Be the Future of Law.
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You made it to law school! That’s quite an accomplishment. Your hard work paid off. Now you embark on the exciting challenge of making your way through the next three to four years.

LexisNexis is with you throughout your law school journey. We’ve put together this guide with tips and resources to help you make the most of your time. So, roll up your sleeves, and let’s get to work!
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It can be intimidating when you first start law school and realise that you're surrounded by sharp, highly motivated students. Take a breath and relax - you're one of them! Always remember the following:

- Listen intently, but don’t be afraid to ask questions when you need clarification.
- Your goal isn’t to be smarter than everyone else; it’s to become a smarter version of you. Focus on learning, growing and improving with each day.
- Little by little, you’ll figure out tasks that seem overwhelming at first. Just focus on thinking rationally and start familiarising yourself with the material for each course.
Study smarter, not harder

Your lecturers and examiners will want you to remember cases and concepts, as well as adding thoughtful analysis. To study smarter, follow these tips:

- **Go to class** – Most lecturers cover at least some material that is not included in the reading.
- **Read** – Do the assigned reading and ensure you review your notes. Try not to fall behind; you may never catch up.
- **Take part** – Participate in seminars. You’ll learn best when you’re actively engaged in the discussions.
- **Form a study group** – Talking through course material with course mates increases your comprehension and retention.
- **Review your exam feedback** – Although painful, you can learn a lot from your mistakes. Determine what you need to improve to do better by obtaining feedback from the examiner.

**Bonus Tip:** Past papers, which your university probably publishes online, are the best way to prep for exams.
Be active on campus

The true university experience is about more than just attending lectures and seminars. Be a part of the university community and you’ll have a better and more memorable law school experience.

- Join a society - your university law society for example
- Play a sport
- Participate in a cultural event
- See a lecture by a guest speaker
- Make friends beyond your year and course - you never know, you may be friends forever
- Perform at an open mic night
There’s an app for that

Staying organised is a necessity in law school, especially when the handouts, handwritten notes and reference materials start to add up. Use these free apps to stay ahead of the game.
You might think your Careers Service is just for students who are graduating this year. But that’s not the case.

While you might not seek an internship, vacation scheme or training contract until your second and third year, it’s still a good idea to get acquainted with the careers office. They may be useful during application season by providing helpful tips on topics such as covering letters and writing CVs.

**Bonus Tip:**
Create a professional online presence with a LinkedIn profile. Keep it updated and connect with people you meet, particularly those in the legal sector. Look out for interesting ideas, news or links.
Whether you're a first year or final year law student, you will come across LexisLibrary at some point, but what is it?

LexisLibrary is one of the most extensive online legal databases with an easily accessible breadth of case law, academic journals, and legislation. It's helpful for:

- Essential information you can’t get anywhere else
- The only place to find sources such as Halsbury’s Laws of England
- Constantly refreshed content keeps your legal knowledge current
- Court judgements become available in LexisLibrary within 30 minutes of being handed down

Understanding how to effectively use the online platform can help you to succeed when it comes to your assignments and exam revision by saving you time searching for sources and material.

LexisLibrary is used by 98% of the top 100 UK law firms.

Other ways we can help you to succeed

- @LexisNexisStudents
- @LexisNexisUK
- LexisNexis Future of Law blog
- lexisnexis.co.uk/students
Stay healthy - body, mind and spirit

You do your best work when you’re healthy, so it’s important to take care of your physical and mental well-being in school. Follow these tips:

1. **Eat right**
   A healthy diet boosts your immune system and gives you sustainable energy.

2. **Exercise regularly**
   Get moving! Check out the fitness classes or sports programmes on offer.

3. **Manage your sleep-life balance**
   It's all about balance – try to get on average 7-8 hours of sleep a night.

4. **Drink lots of water**
   Proper hydration can help you concentrate.

5. **Mind your mental well-being, too**
   There may be times when you feel overwhelmed and question why you’re here. Your mental well-being is critical to your success, so don’t forget to have fun.

**Bonus Tip:**
Headspace is a mindfulness and meditation app which provides free trials and student discounts.
Master the art of time management

At university, your calendar (whether printed or digital) is your best friend. Here are some tips to stay organised:

1. **Plan ahead**
   Allocate some time on Friday afternoons to plan for the upcoming week.

2. **Choose an accountability partner**
   Buddy up with someone, ideally another law student, and hold each other to personal deadlines (for example studying or even completing job applications).

3. **Take time for yourself**
   Don't forget to also block off time for doing fun things. Your uni time should also be about enjoying yourself.

**Bonus Tip:**
**Pomodoro Technique** — Try this popular productivity hack. Commit to work on a task without interruption. Set an alarm for 25 minutes. When the alarm goes off, give yourself a five-minute break and then return to work for another round. Once you’ve completed four pomodoros, take a longer break of 20-30 minutes. That will give your brain time to process the new information before the next set of pomodoros.
Nail your exams

Exams are a major part of law school. There’s simply no avoiding them if you want to pass your courses. Consider these proven strategies:

Before the exam

Have a look at our study techniques on page 5!

Bonus Tip:
Academic journals are also important for exam prep. When you weave distinctive elements into your essays, you show your mastery of the material acquired from extensive research, something examiners like to see.

During the exam

Most lecturers use a combination of essay questions and problem questions in exams. When taking an exam, remember the following tips:

1. **Read instructions thoroughly!**
   You may miss important information, so ensure you have read all the instructions carefully before you begin.

2. **IRAC method**
   Outline your answer. Most students use the IRAC method: **identify** the issue, state the **rule**, **apply** the facts to the rule, and then give a **conclusion**.

3. **No rambling**
   Don’t do a brain dump in your answers. Only include information directly relevant to the key issues.

After the exam

Take some time to reflect and figure out what you did wrong and what you did right. Addressing any strengths and weaknesses will lead to improved grades in future exams.
Write effective essays

Developing the ability to write well is an important part of your law school education. To obtain a good grade, your essay whether in exams or in coursework, must be well-researched and soundly argued. Keep these hints in mind:

1. Read the question more than once
   Reading and understanding the question is essential. Students often do poorly simply because they’ve misunderstood the question.

2. Plan your answer and structure your essay
   Whether it’s an essay in your exam or an essay written over the span of a few weeks, planning is important to ensure your structure is good. Craft a solid outline before you begin.

3. Research your topic thoroughly
   Check out academic journals on LexisLibrary (and other respected academic sources) so you fully understand the subject matter and can accurately apply the law.

4. Demonstrate course knowledge
   Use your essay to prove your mastery of the course material. Make sure you address major course themes.

5. Focus on analysis
   Provide background, but keep the focus of your essay on rigorous analysis.

6. Proofread your work
   If your essay is on point but contains grammar, punctuation or spelling mistakes, your mark will reflect your carelessness.

7. Bibliography
   Keep track of the sources you use and make sure to reference them correctly. (Many universities in the UK use OSCOLA.) This is important to avoid plagiarism.

Bonus Tip:
Bonus points if you can demonstrate you did supplementary reading, whether from academic journals, LexisLibrary or your textbooks.
You’ve got this!

No one ever said law school would be easy. But you’ve never shied away from hard work before. In fact, that’s how you got here in the first place.

We hope you found the tips in this guide helpful. You have our best wishes for your success in law school. You’ve got this!

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