



**TAKING THE LAW FURTHER**

# **LAWED** **STUDENT** **INTERNSHIP** **GUIDE**

Everything you need to know  
when starting a legal career



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# PREFACE

**Welcome to the LawEd student legal internship guide!** We understand that when choosing what to do after school, there are many things that you need to think about! Throughout this guide, we do our very best to inform you about all things law, from the course availability nationwide to the potential internship programmes you can apply for.

This is a very important decision to make for all students as they come to the end of their secondary school journey, but don't forget it's also a very exciting one!

The world of law can be very daunting, but this is mostly because there is so much unknown about the subject. Of course, it can be an extremely stressful, difficult and exhausting job, but with that also comes amazing rewards and success, making it one of the most reputable career positions in the world!

The main focus of this guide is to prepare students for what to expect once they decide law is the career for them and give a better insight into the experience of law with legitimate feedback from past students.

**Enjoy!**



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# ABOUT LAWED

Allow us to introduce ourselves! LawEd is a multi-award winning legal educational hub that educates our young people, educators and parents on how the law impacts daily life.

Over the past 11 years, LawEd has become one of Ireland's premier providers of law workshops and tailored career advice (CareerEd).

We have more than 10 years' exemplary experience on the people side of the profession as educators, trainers and content makers. We continuously strive to create new content and learning outcomes to move with the accelerated changes in all aspects of the law and education.

LawEd is one of the first providers to deliver blended learning workshops and e-learning courses. We have created the first of its kind e-learning interactive law courses for young people. We work onsite, virtually and through our eLearning law school to deliver unique and educational content. We work with transition year students, senior cycle students, leaving cert applied, LCVP, Youthreach, and also tailor workshops to junior school students (short courses) in all aspects of the law. LawEd delivers courses nationwide.



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# CONTENTS

Preface	I
About LawEd	II
Why choose Law?	1.
What to expect	2.
Legal Work Experience	3.
How to become a Lawyer	3.
Courses available in Ireland	4.
Legal Internship programmes	7.
What do Legal Internships involve?	7.
Firms running legal internship programmes	8.
How to apply	9.
Areas of Law	10.
Feedback from Students who Studied Law	11.
Personal experience in a Law Firm	12.
Events and courses	14.
LawEd and CareerEd Aspire	15.

## WHY CHOOSE LAW?

The subject of law has always been a popular choice when it comes to students deciding what they want to study after secondary school. The career of law offers many different paths, making it an extremely versatile subject to study!

The common myth surrounding law is that the degree ties you to a job in a law firm, spending your days in the courtroom and although, yes this is an option, the choice you have regarding job opportunities does not stop there.

Law impacts our lives every single day and here at LawEd, our goal is to teach students this and make them aware that although you may not want to become a solicitor or barrister, you can put a law degree to great use in plenty of other jobs.

**If you choose to study law, here are the careers you may want to follow:**

- Barrister
- Solicitor
- Judge
- Paralegal
- Guard
- Probation officer
- Prison officer
- Immigration officer
- Higher education lecturer
- Civil Service administrator
- Legal clerk
- Licensed conveyancer
- Tax inspector



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## WHAT TO EXPECT:

We have all watched Criminal Minds or CSI Miami before, so it is only natural to assume that studying law brings about a huge element of adrenaline and surprise, and although this is very true, there are some more administrative requirements that come with the job.

The work involved with a law degree is very diverse, and nothing is ever the same day to day. Whichever legal path you decide to venture down, **you can expect to be:**

