



# UCL FACULTY OF LAWS

# ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS

by current students for future students



# Welcome to UCL Laws.

This prospectus has been produced by the UCL Student Law Society to offer an alternative, student perspective on life as a law student at UCL.

We hope that you find it useful and informative as an 'inside guide' to one of the best law schools in the UK.

Words by appropriate committee members with contributions from Nick Grant. Collated and edited by Nick Grant. Photographs by Nick Grant and Simon Tysoe. Design by Simon Tysoe.

Many thanks to Allen & Overy LLP and The College of Law for their kind support, without which this prospectus would not have been possible. Their advertisements have covered the costs of printing this guide.

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# The Academics



## what's it like to study law at ucl?

Most of this prospectus will give you an idea of what is available to the law students here at UCL, but it would be remiss of us not to give you an idea of what the course itself is like.

First and foremost, if you like definite and unchanging rules, think carefully before you apply for this course – law is never settled, and it's not as easy as learning rules and applying them to facts. How nice that would be. Everything on this course can be argued one way or the other, and the law itself is in a constant state of flux. Even when dealing with something that has been settled for 300 years, someone somewhere will have argued that it should be changed. Sometimes these changes will come at the most inconvenient times imaginable – Nick Clegg unveiled his plans for constitutional reform 12 hours before last year's constitution exam. Whilst the common perception may be that law can be dry and static, this subject is very much alive, evolving and unpredictable. Some might even go so far as to say exciting...

It is also a massive step up from school or college. We are privileged here to be taught by some of the best academics in the legal world, most of

whom have written the leading textbooks in their field. They also tend to disagree (usually with each other) about what the answer should be – something that makes this subject so stimulating to study.

Every perception or idea that you have will be challenged at some point when studying law. You will be taught here in three settings – lectures, which contain the entire year group; seminars, which comprise of anything between a quarter and a half of the year group and are more interactive; and tutorials with a handful of other students. You will be assigned a tutor for each subject, as well as a personal tutor who will provide advice (and a reference) throughout your entire time at UCL.

**“ Every perception or idea that you have will be challenged at some point when studying Law. ”**

If you enjoy debate and discussion, can reason logically, think for yourself and express your views coherently, this could well be the subject for you.

# Accommodation



your parents call it 'digs'. but this isn't 1985.

Every first year student at UCL who lives outside of the M25 is guaranteed accommodation in a Halls of Residence, whether at UCL-only halls or intercollegiate ones. These are all close to College, with three quarters of UCL's halls within 10-15 minutes walking distance of the main campus.

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Upon accepting your offer from UCL, you will receive a form on which to state your preferences for what you would most like in a halls (single room, self-catering, close to UCL, en suite, an undying love for drum and bass, etc). The accommodation office will try and match your preferences as closely as possible. Most people come to love the halls they end up in, so don't fret about it in the slightest. Some (such as Ramsey) are slightly more sociable, whilst others (such as Frances Gardner) are divided into

flats, rather than putting 25 people to a corridor.

“ Most people come to love the halls they end up in, so don't fret about it in the slightest. ”

You'll also be faced with the choice of UCL-only halls against intercollegiate halls. Don't worry too much about this one either. You will meet more people from other London universities if you go into intercollegiate halls. But that may not be of benefit to some people, and you will meet just as many great friends at UCL-only halls. These can often be more sociable and perhaps more integrated as well. And whatever choice you make, friends are friends and you will make plenty. You'll love wherever you go.

If you wish to opt for catered halls, bear in the mind that you may not be back in halls for every dinner (and especially if you get heavily involved with extra curricular stuff). Having said that, food is food, and at least you will get a meal!

**L**ondon is a buzzing metropolis, a sprawling city that never sleeps, and home to many of the greatest minds in the world.

Even Einstein needed a day off once in a while, and with that much brain power looking to relax and unwind, it's no wonder that our Capital City can cater for every taste you have, might have, or will have in future. From the legendary Ronnie Scott's world famous Jazz Club to the internationally renowned Comedy Store, if you are looking for something other than a standard student night, we have you covered.

You could be seeing a West End show one night (at student prices, of course), before heading over to a classic screening by the Rooftop Film Club. Experience the wonder and mystique of Cirque du Soleil, or make it your personal mission to sample every one of the (literally) hundreds of cocktails on offer at Fifty Five Bar. And if you get tired of the 24 hour lifestyle, escape from it all amongst the natural beauty of Richmond Park or take a walk on Hampstead Heath.

