Routes to the Professions: Law

This exciting new initiative at the University of Birmingham aims to improve the knowledge, understanding and access of under-represented groups into careers in the legal profession.

The programme will provide opportunities for students to develop non-academic skills and capabilities such as knowledge about different (law and non-law graduate) routes and careers in the legal profession, opportunities to develop professional contacts, as well as team working and communication skills.
Who should apply?
This programme is aimed at students from groups who are currently under-represented in the legal profession.

Places are limited and priority will be given to students who meet the following criteria:
- Be the first generation in their family to go to university
- Have parents in non-professional occupations
- Have a minimum of eight GCSEs with a minimum of 6 at Grade A*-C including English and Maths
- Have an annual household income of £42,600 or less
- Target grades ABB in AS level/A level
- Attend a state school with a high proportion of students eligible for free school meals and with low progression rates to selective universities

What will the programme include?
This is an 18-month programme with a range of opportunities to support students who would like to enter a career in the legal profession.

Students will join the programme in Year 12 and take part in a range of activities to help them make an informed decision about whether to pursue a career in the legal profession and to support them throughout the application process.

Launch event – Wednesday 4th March 2015
Students will have the opportunity to:
- Find out about different careers in law and places of work
- Take part in an interactive law challenge
- Find out more about life as a law student
- Meet current undergraduate law students who will support them through the rest of the programme

E-mentoring
All students will be assigned an e-mentor who will be a current law student. The mentor will support students with:
- Understanding more about the demands of university and studying law
- Seeking work experience
- Writing a UCAS personal statement

Student shadowing
Students will have the opportunity to spend a day with a current law student so they can find out what it is really like to study law.

Professional mentoring
Some students, who have shown particular commitment to the programme, will be assigned a professional mentor who is a practising legal professional in a law firm. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive expert information, advice and guidance.

Law Firm placement
Students who have shown particular commitment to the programme will have the opportunity to spend a few days at a law firm. During the placement they will get a real insight into a professional firm through observing the different functions, meeting a range of legal professionals and developing professional contacts.

Preparing Your University Application Workshop
This workshop is designed to help students to prepare for their UCAS applications. Students will receive advice on different routes and careers in the legal profession, support in developing their UCAS personal statements and guidance on the LNAT.

How do students apply?
Please complete all sections of the Routes to the Professions application form, which should be supported by the head of sixth form or a nominated teacher at the school.

Once completed, please return the form to the University of Birmingham (contact details are on the application form).

The final closing date for applications is Friday 13th February 2015.

Learn more
If you have any questions about the programme, please contact:
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Please note programme activities may be subject to change.