once you have joined an Inn you should start attending the 12 qualifying sessions that need to be undertaken before Call to the Bar (consisting of activities such as lectures, residential courses, moots and debates, often combined with dinners or other social events). Each Inn organises its own events for these purposes and will inform you of them.

Each Inn has a Students’ Officer whose job is to give advice about applying to an Inn and on their scholarships application process. These officers can also be extremely helpful in arranging relevant contacts for you to speak to and in advising on the character of individual sets of chambers. Do make use of them!

The contact details of Students’ Officers at the respective Inns are:

- Miss Judith Fox, Students’ Administrator, Treasury Office, Lincoln’s Inn, London WC2A 3TL, Tel: 020 7405 0138, www.lincolnsinn.org.uk
- Mr Richard Chapman, Students’ Officer, Treasury Office, Middle Temple, London EC4Y 9AT, Tel: 020 7427 4800, www.middletemple.org.uk or Melissa Tucker, m.tucker@middletemple.org.uk regarding student admission and general enquires
- Ms Quinn Clarke, Director of Education, Education Department, Gray’s Inn, London WC1R 5EU, Tel: 020 7458 7965, www.graysinn.org.uk
- Mr Eamonn O’Reilly, Scholarships and Students’ Manager, Inner Temple, London EC4Y 7HL, Tel: 020 7797 8210, eoreilly@innertemple.org.uk, www.innertemple.org.uk Or, Paul Clark, Scholarships and Student Co-ordinator 020 7797 8211 pclark@innertemple.org.uk

Each Inn has a student branch at Oxford which organises events for its members. Check with the contacts above for further details.

2. THE VOCATIONAL STAGE
This stage is currently completed by passing the BPTC and takes one year (full time) or two years (part-time) study

Bar Course Aptitude Test (BCAT)
After years of debate, review and testing, the BSB has now introduced a test, the BCAT, which must be passed before an offer of a place on the BPTC is confirmed. The BCAT tests students’
critical thinking and reasoning and is similar in style to the Watson and Glazer critical thinking tests used by many law firms. The test can be taken at any Pearson Vue test centre (there are 720 available in 11 countries) and the cost to sit it in the UK/EU is £150 (£170 if taken anywhere else in the world). The BSB only requires that you pass this test before you enrol on the BPTC. On completing it at the test centre you will be given your result and your result will be indicated as either a pass, a marginal fail or a significant fail. Once you have passed your result the BSB will notify the providers but you must also update your BPTC application with your test result and your BCAT ID number. A practice test is available on the BSB website. You can sit the test as many times as you wish but you must allow 30 days between tests and you will incur the same charge each time you sit it! Therefore, we advise that you sit the test in good time. The results are valid for 5 years. You will need to keep your feedback report as you will be required to present it to your BPTC provider. The dates for when you are able to sit the test in 2014/14 are not yet on the BSB website, but last year, you were able to sit it between 5th November and 22nd August so please check the BSB website for final details for this year.

BPTC courses

Applications for the course  www.barprofessionaltraining.org.uk

Providers for 2014/5

- BPP Law School (Leeds, London & Manchester)
- The University of Law (London & Birmingham)
- City Law School
- Northumbria Law School
- Nottingham Law School
- University of The West of England
- Cardiff Law School
- Manchester Metropolitan University

BPP, City Law School, The College of Law, Manchester Met and The University of The West of England also offer a two-year, part-time option for this course.

An online system of applications on the Bar Professional Training website (BPTC Online) acts as a clearing house for all BPTC courses. For those wishing to start the course in 2015, the application system opens in early November 2014 with the first round of applications closing in January 2015 (exact dates are not yet published). All applicants in the first round are considered at the same time after the closing date.