London is England, and England is at your fingertips. Every sight is right on your doorstep, from Big Ben to Buckingham Palace, Oxford Street to the Oxo Tower, and everything in between!

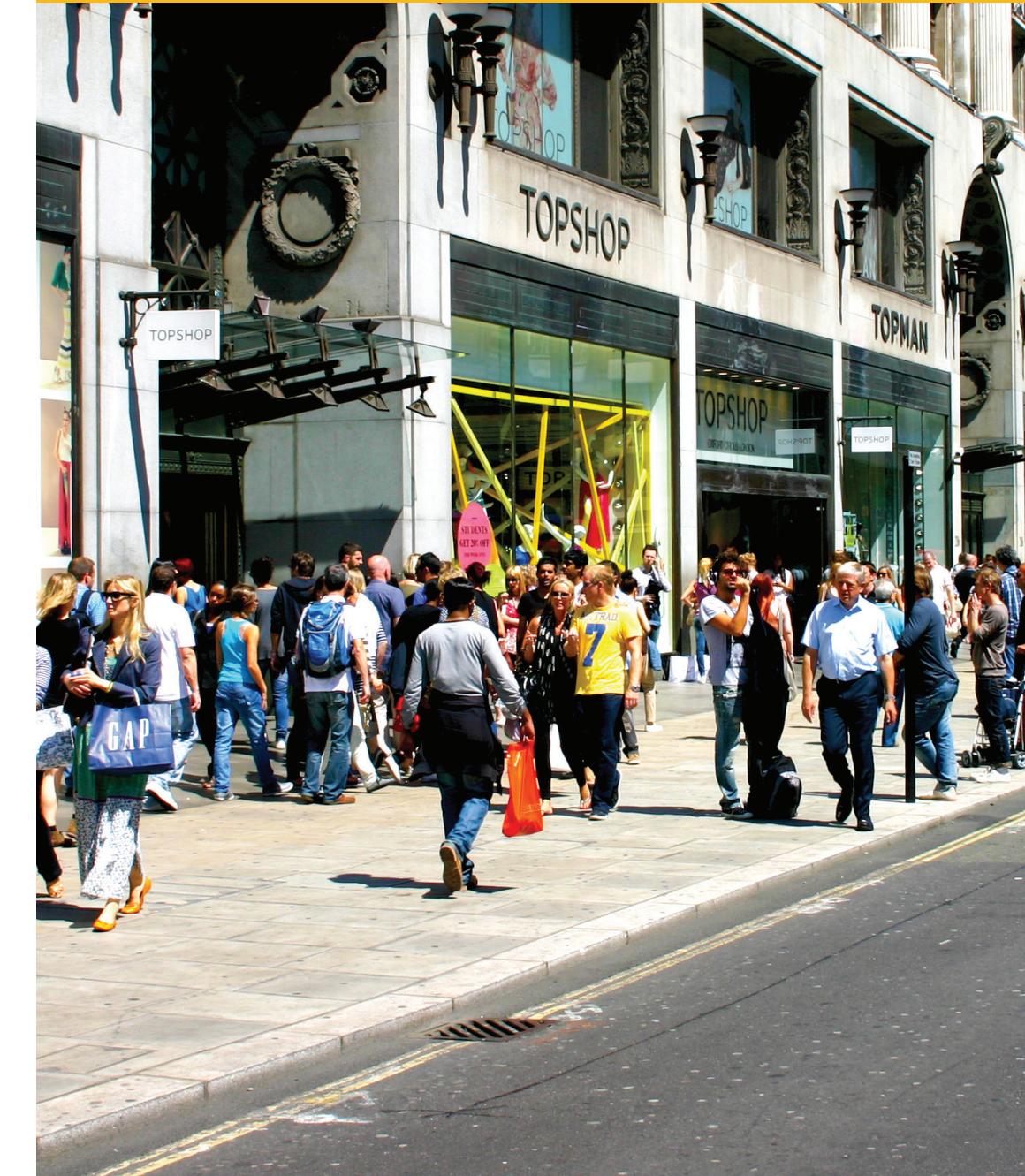
Having said that, if you are after a standard student night, London can do that bigger and better than anywhere else. Every pub, club and bar within walking distance of UCL caters for students, with student prices and even student loyalty cards (and it's just £1.50 entry to everyone's favourite Monday club). Although some other areas of the UK may be cheaper, there's nowhere that can match London. And rest assured that the extra money received through your maintenance loan, compared to studying in other parts of the UK, will help to cover the costs.

