



Letters to a Law Student: A Guide to Studying Law at University

Nicholas J. McBride

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Letters to a Law Student relays all that a prospective law student needs to know before embarking on their studies. It provides a useful guide to those considering a law degree or conversion course and helps students prepare for what can be a daunting first year of study.

Letters to a Law Student: A Guide to Studying Law at University Details

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Barun Ghimire says

This book can help a law student from day one to graduation and beyond. This book comprises a series of letter to an imaginary law student, Alex. The books give very practical advice on various issues of legal education including but not limited to how to study law, how to write legal essays/dissertation, and how to revise for exams.

The book includes chapters very relevant to those considering studying law and those doing a law degree. The book will help you do better in law school as it teaches various skills required to succeed in law school. This book undoubtedly is the best book that gives orientation on legal education. It also is must have book throughout law school. This book can teach you what you exactly need to know about legal education in your early days.

Imogen Kathleen says

I picked this up on a whim, and I have never flown through non-fiction so quickly. Filled with practical advice, and introductory-level legal information (written in refreshingly simple English), this book has been the best surprise of 2018 for me... *I got hooked on a textbook?*

Raelynne says

A slow and careful read. Normally I could read 30 pages per hour but with this one it was almost 15. I used a pencil to underline useful and particularly important advice and knowledge. I have only read the first 2 parts of the book for preparation to university application, and will finish the rest of it next year. However, it had undoubtedly been useful and gave me a lot of insights into what I need to start to do if I want to be a successful law student.

A very very brief summary:

1. Being a law student requires a variety of different skills and it is better to start acquire them now; the areas of knowledge can be political theory, philosophy, psychology, economics etc.
2. Read a lot. Useful books and books that you won't have time to read once you are in university.
3. Be organized, always have your goals in mind.

I hope I'm a Oxford Law student of 2020:))

Ella Chan says

I picked up this book because it is a must-read for law and potential law students. I only read first half of the

book because only the first half is relevant to me. I have not enrolled in law school yet, so aspects like preparing for the exams and how to write a law school essay is of little relevance to me.

The first half of the book incorporates why law school and preparing to study for law school. 'Why law' was the section that was of immense help to me! In describing the reasons to study law, Nicholas McBride also explicitly points out what qualities potential law students should have (the right stuff?). When I like something, I usually find it hard to adequately point out why. This book helped me discover my passion for law because it correctly depicts what law is and why people might choose to pursue it. Nick McBride gives a lot of case examples and asks the reader to think like a lawyer and determine what type of decision should be made. This allows readers to gain an understanding of what it takes to study law, or what qualities are developed as a law student.

The only limitation to this book is that it is purely UK based. All schools/law systems are written based on the UK. But I would still recommend this book to any current and potential law students!

Xiang says

This book, loaded with useful tips and helpful advice, is an excellent one for preparing a soon-to-be law student (like myself) for an upcoming law degree. Whether you are still considering studying law or whether you have already decided to study law and will soon be actually studying it, this book will in either situation help you out considerably. The language and tone is lighter and easier to get into than your average book-about-law and definitely worth the investment for your studies later on as well.

Pearly Leong says

This book is very insightful and I feel more prepared as a law student now for what I will need to do to become better.

Erika Grimshaw says

This book is an invaluable guide before, during and after you have finished your law degree. Filled with practical advice that really helps in making the law interesting, and written in an accessible and readable way, really makes this book a must read for prospective students applying to any University and for any course.

At times the book is challenging, but what better way to prepare you for Uni than to start making you think? Some issues in the book, you may not agree with. That is fine, you won't always agree with the law. Think for yourself, that is what this book has taught me.

With a guiding hand that you can refer to time and time again, University studies seem much less daunting with this book in publication.

Salli LaBelle says

Well organised read that will educate and console any law student by guiding them through the process of how to manage their studies whilst demonstrating which approach works best and what one should expect. Great introduction for anyone considering pursuing a law qualification and career.

Alpha says

awesome

Ramona Costea says

“Law isn’t for everyone. But as a subject for study, I think it’s tough to find another that is as fascinating, as significant, and as transformative as law is.”