After that date a clearing pool system, allowing for late applications, opens in February 2015. Providers are able to access the pool applications from mid April 2015 and the clearing round closes in late August 2015. (Please remember that you must join an Inn before you start your BPTC and the closing date for this is 31 May 2015). First-round offers will start to be made from early March 2015, with offers to be accepted by early April 2015. If you wish to be considered in the second (clearing round) as well as the first round, ensure that you make ALL law school choices relevant to you in the first round. Only the first 3 will count in the first round, the rest in the second. You cannot add any choices following your submission and you cannot make more than one application per year. There is a £40 application fee. Please check the Bar Professional Training course website for the exact dates when they are published – usually September time.
Your application for the BPTC will be assessed according to your degree results, the evidence you can provide of having relevant skills and your references. There are no selection interviews and entry for the BPTC is competitive with approximately 3,000 applicants for 1800 places each year.

Reports written by the Bar Standards Board following monitoring visits to the BPTC course providers can be found on the BSB website.

3. THE PRACTICAL STAGE: A PUPILLAGE

This is a 12-month period of training divided into two parts (‘sixes’): the non-practising six-months, during which pupils shadow their pupil supervisor; and the second, practising six-months, when pupils (with their supervisor’s permission) undertake advocacy and other legal services. The two periods are increasingly in the same chambers.

All pupillage opportunities, including those at the Employed Bar, are advertised through the Bar Council’s gateway website, the Pupillage Gateway. There are some timetable rules for all pupillage vacancies. Please see the Pupillage Gateway website for details. For example, no offers of pupillage can be made between 30th April (the closing date for submissions on the Gateway) and 1st August.

The Pupillage Gateway system is similar to UCAS in that there is a central online system for applications. Approximately 60% of pupillage providers recruit through this system. In 2011, 274 pupillages were on offer by 113 chambers through the portal in the first round and approximately 3000 applications were made. 56% of all pupillages available were awarded through the Gateway. Applications open in April, about the same time as the National Pupillage Fair, although the vacancies can be viewed from March onwards. You would normally apply one and a half years before you start pupillage, i.e. in March/April to start in September the following year. In 2011/12 31% of pupils were able to secure pupillage prior to starting the BPTC. In reality, given the fierce competition at the Bar, many candidates are unsuccessful in their first attempt at securing pupillage, and may succeed only after two or three years of applying (your BPTC is valid for 5 years). A number of chambers require you to apply directly (i.e. outside the Gateway), however, details of these opportunities and deadlines are still advertised on Pupillage Gateway. For these opportunities, ensure you tailor your application to the individual chambers and be aware that some of these Chambers’ deadlines are very early (before March).

Between October 2011 and September 2012, 438 people commenced first-six pupillages. In the same academic year 1,732 students undertook the BPTC and 1,260 were “called to the Bar”, demonstrating the strong competition for pupillage. The number of pupillages available has reduced over recent years, possibly as a result of chambers being required to pay all pupils a minimum award (currently £12,000). Significant reductions in funds for legally aided work combined with the recession may also have taken their toll on numbers.

For statistics on breakdown of pupillages (such as gender, institutions attended, disability and other demographic data) see annual Bar Barometer produced by the Bar Standards Board at shortlink: tinyurl.com/n7y6rbv.

A hard-copy publication, The Pupillages Handbook, is available from March for the year ahead. It is launched normally at the annual National Pupillage Fair, organised by Targetjobs Law, which usually takes place in March at one of the Inns of Court.

On completion of the vocational stage (and after undertaking the 12 qualifying sessions) one is ‘Called to the Bar’, and, subject to some limitations, one can call oneself a barrister, but not practise. International students need to be ‘called’ before returning to their own jurisdictions.
4. TENANCY
This is a permanent position in a chambers. You are then an independent practitioner, but you work as a member of your chambers contributing to the common costs. There are usually fewer tenancies available than pupillage places, although there is some evidence that more London chambers are trying to match the numbers of pupillage and tenancy places. Pupils usually gain their tenancy in the chambers where they completed pupillage. For those who don’t it is no longer straightforward for even strong candidates to get a tenancy elsewhere. A number of unsuccessful applicants may find themselves staying on in the chambers for ‘Third Six’ (further pupillage) or ‘squatting’ there while seeking a permanent place. In 2009/10 497 tenancies were registered.