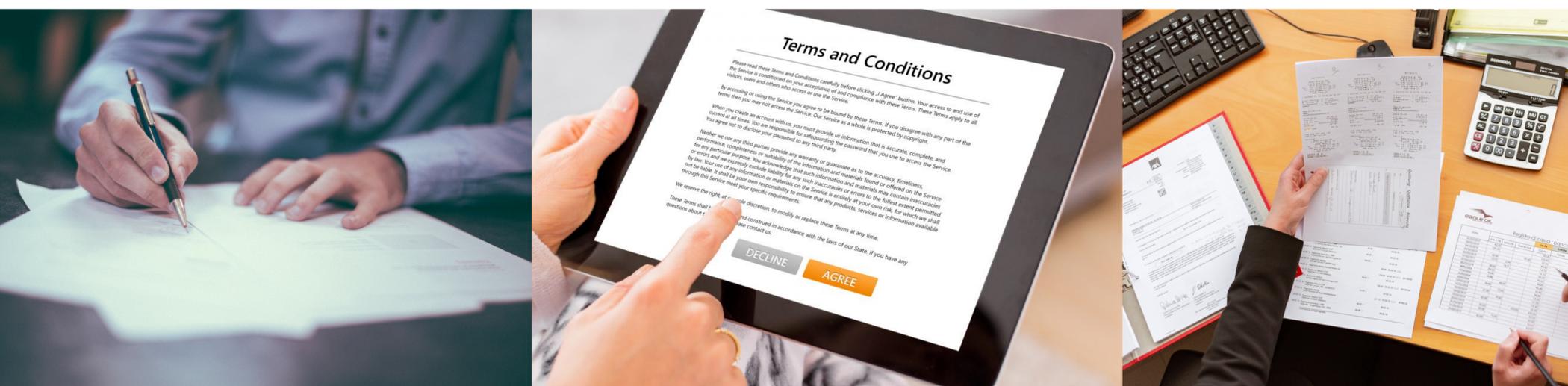
- Filing legal documents and paperwork
- Working alongside clients and communicating with other legal representatives
- Relaying legal knowledge and researching case law
- Publicly speaking in the courtroom
- Offering high quality advice to clients from a legal perspective

Good communication is a vital aspect of any legal career, as it is beyond necessary to be able to understand what the client expects of you. As well as this, having a good knowledge of elements of the law is an obvious benefit to how you will progress in a legal career.

This may sound daunting, but it is also important to remember that a legal career offers so much opportunity in many different fields, law really can be applied to any career!

But, in saying this, a legal career does not come easy, and there is a lot of hard work involved. Long hours, pages of books to be read and stressful circumstances does make for an extremely difficult job and this cannot be forgotten.

However, hard work does pay off! A job in a legal profession can result in a wage ranging from 70,000 to 101,000 per year.



## LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Fortunately, it is possible to trial and error legal professions in order to see what suits you the best. Law work experience is available in reputable law firms to provide a better insight into the work expected in legal professions. This is a very useful method to determine what career appeals the most to you. It is never too early to explore your options. More information about legal work experience can be found on page 8.



## HOW TO BECOME A LAWYER

So, we have explained the route to entry into law after you have completed your degree, but now we must discuss the various courses to choose once you finish secondary school.

In Ireland, there is quite a big difference between a solicitor and barrister, and the term 'lawyer' isn't as common.

A solicitor is a person who is qualified to construct legal documentation and represent and/or defend clients on a legal basis.

A barrister is a person specializes in court advocacy and gives legal advice to solicitors and clients. They also write legal documents and research cases.

Do these appeal to you? Let's take a look at some of the **courses available in Ireland at different universities:**

<b>UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>COURSE NAME</b>	<b>LEVEL</b>
Institute of Technology Carlow	Law (LLB)	8
University College Cork	Law (pathways)	8
University College Cork	Law and Business	8
University College Cork	Law and French	8
University College Cork	Law and Irish	8
Letterkenny Institute of Technology	Law	8
Dublin City University	Law and Society (BCL)	8
Technological University Dublin	Law (LLB)	8

<b>Technological University Dublin</b>	<b>Law (LLB) with a language</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University College Dublin</b>	<b>Law and Business</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University College Dublin</b>	<b>Law (BCL)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University College Dublin</b>	<b>Law and Chinese</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University College Dublin</b>	<b>Law and French Law</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University College Dublin</b>	<b>Law Dual Degree – BCL/Maitrise</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University College Dublin</b>	<b>Law and Economics</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University College Dublin</b>	<b>Law and History</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University College Dublin</b>	<b>Law and Irish</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University College Dublin</b>	<b>Law and Philosophy</b>	<b>8</b>

