Monday November 21 2016

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Students face down schools

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



Inside



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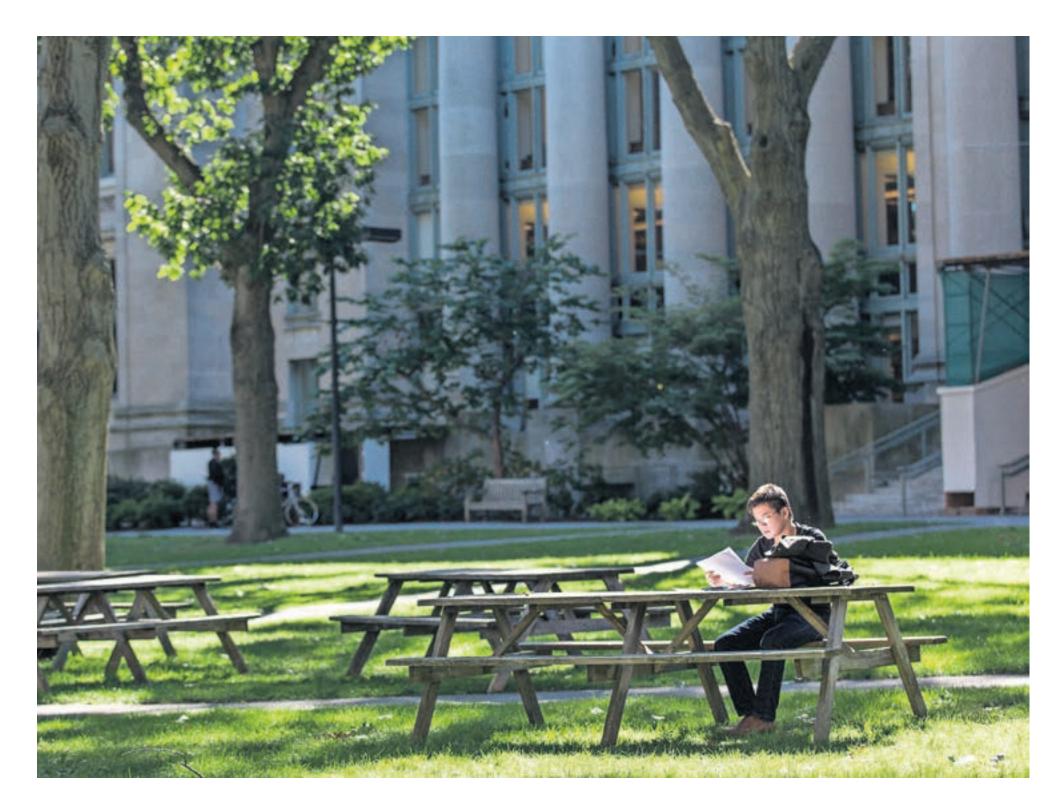
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Admissions collapse continues

national

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

ince 2010, US law schools have experienced a drop in student admissions to a level not seen since 1973, when there were 53 fewer schools than today (204). The number of first-year students entering law school in 2015 dropped to just above 37,000 compared to 52,000 in 'The 2010, according to figures released by the American Bar Association. The latest enrolment numbers are due in pool had

December. So why have numbers been falling? 901 100 After all, there are still lucrative jobs Small for US around. Earlier this year Wall Street to have the law firms competed to lure young lawyers with lucrative pay packages Same Size after US firm Cravath Swaine & Moore raised the annual salary and quality offered to first-year associates to Of Class' \$180,000, sparking a pay war.

But since the Great Recession, the **A student** jobs market for newly minted lawyers sits alone at has become tougher: most law firms Harvard have been taking on fewer recruits Law School because their corporate clients have Getty cut their legal spending. In addition, some of the work traditionally done by young lawyers – such as document discovery - is now being outsourced to cheaper locations like India or is being automated by new technology. As a result, many students are wary about taking on a sixfigure debt from law school tuition fees without the prospect of a guaranteed job at the end.

Yet many law schools have responded to the challenging conditions by thinking creatively about what they offer – including a greater focus on skills-based instruction.

Conscious that a juris doctor (JD)

degree, the qualification to become a lawyer, costs an average of \$34,600 per year in tuition fees, reaching almost \$60,000 at an elite law school, some institutions are also offering compressed, shorter degrees or add-on subjects like computer science or healthcare.

Barry Currier, managing director of the legal education section at the American Bar Association, which accredits more than 200 law schools, says a compressed course of two years rather than three can have advantages for some. "Some schools are designing programmes like two-year JDs as no degree can be less than 24 months under our rules. You can speed things up and that gets you into the job market," he says. "Twenty years ago law students could work in summertime in [legal] fields and maybe cover their New-student numbers have been falling since "°," e ven as gender balance has improved

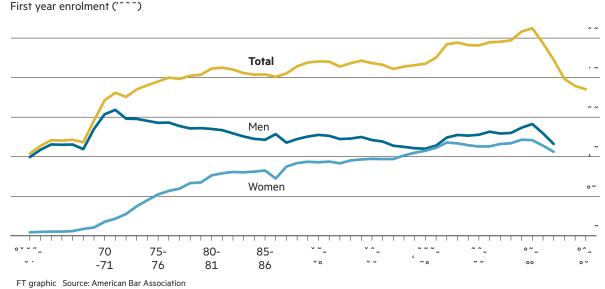
tuition for the following year, so taking three years did not seem too bad. That's less the case now."

Some law schools have created financial inducements, such as New York's Pace Law School, which sets tuition charges for out-of-state students at the same rate as their local law schools. Others have reduced the grade scores in the entry test known as the LSAT.

Law schools are responding to the attraction and utility of jointly studying law and business; New York University and Havard are offering JD/ MBA programmes. Students at Northwestern University, for example, can earn a juris doctor from the Northwestern School of Law and a MBA from the Kellogg School of Management in three years - rather than the five it would take to complete both degrees separately.

In a 2015 address Blake Morant, then president of the American Association of Law Schools, said that the "current tough times have compelled sity of Illinois College of Law now gan Law School, says she made the us to think more creatively about pedagogy and curriculum".

He also pointed to new programmes that explore the intersection of classroom doctrine and the real world; some schools such as Sarah Zearfoss, senior assistant dean Notre Dame Law School and Univer- for admissions at University of Michi- legal clinics, which offer free advice skills like oral arguments.



offer semester-long "externships" in major US cities, he said.

Law schools lose their charm

The tougher market has compelled maintain the quality of students.

decision in 2011 to shrink the class from 360 to about 300. "The national pool had got too small for us to have some schools to cut class sizes to the same size and quality of class we had had for many years," she says.