FUNDING
The costs involved to go through the different stages to become a Barrister are considerable. The GDL course costs between £7,500 and £9,400, depending on the provider and location (lower costs outside London), while BPTC fees vary between £12,000 and £17,000+. Living expenses for a year in London will be over £10,000, if you do not have access to free or subsidised accommodation. Chambers are obliged to contribute at least £12,000 to pupils during the pupillage year and some pay considerably more. Certain chambers will allow you to draw down part of the pupillage award during your vocational course.

LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANTS (LEA)
LEAs may give discretionary grants for either course. You should enquire about your own LEA’s policy at the beginning of the year in which you will start on the GDL course or the BPTC.

SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE INNS OF COURT
The closing date for the major scholarships for the BPTC is the first Friday in November of the year before you wish to start the BPTC. Please check the Inns’ websites for confirmation of this date. If you are a non-lawyer, you should apply for a scholarship for the GDL by 1st May 2015 if you wish to start the course in 2015. These closing dates apply to all four Inns of Court. You can only apply for scholarships at one Inn. There are also pupillage awards to be applied for during the BPTC year and you should check closing date with your Inn.

When considering scholarship applications the Inns will be seeking the same attributes that the Chambers will be looking for from pupillage candidates. Please refer to the Inns’ websites for further details.

BANK LOANS AND OTHER SOURCES
All the High Street banks offer schemes for students during the vocational year and the pupillage year. However, please check the conditions of repayment and affordability for any loan, remembering that you may have a gap between finishing your course and starting work.

The Government’s Professional and Career Development Loan (CDL) scheme (www.gov.uk/career-development-loans/overview) – relevant only for BPTC – is worth investigating. CDLs are subsidised by the Government and mean that you have a repayment “holiday” for the duration of the course, plus one month afterwards. It is possible to borrow any sum between £300 and £10,000 and repay it over a period of up to 5 years.

Check with the law school’s that interest you, to see what sort of financial assistance they can provide. BPP runs an annual scholarship programme aimed at increasing diversity and also an essay competition offering a free GDL to the winner. BPP has also joined with specialist bank Investec, to
offer loans to students on the GDL and BPTC in any location. Loans are at fixed interest rate for 5 years, paid back monthly and with an 18 month “holiday” from repayments – meaning you start repayments 6 months after you complete your course. The University of Law offers a variety of awards and scholarships which are very well worth considering for the GDL and the BPTC. They have also set up a link with Metro Bank for loans and they will also allow you to pay your course fees in instalments to spread the cost. Scholarships offered by these types of providers are not as competitive as you may think – so check the deadlines and apply!

There is some limited funding from a few organisations for students from ethnic minority groups, students with disabilities and overseas students. For example, the Inderpal Rahal Memorial Trust, the Kalisher Scholarship Trust (www.thekalishertrust.org/awards) and Snowden Award Scheme.

There are a number of charitable trusts that are prepared to consider applications for financial help towards vocational training, e.g. the Thomas Wall Trust. Details of various trusts are included in The Grants Register, and The Directory of Grant-Making Trusts.

EQUALITY & POSITIVE ACTION

In 2007 the Neuberger Working Party made recommendations on widening access to the Bar, in particular regarding the recruitment of talented candidates from all socio-economic backgrounds. Following on from these recommendations various school and university initiatives are being implemented with the aim of making the barrister’s profession even more accessible to all. Further information can be found on the Bar Council’s website.

The Bar Council, the Inns of Court and many barristers are determined to widen access to the Bar, and to create a diverse and inclusive profession. A number of initiatives exist to help achieve this from offering specific bursaries and scholarships to work experience programmes. The Pegasus Access & Support Scheme (PASS)(www.pegasus.me/index.html) administered by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. PASS is a co-ordinated work experience programme for students considering the Bar as a career. The programme has 60+ partner Chambers. The Partners represent a diverse range of Chambers and they are all committed to supporting diversity and social mobility at the Bar.