University College Dublin	Law and Politics	8
University College Dublin	Law and Social Justice	8
Griffith College	Law	8
Trinity College Dublin	Law	8
Trinity College Dublin	Law and French	8
Trinity College Dublin	Law and German	8
Trinity College Dublin	Law/Business Studies	8
Trinity College Dublin	Law and History	8
Trinity College Dublin	Law and Political Science	8
NUI Galway	Law	8
NUI Galway	Law and Business	8
NUI Galway	Law and Taxation	8

<b>NUI Galway</b>	<b>Law and Human Rights</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NUI Galway</b>	<b>Law, Criminology and Criminal Justice</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Maynooth University</b>	<b>Law</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Maynooth University</b>	<b>Law (open choice)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Limerick Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Law and Taxation</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University of Limerick</b>	<b>Law Plus</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Waterford Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Law</b>	<b>8</b>

Some universities and institutes also offer level 8 degrees which are related to law, as well as level 6 & 7 degrees also related to law.

These are listed below:

<b>Athlone Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Accounting and Law</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Athlone Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Business and Law</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Institute of Technology Carlow</b>	<b>Higher Certificate Legal Studies</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Institute of Technology Carlow</b>	<b>Business and Law</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Institute of Technology Carlow</b>	<b>Business and Law</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Letterkenny Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Law with Criminal Justice</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Letterkenny Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Law with Irish</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Letterkenny Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Law with Spanish</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Dublin City University</b>	<b>Arts (Joint Honour) Law</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Dublin City University</b>	<b>Economics, Politics and Law</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Technological University Dublin</b>	<b>Business and Law</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Open Training College</b>	<b>Essential Employment Law</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Dublin Business School</b>	<b>Business Studies (law)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NUI Galway</b>	<b>Arts - Law</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NUI Galway</b>	<b>Higher Certificate Legal Studies</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Maynooth University</b>	<b>Business and Law</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University of Limerick</b>	<b>Law and accounting</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>University of Limerick</b>	<b>Criminal Justice</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Waterford Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Higher Certificate in Arts Legal Studies</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Waterford Institute of Technology</b>	<b>Criminal Justice Studies</b>	<b>8</b>

## LEGAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES

The best way to gain experience is to throw yourself in at the deep end and get a feel for the day to day work that goes on in the career you wish to pursue. Luckily, for a subject like law, there are a few internship programmes available for upcoming students, to do exactly this!

### WHAT DO LEGAL INTERNSHIPS INVOLVE?

While working as an apprentice in a law firm you will gain skills and learn how to manoeuvre within the busy, fast pace workplace. Work-based learning is an extremely vital aspect of studying law and by doing so you will gauge a better understanding of the legal terminology used, utilize the research done through case law and become more familiar with the documentation.



#### **Tasks given to interns within a law firm usually include:**

- Analysing and proofing legal documents
- Communicating with clients and arranging appointments
- Attending court sessions or meetings alongside qualified solicitors or barristers
- Administrative tasks including databasing and management
- Researching case law to report back to supervisors

Not only does having a form of experience on your CV improve your confidence and skills towards the career, but you also portray yourself as much more employable to firms and legal practitioners over those that did not participate in any internship program. So get started, it is now or never!

