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**Lancashire
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A lawyer

**With Dr Bela Chatterjee Director of Studies, LL.B Degree,
Lancaster School of Law, Lancaster University**

What qualifications do you need?

There are a variety of degrees at the university and many require three A-Levels at grade A.

We prefer traditional A-level subjects, and for those who firmly accept our offers there may be a slight degree of flexibility over actual grades achieved when it comes to results time in August.

Any other requirements for example health and fitness or age?

We have no particular requirements but if prospective students have any health or fitness issues which might affect their studies we have an equal opportunities policy which reflects our commitment to making the study of Law at Lancaster as accessible as possible.

How long does it take to qualify for the role?

Students intending to become barristers will need to undertake the Bar Professional Training Course for one year and Pupillage for one year, in addition to their degree.

Students intending to become solicitors will need to undertake a Legal Practice Course which lasts one year and a Training Contract for two years, in addition to their degree.

What sort of starting salary and package can you expect?

The Solicitor's Regulation Authority recommends that trainee solicitors in Central London receive £18,590, for those working elsewhere in England and Wales, £16,650 at bare minimum.

But many trainees in larger commercial firms may start closer to £30,000 upwards.

For an experienced solicitor the average is in the region of £42,000, with senior partners earning significantly more.

Earnings for barristers are variable but can start from around £10,000 up to around £65,000 for an experienced barrister and very senior barristers can earn a significant amount more.

What sort of personal skills make someone best suited to a career?

Being confident, versatile and articulate is important, as the role of a lawyer includes the ability to present an argument on someone else's behalf and identify appropriate solutions for them.

Lawyers need to be able to analyse complex problems and identify which issues are most important, so critical and analytical skills are useful.

What sort of career prospects and structure is there?

Solicitors may progress their career to the point where they are eligible for judicial appointment, set up practice on their own or become a partner

in an established firm.

Barristers may become Queen's Counsel or enter the Judiciary.

But for law graduates there are many sectors that value their skills, for example the civil service, politics, the police, prison and probation services, or work in the human rights and charity sectors.

Some graduates also work in the commercial sector, teaching or academia.

What kind of job satisfaction can you expect from a career?

The career can be tremendously satisfying regardless of whether your client has the outcome they had hoped for, in that you will know you

have presented the best argument possible for your client in a difficult set of circumstances, when it mattered the most.

When your argument is successful, of course, this satisfaction can only be higher.

In 50 words sell your profession?

Law is about finding solutions when all other solutions have failed and as a lawyer you are someone's last hope.

Law addresses the extremes of human experience, from life to death and everything in between, and lawyers help people put their best solution forward, often in moments of utmost need.

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email careers@cruise118.com or apply online at www.cruise118.com/careers**

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