There is funding from organisations to support students from ethnic minority groups, students with disabilities and overseas students to help them train for the Bar (see Funding section of this Career Briefing)

The UK law protects you from discrimination due to your age, gender, race, religion or beliefs, disability or sexual orientation. For further information on the Equality Act and to find out where and how you are protected, and what to do if you feel you have been discriminated against, visit the Government’s webpages on discrimination (shortlink: goo.gl/50INcn).

THE CAREERS SERVICE’S RESOURCES

ONLINE RESOURCES

BOOKS
The following books are available to read in our Resource Centre at 56 Banbury Road:
- Bewigged and Bewildered? Adam Kramer
• Tomorrow’s Lawyers, Richard Susskind
• Oxford Dictionary of Law
• Contract Law, Jill Poole
• The law student’s handbook, Steve Wilson & Phillip Kenny
• Law Uncovered, Margaret McAlpine
• Intellectual Property Law, David Bainbridge, Claire Howell
• Chambers UK
• Getting into Law, Lianne Carter

E-Books
It is also worth looking at e-books, through SOLO (solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk).

JOURNALS
We subscribe to the following journals in our Resource Centre at 56 Banbury Road:
• The Lawyer, weekly
• The Law Society Gazette
• Counsel (Barristers’ Professional Journal), monthly

TAKE-AWAY MATERIAL
Collect the following material from our Resource Centre at 56 Banbury Road:
• Pupillages Handbook
• Targetjobs Courses, Conversion & Vocational Law
• Targetjobs Law
• Training Contract & Pupillage Handbook
• Chambers and Partners, Chambers Student Guide

ONLINE INTERVIEW FEEDBACK
Our Interview Feedback Database (www.careers.ox.ac.uk/ifd) contains hundreds of accounts of interviews, submitted by Oxford students and graduates. The database can be searched by sector and by organisation.

OXFORD CAREERS NETWORK (OCN)
The OCN (www.careers.ox.ac.uk/ocn) on CareerConnect is a database of over 1000 Oxford alumni volunteer mentors who are willing to be contacted about their career. Read their case studies for behind-the-scenes insights into an organisation or occupation, and contact them for more advice and information.

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

USEFUL WEBSITES
GENERAL VACANCIES
• www.pupillagegateway.com - Pupillage applications
• www.prospects.ac.uk/law_sector.htm
• www.targetjobs.co.uk/law
• www.jobs.ac.uk
• www.lawgazettejobs.co.uk
• jobs.thelawyer.com
• www.legalweekjobs.com
• **www.thefru.org.uk** The Free Representation Unit – volunteer advocacy experience for junior lawyers
• **www.do-it.org** national volunteer database highlighting opportunities for volunteer work. This site has a legal section.
• **www.babybarristers.co.uk** – recruitment site for barristers at the pre-pupillage stage