**Here is a list of all law firms that run a summer internship programme and/or trainee lawyer programme:**

- o A&L Goodbody - <https://www.algoodbody.com>
- o AMOSS Solicitors - <https://www.amoss.ie>
- o Arthur Cox Solicitors - <https://www.arthurcox.com>
- o Beale & Co Solicitors - <https://beale-law.com>
- o Beauchamps LLP - <https://beauchamps.ie>
- o ByrneWallace LLP - <https://www.byrnewallace.com>
- o Comyn Kelleher Tobin Solicitors - <https://www.ckt.ie>
- o Dechert LLP - <https://www.dechert.com>
- o Dillon Eustace - <https://www.dilloneustace.com>
- o DLA Piper - <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/us/>
- o DWF - <https://dwfgroup.com>
- o Eugene F Collins - <https://www.efc.ie>
- o Eversheds Sutherland - <https://www.eversheds-sutherland.com/global/en/index.page>
- o Fieldfisher - <https://www.fieldfisher.com/en-ie/locations/ireland>
- o Flynn O' Driscoll <https://fod.ie/home/>
- o Hayes Solicitors LLP - <https://hayes-solicitors.ie/home>
- o Kennedys Law - <https://kennedyslaw.com>
- o Lemman Solicitors - <https://leman.ie>
- o Maples Group - <https://maples.com>
- o Mason Hayes and Curran LLP - <https://www.mhc.ie>
- o Matheson - <https://www.matheson.com>
- o McCann Fitzgerald - <https://www.mccannfitzgerald.com>
- o O'Flynn Exhams - <https://www.ofx.ie>
- o Phillip Lee - <https://www.philiplee.ie>
- o Reddy Charleton LLP - <https://reddycharlton.ie>
- o Ronan Daly Jermyn - <https://www.rdj.ie>
- o Walkers - <https://www.walkersolicitors.com>
- o Whitney Moore - <https://whitneymoore.ie>
- o William Fry - <https://www.williamfry.com>

## HOW TO APPLY

Now that you have seen all the places that are welcoming internships and training, how do we sign up? More than likely you will be expected to send on your CV via email with a personal cover letter too. Interviews are a major element of the subject of law in general, so make sure you know all there is to know about the firm you wish to do an internship in, and most of all, back yourself! When you approach the situation with confidence and enthusiasm, it will show to those interviewing you! Be yourself and the rest will follow.



## LAW FIRMS AND LINKS

We have attached below a couple of links to the most prestigious law firms within Ireland that offer placement programmes to third level students:

**A&L Goodbody** - <https://www.algoodbody.com>

**Matheson** - <https://www.matheson.com>

**Arthur Cox** - <https://www.arthurcox.com>

**Maples Group** - <https://maples.com>

**William Fry** - <https://www.williamfry.com>

If a placement programme is something that appeals to you, the majority of universities in Ireland offer these as a component to law courses. The likes of the University of Limerick, UCD, Trinity and UCC integrate work based experience into their courses, to guarantee all students get a feel for the world of law themselves!

[www.lawed.ie](http://www.lawed.ie)

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## AREAS OF LAW

As we all know, law is not tied to just one topic, as a matter of fact, it's the opposite! On this page, you will understand the various types of law available when choosing legal studies.

**Arbitration** – this relates to the resolution of civil and criminal cases outside of a court setting, used when making a binding decision.

**Aviation Law** – this type of law relates to planes and air travel.

**European Law** – this law considers the working of the European Union and how all decisions are made under this organization, it includes establishing how goods are moved freely, the workings of the single market and the rights owed to citizens.

**Competition Law** – this relates to all the competition associated in marketing. The duty of this law is to establish that customers and sellers work in an equal playing field and that no one is being exploited

**Construction Law** – this law deals with the workings of construction sites and buildings, lawyers are needed in these cases especially when working on big sitting projects where issues such as non-compliance can arise.

**Corporate Law** – This relates to all things companies. From the rights and regulations tied to a business to the shareholders involved.

**Criminal Law** – the crime and punishment aspect of law is studied under Criminal Law.

**Employment Law** – This law manages the relationship between employees and their employers. It is important the rights of both parties involved are understood and those practicing employment law ensure this is done



**Family Law** – this type of law focuses on the workings of those in the home, domestic relations and establishes children’s rights.

**Human Rights Law** – this law does exactly what it says on the tin – protects human rights!

**Media Law** – this relates to the telecommunications such as broadcasting and advertising. The way in which the internet is managed on a legal basis is established under this law also.

