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Innovative Law Schools

Universities are challenging traditional law schools to meet expectations, says Jonathan Moules

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New legal minds raise teaching bar

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Innovative Law Schools

The head of graduate recruitment at Slaughter and May talks to Lindsey Fortado

How do you go about recruiting law students? The first point is the interesting and bizarre element of doing student studies to apply two years before on the day. We do make an application form, no specific but we look at their CV and we check that on social media. We advertise it’s about reputation. We find that it’s trickier to do the CV and cover letter for candidates we invited to the recruitment process. Last year we introduced a psychometric questionnaire for candidates to complete. We’re not ticking boxes but we’re looking for something more than their CV. This year we’re looking for something more about you. Our recruitment reforms are part of our strategy to attract graduates from different backgrounds.

Robert Byk: looking for grit and determination

How do you select among your recruits? There are people here who are about to find out about the different educational institutions in the UK. It’s about passing the interview — we apply the psychology of law firms. We’re looking for something more than their CV. We’re looking for something more about you. Our recruitment reforms are part of our strategy to attract candidates from different backgrounds.

Winning through Qualities top UK practices are looking for

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Robert Byk: looking for grit and determination

We’re interested in international or other cultural experiences, were interested in commercial interest in the line, we’re interested in resilience. I’m about a global outlook. More than ever before we’re going to need lawyers who are adaptable and agile, who are astute at securing deals and maintaining client relations, "Mr Wynne says. “We’re looking for people who will be great trainees these next five years. If you are an interesting and will be our colleagues. "We’re looking for people who will be great trainees these next five years. If you are an interesting

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Recruiters look beyond the TInted cv

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Not having the CV may be a slight advantage open meeting

If you find a Chinese student who studied in London, you could lose a potential candidate. They could be interested in different cultures. The world is a better place. We’d like to get to know people, get to know what they’re like. To see if they’re interested in different cultures. The world is a better place. We’d like to get to know people, get to know what they’re like. To see if they’re interested in different cultures.

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### Innovative Law Schools

#### Financial Times LLM programme listing 2015

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**Key:***
- **Currency:** £ = Pound Sterling
- **Dates:** Oct = October, Jan = January, Apr = April
- **EU fees:** Programmes for EU citizens generally offer reduced fees
- **Part-time programmes:** Available in some institutions
- **Financial aid:** Scholarships may be available

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#### Dual LLM, In Commercial Law

**Key Highlights:**
- Jointly offered by the Singapore Management University and Queen Mary University of London
- 14 month full-time integrated programme
- Opportunity to study in both Singapore and London

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Innovative Law Schools

Admissions overhaul for tough era

Applications Tide may be turning after enrollment hit lowest level for 40 years

Firms are considering hiring fewer law graduates, but schools are at pains to reassure would-be applicants. The average total debt was $151,000, according to a study by Law School Transparency, a US non-profit group, last year, up 40 per cent from 2010. But the number of US students enrolling at law schools in 2014 was the lowest in 40 years, at 44,090.

Surprise success stories regard hiring standards by committees and admissions boards. One law school in the UK, the University of the East Anglia, which is not in the top 50, has been able to attract high-quality students. The number of students enrolling at law schools in 2014 was at 44,090, down 40 per cent from 2010. But the number of US students enrolling at law schools in 2014 was the lowest in 40 years, at 44,090. The University of the East Anglia, which is not in the top 50, has been able to attract high-quality students.

Cincinnati Abraham, a new student at the University of Virginia School of Law, is a rising star of the first-year class. He has been offered a job at a law firm, but turned it down. "I have the right skills and experience. I don’t need the money. I want to work for a cause," he says. Peñalver, dean. The university is making its own admissions standards. The number of students enrolling at law schools in 2014 was the lowest in 40 years, at 44,090. But the number of US students enrolling at law schools in 2014 was the lowest in 40 years, at 44,090. The University of the East Anglia, which is not in the top 50, has been able to attract high-quality students.

For example in Cincinnati University Law School, which is based in Cincinnati, the number of students enrolling at law schools in 2014 was the lowest in 40 years, at 44,090. But the number of US students enrolling at law schools in 2014 was the lowest in 40 years, at 44,090. The University of the East Anglia, which is not in the top 50, has been able to attract high-quality students.

Gaining the edge via work experience

Corinna Clutterbuck, a new student at the University of Virginia School of Law, has been offered a job at a law firm, but turned it down. "I have the right skills and experience. I don’t need the money. I want to work for a cause," she says. Peñalver, dean. The university is making its own admissions standards. The number of students enrolling at law schools in 2014 was the lowest in 40 years, at 44,090. But the number of US students enrolling at law schools in 2014 was the lowest in 40 years, at 44,090. The University of the East Anglia, which is not in the top 50, has been able to attract high-quality students.

"If you don’t have that time to do your job, you’re going to have to work harder," Clutterbuck says. "I have the right skills and experience. I don’t need the money. I want to work for a cause," she says. Peñalver, dean. The university is making its own admissions standards. The number of students enrolling at law schools in 2014 was the lowest in 40 years, at 44,090. But the number of US students enrolling at law schools in 2014 was the lowest in 40 years, at 44,090. The University of the East Anglia, which is not in the top 50, has been able to attract high-quality students.

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Students think twice as competition rises

A legal career is less attractive than it was before the financial crisis, says Jane Crow

Law has been always regarded as an attractive and lucrative career, but for job hunters it has been intensified in recent years.

In the UK, the changing nature of the profession – highlighted by a greater reliance on lower-paid paralegals, more outsourcing of high-level clerical work to contractors and a decline in the number of appointments on long-term contracts – has made it harder for students to pay off debt.

"What has to be increased for a job at increased cost?