“Tyranny is better than anarchy, and the worst Government better than none at all.”

“Some judges like to say that the most important person in court is the party who is going to lose. Every effort must be made to persuade him that his views have been listened to.”

“I have made this letter longer than usual, because I lack the time to make it short.”

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

“Studying law at university requires you to make much more of an effort to acquire more in the way of general culture than you would have to if you were studying, say, mathematics or classics.”

“Doing well in studying law shouldn’t be beyond anyone; whether someone does well or not depends in whether they want to become the sort of person who can do well at law.”

“To be successful, a law student has to be able to defer gratification- to put off what it is attractive now in order to achieve the sort of success that will allow him or her to obtain even more attractive things in the future.”

“The law tends to be pretty boring when you view it from a great distance- it’s only when you get close up to the law and see it in all its glory that you can give yourself a chance of getting really interested in it.”

“To do well as a law student you need to feel driven not to approach the subject superficially, but to try to achieve a very detailed understanding of the law. In other words, you need to feel curious about the law.”

“Law is a more personally transformative subject than any other you can study at university. Studying law properly - leaves its mark on you. You leave university able to think more clearly, argue more effectively, reason more carefully and with greater insight than you could ever do when you were at school.”

“However much you may know about the law, there is always more you could know.”

“The common law can be best compared to a coral reef - it is formed by, and emerges out of, the decisions of thousands and thousands of individual cases, with each case - each decision as to what the common law says in that case - adding to and altering the existing structure.”

Gisselle says

Review

I liked the style of this book. It sucks that it was made for U.K. Law students (well, it sucks for me) so I had to be selective of the things that I was reading and what to stick in my mind. Overall, I think it was ok. I will continue to read other books like these in order to continue preparing for law school. If you will attend law school in the U.K. you will definitely find this book useful, so I do recommend it to you.

Deniz says

swag

Samuel Coto says

Already wrote the full review on the progress review. But if you don't want to go back to that, it is simply amazing. It will reassure you that you want to study law and gives you a lot of tips. Can be read in a week or in two days if you're really into it.

Olivia says

Wow! Just wow, really. What a fan-tas-tic job Professor McBride has done with this book. Sometimes, when applying to study law, the whole process, as well as getting into the studies, can seem daunting. And it probably is still. But with such a guide, it begins to feel like everything is under control – a feeling I, like too many other prospective lawyers, do indeed cherish. The book is split into chapters (emails/letters) and each of them addresses one aspect of the process towards studying law as well as its study at university level in the UK (more specifically, at the honourable University of Cambridge). Although it is still extremely scary to me and to approximately everyone else in my position, the book allowed me to take a glimpse into what awaits me, at the same time that it also took my hand and helped me through the present. Whether it is deciding on what to do in college or after, or exams that need to be taken, and even interviews, Letters to a Law Student has really eased me into this, like I already were experienced (when I am obviously not). It is also a very enjoyable and interesting read, not solely in content, but in his tone. The book simulates his correspondence to an acquaintance on this road with a span of years. But it almost really feels like he is talking to you or me (the reader), which makes it so much more comforting. It is perfectly paced and the advice is ever so brilliant! Actually: I don't think I've ever received better advice than this. I am speechless to

how good it actually is because he just lives up, in his descriptions, to how fascinating the study of the law is (and this is something many people really cannot see)! To any prospective or current law students out there: a definite must. Just dive in... you're welcome. (from me and Professor Nicholas J McBride both, of course).

Klesta says

I'm almost done with this book - as I'm not at uni yet, I haven't actually bothered to read past the pre-degree chapters as I have loads of other reading to catch up on. So far however, I have found this a pleasant and engaging read, less stiff and boring than other law-prep/law-related books. It maintains an informal and comfortable enough tone without seeming cheesy, while including all terminology and in-depth explanations without alienating the reader. I have, admittedly, a short attention span when it comes to non-fiction, but I glided through this and found myself remembering lots of things I've read about. Definitely recommend if you want to become more comfortable with law in general, applying to uni and doing a degree.
