



# Outcomes for Graduates

December 2018

Exeter Law students are tomorrow's lawyers and professionals. Many of our alumni have gone on to achieve great things, and we expect all our students to be the best they can: *'Be the best you'*

We believe that great lawyers and professionals are developed through the interaction of three important areas: Professional standards, Legal Knowledge and Legal Skills. The detail of each area is set out below.

You should refer to this document during your undergraduate studies to understand what we expect you to know and do by the time you graduate.

You can check your progress during your meetings with your academic tutor by using your Graduate Outcomes Report (GOR).

## A. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

1. Law is a trusted profession: As such Exeter Law School has a special responsibility to familiarise its students with the standards and values of the legal profession. These standards will ensure that you are professionally prepared for graduate employment, whether in the law or elsewhere.
2. As a student in Exeter Law School you are subject to the Exeter Professional Law Standards (EPLS). The EPLS are drawn from the standards of the profession. These standards are intended to familiarise you with the standards of legal profession before you graduate.
3. As a future member of a self-regulating profession you will understand it is our duty as lawyers to improve our profession. That duty begins at law school. When you graduate you should be able to explain and demonstrate the importance of professional conduct and development in a self-regulating profession, and the importance of being a good citizen in the legal profession. It is also our duty to educate 'members of the public about the principles of the rule of law, the importance of the independence of the judiciary and of the legal profession and to inform them about their rights and duties and the relevant and available remedies.' (Para 5, IBA Standards)



4. You will have knowledge and experience of team work and working collaboratively. As such you will be able to undertake effective team work, including undertaking various roles within teams, including where appropriate, demonstrating leadership and the ability to accept and support leadership by others. You will be able to work effectively with colleagues. This includes:
  - (a) communicating clearly and appropriately in a professional manner;
  - (b) referring to colleagues for advice when things go wrong;
  - (c) working collaboratively and supportively with colleagues to share experiences and challenges;
  - (d) responding appropriately and professionally to requests from colleagues;
  - (e) applying flexibility, adaptability and a problem-solving approach to shared decision making with colleagues; and
  - (f) work effectively and appropriately as a mentor and teacher for other team members.
5. Throughout your time in Exeter Law School you will be able to give and receive constructive feedback. You will learn from experience and respond constructively to the outcomes of all types of feedback, including peer-appraisals, tutor feedback and formal assessments. By the time that you graduate you should be able to take the initiative to seek support and feedback where necessary.
6. As an Exeter law graduate you will be able to reflect on and assess your own capabilities and performance honestly. You will appreciate the importance of life-long continuing personal and professional development.
7. As an Exeter law graduate you will demonstrate your professionalism by:
  - (a) acting with integrity;
  - (b) always being polite, considerate, trustworthy and honest;
  - (c) taking personal and professional responsibility for your actions;
  - (d) managing your time and prioritising effectively;
  - (e) acting appropriately, with an inclusive approach, towards colleagues and third-parties;
  - (f) recognising and acknowledging your personal and professional limits and seeking help when appropriate;
  - (g) demonstrating an understanding of approaches to ethical decision-making;
  - (h) demonstrating an ability to recognise and reflect upon, and a developing ability to respond to, ethical issues likely to arise in professional contexts;
  - (i) developing an ability to recognise and reflect upon the professional responsibilities of lawyers in promoting justice and in service to the community; and
  - (j) developing an ability to exercise professional judgement.
8. As a graduate of Exeter Law School you will demonstrate ethical behaviour which is consistent with the Exeter Professional Law Standards, whether or not you intend to enter the profession on graduation.