### SECTOR INFORMATION, COUNCILS, NEWS AND REGULATORY BODIES

• **www.barcouncil.org.uk** The Bar Council, which represents the profession. Shortlinks to some of their useful webpages include:
  - goo.gl/lqvAoy – for links to the specialist bar associations
  - goo.gl/3qunMN – Information to get you started on a career as a barrister
  - goo.gl/zbVOIC – The Circuit Bars, which provide support, advice and information about practising in their areas.
• **www.barstandardsboard.org.uk** - The Bar’s regulator, also provides education and training information
• **www.lawcabs.ac.uk** - GDL applications
• **www.barprofessionaltraining.org.uk** - BPTC applications
• **www.chambersandpartners.com** - Directory of chambers
• **www.legal500.com** – Bar Directory for chambers listings
• **l2b.thelawyer.com** - The Lawyer 2B online
• **www.thelawyer.com** - Sector news
• **www.legalweek.com** - News relating to the barrister’s profession
• **www.lawcareers.net** - Careers advice for solicitors and barristers
• **www.skillsforjustice.com/Your-Sector/Legal-Services** - Very useful for an up to date overview of the legal market
• **www.barristermagazine.com** – Articles and commentary on current legal issues
• **www.insidebuzz.co.uk** - Quotes from legal employees, together with interview and salary information
• **www.become-a-barrister.com** - A Bar Council film, including a section on diversity at the Bar
• **www.allaboutlaw.co.uk** Inside information, tips and advice, plus discussion and blogs from trainees, pupils and lawyers
• **www.legalfutures.co.uk** - Useful legal market information
• **www.blagg.org** - Bar Lesbian and Gay Group
• **www.gov.uk/grant-bursary-adult-learners** - For information on the Professional and Career Development Loans
• **www.oxfordlawsoc.com** - The student Law Society at Oxford
• **www.oxfordbarsoc.com** - The student Bar Society at Oxford
• **www.thepupillagepages.com** - A site set up by 2 Kaplan Law School students
• **www.innertemplelibrary.com** – For Inner Temple’s “Current Awareness” blog containing information on new case law, changes in legislation and legal news from England and Wales
• **www.advocates.org.uk** – Faculty of Advocates – a body of independent lawyers who have been admitted to practise as Advocates before the courts of Scotland
• **www.barbri.co.uk** - Information on taking the American Bar Qualifications
• **solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk** – Lawtel, is a huge online resource from the Bodleian for news articles, legal journals, case comments and much more. Select OXLIP+Databases, then Lawtel
• **pupillageandhowtogetit.wordpress.com** - Simon Myerson’s blog “Pupillage and How to Get It” is another very useful resource
RELEVANT EVENTS

For upcoming events in this sector, see [www.careers.ox.ac.uk/barrister](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/barrister) log into CareerConnect ([www.careers.ox.ac.uk/careerconnect](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/careerconnect)) or see our e-newsletter. Also watch out from the weekly careers e-newsletter which contains a “Law” section, and the regular email bulletins from the Law Faculty if you are based there.

Highlights in 2014-15 include:

- The **Honourable Society of Lincoln’s Inn** 15th October 2014 time and location TBC.
- ‘**Careers at the Bar**’ by Inner Temple 30th October 2014 @18.30pm, Bodleian Library
- **Oxford Law Fair – November 8th 2014.** Approximately 15 Chambers will attend the Fair and Route to Pupillage session (led by 3 Verulam Buildings) @10.15am
- **Practice Pupillage interviews/workshop** location and date TBC
- Visit The **Oxford Law Society** and Oxford Bar Society websites for their events and mooting training
- Environmental Law Careers Event, usually held each Michaelmas, by the Environmental Law Association (at a London Chambers
- Chancery Bar Association usually hold an event during the year
- Also visit the Inn’s websites for their events
- National Pupillage Fair – usually March at one of the 4 Inns of Court

Each Inn has an undergraduate society, and the student Law Society and new Bar Society have active programmes of visiting speakers and other events, including mooting competitions. The Inns hold presentations in Oxford too.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR HEALTH ISSUES

Your personal circumstances regarding career choices, and whether you should or need to tell a potential employer about your circumstances (e.g. time out from studies owing to depression or health needs) is very personal. Although there is legislation which informs you of your rights and responsibilities, you may find it helpful to see a Careers Adviser. They can help you talk through your particular circumstances, to decide whether you wish to tell someone about your situation and issues, and - if you do decide to inform a recruiter - at what stage in the application process you might do so.