The school has now introduced

and assistance, as it seeks to reflect changes in the legal market, but Ms Zearfoss says this evolution in legal education would have happened anyway. The course allows students to be walked through the nuts and bolts of

Falling student numbers hit revenue too. Barry Currier of the ABA points out that law schools look to other income streams by offering more degrees beyond the basic JD, targeting international students or running masters degrees or non-JD programmes that are aimed at people who do not want to practise but to go into a related area like compliance.

Despite these actions, some question whether law school student application numbers will ever return to 2010 levels. A 2014 report by Moody's, the rating agency, about US law schools concluded that the decline in student demand "is consistent with our belief that the legal industry is experiencing a fundamen tal shift rather than a cyclical trend".

But for the students who have set their heart on law, now is seen as a good time to apply to law school: the tough jobs market has deterred some less committed students. While the outcome for graduates, says Sarah Zearfoss, "frankly was rough" for a couple of classes graduating after 2010-11, that has got better despite the gloomy headlines about falling enrolments. "The media has had a function in making people realise it is past cases or develop more practical not just a risk-free pass," she says. "You have to want to do it."



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Will Brexit outlaw EU students?

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

> he morning after the UK's June referendum on leaving the EU, a legal website's Facebook page had a picture which went

viral: it showed a completely empty lecture theatre with the caption, "Meanwhile at the 9am EU law lecture . . ."

The decision to leave the EU has many implications for university law faculties, ranging from the numbers of EU students who come to study law in the UK to the content of law degrees which include a focus on EU case law. Speaking after the result, Dame Julia Goodfellow, president of Universities UK, said leaving the EU would "create significant challenges for universities"

In 2014-15 there were almost 125,000 EU students undertaking higher education courses in the UK. according to Universities UK, of whom more than 78,000 were studying at undergraduate level. Law is one of the most popular subjects.

The UK government has said that EU students applying for a place at an English university in 2017 will still be eligible for student loans and grants over the duration of their course. However, after Britain has left the EU, future student numbers and access to loans will depend on the final Brexit deal hammered out between the EU and the UK.

Some academics fear future arrangements will be less generous and that EU students might be reluctant to study for a UK law degree if there is no guarantee they can stay on to work afterwards

However, Professor Ben Bowling, acting dean at the Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London, says there are no indications yet of a Brexit effect depressing student recruitment at King's. It has 13 applicants for every undergraduate place and around 80 or 90 EU students in an average 250-strong intake. He believes that students will continue to come to the UK to study law because of the importance of English law, which is used to underpin global business contracts and is used in public international law.

Studying English law also means students have a knowledge of the 'Law firms around the common law system – some 27 per cent of the world's 320 legal jurisdictions use English common law, legal education in the UK' including fast-growing economies



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

world are impressed by a

such as India. "If you want to practise in the international realm then you and vice dean of staffing at University need to have some legal knowledge of College London's law faculty, says London operations. the common-law systems such as the there are some concerns about stu-UK, Hong Kong and Singapore," Prof Bowling says.

in London's High Court now involves international parties. In 2015, nearly 1,100 claims were issued in the Commercial Court, of which more than two-thirds involved at least one non-UK party, according to a July 2016 report from lobbying group TheCitvUK.

Piet Eeckhout, professor of EU Law dent numbers following Britain's EU nationally-minded students, for withdrawal. However, "the attrac- some of whom English is their second Most business litigation conducted tions of London are not linked to the or third language, who want to take EU. Students are taught in English and English law is often the language "The globalisation of legal services of international contracts, and law and the number of European transatfirms around the world are impressed lantic mergers means if you want to by a legal education in the UK."

education team, believes that in the less large.

years after Brexit it is likely that numbers of EU university students will fall because students may have to pay higher tuition fees – around £16,000 – rather than £9,000 now.

Much will depend on the final Brexit deal, he says. He thinks that law as a subject will be less affected because of the global nature of the legal profession and law firms. "I don't think that will change and so because of that the number of EU students studying law might not fall as badly as other subject areas."

He says one option is that UK universities could set up campuses in Europe to offer courses to European students. He points to the LLM in Paris programme, which covers English law and is taught in English. Developed by the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, the LLM leads to a Queen Mary University of London qualification. "I think you will see more of this," Mr Priestley says.

Not many UK students go to Europe for legal degrees. Sixty-nine British students, for example, are studying for undergraduate or postgraduate qualifications in law at Maastricht University. The university has sought to reassure its students that during the exit negotiations, which are expected to take two years or longer, British students will still be EU students.

Since Brexit, more UK students have also been investigating whether they should gain qualifications recognised globally, such as the New York Bar exam to become a US-qualified attorney. It is seen as one of the toughest law exams in the world.

Sarah Hutchinson, managing director of Barbri International, an organisation which helps students prepare for the New York Bar exam over several months, says the number of inquiries about sitting the exam doubled in the two weeks after Brexit. In 2014, Barbri helped prepare 35 students to sit the exam; this year this has risen to more than 500.

The broad reason for the increased interest is that commercial lawyers have to work on multijurisdictional deals undertaken by global clients and the bar exam gives students international knowledge and an edge in the job market – particularly as US law firms have been expanding their

"We are seeing really savvy, interthe bar exam," says Ms Hutchinson. work for a big commercial firm you Martin Priestley, partner at Pinsent have to compete in the global jobs Masons and head of its international market." In this context, Brexit looms

Innovative Law Schools

Seeing the law in black and white

Diversity

Firms are starting to consider equal representation, says Sarah Murray

Since 2013, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, one of London's elite Magic Circle law firms, has supported a very particular kind of scholarship. The Freshfields Stephen Lawrence Scholarship Scheme is named after a young black British man murdered in a racially motivated attack in 1993, and is open only to black men from low-income households. Importantly, to redress the industry's huge racial imbalance, it offers more than money.

While there is £3,500 in financial assistance for each scholar, "the money is helpful but the more interesting ele- they can drop out during their ment is the development prosays Annette Byron, a partner at Freshfields who leads the firm's scholarship schemes and diversity and social mobility programmes.

The scholarship includes everything from an in-house make up only 1.4% development course and mentoring to an interview for a training contract, the final stage of a legal education.

The need is certainly there. For example, according to because of time constraints. research which the National Association for Law Placement that African and Caribbean Lovells published in 2016, African-American lawyers make up working part-time to support only 4 per cent of associates their studies or have to spend and 1.4 per cent of partners in more time travelling to their New York City law firms.

At the University of Minnesota Law School, programmes include one designed for prospective students from groups historically under-represented in law school. It helps undergraduates and recent graduates with preparation for law school admissions and practice for LSAT exams (part of the admission process in countries such as the US and Canada). The programme is free; a \$100 deposit is required but is refunded on completion.