**“**Why, Sir, you find no man, at all intellectual, who is willing to leave London. No, Sir, when a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford. **”**

– Samuel Johnson

The fact is, living in London is very manageable (provided you don't make a habit of visiting Mayfair). And importantly, it will give you the best (and most varied) student experience of anywhere in the UK, perhaps even anywhere in the world.

# Living in London



# Student Life

When describing the life of a law student, the overused cliché of ‘work hard, play hard’ becomes extremely apt. The brilliant and diverse social calendar available to members of the UCL Law Society is certainly one of the areas that drums up the most excitement and gives rise to floods of jealous comments from students in other departments. It’s hardly surprising when you think about it...

As a law fresher at UCL, you will be flung straight into the fun side of life at Bentham House during the Society’s very own Freshers’ Fortnight. The staple events include a black tie boat cruise, bowling with a difference, paintballing and even a weekend in France! Throw in a few bar crawls, some nights out in the best venues that London has to offer and also a couple of chilled-out days in Camden and Regent’s Park and you’ve got a better introduction to life at university than you’ll find anywhere else!

And the events don’t stop there. Throughout the year you’ll have the opportunity to attend charity events, Hallowe’en and Christmas Balls and a social tour that has previously taken

‘Benthamites’ as far as Amsterdam and Copenhagen.

After all of this, we hit the big one – the Easter Ball. Traditionally held in one of London’s most prestigious five star hotels, the Easter Ball is the flagship event of the year and has people talking for weeks, before and after the Ball. The year is finally tied up by the post-exams end of year party, which is organised by the newly-elected Social Secretary (a position which may well be held by one of you next year!).

**“ When describing the life of a law student, the overused cliché of ‘work hard, play hard’ becomes extremely apt. ”**

The social life laid out for you really does enrich your experience as a law student at UCL and you’ll make some fantastic friends in the process. You would be crazy not to get involved!



# Competitions

## client interviewing and negotiations

The Law Society organises two vocational competitions each year. In Client Interviewing, you and your partner will interview a 'client' and attempt to ascertain their legal situation from the facts they give you.

Here you are judged on your ability to extract facts, analyse them and then deliver legal advice that the client can understand. This is a great skill to learn and will prove invaluable in any later career.

## debating

UCL Laws debating is an active and busy part of the UCL Law Society's calendar. Whether you're a seasoned public speaker, eager for your voice to be heard, or have no experience in debating but want to give it a go, there are opportunities for everyone.

The initial workshops provide a sound introduction to debating, even for the complete beginner, and lead into the relaxed Team Debating Competition open to all UCL Law students. There is an annual UCL v King's Debate with the team drawn from the internal, team competition. The second term plays hosts to the Individual Debating Competition, providing another great opportunity to take part. Even for those who don't compete, the annual

Magic Circle Debate is a fantastic opportunity to see lawyers from the top law firms in the UK battle it out, whilst a retreat with Kaplan Law School provides a fantastic weekend away in the idyllic Caer Rhun Hall, which last year offered an opportunity to hone your debating skills (as well as a free bar!).

**“** The annual Magic Circle Debate is always a fantastic opportunity to see lawyers from the top law firms in the UK battle it out . **”**

UCL Law Society debating offers something for everyone and everyone should give it a go.

In the Negotiations competition you and your partner will face another team in an attempt to ascertain the best possible deal for your clients. Here you will be judged on your ability to work effectively work with the other team to bring about a settlement that is favourable to both parties.

As a fresher, the first of these that you can involve yourself in will be the Junior Negotiations Competition, which will run in your second term at UCL.

## mooting

Debating is not the only chance for advocacy that we offer, however. We also have a calendar bursting with moot-y goodness just for you.

In a moot, two pairs of 'advocates' argue a fictitious legal appeal case. The best mooter does not necessarily have to win the legal case, but must make the best presentation of legal arguments.

