Innovative Law Schools

Students face down schools

Inside Falling applications have convinced law schools that they need to offer new attractions to potential pupils. Page 2

Brexit threatens academic harmony
Britain's law schools face post-EU fall in foreign student numbers
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Race to the top
New attempts to improve ethnic diversity in law
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The world’s best LLM programmes
We list 91 of the top law schools for the qualification
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Law schools turn to ones and zeros
Students can learn to code or study online
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Innovative Law Schools

First year enrolment ("˜˜˜)

New-student numbers have been falling since ˜°˛° e ven as gender balance has improved °ˇ˘˝-

FT graphic   Source: American Bar Association

Law schools lose their charm

- /seven.lt/one.lt/seven.lt/zero.lt/seven.lt/five.lt-/seven.lt/six.lt/seven.lt/six.lt/seven.lt/six.lt/eight.lt/one.lt

Women

Men

S

/eight.lt/five.lt-/eight.lt/six.lt

2010, according to figures released by number of first-year students enter-

schools than today (204). The

$180,000, sparking a pay war.

After US firm Cravath Swaine &
law firms competed to lure young

After all, there are still lucrative jobs

december.

Admissions collapse continues

Law schools have had falling entries for five years and are being forced to innovate or face being left behind, says Jane Croft

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Since 2010, US law schools have experienced a drop in student admissions to a level not since since 1975, when there were 23 fewer schools than today (204). The number of first-year student enrolments has fallen from 53,000 to 46,000 in the latest enrolment numbers are due in

Innovative Law Schools

The national pool had got too small for us to have the same size and quality of class we

A student at Harvard Law School

But since the Great Recession, the job market for newly minted lawyers has become tougher as law firms have been laying off junior lawyers because their corporate clients have cut their legal spending. In addition, some of the work traditionally done by associates — conducting legal research, for example — is now less stable in a new digital world. These are not just a risk-free pass," she says.

The school has now introduced legal clinics, which offer free advice and assistance, as it seeks to reflect changes in the legal market, but Zearfoss says the evolution in legal education technology has happened already:

"The course allows students to be walked through the unit and both of past cases or develop more practical skills like civil judgments."

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Politics

Those who come to the UK to earn legal degrees could face higher fees, writes Jane Croft

— being meaning after the UK’s June referendum on leaving the EU, a legal website’s Facebook page had a picture which was viral. It showed a completely empty fnancial lecture theatre with the caption, “Meanwhile at the fnl law degree”.

For law schools, and many implications for university law faculties, ranging from the numbers of EU students who come to study in the UK to the context of law degrees which include a focus on EU law, the result shows Dame Julia Goodfellow, president ofUniversitas UK, saying how the EU would “create signifcant challenges for higher education.”

In 2016-17 there were almost 125,000 EU students undertaking higher education courses in the UK, according to Universities UK, of whom more than 76,000 were studying in England. Law was one of the most popular subjects.

The UK government has said that EU students applying for an place at an university in England will not face diffculties. The Higher Education and Research Act 2017, which was passed over the duration of their current programme, allows those holding EU students student numbers and access to courses will depend on the final Brexit deal. 

Acting dean at the Dickson Poon School of Law at King’s College London, said that “while there are some concerns about” the number of students who renew their studies because they are unable to attain the standards needed for trainee contracts and admission.

The scholarship includes one from an in-house development course and mentor to an interview for a trainee contract, the fund manager said. 

It is seen as one of the tough-est law exams in the world.

She saw a need not only for diversity but much more is needed too. 

Flagging empty British seats in the European Parliament may match empty seats in UK law schools

Innovative Law Schools

Will Brexit outlaw EU students?

Innovative Law Schools
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<th>School Information</th>
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<td><strong>Tufts University: Fletcher</strong></td>
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* The figures for minimum tuition, temporary or year. ** The table shows the average number of years of study. *** The numbers do not include continuing students. **** The numbers do not include students who have taken an additional year. §§ The numbers do not include students who have taken an additional year. §§§ The numbers do not include students who have taken an additional year. " Indicates the school has omitted one of its LLMs in this listing. " Indicates part-time study. 

For more information, please visit the Financial Times website.
Law school is no longer the only path into legal world

The legal profession has long been saddled with a perception of social mobility and the deployment of traditional methods. Many trainees at law firms are drawn from a narrow pool of elite universities. However, the number of paralegals is on the rise, and the legal profession is now welcoming would-be lawyers, writes Jane Croft.