While the university also offers scholarships that are funded by law firms, "the scholarships are usually in tandem with a work opportunity for students as well," says Sarah Rohne, the University of Minnesota Law School's employer relations director.



Cordella Bart-Stewart, executive director of the Black Solicitors Network in the UK, sees enthusiasm for studying law among young people from the African and Caribbean studies because they are unaneeded for training contracts and tutelage.

African-Americans of partners in New York law firms

This may be, she says, She cites research suggesting students are more likely to be



schools because they are living with their parents.

academic support but also for assistance in developing softer skills. "It is not enough that communities, but she says firms might offer scholar- universities to change the graduating - AFP; Getty, Reuters ships," she says.

"It's the practical things that gramme and the mentoring", ble to attain the standards help retention and progression, which is a big problem for minorities, like mentoring, peer-to-peer support and improving social skills."

> Purely financial scholarships still have their place. Since last March, Durham and York universities and the London School of Economics have been granting bursaries to undergraduate law students from underprivileged backgrounds through a scheme funded by law firm Hogan

At New York's Columbia Law School, a programme established by Baker & McKenzie in 2015 offers a \$50,000 scholarship to Masters of Laws students from outside the US and western Europe who can demonstrate academic achievement and a need for financial support.

Some argue that efforts to encourage more diverse students to become lawyers need to start before they have applied to university. "If you wait until university level, the breadth of students choosing a career in the law has already narrowed," says Sarah Gregory, inclusion and diversity partner at Baker & McKenzie.

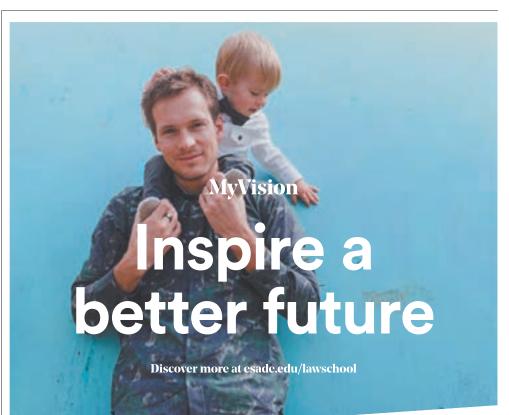
She explains that, in addition to scholarships, the firm places a strong emphasis on making outreach efforts among students aged 16 and up and "giving them a bit of insight into what it's like to work in a law firm".

need for universities and law **President Obama at Chicago** She sees a need not only for firms to work together to Law School; a block of flats increase diversity in the legal profession. "What's important for the sector is relying on the Harvard Law students

Like others, she sees the **Clockwise from above:** in Tower Hamlets, a poor but diverse part of London;



dvnamic but also reaching out and doing other things to speed up the process of change," she says. When it comes to diversifying the legal world, money is necessary but much more is needed too.



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Financial Times LLM programme listing 2016

91 of the top Masters of Laws providers: schools are categorised by region and listed alphabetically by country