The University of Dayton’s School of Law has been one of the best law schools in the country for 40 years, according to US News and World Report. The school has been in the top 50 since 1987, when it was founded.

Law schools are starting to think of constructive, creative strategies to help students find opportunities in high-demand sectors, such as technology.

"Law schools are starting to think about creating environments that are incredibly rewarding," says Daniel Rodriguez, president of the Association of American Law Schools.

200 of the 200 top law schools in the US admitted students who were in the top 5 per cent of their class, which is considered to be “at the risk,” according to a study by Law School Transparency, a US non-profit group.

The test preparation industry is offering new courses to help students prepare for the LSAT, which is required by almost all US law schools.

"There is a great opportunity for hands-on experience," says Andrew Strauss, the dean, at the University of Connecticut School of Law.

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Innovative Law Schools

Thousands of hours of work for justice

Pro bono Students gain experience from supervised cases that can also change the lives of clients, says Jane Croft

For any criminal lawyer, the experience of being an accused in a case of capital crime is terrifying. But what makes one case, that of Dwaine George, stand out is the fact that much of the work done by Dwaine George’s team was undertaken under the supervision of lawyers who have been convicted of murder and sentenced to prison.

The innocence project movement has attracted thousands of long-term prisoners wanting it to take their case. Mr George’s appeal was based on scientific re-evaluation of the gunshot residue. Last December, the Court of Appeal acquiesced his case in 2010, along with six others in the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Mr George’s appeal was based on a legal advice centre. It was a modest fee for such advice, while pro bono services are lower than those of a typical pro bono clinic. Mr George was involved in the first university innocence project in the UK to secure a conviction. The aim of the course is to train future lawyers to be “real-life lawyers”.

The case was submitted to the Court of Appeal, which granted Mr George’s appeal. The course at University of the Arts, London, was set up in order to help future-proof the legal profession. The aim of the course is to train future lawyers to be “real-life lawyers”.

The course, Philosophy Behind Justice: How to bridge the gap between future lawyers and the community, is part of a teaching law firm. The course is part of the Legal Education and Training Board’s (TEL) training on how to change the lives of clients, says Jane Croft.

In the George case, some students went on to become lawyers and still took an interest after they left. Mr George says, adding that one of the students is now doing a PhD in miscarriages of justice.

The Esol course is unusual in that the students are not looking for work experience or to train for a career in the legal profession. Instead, Mr George says, they are looking for experience in correcting miscarriages of justice.

Sheona York, director of the Cardiac Law School Innocence Project, adds, “It is part of a teaching law firm. The course is part of the Legal Education and Training Board’s (TEL) training on how to change the lives of clients, says Jane Croft.

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Innovative Law Schools

Millennials demand start-up skills

New careers Many students aspire to entrepreneurial working lives, writes Jonathan Moules

A ny twenty-something who quits a legal career to join a start-up might be worried about his or her parents’ reaction. But for Romeen Sheth — whose mother and father run their own businesses and have nurtured their children’s entrepreneurial genes — making the leap was not a problem.

“Our dinner conversations were about business ideas and how industries were evolving,” the class of 2015 at Harvard Law School member explains. “Maybe not the most typical childhood.”

It helped that Mr Sheth’s employer operates in the legal sector. He is head of business development at Ravel Law, a San Francisco-based start-up that recently raised just under $10m and has entered a partnership with Harvard Law School to digitise the school’s entire case law collection.

“For the first time in history, US case law will be fully free and available to the public, and we are playing an integral role in that effort,” says Mr Sheth.

His parents might not be typical of baby boomers, who aspired to job security over going it alone, but he is typical of the millennials graduating from law school, for whom entrepreneurship is derigueur.

Across the Atlantic in Madrid, Matan Ganani moved from law school graduate and MBA student to co-founding Never Empty, an online auction site enabling Spanish football clubs to fill unsold match seats.

He claims to have always known his future lay in start-ups. But he does not regret completing formal education, and appreciates the knowledge acquired through his law degree.

“My legal education was phenomenal in helping set up the company when we needed to draw up agreements for shareholders, investors, my co-founder and suppliers,” he says.

“When you know what you are talking about, particularly in the early stages when you are pitching your business to investors, when you can talk about things like the right of first refusal, that is a huge validation of you as a business person.”

Mr Ganani spent much of his childhood in Israel, now recognised as one of the world’s most dynamic start-up cultures. But his enthusiasm was ignited after he left law school, when he moved to Spain to study for an MBA at IE Business School.

Both Mr Sheth and Mr Ganani were supported in their endeavours by Law Without Walls (LWOW), an educational model backed by the University of Miami, which connects students from 30 law and business schools around the world with academic, business, entrepreneurial and legal mentors.

“The number one way to teach entrepreneurship is to get people to do it,” says Michele DeStefano, LWOW co-founder and a professor of law at the University of Miami, where she researches and writes about growing relationships between law, business and legal innovation.

This year, the university opened an entrepreneurship law clinic, providing free legal advice as well as providing an insight for law students at the university into how start-ups operate.

Daniel Ravicher, who runs the clinic, started providing free legal work for technology company founders when he was in law school in the 1990s. “Miami has a booming start-up community and one missing piece of the puzzle is legal services for the earliest of start-ups who can’t otherwise get the legal assistance they need,” he says.

But not everyone is convinced about the wisdom of law schools adding entrepreneurship modules to the teaching schedule.

Fatos Selita trained as barrister and attorney, and as such has been able to practise law in the US as well as England and Wales. He is president of the UK Law Students’ Association, whose membership consists of more than 25 British university law societies.

Mr Selita acknowledges entrepreneurship is a useful skill, but does not think it would help aspiring law students in England and Wales, because, unlike in the US, a law graduate is not allowed to practise unless he or she is hired by a law firm, a set of chambers or other authorised training organisation.