**“** The competition has rounds throughout the year, culminating in a final judged by a Supreme Court Justice. **”**

Our main Junior Mooting Competition has rounds throughout the academic

There is no prior preparation needed so all you need to do is team up, sign up and bring yourselves on the night. In your second year you can start to involve yourself in client interviewing when you have amassed a little legal knowledge!

**“** This is a great skill to learn and will prove invaluable in any later career. **”**

year, culminating in a final judged by a Supreme Court Justice. Alongside the main competition, there are chances to take part in annual moots against King's, LSE and Oxford, and also the London University Mooting Shield (which we have won every year bar one since its creation). In later years, you could even be competing in one of the big international competitions, such as Telders or Jessup.

Never mooted before?! Don't fret! In October we hold a 'How to Moot' workshop, where wonderful external speakers will take you through the dos and don'ts of this fine art. After the workshop, the mini-moot rounds give you a chance to get in some mooting practice before the main competition begins.

# Give something back

We have a full calendar of pro-bono volunteering opportunities for those who wish to get involved. From shadowing opportunities with law firms and our excellent 'Crime and Citizenship' scheme, to a drop-in clinic run with Community Links, and even 'buddy days' with inner-city schools to persuade younger children that university is a fantastic and real opportunity for them.

“ We have a full calendar of pro-bono opportunities for those who wish to get involved. ”

We also send students to breakfast runs with City law firm Olswang for the Whitechapel Mission. And, of course, we have the wonderfully entertaining annual pro-bono talent show, where you can show off your talents or come and support your friends and have a great time, all for a good cause.

All proceeds from our talent show go to Opportunity International, which is an amazing charity providing valuable microfinance services to the many parts of the developing world.

“ We have even more fundraising activities ... such as our infamous Circle Line pub crawl! ”

We have even more fundraising activities to support other charities throughout the year, such as our infamous Circle Line pub crawl! Each experience is more rewarding than the last, and all of this is right on your doorstep!

“ Each experience is more rewarding than the last, and all of this is right on your doorstep! ”

# Our own magazine

Twice every year, the Law Society publishes a compilation of feisty, fiery opinions, interesting articles and delectable features in the form of Silk v Brief magazine.

“ Write for Silk v Brief. Put it on your CV. Get a job. ”

For any aspiring journalists among you, this is your chance to display

your flair for writing, ranting, or raising awareness for a particular cause you're passionate about. Each issue contains features, articles on student life in Bentham House and careers advice. You can even submit poetry or short stories, make people laugh, or just give them something to do other than read, write and talk about law.

Write for Silk v Brief. Put it on your CV. Get a job.



# Sports



we beat king's every year.

UCL Laws sports is a programme in flux. It has historically been strong, with regular fixtures against law firms and an annual match against King's College London.

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Looking forward, our goal is to both enhance the profile of sport and make our teams even stronger and more competitive. From next year, we will be entering our UCL Law rugby team into a Middlesex weekend league, putting UCL Laws rugby on a level with men's teams across London, and giving us many more fixtures over the season.

We will support this progression in rugby with more fixtures for football. This year, we have been playing in a London men's 5-a-side league as well as playing more games against other

law schools. Our long-term goal is to be playing full university-wide teams on a regular basis. (We aim high at UCL Laws!)

The sports calendar culminates in our annual varisty tournament against King's, where we go against them in rugby, football and netball.

As well as developing sports at the top end, we're also developing on a more recreational level, providing the opportunity for new sports, such as touch rugby, volleyball, hockey and rowing, depending upon demand from students and available resources.

“ There is a lot on offer here, and even if we don't offer your sport, the Union will. ”

In essence, there is a lot on offer here, and even if we don't offer your sport, the Union will.

# Jurisprudence Review

The UCL Jurisprudence Review was established in 1994 as the first academic student law review in the United Kingdom. Its primary aim is to provide an outlet for articles written by students in any area of legal philosophy.

It also hosts a series of annual events. Last year, the Review held a launch for its 17th volume, through hosting a distinguished panel of speakers debating 'Freedom of Speech against

Privacy'. At another event held in February of last year, "The Morality of the Financial Crisis", a panel of judges and academics discussed the impact of the financial crisis on legal theory.

The Review approaches jurisprudence from many different angles and is open to new and original thought, and whether you want to read it, write for it, edit it, or help finance it, you can get involved from day one -- most of our positions are open to first years.



# Human Rights Programme

The UCL Student Human Rights Programme (UCLSHRP) is one that continues to go from strength to strength.