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Harvard UniversityIddamaIddamaHarvard University: MaurerUS60Loyola University ChicagoUS80New York UniversityUS129Northwestern University: PritzkerUS130Southern Methodist University: DedmanUS49Stanford UniversityUS62Temple UniversityUS62The Pennsylvania State University: PennUS62Tufts University: FletcherUS60Tulane UniversityUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS63University of California, Los AngelesUS79University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MichiganUS63University of MichiganUS63University of Pennsylvania0563University of PennsylvaniaUS63University of San DiegoUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of San DiegoUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63Uni	Y	80	11	Y	Y	9	155	63	62	Y	\$47,520	Y	18	21	5	12	Y	\$47,520	Y	Intellectual Property	41	Both
Indiana University: MaurerUS60Loyola University ChicagoUS80New York UniversityUS129Northwestern University: PritzkerUS130Southern Methodist University: DedmanUS49Stanford UniversityUS62Temple UniversityUS62The Pennsylvania State University: Dickinson awUS62Tufts University: FletcherUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS63University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of Florida: LevinUS48University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MinnesotaUS44University of MinnesotaUS63University of MinnesotaUS63University of San DiegoUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern CaliforniaUS63University of MinnesotaUS63University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of Southern California: GouldUS71	Y	120	18	Y	Y	9	450	71	58	Y	\$57,576	Y	18	100	10	37	Y	\$46,800	Y	General Studies	135	Full-time
Loyola University ChicagoUS80New York UniversityUS129Northwestern University: PritzkerUS130Southern Methodist University: DedmanUS49Stanford UniversityUS62Temple UniversityUS62Temple UniversityUS26The Pennsylvania State University: Dickinson Tate LawUS60Tulane University: FletcherUS56Tulane UniversityUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS93University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of GeorgiaUS48University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MichiganUS63University of MichiganUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS63University of San DiegoUS63University of San DiegoUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63 <td>Y</td> <td>143</td> <td>1</td> <td>Y</td> <td></td> <td>10</td> <td>181</td> <td>98</td> <td>54</td> <td></td> <td>\$63,618</td> <td>Y</td> <td>N/a</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>N/a</td> <td></td> <td></td>	Y	143	1	Y		10	181	98	54		\$63,618	Y	N/a							N/a		
Loyola University ChicagoUS80New York UniversityUS129Northwestern University: PritzkerUS130Southern Methodist University: DedmanUS49Stanford UniversityUS62Temple UniversityUS62The Pennsylvania State University: Dickinson Tare LawUS63Tulane University: FletcherUS56Tulane UniversityUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS60University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MineisotaUS60University of MichiganUS60University of MichiganUS60University of Pennsylvania0561University of PennsylvaniaUS60University of MichiganUS63University of MichiganUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63 </td <td>Y</td> <td>60</td> <td>1</td> <td>Y</td> <td>Y</td> <td>9</td> <td>40</td> <td>100</td> <td>50</td> <td>Y</td> <td>\$42,000</td> <td>Y</td> <td>N/a</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>N/a</td> <td></td> <td></td>	Y	60	1	Y	Y	9	40	100	50	Y	\$42,000	Y	N/a							N/a		
Northwestern University: PritzkerUS130Southern Methodist University: DedmanUS49Stanford UniversityUS62Temple UniversityUS62The Pennsylvania State University: Dickinson LawUS64Tufts University: FletcherUS60Tulane University: FletcherUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS93University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of Florida: LevinUS74University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MichiganUS60University of MichiganUS60University of PennsylvaniaUS60University of Pennsylvania0561University of MichiganUS60University of MichiganUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of	Yı	80	es 9		Yes	9	40	75	++	+	\$33,291	+	18	89	7	++	t	\$33,291	+	++	++	++
Southern Methodist University: DedmanUS49Stanford UniversityUS62Temple UniversityUS62The Pennsylvania State University: PennUS64Tufts University: FletcherUS60Tulane UniversityUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS60University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of California, Los AngelesUS79University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MichiganUS82University of MichiganUS63University of PonsylvaniaUS63University of San DiegoUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of TexasEductionUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63 <td>Y</td> <td>129</td> <td>10</td> <td>Y</td> <td>Y</td> <td>9</td> <td>445</td> <td>77</td> <td>51</td> <td></td> <td>\$61,622</td> <td>Y</td> <td>18</td> <td>++</td> <td>++</td> <td>++</td> <td></td> <td>++</td> <td></td> <td>++</td> <td>++</td> <td>++</td>	Y	129	10	Y	Y	9	445	77	51		\$61,622	Y	18	++	++	++		++		++	++	++
Southern Methodist University: DedmanUS49Stanford UniversityUS62Temple UniversityUS62The Pennsylvania State University: PennUS64Tufts University: FletcherUS60Tulane UniversityUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS60University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MichiganUS82University of MichiganUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS63University of MichiganUS63University of MichiganUS63University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of TexasVS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of TexasVS63University of TexasVS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63Unive			5	Y	Y	4	286	87	50		\$61,706	Y	6	8	38	0		\$74,040	Y	General	121	Full-time
Stanford UniversityUS96Temple UniversityUS62The Pennsylvania State University: Dickinson LawUS64The Pennsylvania State University: Penn State LawUS64Tufts University: FletcherUS60Tulane UniversityUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS93University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of Denver: SturmUS74University of Florida: LevinUS60University of GeorgiaUS60University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MinineUS80University of MichiganUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of TexasUS63University of TexasUS63University of TexasUS63University of TexasUS63University of TexasUS63University of TexasUS63	Y		3	Y	Y	12	54	79	55	Y	\$51,097	Y	17	0		0	Y	\$51,097	Y	LLM For Foreign Law School Graduates		Full-time
Temple UniversityUS62The Pennsylvania State University: Penn State LawUS46Tuffs University: FletcherUS56Tulane University: FletcherUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS93University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Florida: LevinUS48University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of Illinois at Urbana-ChampaignUS44University of MichiganUS80University of PennsylvaniaUS63University of San DiegoUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of TexasUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of Southern California: GouldUS63University of TexasUS6363University of TexasUS6363University of Southern California: G	Y		4		Y	9	67	100	55		\$56,079	-	N/a	-							22	Full-time