**Property Law** – this law relates to all the things people possess – houses, jewellery and even cars is all something which is set out in property law.

**Sports Law** – this law deals with the rules people must follow when playing sports.

**Tax Law** – this involves the regulation of tax for people and businesses

**Tort Law** – this is a very broad area of law, it covers all areas and basically relates to whenever there is an act of wrong doing that involves damages as a result of the wrong doing itself.



# Feedback from Students who Studied Law

"Studying law has given me a great footing into my job today, which is recruiting lawyers and appropriate qualified workers into banks and law firms across the world. It has also given me the opportunity to travel with my work, as I have also used my law degree to work in Hong Kong and London. However, when thinking about studying law you must understand the hard work involved both in college and after obtaining the degree. A law degree is a great thing to have but it is very tough. It is definitely one of the most prestigious careers, allowing you to branch off into many different job sectors"

**(UCC Law Graduate)**



"While it may sound daunting to study law, my experience so far has been quite the opposite. Law is an extremely diverse and intriguing degree where you will genuinely want to study because the course material is so fascinating and provocative. By the end of my first year I had immensely elevated myself academically as I was taught to be a creative problem solver, this is one of the greatest things you can achieve in a law degree as it means you will view not only the law, but other aspects in life in a completely new perspective. This can benefit you in any career even if you don't choose the legal route. My advice to anyone thinking of doing law in college would be to jump right in, you will never regret possessing the invaluable skills that a law degree will bestow upon you"

**(2nd Year Law Plus Student at UL)**



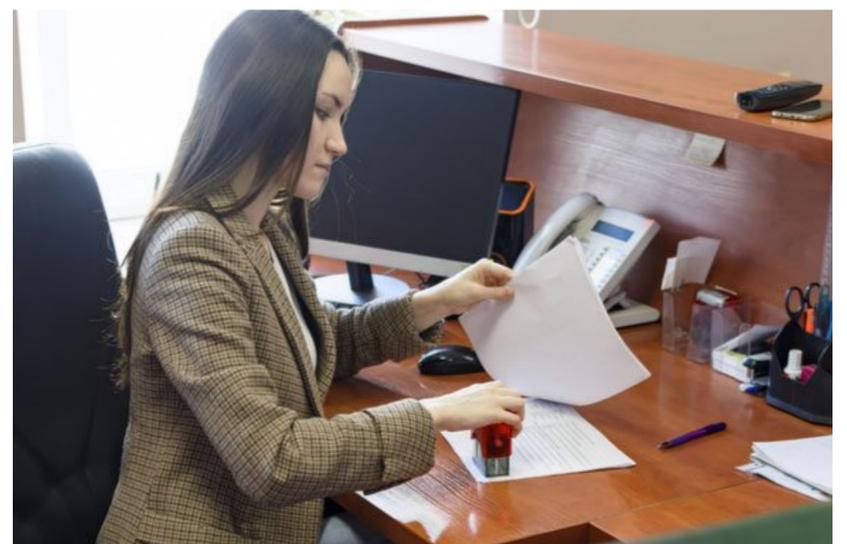


"I had a generally good experience studying law at UCD, however I felt it was lacking in terms of preparing students for their future career. For someone like myself who came from a non legal background and being part of a similiar peer group, I was unaware of summer internships until final year, when it was almost too late and on graduating I felt at a real disadvantage in terms of getting a traineeship. I think that the degree would benefit from a more practical based approach rather than solely academic learning. I think that exams should be designed to be more Fe1 like in nature so students know what to expect."

**(Law Graduate at UCD)**

"Law was always the career I wanted to go into from a very young age. I look at law as an alternative way of helping others and achieving justice for those who really deserve it. Of course, I am only at the beginning of my legal career but I can safely say it lives up to my expectations! But it cannot go unnoticed that there is a high level of competition and the stakes are very high when it comes to work with this degree. I have obviously taken a different route in comparison to straight law, so this goes to show that there is more than one way of getting the degree you want. To anyone looking at law as a potential career, I would say to remember that hard work pays off!"