Working with the Institute for Human Rights, this student body oversees a number of initiatives. These include the publication of the annual Human Rights Review, the coordination of the UCL European Court of Human Rights Moot with finals in Strasbourg, and the grassroots programme that teaches human rights courses in schools across London. Others also include the truly fascinating work of the Intervention Action Team and the maintenance of a website that seeks to inform and stimulate with articles and debate.

Further to this, there's an excellent calendar of events organised for the UCL community to get involved in, including a human rights Fresher's week, as well as a series of seminars, lectures, film viewings and various discussion groups. Other initiatives

include a careers service and human rights bulletin.

“ The programme has and is being nominated for awards and has also been featured in the Guardian newspaper. ”

A number of leading names have been associated with the programme in the past, notably Baroness Hale and Shami Chakrabati. The programme has been and is being nominated for awards and has also been featured in the Guardian newspaper.

For the UCL Student Human Rights Programme to continue to develop, it relies entirely on volunteers just like you getting involved. Become part of something truly unique and exciting (the only organisation of its type in the UK) and sign up!

# Careers

thinking about your future, from day one.

UCL Laws' careers programme is simply unrivalled. With at least one (sometimes two or three) careers events each week, featuring only the very best of the legal world, you're sure to be fully engrossed by the schedule. During the year you'll be sipping champagne with law firms on the London eye, pitching a business idea to a Dragon's Den-style panel of solicitors, and wining and dining at London's fanciest offices, to mention but a few of our events!

Our careers programme aims to be as rich and diverse as possible. That's

why you'll gain excellent exposure to everything from corporate law to sports law, application workshops to mock interviews, and even alternative careers such as journalism, banking and consultancy.

**“ UCL Laws' careers programme is simply unrivalled. ”**

Being in central London, UCL is in the perfect location for students to exploit the wealth of opportunities on offer, and we're proud to say that we do.

Our **bar careers programme** has been designed to cater for all students with an interest in going to the Bar, no matter the area of law in which they wish to specialise. Events throughout the year offer a range of opportunities, with speakers joining us from the best barristers' chambers in London. Topics of these evenings will include overviews of the bar as a whole, tips for applying for pupillages or mini-pupillages, and more detailed looks at individual areas of law.

These events are also invaluable for

the networking prospects that they bring, with food and drinks receptions afterwards where students can ask the speakers questions about their experiences at the bar, and get advice on how to succeed. The highlight of the year for prospective barristers is undoubtedly the Barristers' Cocktail Party, which takes place during the first week after the February reading week. It provides the perfect setting for students to meet over a hundred successful barristers and begin to establish networks that often prove to be invaluable in later life.



# Your legal training

At The College of Law you'll get the best possible start to your legal career. We have centres in Birmingham, Bristol, Chester, Guildford, London, Manchester and York and offer more course options in more locations than any other law school.

Our innovative courses are designed and taught by lawyers, with a clear focus on building the practical skills, commercial awareness and independent thinking you'll need to succeed in the modern world of law. Our training is designed to help you think and act as a lawyer from day one.

You'll benefit from excellent tutor support, state-of-the-art IT facilities and access to unrivalled online and offline learning methods and resources – and all relevant course materials, text books and case books are included in your fee.

From the moment you accept your place with the College you gain full access to our Law Careers and Employability Service with the best team of legal careers advisors in the business. They provide one-to-

one guidance on the recruitment process and to support this, you will also have access to skills workshops. These provide detailed focus on core career skills such as researching employers, writing legal CVs and applications, interviews and assessment centres. Our unique online database, Jobsearch, contains full details of legal vacancies, training contracts and pupillages sourced and regularly updated exclusively for College of Law students every year.

We also offer over 3,000 places on our award-winning pro bono projects. All students are able to take part in at least one of our programmes, which provide valuable first-hand experience. In addition, we have over 600 places on our mentoring scheme (the largest in the country) as well as employer talks and workshops, enabling you to network with lawyers in practice.

From all of the support and resources available, you can see why so many UCL students have chosen The College of Law to continue their legal training.



## We help more lawyers get their first job in law than any other law school

Because we work with 94 of the top 100 UK law firms and 4 of the 5 top global firms, our students are better placed to launch their careers. That's just one of the reasons why 84% gained training contracts or other legal work within months of passing their LPC.