The Pennsylvania State University: Dickinson TawUS26The Pennsylvania State University: Penn State LawUS46Tuffs University: FletcherUS56Tulane UniversityUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS93University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of Denver: SturmUS74University of Florida: LevinUS79University of GeorgiaUS48University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MiamiUS82University of MinnesotaUS63University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of Southern California: GouldUS72	Y		5	Y	Y	10	30	96	52		\$27,374	Y	16	104	10	40		\$30,648		General LLM for Graduates of Foreign	25	Both
LawUS46State LawUS46Tufhe Pennsylvania State University: PennUS56Tulane University: FletcherUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS93University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of California, Los AngelesUS79University of Florida: LevinUS48University of Florida: LevinUS60University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MiamiUS80University of MichiganUS82University of MichiganUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS67University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of TexasUS95	v		1	v		0	1	100	100	Y	\$46,176	v	N/a	104		-0		\$30,040		Law Schools N/a	25	bom
State LawImage: Constraint of the constra	v		1	v		0	32	100	38	Y	\$46,176	Y	N/a							N/a		
Tulane UniversityUS60University of California, BerkeleyUS93University of California, Los AngelesUS120University of California, Los AngelesUS74University of Denver: SturmUS74University of Florida: LevinUS79University of GeorgiaUS48University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MiamiUS80University of MichiganUS82University of San DiegoUS48University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of TexasUS95			1		Y	7 0	15	80	60		\$43,712	v	N/a							N/a		
University of California, BerkeleyUS93University of California, Los AngelesUS120University of Denver: SturmUS74University of Florida: LevinUS79University of Florida: LevinUS48University of GeorgiaUS48University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of Illinois at Urbana-ChampaignUS44University of MiamiUS80University of MichiganUS63University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of TexasUS95			5	V	Y	10	55	88			\$52,554	·	16	0	0	0		\$52,554	V		20	Full-time
University of California, Los AngelesUS120University of Denver: SturmUS74University of Florida: LevinUS79University of GeorgiaUS48University of GeorgiaUS60University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of MiamiUS80University of MinesotaUS82University of MinesotaUS63University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of TexasUS95	Y		2	ř	Ť	10			50 49	+		r V		0	0	0		Ş52,554	T		20	Full-film
University of Denver: SturmUS74University of Florida: LevinUS79University of GeorgiaUS48University of GeorgiaUS60University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of Illinois at Urbana-ChampaignUS44University of MiamiUS80University of MichiganUS63University of MinesotaUS63University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of TexasUS95	Y		1	Y	Y	0	419	95		Y	\$55,000	Y	N/a							N/a		
University of Florida: LevinUS79University of GeorgiaUS48University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of Illinois at Urbana-ChampaignUS44University of MiamiUS80University of MichiganUS82University of MinnesotaUS63University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of TexasUS95	Y			Y		9	148	99	51		\$58,813	Y	N/a	40		50		477400		N/a		
University of GeorgiaUS48University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of Illinois at Urbana-ChampaignUS44University of MiamiUS80University of MichiganUS82University of MinnesotaUS63University of San DiegoUS67University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of TexasUS95	Y		4	Y	Y	9	30	50	50	Y	\$37,128	Y	18	19	0	50	Y	\$37,128	Y		22	Both
University of Houston Law CenterUS60University of Illinois at Urbana-ChampaignUS44University of MiamiUS80University of MichiganUS82University of MinnesotaUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS67University of San DiegoUS48University of TexasUS95	Y		4	Y	Y	9	105	20	35		\$19,326	Y	N/a							Taxation	71	Full-time
University of Illinois at Urbana-ChampaignUS44University of MiamiUS80University of MichiganUS82University of MinnesotaUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS67University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of TexasUS95	Y		1	Y		10	15	100	53		\$19,026	Y	N/a							N/a Energy, Environment and Natural		
University of MiamiUS80University of MichiganUS82University of MinnesotaUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS67University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of TexasUS95	Y		6	Y	Y	9	54	70	55	Y	\$40,000	Y	36	11	73	32	Y	\$40,000	Y	Resources	30	Full-tim
University of MichiganUS82University of MinnesotaUS63University of PennsylvaniaUS67University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of TexasUS95	_		1	Y		9	72	100	63		\$49,500	Y	N/a							N/a		
University of Minnesota US 63 University of Pennsylvania US 67 University of San Diego US 48 University of Southern California: Gould US 71 University of Texas US 95	Y		8		Y	10	66	38	60	Y	\$48,000	Y	24	24	21	50	Y	\$48,000	Y	International Law	29	Both
University of PennsylvaniaUS67University of San DiegoUS48University of Southern California: GouldUS71University of TexasUS95	+		2	Y	Y	9	41	95	49		\$58,062	Y	N/a								34	Full-time
University of San Diego US 48 University of Southern California: Gould US 71 University of Texas US 95	Y		3	Y	Y	10	73	100	52		\$43,244	Y	18	0	0	0		\$43,244	Y	American Law	60	Full-time
University of Southern California: Gould US 71 University of Texas US 95	Y	67	1	Y		10	114	100	51		\$57,242	Y	N/a							N/a		
University of Texas US 95	Y	48	5	Y	Y	10	78	38	++	+	\$39,240	Y	14	11	0	++	+	\$39,240		Taxation	25	Full-time
	Y	71	2	Y	Y	9	215	100	49	Y	\$59,576	Y	12	56	100	28		\$48,363	Y		215	Full-time
University of the Pacific: McGeorge US 47	Y	95	5	Y	Y	9	36	94	50	+	\$29,608	Y	N/a							Global Energy, International Arbitration and Environmental Law	12	Full-time
	Y	47	3		Y	10	13	85	38	+	\$30,240	Y	18	10	80	30	+	\$30,240	Y	Transnational Business Practice	15	Both
University of Virginia US 80		80	1	Y		10	49	99	39	Y	\$59,300	Y	N/a							N/a		
University of Washington US 65	Y	65	7	Y	Y	8	140	70	55	+	\$26,100	Y	+	45	10	50	+	\$26,100	Y	Taxation	75	Both
University of Wisconsin-Madison US 80	Y Y	80	2	Y	Y	9	72	98	70	+	\$33,000	Y	N/a							Legal Institutions	50	Full-time
Vanderbilt University US 69	Y Y Y	69	3	Y	Y	9	60	100	67		\$52,682	Y	N/a							General Course Track	58	Full-time
Wake Forest University US 56	Y Y Y Y	56	1	Y		10	19	100	37	Y	\$43,594	Y	N/a							N/a		
Latin America	Y Y Y Y Y																					
FGV Direito SP Brazil 17	Y Y Y Y Y	17	2	Y	Y	18	12	0	46	Y	R\$49,500	Y	18	82	0	30		R\$76,104		Mestrado Profissional (Professional)	82	Part-tim
Europe	Y Y Y Y Y																					
College of Europe Belgium 150	Y Y Y Y		1		Y	10	116	95	61	+	€24,000	Y	N/a							N/a		

