

Law

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Example Timetable

Day of the Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Time of day					
9am-10am	Tort Law Lecture		Criminal Law Lecture		Criminal Law Lecture
10am-11am				Tort Law Lecture	
11am-12pm	Criminal Law Lecture	Tort Law Lecture			
12pm-1pm			Civil (Roman) Law lecture	Constitutional Law Lecture	Constitutional Law lecture
1pm-2pm					
2pm-3pm	Tort Law Supervisio	Civil (Roman	Constitutional Law		

	n) Law lecture	Lecture		
3pm-4pm					Criminal Law Supervision
4pm-5pm					

As a first year, you will be studying 4 compulsory subjects. There will usually be around 10-12 hours of lectures weekly (2-3 on each subject per week).

Additionally, you will have 4 supervisions fortnightly which could be spread out evenly over the two weeks or not. Each supervision is usually 1 hour however they might extend longer than that if need be depending on the supervisor.

In total, there will be around 12-14 contact hours weekly. However, in Easter Term (the final term of the year) most lectures would usually have stopped by then and only a couple of revision supervisions would be scheduled prior to exams.

What are Supervisions Like?

I really enjoy my supervisions. You will notice that each is different depending on who is supervising you. The best thing about them however is that you can ask any question you have on your mind (make sure you make use of that!). Moreover, the best way to test your understanding is to speak it out and the supervision is another opportunity to do that.

I will give a quick overview of how my different supervisions went to show just how different each supervisor's style can be. Though before that, it is good to know that each supervision would be preceded by a reading list which we would have a week to read through and answer some questions on.

The Criminal Law supervision: the supervisor for this one was very much like a secondary school teacher. She had a worksheet of questions that she wanted us to have completed before the session and would quiz us using those questions during the supervisions.

The Tort Law and Constitutional Law supervisions: both were supervised by the same person for me. He would not quiz us in any way but instead would wait for you to ask him questions. Only after some awkward silence would he start prompting you for opinions if you have no questions. He would talk A LOT and therefore, two good questions were enough for him to talk for the whole hour (you shouldn't be afraid of interrupting them to ask questions).

The Civil (Roman) Law supervision: this supervisor was my favourite. If you do not come with questions, the whole hour will be spent in awkward silence so I would make sure to come with (or at least make up) some. However, when you

do ask a question he wouldn't answer you straightforwardly. Rather, he walks you through step by step until you reach the answer independently. I found this supervision to be the most beneficial and useful.

What is unique about the Cambridge course?

The Cambridge course is unique in many ways. However, two things that stand out are:

1. The weekly supervisions. These are an unparalleled opportunity to discuss your questions and ideas with world experts and to even debate with them!
2. The compulsory Roman Law module. For many, it is an utter pain. However, no matter how difficult it is, learning about an ancient legal system is profoundly interesting. Furthermore, as the mother of almost all Western law, it provides very interesting insights into the history of the Western legal tradition.

What did you wish you knew when applying?

One thing I wish I knew is just how important it is to practice exam questions right from the beginning. At least 50% of your revision should be spent on practising exam questions. That is the recipe for success and excellence.

Favourite and worst thing about your subject?

My favourite thing about this course is the profound questions it brings up. Law exists to organise society, and therefore it touches on many topics that are sensitive for many people. To see how that law works and to debate its foundations and legitimacy is so interesting, to say the least.

The one thing I would point out as 'bad' about the course would be problem questions. These, unlike essays, usually make up half of the exams. I personally like the essays because of the space they allow you and their 'juicy' debate topics over the problem questions which usually require a methodological

application of the law. However, most people disagree with me so its really just about what your preferences are.

Application Timeline

- **Summer:** Writing your personal statement. You need to focus on getting to know a bit about law, why it interests you. Start looking to prepare for the LNAT - do practice questions as the more you practice, the better you are at it.
- **September - October:** The LNAT needs to be done before you send off your application in October via UCAS. So spend these months really focusing on preparing for the exam. Although, ideally you should spend all summer doing some practice as well.
- **November:** towards the end of November, you should be getting interview invites. So after you have sent off your applications in mid-October, the main focus should be on preparing for these interviews. Practice talking about yourself; make sure you can answer generic questions such as: 'why law?', 'why Cambridge?'. Also look up sample questions and get used to answering questions of a legal nature.
 - <https://www.cambridgeinterviewquestions.com/questions/arts/law/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlqaUI7H154>

Personal Statement Tips

- It can be daunting knowing how to start your personal statement. So, I thought it may be useful to give a breakdown step by step on how to approach your personal statement.
- The first step is to read around your subject and find a particular area/topic which interests you. So, I recommend reading 'What about Law?' by Virgo et al if you are not sure of a particular area which interests you. From this, pick out a topic which interests you, for example criminal law. Then, delve further and read around criminal law - maybe some articles, other books to show how you developed this interest.
- Then, write down a list of things you have done in recent years which contribute to showing your interest in law or why you would be a good law student.
- Then write! Just start writing whatever comes to mind using the experiences you have listed and the reading you have done. Don't worry about the word count at this point.
- Once you have your first draft, then create a new word document for each draft to keep track of your progress and begin editing.

- Continue with this process until you have a concise personal statement within the word count.
- **Tips:**
 - every sentence should be of value and show why you would be a good law student/ your interest in law.
 - Have someone else read your statement.
 - Don't write down academic books/articles for the sake of it - make sure you have read it!
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrBfnuGolfQ>

Interview Tips

- There is not a lot of advice for this apart from practice!
- The more you will practice, the better you will get.
- There are two components to the LNAT - a multiple choice section and a essay section. This test is not specific to Cambridge but most universities ask for it.
- It therefore needs to be organised externally.
- I recommend doing the 'Ultimate LNAT Guide' - you can find it in libraries/amazon and the website arbitio can be quite good. Arbitio tends to be more difficult than the actual LNAT but it is nonetheless a good resource to use.
- For the essay section, practice in timed conditions. You do not have a lot of time, so the key advice would be to plan your answer and always make sure you have a conclusion.

Interview Tips

- The interviews can be nerve-wracking but my number one advice is to not think of it as one-sided exercise. It is an opportunity to talk about a subject you love with academics who are specialists in the subject. It is very much just a conversation about an area of law.
- To practice for the interviews, get a friend or family member to ask you questions about your personal statement or the law generally. It is very likely that you have not ever spoken about law with someone, so this will be good practice.
- Always reason your answers. If you have said something, explain why you have as that will help show your thought process.
- Always respond well to the questions asked by the interviewer - they are often guiding you to say a particular thing.

- It's okay to think for a moment. Take a 10-20 second pause after the interviewer has asked the question to collect your thoughts before speaking.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGziaWeCp2A>

Recommended reading/activities

- Books:
 - Read books which genuinely interest you.
 - 'What about Law?' Virgo et al
 - 'In your defence' Sarah Langford
 - 'East West Street' Phillippe Sands
 - 'Rule of Law' Tom Bingham
 - 'Letters to a Law Student' McBride
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6S81zSsQ47Y>
- Website: <https://publiclawforeveryone.com>
- Activities:
 - Work experience is not necessary but if you have done some, it would be good to reflect on it.
 - Visiting a court/ witnessing a trial.