The Bar Council also run a panel of disabled Barristers (shortlink: [tinyurl.com/oh6pp9w](http://tinyurl.com/oh6pp9w)) who are keen to support students

Careers Advisers can also help you decide how to present your situation and potential needs effectively (often termed as disclosure). We have Careers Advisers who specialise in matters relating to disability and diversity. To arrange a discussion about your personal circumstances with a Careers Adviser, please contact our Reception Team on reception@careers.ox.ac.uk or telephone 01865 274646.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Frequent changes to visa rules affect international students and recent graduates wishing to work in the UK. Now, non-EEA graduates are most likely to gain permission to work by being sponsored by an employer under Tier 2 of the Point Based System. DPhil students nearing completion could apply for the Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme - allowing 12 months to remain in the UK to look for and start work or self-employment.

For those with entrepreneurial skills and a credible business idea endorsed by Oxford, Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) allows you an initial one-year’s permission to get your business up and running, with the possibility of extending for a further year. There are more limited opportunities in other visa categories.

For the most complete and up-to-date information, check Oxford University’s webpages (www.ox.ac.uk/students.visa) or the UK Council for International Student Affairs’ website (www.ukcisa.org.uk). You can also email student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk for specialist visa help.

MORE FROM THE CAREERS SERVICE

CAREERS ADVISERS
Sometimes you just need a little help – whether it’s feedback on your CV, preparation for interviews, or figuring out what to do next. Our Careers Advisers have direct experience in a wide range of sectors (e.g., in banking, medicine, consulting, teaching, charities, research and many more). Each has a special interest and shares their knowledge, so that any adviser can help you with your initial enquiries.

We offer up to thirty-six 15 minute 1:1 sessions every day between 10:30am and 4:30pm (and later on Thursdays in Michaelmas). You can book these online on CareerConnect. Some extra sessions run in departments, colleges and Exam Schools. In the vacations we also give advice by e-guidance if you’re not in Oxford: email us at guidance@careers.ox.ac.uk.

You can also talk to us at a Career Lounge, where specific topics are discussed in informal groups led by a Careers Adviser. For upcoming topics, see www.careers.ox.ac.uk/lounges.

THE CAREERS WEBSITE
www.careers.ox.ac.uk contains a wealth of advice and information, including all of our career briefings; guidance on deciding what career is right for you; statistics on what recent graduates have done after leaving Oxford; application advice - including sample CVs and cover letters; and our blog – with daily updates of careers news.

CAREERCONNECT
The password protected area of our site is your portal to browse upcoming events, to book workshops and advice sessions, to download books, and to search for jobs and internships (almost 8,000 opportunities were advertised during the last academic year). To find out more and log-in, see www.careers.ox.ac.uk/careerconnect.

THE RESOURCE CENTRE
At 56 Banbury Road you can browse our collection of careers books; read the latest sector periodicals; take away leaflets, booklets and brochures from national careers publishers - and meet with Careers Advisers. We’re open every weekday, except university and bank holidays, generally...
9am–5pm, with a 10am start on Thursdays, and a 7pm finish on Thursdays in Michaelmas. To check opening times, see our website (www.careers.ox.ac.uk).

**E-NEWSLETTER**
In term-time our weekly newsletter gives a summary of upcoming events, sector news, and opportunities to develop skills and boost your CV. It is mailed automatically to all students; Research Staff and alumni have to opt-in through CareerConnect.

**SOCIAL NETWORKS**

**FACEBOOK**
Join us at [www.facebook.com/oxfordcareers](http://www.facebook.com/oxfordcareers) to get reminders of our major events straight to your newsfeed, as well as last-minute news from employers.

**TWITTER**
Follow us at [www.twitter.com/OxfordCareers](http://www.twitter.com/OxfordCareers) to get careers related news and tips, and check out our lists to find a ready-made batch of interesting Twitter feeds for your chosen field.

**LINKEDIN**
A LinkedIn profile showcases your skills and qualifications, and is a phenomenal research tool to find people to contact, and learn about the background of those in your ideal job. We run a regular talk on how to create a profile on LinkedIn, and how to use the site to network. If you already have a profile, join our group: [www.linkedin/OxfordCareers](http://www.linkedin/OxfordCareers).