Innovative Law Schools

Financial Times LLM programme listing 2016

91 of the top Masters of Laws providers: schools are categorised by region and listed alphabetically by country

School information							Full-time (FT) study							Part-time (PT) study							Popular LLM		
Law school	Principal country	Full-time and permanent faculty number *	Law degree or equivalent required §	Number of LLM programmes	General LLM §	Specialised LLM §	FT minimum length (months)	FT student enrolments 2015/16 §§	FT international students 2015/16 (%) §§	FT female students 2015/16 (%) §§	Internships available for FT students §	FT minimum tuition **	FT scholarships available §	PT minimum length (months)	PT student enrolments 2015/16 §§	PT international students % (2016/16) §§	PT female students 2015/16 (%) §§	Internship available for PT students §	PT minimum tuition **	PT scholarships available §	Most popular LLM ***	Student enrolment numbers for most popular LLM 2015/16 ***	Study mode for most popular LLM - full-time, part-time or both ***
Edhec Business School	France	91		1	Y		10	42	10	59	Y	€18,000	Y	N/a							N/a		
Institute for Law and Finance, Goethe University, Frankfurt	Germany	10		2		Y	10	59	90	60	Y	€16,000	Y	24	2	0	0		€22,000	Y	Finance	49	Both
University of Heidelberg	Germany	50		1 ##		Y	12	16	20	20		€8,000	Y	24	13	20	20		€8,000	Y	++		
Alba Graduate Business School	Greece	20	Y	1		Y	N/a							16	15	13	73	Y	€12,500	Y	N/a		
University College Dublin: Sutherland	Ireland	30	Y	6	Y	Y	11	54	46	35		€8,270	Y	23	13	15	33		€8,260		International Commercial Law	24	Both
European University Institute, Florence	Italy	13	Y	1	Y		13	9	89	67		€0 +++	Y	N/a							N/a		
University of Luxembourg	Luxembourg	23	Y	6		Y	23 *	77	97	53	+	€800 *	Y	47	2	100	50	+	€1,600	Y	Droit Bancaire et Financier Européen	18	Both
Tilburg University	Netherlands	200	+	6		Y	12	293	68	53	+	€2,006	Y	N/a							International Business Law	85	Full-time
Católica Global School of Law	Portugal	35	Y	2	Y	Y	10	40	50	60	+	€12,000	Y	N/a							Law in a European and Global Context	21	Full-time
CUNEF	Spain	64	Y	3	Y	Y	10	60	11	45	Y	€16,000	Y	N/a							Banking Law	30	Full-time
Esade Law School	Spain	21	Y	3 * *	Y	Y	9	39	46	51	Y	€19,500	Y	9	49	22	57	Y	€14,500	Y	International Business Law	39	Full-time
IE Law School	Spain	9	+	11		Y	10	236	11	49	+	€29,700	Y	13	13	0	53		€24,200	Y	Double Master in Lawyering	76	Full-time
IEB — Instituto de Estudios Bursátiles	Spain	10	Y	1	Y		15	25	0	44	Y	€12,000	Y	N/a							N/a		
ISDE	Spain	54	Y	20	Y	Y	12	576	68	55	Y	€18,000	Y	12	637	69	48	+	€12,000	Y	International Law, Foreign Trade and International Relations	35	Full-time
Universidad Pontificia Comillas: Icade	Spain	58	+	8	Y	Y	10	186	14	74	Y	€15,840	Y	20	11	40	64	Y	€15,840	Y	Law Practice	83	Full-time
The Graduate Institute, Geneva	Switzerland	12	Y	4		Y	10	97	100	65	+	SFr15,000	Y	N/a							International Law	18	Full-time
University of St Gallen	Switzerland	12		1		Y	N/a							18	25	56	40		SFr38,500	Y	N/a		
City, University of London	UK	15	Y	5	Y	Y	12	148	++	++		£11,000	Y	24	56	++	++		£11,000	Y	Master of Laws	146	Both
King's College London: Dickson Poon	UK	99	+	11	Y	Y	12	415	94	57		£15,000	Y	24	15	93	67		£15,000		International Financial Law	111	Both
Lancaster University	UK	47		9	Y	Y	12	47	81	64		£6,500	Y	24	1	0	0		£6,500	Y	International Business and Corporate	20	Full-time
London School of Economics and Political Science	UK	69	Y	2	Y	Y	12	266	54	55		£14,208	Y	24	46	84	48		£14,208	Y	LLM	271	Both
Nottingham Trent University	ик	120	+	9	Y	Y	12	74	45	47	+	£6,500	Y	24	9	0	66	+	£6,500	Y	Oil, Gas and Mining Law	14	Both
Queen Mary University of London	UK	++	+	29	Y	Y	12	634	57	63	+	£10,950	Y	24	25	16	48		£10,950		Commercial and Corporate Law	107	Full-time
The University of Law	ик	187	+	6		Y	10	1239	9	60		£11,200	Y	18	557	12	73		£8,500		LPC MSc Law, Business and Manage- ment	720	Both
University College London	ик	63	Y	17	Y	Y	12	370	82	65		£14,370	Y	24	8	40	60		£14,370	Y	International Commercial Law	55	Both
University of Aberdeen	UK	35	+	20	Y	Y	12	200	80	49		£4,500	Y	24	2	0	0		£4,500	Y	Oil and Gas Law with dissertation	39	Both
University of Birmingham	UK	57	Y	5	Y	Y	12	75	45	++		£7,290	Y	24	8	0	++		£7,290	Y	International Commercial Law	27	Full-time
University of Bristol	UK	63	Y	10	Y	Y	12	94	90	74		£8,100		24	2	0	50		£8,100		Commercial Law	61	Both
University of Cambridge	UK	77	Y	2	Y	Y	9	177	89	47		£15,000	Y	N/a							LLM	155	Full-time
University of Glasgow	ик	50	+	8	Y	Y	12	143	66	60	+	£7,700		24	8	13	75	+	£7,700		International Commercial Law	50	Both
University of Kent	ик	86		15	Y	Y	12	153	80	75	+	£6,040	Y	24	17	1	8	+	£6,040	Y	International Commercial Law	30	Both
University of Leeds	ик	69	+	8		Y	12	120	80	60		£7,500	Y	24	5	0	100		£7,500	Y	International Business Law	30	Full-time
University of Liverpool	ик	62	+	4	Y	Y	12	58	59	66	Y	£5,700	Y	24	81	89	35	+	£5,700	Y	International Business Law	81	Part-time
University of Oxford	υκ	95	Y	4	Y	Y	9	204	88	44		£19,213	Y	24 ***							Bachelor of Civil Law	102	Full-time
University of Reading	ик	30	+	12	Y	Y	12	88	90	++	+	£7,000		24	2	++	++	+	£7,000		International Commercial Law	25	Full-time
University of Southampton	ик	38	Y	7	Y	Y	12	116	62	62		£9,000		24	2	0	50		£9,000		Maritime Law	98	Full-time
University of Warwick	UK	66		5	Y	Y	12	91	69	66		£7,780	Y	24	5	20	60		£7,780		International Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation	36	Both
Asia-Pacific																							
Deakin University	Australia	63	Y	3	Y	Y	9	++	++	++	+	A\$26,000	Y	18	++	++	++	+	A\$26,000	Y	++	++	++
The University of New South Wales	Australia	71	Y	1	Y	Y	12	38	92	55	Y	A\$31,920	Y	24	35	3	71	Y	A\$31,920	Y	N/a		
University of Melbourne	Australia	200	Y	2	Y	Y	10	80	90	50	Y	A\$39,484	Y	24	120	2	45	Y	++	Y	Master of Laws	141	Both
University of Sydney	Australia	80	Y	1	Y		12	199	80	56		A\$34,000	Y	24	280	0	58		A\$34,000	Y	N/a		
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	51		3		Y	12	175	6	81		HK\$111,120	Y	24	57	5	61		HK\$111,120	Y	International Economic Law	119	Both
The University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	80	+	7	Y	Y	12	83	64	++		HK\$42,100	Y	24	113	0	++		HK\$42,100	Y	Corporate and Financial Law	89	Both
Victoria University of Wellington	New Zealand	37	Y	1	Y		12	12	70	50	+	NZ\$8,000	Y	18	15	0	50		NZ\$8,000		N/a		
National University of Singapore	Singapore	110	Y	10	Y	Y	12	118	94	69		S\$34,700	Y	N/a							International Business Law	48	Full-time
Footnotes: * The figures show the total nu			ing at the	law scho	l ol as of Se	 entember	1 2016 T		ers includ	l le all tenu	l red and te		I		as full-tim	l ne lecture	I rs. They a	l Iso includ	l e ioint appo	intments		l rent univ	ersity

Footnotes: * The figures show the total number of full-time faculty working at the law school as of September 1, 2016. The numbers include all tenured and tenure-track professors, as well as full-time lecturers. They also include joint appointments with another department within the parent university, if any. The figures do not include visiting, temporary, adjunct or part-time faculty, ** The table shows the lowest tuition fees (in local currency), for example, for local students. Please contact the school or visit its website to find out the tuition fees for international students. Please note fees may be subject to change. For some schools, part-time fees can be paid in instalments over the duration of the course. *** If the school offers more than one LLM, this column shows the most popular LLM based on the number of enrolments for the 2015-16 academic year. The numbers do not include continuing students. * Depends on programme. ** No data provided. *** The school are offers or enrolling on nationality or €12,000. ** The school are offers or enrolling on the school strated studying for their LLM in the 2015-16 academic year. The numbers do not include continuing students. Course start dates vary for each school and some have more than one start date in the year. Note: This table was compiled from law schools that completed a Financial Times survey in 2016.

Law school is no longer the only path into legal world

Beyond the classroom

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

The legal profession has long been criticised for its lack of social mobility and its deployment of traditional recruitment methods.

Many trainees at top law firms are drawn from a narrow slice of universities: a recent survey into social mobility at law firms by Byfield Consultancy found that more than 80 per cent of legal trainees at the top 50 firms were from the Russell Group of top UK universities

In the Russell Group, private school pupils are over-repreAn intern runs to deliver a Supreme Court decision

sented: they form 25 per cent private schools.

taken by English pupils at age as possible". 18, which allows them to qualify as a solicitor after six years.

"It means you can come out debt-free and qualify as a solicthe apprentices had excellent A-levels with As and A*s and could have gone to university but chose to do this instead."

well as work experience – a big plus for those worried about racking up student debts. The first eight apprentices who started in September were selected from hundreds of opplications

The apprenticeship route is being championed by the government. In September, Lord Chancellor Liz Truss was ensure a more diverse legal (Apprenticeships asked about how she would profession given the costs of a are] a big degree. She replied that she was a "huge fan of apprentice- opportunity for ships" and the government's Some of our large plan to create 3m apprenticeships "brings a big opportunity for some of our large legal serv- Liz Truss, Lord Chancellor ices firms".