Innovative Law Schools

Law firms like Linklaters, Freshfields and even mid-size Magic Circle firm Freshfields have beenamong those establishing qualifications for paralegals and solicitors. The year 2016, the firm first introduced an apprenticeship aimed at those with A-levels, the school-leavers’ exams taken by English pupils at age 18, which allows them to qualify as a solicitor after six years.

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A related, but more radical, change is that the Solicitors Regulation Authority, the legal regulator, is allowing solicitors to complete their training through an on-the-job approach instead of the traditional legal training by taking the Solicitors Qualifying Examination — a final two-part exam. This would also make it easier for training providers to develop flexible courses — including non-degrees and byตลอด education — to widen access to as wide a talent pool as possible.

A number of major firms — some of which are seen as leading employers — have announced they will train paralegals as part of the shake-up. Freshfields is training paralegals at its London offices.

The apprenticeship route is being championed by the government’s chancellor of the exchequer, Liz Truss, who was an accountant in the City before becoming a cabinet minister.

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From the classroom

Even university is no longer a requirement for would-be lawyers, writes Jane Croft.

Innovative Law Schools

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| FTR eports

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Lawyers learn a new code (and it is not an ethical one)

Law firms are increasingly outsourcing technology and data management to mitigate the risk of cyber attack and data breaches. Earlier this year, the New York Bar Council on Professional Conduct issued a formal advisory opinion on the ethical aspects of using artificial intelligence in legal practice. The advisory opinion ruled that using AI to conduct legal research is permissible, but that it should be used in conjunction with human legal professionals.

The trend toward technology in legal practice is not limited to large firms. Smaller firms and solo practitioners are also adopting technology to enhance their practice and improve client service. For example, the ABA Legal Technology Resource Center has developed a series of online courses to help lawyers learn how to use technology in their practice.

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Innovative Law Schools

In the US, the number of applicants and enrolments to law schools entered a downward spiral in 2011. Early indicators suggest 2016 may halt that decline, but it will not turn the tide. Last month, Indiana Tech University announced it would close its law school, with $20m losses, less than a year after it was provisionally accredited by the ABA. “The significant decline in law school applicants nationwide represents a long-term shift in the legal education field, not a short-term one,” explained the university’s president, Arthur Snyder.

Even elite law schools like Yale, Harvard and Stanford may need to explore and serve new markets for their legal education, before someone else does. “Law schools still using a pedagogy developed at Harvard almost a century and a half ago are slow to embrace change of any sort,” says Michele Pistone, professor of law at Villanova University and co-author of “Disrupting Law School”, a report published this year by the Clayton Christensen Institute. “Many law professors look upon technological change with about the same enthusiasm as they have for getting a tooth pulled.”

But according to David Amos, associate dean at the City Law School, University of London — which offers a distance learning LLM (master of law) in international business law — online programmes enable law schools to reach entirely new markets. “It allows us the possibility of addressing a broader audience both geographically and in terms of the profile of the students,” says Mr Amos.

“Students who can’t come to this country for visa or other reasons can now take our courses. Similarly, students in this country who would have difficulty in attending a face-to-face course for work or family reasons will now have more options open to them. They allow law courses to become more accessible.”

Technology also enables faculty to have an individual relationship with the student. “You’re able to monitor whether a student has accessed and engaged with the material. You can also check their progress by quizzes, tests and so on. This allows us to spot areas of concern and address them.” However, Mr Amos concedes that online programmes will not necessarily be cheaper to deliver, particularly since legal materials must be updated regularly. He also has reservations about whether online courses can create as many opportunities for social learning. “Students learn better in groups where they can engage well with other learners and their tutor,” he says. “You can set up mechanisms to do this online but I’m not sure that they fully provide the sort of ‘value added’ you get with good face-to-face teaching.”

In South Korea, the country’s law schools are pushing the government to develop a national online legal education programme. The Korean Association of Law Schools is supporting plans by the ministry of education to set up an online law degree programme at Korea National Open University to widen access to students through more affordable tuition. This is planned at a quarter of what annual tuition costs at private law schools.

Back in the US, law schools including Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania and Northwestern University Pritzker are experimenting with and developing free Moocs (massive open online courses). However, these are not credit-bearing and will not count towards a degree.

“I see law schools adding innovation on to the existing curriculum, but do not see a lot of change happening at the core. They’re using the new technology to sustain what they are already doing,” says Ms Pistone, who adds that Villanova University is setting itself up as a “disrupter”. So, rather than trying to change the incumbent institution, she and colleagues have started a new programme outside the law school that will train non-lawyers to represent immigrants in the court and adjudication system.

“It’s an example of using online technology to provide an education more tailored to the needs of students and the needs of the marketplace. I hope it will be a model for other law schools in the future.”