



## **LLB (Hons) Part-time and Open Learning**



[www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk](http://www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk)

# Welcome

**Northumbria is justifiably renowned for its unique undergraduate programmes, and for the excellence of its range of postgraduate and vocational law programmes.**

What makes Northumbria School of Law so special is its focus on Law in Practice – the learning of law through the understanding of law as it operates in practice. Out of almost 100 academic staff, more than 70 are qualified as solicitors or barristers – with considerable, often continuing, experience of practice. All of us are committed to ensuring that our students learn law in a way that equips them for their professional roles.

The practical expertise of our academic staff and the focus on excellence in teaching ensures that the programmes we offer are of a consistently high standard, designed to meet the needs of our students. We are constantly developing the programmes to make the most of new technologies and to respond to the changing requirements of students who are also busy professionals.

The School is part of the award-winning City Campus East, in the heart of Newcastle. Based in a £70 million building, we are justifiably proud of our facilities, with stunning state-of-the-art lecture theatres, dedicated courtroom, our skills suites, and our superb Law Practice Library.

The intake of students across all of our courses reflects the national and international reputation of the School – with students from across the UK and from all the major common law jurisdictions. The students comment on the high levels of support and encouragement from the staff, and the commitment by the School to supporting their studies. By making full use of e-Learning and other



modes of distance learning provision, we have designed courses that support full-time students, while opening up access to qualifications for students who have work or life commitments which mean that they need the flexibility of part-time and distance learning studies.

I look forward to welcoming you onto one of our law courses.

**Kevin Kerrigan**

**Dean of Northumbria School of Law**

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## Why choose Northumbria School of Law?

- We are the largest Law School in the North East of England and have a national and international reputation for excellence in legal education
- We have over 30 years' experience of providing part-time and open learning legal education
- We provide access to an extensive range of online legal databases and webcasts
- We are based in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne, a first class student city, in an award-winning building which boasts outstanding teaching and learning facilities
- We have specially designed courtrooms modelled on those that students will experience as qualified practitioners
- Our students are taught by professionally qualified academic tutors with experience in corporate and high street practice and the School maintains strong links with the legal profession
- We have won a number of awards and accolades including the UK National Training Award, two Attorney General's Pro Bono Awards and two Law Society Excellence Awards. In addition, we were shortlisted for Law Firm of the Year by Newcastle Law Society.

## Why should I study law?

Law dominates our lives, whether we are buying goods in a shop, going to work, purchasing a house, involved in an accident or seeking to arrange a pension. The media report daily on events of legal significance, such as Parliament passing new legislation or the need for new laws or some development involving the European Union. To understand any of these matters it is important to understand the law and the legal system.

The LLB (Hons) degree aims to give you an understanding of the English legal system in its European context, the diverse areas of law contained within that system and the methods adopted by lawyers in using legal source material. Throughout the programme, emphasis is placed on student-centred learning, supported by study materials and electronic resources, to foster research skills and initiative.

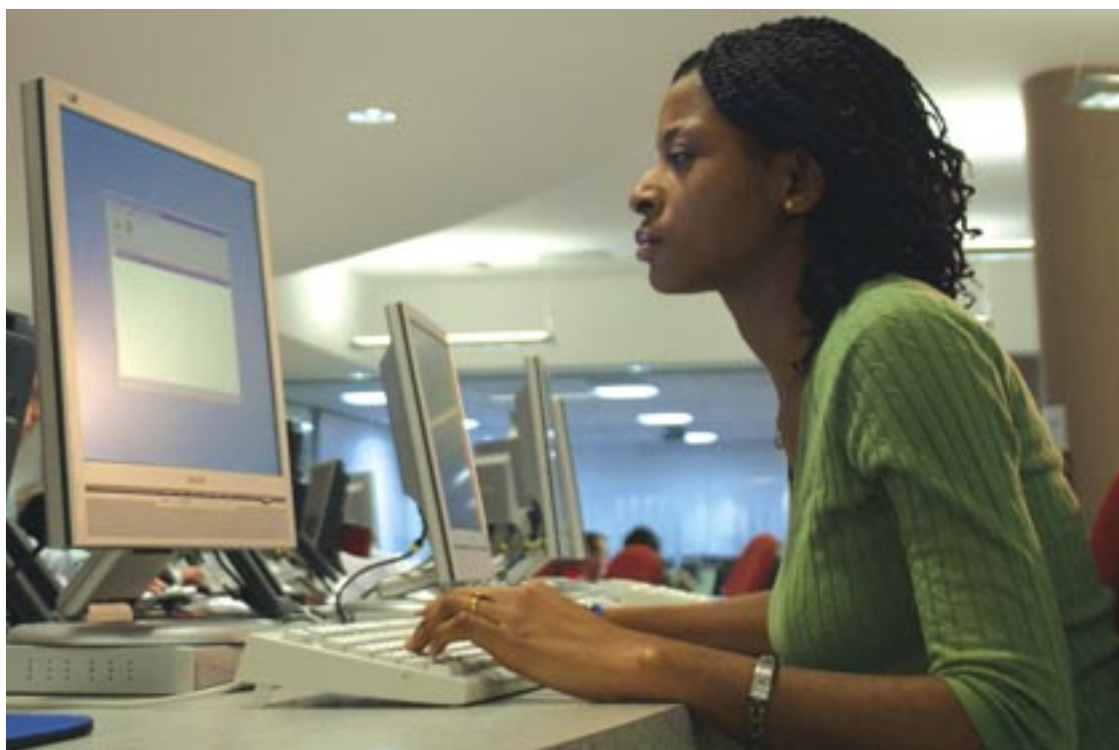
The School recognises the importance of developing practical skills which will enhance employability and be built