Law firms like Horwich Farof students, when only 6.5 per relly and even elite Magic Cir-his employer at the time. cent of schoolchildren attend cle firm Freshfields have been among those which have taken But there is a growing on apprentice paralegals from number of alternative routes school. Freshfields is partnerinto law. One recent initiative ing with the University of Law three-year law degree, folto help promote diversity in to launch a new paralegal lowed by a year's Legal Practhe profession has been apprenticeship scheme in its tice Course and then two years' apprenticeships for would-be legal services centre in Manparalegals and solicitors. This chester. Olivia Balson, head of year Eversheds, the law firm, the legal services centre at the Legal Practice Course introduced an apprenticeship Freshfields, says the scheme alone can cost more than aimed at those with A-levels, ensures that the firm "has the school-leavers' exams access to as wide a talent pool

A related, but more radical, change is that the Solicitors Regulation Authority, the legal regulator, is now allowing indiitor and get a degree whilst you viduals to be admitted as solicearn," says Catherine Knight, itors under its "equivalent graduate recruitment man- means" system, provided that ager at Eversheds. "Many of they have the right quality and quantity of experience.

In 2015 Robert Houchill became the first paralegal to be admitted as a solicitor with-Starting on a salary of up to out doing a training contract £17,200, the apprentices work after working for a number of full-time and study part-time, years and demonstrating "a eventually gaining an LLB considerable amount of evi-(bachelor of laws) degree as dence" of his standard, accord-



legal services firms'

ing to Bates Wells Braithwaite,

By contrast, the more traditional route to becoming a solicitor in England and Wales is largely academic, involving a in-house training.

This can be expensive and £15,000. Trainee solicitors are signed off as competent to practise at the end of their training contracts by one of about 2,000 law firms but there is no mechanism for firms to compare standards.

The SRA is now looking at overhauling legal training by creating a new Solicitors Qualifying Examination – a final two-part exam. This would also make it easier for training providers to develop flexible courses – including non-degree or work-based routes - to widen access.

Crispin Passmore, executive director of policy at the SRA, says the creation of one twopart exam would improve diversity by giving confidence that all new solicitors have reached the same standard. This is hard to assess while 100 universities offer law degrees and thousands of law firms offer training contracts.

The new exam would also allow able students who had not attended an elite university or who had come up through a work-based route to shine, says Mr Passmore.

"If you are the first in your family to go to university and go to a modern university, then if your marks on the SQE show off your skills you will be able to show that around potential employers."

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al awareness is increasingly seen by law firms as an essentia international perspective into curricula, so students can develop business acumen to complement their technical skills.

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FINANCIAL TIMES Make the right connections

Innovative Law Schools

Founders such as Uber's Travis Kalanick have inspired law students, says Rebecca Knight

How to bring out every lawyer's inner entrepreneur

avla Acklin has a manageable caseload but one client keeps her particularly busy. The client, a Boston-

developed a mobile app for small businesses, is seeking new investment, and Ms Acklin is helping the company prepare for this process by attorney supervises these activities. issuing shares, writing contracts with developers and drafting other agreements. But she is not a lawyer – yet.

Ms Acklin is a third-year student at Boston College Law School (BC Law University of Pennsylvania Law for short), enrolled in the school's Entrepreneurship & Innovation Clinic, which gives students practical exposure to "entrepreneurship law": employment, intellectual property, licensing, regulation. "I feel like this Ms Acklin.

entrepreneurship programmes to between things like gross margin, their curricula, law schools are fol- profit and revenue." lowing suit by establishing clinics Last year, Boston University School for would-be lawyers to advise early- of Law and MIT set up a clinic to help stage ventures. The clinics allow student entrepreneurs. "We have prospective attorneys to get hands-on seen an uptick in the number of our to be financially literate. experience representing entrepre- law students wanting to either repreneurs and they let entrepreneurs, sent entrepreneurs or become entrewho may be students or locals, preneurs themselves," says Maureen language of business' obtain free legal advice on how O'Rourke, dean of BULaw.

to commercialise their ideas. In the clinics, law students shepherd founders through the basics of employment law, help them negotibased start-up that has ate contracts with vendors and guide them through the legal and regulatory compliance issues around trademarks and copyrights. A licensed

> The clinics provide good practice for aspiring attorneys, says Bernice Grant, clinical supervisor of the Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic at the School. "Our students have to quickly get up to speed and learn about the industry in which their clients operate," she says.

As universities around the US add ness and understand the difference

Ms O'Rourke attributes the rising demand for legal entrepreneurship education to shifts in the economic landscape. The prospect of working with a founding team of the next Facebook or Uber is a powerful attraction for students. "Our students grew up in an era unlike any other," she savs

"The rapid pace of technological change combined with the transition from a hard-goods economy to an intellectual economy has made students much more open to, and interested in, opportunities in start-ups. It's part of the culture."

Lynnise Pantin, the founding director of the entrepreneurship clinic at "You don't need to have an MBA [to BC Law, says that the changing job

> 'You don't need to have an MBA, but you do need You need to speak the

which led to an oversupply of lawyers for available jobs.

In order to make their students more competitive after their education, many law schools have transformed their approach to training firm jobs [are disappearing], people them. "Today's law schools have are being more creative about finding adopted a more service-oriented model," Ms Pantin says.

Students, ever mindful of what they are paying to get their law degree, are becoming more careful about securing the training they need to launch their professional lives. The entrepreneurial hotspots and help average private law school tuition hovers around \$42,000 according to ture capitalists. Law School Transparency, the research group.

advise companies], but you do need market for lawyers is also driving the about where they want to focus [their make connections, network and get client's business is in my hands," says to be financially literate. You need to trend. The global financial crisis careers]," says Ms Pantin, adding that ideas for other things they can do be able to speak the language of busi- forced many firms to downsize, the vast majority of BC Law students with their law degree.' who participate in the entrepreneur- Ms Acklin says the experience ship clinic are preparing for either a working at the clinic has helped cryscareer working with new ventures or tallise her career plans. She has one in corporate transactional law. secured a job with the law firm Cooley "They are driven and feel that this is after she graduates next year and will what they want to be doing after they continue working with early-stage get their degree."

neurship clinic at the University of doing is maintenance work," she says. Michigan Law School is one of its "But with start-ups, you're helping most sought-after programmes, themgrow."

according to Dana Thompson, its director. "This generation of students is excited about innovation and the idea of being an innovator," she says. "And at a time when traditional law other professional opportunities."