## B. LEGAL KNOWLEDGE

1. As an Exeter Law graduate you will have an appreciation of the importance of the rule of law and justice in a free society. Exeter law graduates have a commitment to justice and fairness in all situations where lawyers are involved.
2. By the time that you graduate you should be able to demonstrate a thorough knowledge and understanding of the essential theoretical, conceptual and practical features of the English legal system, its institutions and procedures in a global context. As an Exeter law graduate you will have a firm grasp of the fundamental doctrines and principles which underpin the law and the relationship between them. You will be able to identify the sources of law and how it is made and applied.
3. Both the Exeter LLB and JD degrees contain the seven foundations of legal knowledge (FLK). An Exeter law graduate will enjoy a thorough knowledge and understanding of the FLK. The seven FLK are:
  - (a) Criminal Law;
  - (b) Equity and Trusts;
  - (c) The Law of the European Union;
  - (d) Contract (Obligations 1);
  - (e) Tort (Obligations 2);
  - (f) Property/Land Law; and,
  - (g) Public Law (Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights Law).
4. A graduate from Exeter Law School will be able to draw on their knowledge of the FLK and other substantive areas of law to follow and understand developments in English law throughout any subsequent legal career.
5. The FLK are the building blocks of legal knowledge. An Exeter Law graduate will understand how to apply their substantive knowledge of the FLK to areas of the law that may be unfamiliar.
6. As an Exeter Law graduate you will have:
  - (a) an appreciation of the complexity of legal concepts, rules and principles, and a respect for context and evidence;
  - (b) an understanding of the ethical questions and dilemmas that arise in the law and to consider the features of ethical decision making and practice as a lawyer;
  - (c) a knowledge and understanding of the theories, concepts, values, principles and rules of public and private laws within an institutional, social, national and global context;
  - (d) a knowledge of the broad contexts (social, economic, political, historical, philosophical, ethical and cultural) in which legal questions and issues arise.
7. As a graduate of a global law school you will possess an appreciation of international and comparative law.
8. Ideally, as part of your course you will have undertaken clinical, placement or pro bono activity and reflected on your experience of law in a real-world setting.

## C. LEGAL SKILLS

1. As a student in Exeter Law School you will learn to think both creatively and critically when identifying and solving problems. You will develop the intellectual independence necessary to be an effective lawyer. You will learn to identify gaps in your knowledge and to acquire new knowledge when necessary.
2. You should be able to communicate clearly and effectively in a variety of mediums. You will be able to listen and question effectively.
3. An Exeter law graduate will be intellectually adaptable and resilient.
4. You will recognise complexity and uncertainty in the law and legal situations. You will know how to apply your legal knowledge to such situation, working collaboratively if needs be.
5. As an Exeter law graduate you should be able to apply analytical skills to legal problems. Specifically, you should be able to:
  - (a) identify and articulate the legal issues in any situation;
  - (b) ask and answer cogent questions about the law and legal problems;
  - (c) apply knowledge and understanding to, addressing complex actual or hypothetical problems;
  - (d) produce a synthesis of relevant doctrinal and policy issues;
  - (e) apply legal reasoning and research to generate appropriate responses to legal issues;
  - (f) engage in critical analysis and make a reasoned choice amongst alternatives offering evidenced conclusions; and,
  - (g) think creatively in approaching legal issues and generating appropriate responses.
6. You will by the time that you graduate be able to conduct self-directed research including accurate identification of issue(s) which require researching, retrieval and evaluation of accurate, current and relevant information from a range of appropriate sources including primary legal sources.
7. An Exeter Law graduate will be able to work with a range of data, including textual, numerical and statistical to process and digest information in an effective and efficient manner.

## SOURCES

- SRA and BSB Common Protocol on the Academic Stage of Training (2018)
- Joint Statement issued by the Law Society and the General Council of the Bar on the Completion of the Initial or Academic Stage of Training by Obtaining an Undergraduate Degree (1999)
- QAA Benchmark for Law (2015)
- Australian Learning & Teaching Council Bachelor of Laws Academic Standards Statement (2010).
- University of Exeter programme specifications.
- Solicitor Regulation Authority Suitability Test (2011)
- Bar Standards Board Professional Statement for Barristers (2016)
- Statement of Principles and Guidelines of the Inns Conduct Committee.
- IBA Standards for the Independence of the Legal Profession (1990)



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