If you're serious about law, qualify with the leaders in law.

The full range of courses to prepare you for your legal career: GDL/LPC/BPTC/JD/LL.M  
Flexible full-time, part-time and S-mode options available nationwide

**The College  
of Law**  
believing in your future

Based on known destinations of students passing the full-time LPC in summer 2010

Registered charity



To find out more join the Future Lawyers Network  
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or call 0800 289997



## Thinking allowed

To be a lawyer at a leading international firm you have to be able to form a view on complex issues.

### Try it, make a case.



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## A global law firm

Allen & Overy LLP is an international legal practice with approximately 4750 staff, including some 480 partners, working in 40 major centres worldwide. Our clients include many of the world's top businesses, financial institutions and governments. Starting your career with Allen & Overy means starting at the top of international commercial law. We are renowned for the high quality of work within Banking, Corporate, International Capital Markets advice, but also have major strengths in areas such as Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Employment & Benefits, Tax and Real Estate.

We work closely with the careers service and Law Society at UCL to ensure that students are aware of the excellent opportunities we have to offer. We recruit around 90 trainee solicitors each year and offer a truly flexible training contract. You can expect the most interesting work in a unique culture of support and mutual respect. Your tailored training contract is designed to give you the best start to your career. We also offer vacation placements and open days that run regularly throughout the year. These are a great way to get to know us better and experience first-hand our work and culture.

We recognise there are lots of talented students studying law, and other subjects, at UCL. This is why we continue to support and work collaboratively with the Law Society. As a key sponsor we host bespoke events on campus exclusively for UCL students, including workshops, presentations and networking sessions. These are a great opportunity to get a feel for the type of firm we are, the work we do, and the people who have already joined. They are also a good way of getting your questions answered and gaining further insights into our culture and values.

Choosing a career in law and choosing the right law firm are two important, and separate, decisions – especially when firms can, from the outside, appear so similar. It can feel like there's a mystique about law – especially when you start talking about the global elite. In reality, there's no mystery at Allen & Overy, just a lot of very bright people working very hard together to help our clients' achieve their goals. What you need to decide is whether you like the look of the work, the clients and the people – especially the people.

# note from the overseas student rep.

If you're reading this, then you are at the exciting junction of your life where you get to choose where to spend the next couple of years of your education. At the same time you are probably slightly anxious about the big move and independence that are to come, even more so if you are moving far from home. Fear not – at UCL Laws we have everything you will need to make you feel at ease.

Each committee has a dedicated Overseas Student Representative, whose job it is to welcome all of our international students to UCL Laws, and ensure that it is everything you have hoped. They will organise sightseeing, social, and cultural events around London, ranging from theatre trips, through a Hallowe'en Ghost Bus Tour, to a day trip to Hampton Court Palace, and even more. They will also organise a careers event tailored to the needs of international students and send out fortnightly bulletins with information about what's going on at UCL and in London.

The support network at UCL Laws is impressive – it consists of the Faculty and its members, a personal tutor and the Law Society and its Committee.

Apart from the foregoing, you will also be assigned a 'law parent' or two, who will become your unofficial mentors during your time as a Fresher.

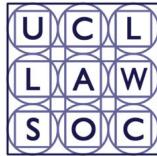
For those of you reading this outside of the EU, the student visa process may seem daunting, but rest assured that UCL will help with any issues that you may have. The first thing you should do is apply as soon as you can. For this, you must have an UNCONDITIONAL confirmation of studies. After completing the Confirmation of Academic Support Form and returning it to the Student Records Office, UCL will generate your CAS number. Use this number to complete the VAF9-PBS Migrant application form and the Appendix 8 General Student self-assessment form. As long as you can prove that you can support yourself while in the UK, this process should be relatively easy.

So before all that malarky begins, if you are global in outlook and have a competitive edge, yet understand the importance of a social life, sooner or later you are bound to feel at right at home at London's self-styled 'Global University'.



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ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS  
by current students for future students

Produced by UCL Law Society



[ucllawsoc.com](http://ucllawsoc.com) // UCL Law Society // Bentham House, WC1H 0EG

Cover photo © Nick Grant 2012   Design and layout © Simon Tysoe 2012   Words © UCL Law Society 2012

Image credits      Gower Street, Embroidered logo and Magazine collection © Simon Tysoe 2012

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