The career paths of clinic alumni vary, according to Ms Thompson. Some students do, indeed, end up taking jobs at big law firms; others move to Silicon Valley or various run businesses; others become ven

"Our role is to try to immerse students in the entrepreneurial ecosys-"Students are much more targeted tem," says Ms Thompson. "They

companies. "Working with an estab-Founded in 2012, the entrepre- lished company, a lot of what you're



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

Technology

Sticking to words is no longer enough, reports Jane Croft

For the past six years, Georgetown University Law Center in in areas like cyber security or Washington has held Iron Tech the law of robots, or by creat-Lawyer, a competition where ing practical, skills-based teams of students compete to modules. develop legal apps before showing them off to a panel of judges.

semester, teams of students around veteran disability benare assigned to work with legal efits. "This is a very complex services organisations and, area of the law ... but it can be using software packages, cod- reduced to an app that can ing and more, build a program which will provide easier claims to benefits and come up access to justice.

Law firms are increasingly embracing technology and hiring coders or artificial intelligence experts to help them automate routine work once undertaken by junior lawyers. A number of schools are responding to this by introducing technology-focused topics

The Iron Tech Lawyer comaddress a thorny legal prob-At the beginning of the lem, such as navigating the law walk through a person who has

William Treanor, dean of Georgetown Law.

Vermont Law School also runs a course where students have to translate a legal problem into an app or prototype. The work is not only practical but academically challenging, says Oliver Goodenough, director of the Center for Legal Innovation and professor at them a literacy in technology, Vermont Law School. "Stu- and so they feel comfortable are exporting your knowledge, petition expects students to you need to know it completely – there is nothing like creating a piece of software to show what you don't know."

Some law schools demonstrate a greater degree of comfort with technology in law. Georgetown lets would-be lawyers learn to code using with their entitlement," says Python programming lan-

guage, and students can simulate applying the law during a cyber attack exercise. The school even has a link with engineers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study the legal and technical aspects of privacy problems. The goal "is not to turn lawyers into technologists but to give dents benefit because if you talking to engineers", says Mr Treanor.

He adds that technology is constantly changing the law. "It's creating new areas of practice that did not exist 10 years ago like cyber security and data privacy," he says. "It's creating questions in traditional areas of the law, so for example are Uber drivers contractors or employees - that kind of question. Even 10 years ago those who graduated from law school spent all their time with millions of documents that discovery required - and now some of that is more likely to be dealt with by algorithms," he says.

Daniel Rodriguez, dean of the Pritzker School of Law at Northwestern University, says that his school is encouraging links with other faculties such as engineering. He points to the NUvention programme, where law students form teams with their counterparts from medicine, the MBA course and engineering to create a medical device. "Some 75 per cent of inventions will end up as learning tools and 25 per cent will end up being the basis for business plans," he says.

There are broad social considerations. Mr Rodriguez says that IT is changing human behaviour in fundamental ways and it is important to "not just understand the technology under the hood" but also to understand the ethical issues around it too.

Tanina Rostain, a professor at Georgetown Law, says that technology and law are becoming much more closely combined and IT experience can help students stand out in the jobs market. "For traditional law firms it's good to have students who know their way round technology," she Creating areas of says, adding that some law firms are now hiring for new roles such as legal solutions exist 10 years ago' architects.

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Secret code: tech is a new legal avenue – Getty

'Technology is

practice that did not

those in the UK, are some way behind the US. Richard Susskind, a technology adviser and co-author of The Future of the Professions, says the global legal profession is on the brink of unprecedented upheaval and believes some of the more repetitive work in law - such as reviewing documents - will soon be automated at a much cheaper cost.

However, there is concern

that other law schools, such as

In a lecture entitled "Upgrading Justice" given last month, Prof Susskind praised the "many exciting research centres and initiatives in US law schools", but complained that in many UK law schools, "law is being taught as it was in the 1970s", with no focus on new areas like AI or globalisation. "It dismays me and worries me more than anything," he said.



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Innovative Law Schools

Hybrid courses offer face-to-face and internet-enabled classes, says Ian Wylie

Legal learning goes online

year's tuition fees year, but - in line with the School for its juris doctor degree – a graduate legal

qualification – is \$59,550. Housing, insurance, books, at less prestigious – but good - schools can be around \$40,000 a year.

It is little wonder, then, that online, distance or hybrid law support systems," she says. programmes are now being mooted as a more accessible option for would-be lawyers unable to afford the in-person campus courses.

The latest law school to say it 'For some schools, will venture a hybrid JD programme is Syracuse University College of Law. From 2018, pending approval from the American Bar Association, students will take classes online by the ABA to offer such a then come to campus for weeklong residential sessions. The school, which hopes the profor 2016 is up 14 per cent on last schools soon followed.

at Harvard Law national trend – still almost a online master's programmes schools in the US. "For some the future for law school fifth lower than a decade ago. The cost of tuition will be the "opportunity cost" of attendsupplies and other expenses ing will be "significantly are likely to push that closer to lower", says Nina Kohn, associ-\$90,000. Even the tuition fees ate dean for research. "Students can continue working while completing their degree and will not have to move their families or leave their existing

second law school accredited School of Law for 20 years.

online education is still a novelty'

hybrid JD programme; Mitchgramme will help reverse its 1998, non-ABA-accredited enrolment decline, is deliver- Concord Law School rolled out ing the course with edtech com- the first online JD programme, pany 2U. The school's intake and other non-ABA accredited

for non-lawyers, but ABA accreditation standards mean is still a novelty," he says. "But same as the standard JD pro- no more than a third of a JD there's an important role for gramme at Syracuse but the course can be delivered online, and only 15 per cent of the coursework.

"US legal education is at the intersection of a historic downturn in traditional applicants and the upsurge of high-quality distance education optionalities," says Ken Randall, who served as dean at Syracuse will be only the the University of Alabama

"US law schools can, and should, be reaching new and non-traditional students, whether preparing them for a full-time practice of law or enriching their lives and adding value to their careers in diverse professions. It's right that accreditation is aimed at protecting consumers, but regulations must advance creativell Hamline School of Law ity and new ways of delivering launched the first last year. In quality education to diverse student groups."

Mr Randall is a founder of Aspen-iLaw Distance Education, which provides online learning platforms to around

law schools, online education **classrooms?** – iStock online education in training

Other law schools offer fully a fifth of accredited law Virtually legal: could this be

the next generation of lawyers Since their law practice will be technology-centred, their legal education should also optimise technology."

Continued on page 12

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Legal learning goes online

Continued from page 11

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

LAW SCHOOL

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 mech-

anisms 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 'Law schools still using a pedagogy developed almost a century and a half ago are slow to embrace change' 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."

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