**(3rd Year Criminal Justice Student at UL)**



# PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN A LAW FIRM

**Read below first hand experience from a law student who shadowed in a criminal law firm for a week during the summer:**

"One of the best things you can do if you choose to study law is get as much experience as possible. Through experience, you can learn the ways solicitors, barristers and judges operate, it is definitely the greatest way of telling whether or not the career will suit you.

My week long internship in a criminal law firm in Dublin, gave me an amazing insight into the daily workings of the job, what is expected of you and the type of people you can meet through delving into the environment.

My week started off by meeting the team at the law firm. Each and every worker was in my exact position at some stage early in their career, so there is no doubt they are more than friendly and welcoming. One thing I can say about the week was that it was extremely fast pace, you have to be very attentive at all times, and can never lose focus of what you are assigned to do.

Fortunately, I got the opportunity to go down to the Criminal Courts of Justice and see the job being done first hand. This showed the real hustle and bussle of doing law, and thankfully, I really enjoyed it!

I got to meet with clients, discuss the cases that were going on, predict the verdict for arraignment and sit in the courtroom to watch everything unfold.

This is not to say that my experience was restricted to criminal law, as I got to observe guards in action, witnesses that had to give statements, professionals dealing with forensics that were being put on the stand to demonstrate evidence and judges using their decision making skills. So even if you don't want to follow down the route of criminal law or even soliciting for that matter, doing an internship will leave you with a greater awareness of numerous jobs in the legal sector.

Not only do internships allow you to develop your own perception of the work involved, but it can also set you up for great chances after you finish your degree. If you have a memorable impact on the people and firm you worked with, they may be eager to get you back once you have the proper qualifications! So work hard, it will definitely pay off in the long run!

Overall, my experience in a criminal law firm was more than I could have ever expected, and it is safe to say I am more motivated than ever to get my degree and start working in the world of law!"

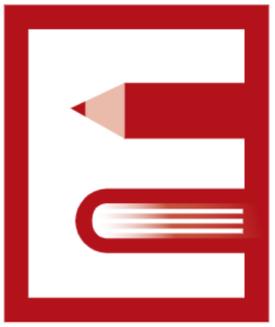


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# EVENTS AND COURSES



At LawEd we provide a variety of jam packed onsite, virtual and eLearning law workshops and courses for all secondary school year groups. There are options for work experience, social education programmes, practical achievement tasks, community engagement and life skills learning, for you the student.

Thinking of studying law? Why don't you get off to the right foot and complete one of our eLearning courses to give yourself a magnificent insight and advantage into the study of law.

## **Our 6 different eLearning law courses;**

**The Law Uncovered - 9 lessons**

**An Overview of our Legal System - 4 lessons price**

**Understanding Criminal and Civil Law - 4 lessons price**

**Young People and their Rights - 4 lessons price**

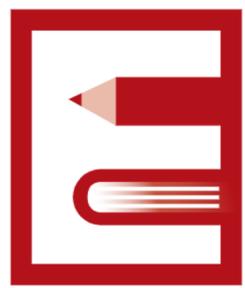
**Your Online World & The Law - 3 lessons price**

**Consent, Sexual Relationships & Related Offences  
- 3 lessons**

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## **LAWED/CAREERED ASPIRE**

Need help and guidance on subjects, courses and careers? Is law a career choice for you?

So, whether you're considering studying law as a secondary school student (CAO) to ultimately being an undergraduate or postgraduate we have all the information you need to get ahead!

Find your career path with CareerEd where we provide 3 different service options at **[www.lawed.ie](http://www.lawed.ie)**

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You have come to the end of our LawEd student legal guide! We hope this guide helped you in some way when choosing a law degree or career.

Further information can be found at  
[www.lawed.ie](http://www.lawed.ie)

Remember - **the law is not just for lawyers!**

