



## Introduction

Trinity College has a long and distinguished history in Law. Many of its graduates have become judges – often in the highest courts of the land – or leading practitioners. However, studying Law is not just (or even necessarily) a prelude to practice. It also provides a stimulating intellectual challenge which develops the mind and opens up a range of vitally important questions.

The facilities available at Trinity are excellent. The College has five committed teaching staff who supervise across a broad range of subjects, a well-equipped Law Reading Room and a book scheme that provides texts for all core subjects. Students come to study Law at Trinity from all over the world and they benefit from a first class education.

## What about Law at Trinity

We believe that reading Law at Trinity, while demanding, is an academically and personally rewarding experience which will provide an excellent preparation for your subsequent career, irrespective of the precise direction you decide to take. This is because those who teach Law in Trinity are concerned with the broader social, political, philosophical, historical, commercial and international aspects of Law, as well as with its practical application.

Within the Cambridge Law course, there are many different subjects to choose to study (although the most important topics are mandatory). The range spans areas as diverse as Criminal Law and Criminology, Constitutional Law, European Union Law, Tax, Intellectual Property, Jurisprudence, Family Law and Legal History. In the first year of a three-year law degree you are obliged to study four subjects (Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Tort and Civil [Roman] Law; in subsequent years you study five subjects and you have more freedom to select which subjects these might be.

## Who are the Law Fellows and what do we do?

At present the College has five full-time teaching Fellows in Law. Professor Catherine Barnard, Professor in European Union Law and Employment Law, is the author of two texts, EU Employment Law and The Substantive Law of the European Union. Dr Louise Merrett joined Trinity after a period of practice at the commercial bar. She specialises in Conflict of Laws and Commercial Law and is the author of Employment Contracts in Private International Law. Jo Miles specialises in Family Law and Criminal Law, and is the co-author of Family Law: Text, Cases and Materials. Dr Benjamin Spagnolo specialises in Roman Law and Public Law, with a particular interest in the comparative and historical study of British, Imperial and Australian constitutional law. Professor Sarah Worthington is the Downing Professor of the Laws of England and is an expert in commercial equity and corporate law. She is the author or co-author of numerous works including Gower's Principles of Modern Company Law.

The Fellowship of Trinity also includes members who are still engaged or have until recently been engaged in the teaching of Law in the College: Philip Allott FBA, Emeritus Professor of International Public Law (and author of Eunomia and The Health of Nations); and Professor Kevin Gray FBA co-author of two leading books on Land Law; Lord Carnwath and Lord Walker, Justice and former Justice of the Supreme Court respectively, and the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, are Honorary Fellows.

## Study of Law at Trinity

The Law Faculty's teaching and research facilities are located in the David Williams Building in West Cambridge and undergraduates spend much of their working day there, either at lectures or in the Squire Law Library. Within the central College site Trinity also has its own Law Reading Room, which is open 24 hours a day and contains all the textbooks, law reports and law journals you are likely to need. In addition, Trinity runs a law book scheme for its undergraduates which lends textbooks for the core subjects at no cost to the student.

Supervisions (Cambridge's form of small group teaching) take place primarily within the College. Students are required to prepare work in advance, and often to submit written responses to questions set, prior to discussing the issues arising with the two or three other students in their supervision group.

It is possible to study Law at Trinity either for three years or for only two years (after passing an examination in some other subject). With a first-year intake of a dozen or so students, plus one or two 'changeovers' (i.e. those switching to Law in their second or third year), and a few students from abroad taking the one-year postgraduate course, the total number of Law students in the College at any one time is around 45. Student numbers of this kind make for a stimulating and varied environment in which to study Law.

Trinity's Law Fellows are well placed to advise on entry to the profession. The College also has an active law society which organises evenings at which practitioners from the city, government and industry come to talk to law students. The College draws on links with its alumni to help with these occasions. The Trinity Law Association develops and fosters links between Trinity law graduates and between alumni and current students. Drawing on our pool of alumni, the College has a well-established programme which enables undergraduates to have a mentor in one or other branch of the profession.

## Possibilities for Studying Law abroad

In most years one or two Trinity students elect to spend their third year in France, Germany, the Netherlands or Spain (Poitiers, Regensburg, Utrecht, Madrid) as part of the Erasmus exchange scheme before returning to Cambridge for a fourth year of study, final examinations and graduation. If the UK withdraws from the EU with a withdrawal agreement, the UK would continue to participate in the Erasmus+ programme until 2020/21. Subsequent participation would be decided as part of future negotiations. If the UK withdraws without a withdrawal agreement, the government will engage with the European Commission with the aim of securing the UK's continued participation in Erasmus+ until 2020/21. The University is liaising with Erasmus partners to receive assurances that study placements would be able to continue independently.

Thanks to a trust fund (named after a previous Law fellow and Vice-Master of Trinity, Harry Hollond), the College is usually able to provide its best graduates with financial support towards studying for a Master's degree outside the United Kingdom. Over the years many of our students have found this an excellent way of pursuing their legal studies and deepening their understanding of the Law. This fund also provides Law students with support for furthering their legal studies and engaging in other Law related activities over the long vacation.

## Financial Assistance for those studying Law at Trinity

Apart from the bursaries provided to all students in need by the College, the Faculty and the University, Trinity helps law students in a number of ways:

- The Hollond Law Book Scheme provides every student with the use of legal textbooks for the academic year.
- The Hollond Funds and the Donoghue and Stevenson Law Fund support Trinity Law students through a range of small grants and studentships, funding, for example, access initiatives, and conference trips, and even a Master's course in Law outside the United Kingdom.
- The Henry Arthur Hollond Studentship and the Hollond-Whittaker Research Studentship provide funding for LLM and PhD students in Law at Trinity.
- The College awards a number of prizes for Law students, mostly in money, sometimes in books.

## College Law and other Prizes

- Lizette Bentwich prizes for good performance by Law students in the University Law exams (known as the Tripos)
- Christopher Simpson prize for excellence in International Law
- Maitland prize for students who have performed admirably in Legal History, Constitutional Law or Constitutional History
- Clark Miller prize for best performance in the first year of the Law Tripos.
- R.R. Chelliah Prizes for best performance in the second and third years of the Law Tripos

The College Tripos (Examination) Prizes and scholarships (junior, senior and research) are awarded to law students on the same basis as all other students.

## Admissions Criteria

Offers of places to study Law at Trinity are made on the basis of candidates' general academic abilities. Almost any combination of school subjects is acceptable, provided they fall within the limits laid down on the admissions website. It is strongly advisable, however, that you take at least one subject that involves regular essaywriting. It is not necessary for you to be committed to practising law professionally, but it is sensible to find out something about what Law is like – both in itself and as a subject for study at university – before you make an application. You might find it helpful to look at the book edited by Barnard, O'Sullivan and Virgo, *What about Law? Studying Law at University* to help you to make up your mind.

Candidates who have a good chance of making our standard offer conditions will be invited to Trinity for interview. Interviews enable us to see how you think in person and when faced with new and exciting situations, often situations related to law. Interviews may involve discussion of a factual scenario given to applicants 30 minutes beforehand. An example scenario and interview are available on our website (<https://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/>). Candidates will also be required to sit a written test, the Cambridge Law Test, examples of which may be found on the Faculty website (<https://www.law.cam.ac.uk/>). The standard conditional offer for applicants taking A-levels is A\*AA; comparable conditions are set for those taking the IB and other school-leaving examinations.

Trinity College has a tremendous history of academic excellence in all subjects, including Law, and we are committed to maintaining this tradition. It is also a vibrant and stimulating community in which to study and live; students are happy at Trinity and usually form a close-knit bond with fellow students in their subject.