upon in the workplace or during further education. Opportunities to develop these skills are integrated throughout the programme. By following this programme you have the opportunity to explore the law and this can be a springboard for career change or career development.

## What can I do with a degree in law?

The degree is a qualifying law degree which means it exempts students from the academic stage of education to become a solicitor or barrister. Upon successful completion of the degree students may apply for admission to the Legal Practice Course (LPC), the vocational stage of legal education to become a solicitor, or the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), the vocational stage of legal education to become a barrister.

Students will discover that many forms of employment have significant legal content. For example, an understanding of law is important for Surveyors, Company Secretaries, Local Government Officers, Civil Servants and Police.



## The LLB (Hons) Part-time programme

The LLB (Hons) Part-time degree is a flexible 4 – 6 year programme. The degree is taught on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, between 6 – 9pm and 6 – 8.30pm respectively, in the Law School, which is located on the award-winning City Campus East.

### How is the programme taught?

Teaching comprises lectures and small group discussions called seminars. A seminar is based upon a question which is prepared by students in advance of the session and which is then discussed with a tutor and fellow students. In Years 1 and 2 of the programme there are also study skills sessions every week concentrating on legal and other skills such as research, writing, examination technique and the use of IT. You may also take part in a mock trial or a moot in these sessions.

### What is the time commitment for this programme?

Teaching sessions last for 5 – 6 hours per week; to this there must be added time spent by students researching, reading, writing and preparing one seminar per week. It is difficult to put a figure to this added time but 15 hours is a number mentioned by many former and present students. You must set aside sufficient time each week to read around the three lectures and prepare in sufficient depth the seminar set. When assignments are due for submission, you may find that you have to spend additional time on your studies.

### What if my circumstances change and I cannot attend the part-time sessions?

Students sometimes find that having enrolled on the LLB (Hons) Part-time programme their circumstances change, for example, their job or working pattern, or that they have moved to another part of the country. Should such a change occur it is possible to continue your degree studies by transferring to the LLB (Hons) Open Learning route, which has the same structure as the LLB (Hons) Part-time route, but is taught using distance learning study materials and internet resources.







## The LLB (Hons) Open Learning programme

The LLB (Hons) Open Learning degree is a 4 – 6 year programme which is studied via distance learning. There is no attendance requirement for the programme therefore it is ideal for those who are unable to attend the University to study due to work or personal commitments.

Learning is developed through study materials delivered over the internet. Each module has a set of materials, a study schedule and answer guidance available on the eLearning Portal site. PowerPoint presentations, notes, updates and useful assessment guidance are also posted on the module sites. Our most recent innovation in our Open Learning LLB degree, is teaching through the use of webcasts. The webcasts are short videos which explore essential legal aspects of a particular legal subject, and students are able to use them to navigate through a series of written and recorded materials, with access to linked documentation and other related materials. From September 2012, the webcasts will be available for the eight core modules on the Open Learning programme. You will also have access to legal databases which allows you to read primary legal sources such as legislation and case law, as well as secondary legal sources such as journal articles and commentaries.

By undertaking a law degree on a distance learning basis, students have the flexibility to undertake study at their own time, and at a place that is most convenient to them. Students are not tied to attending classes on particular days at particular places. With the support of experienced and knowledgeable staff at the end of the telephone or email, and a wealth of interesting and informative materials available via the internet, distance learning can offer much more than traditional face-to-face study.

### What support is given to Open Learning students?

Each module has a module tutor who is responsible for delivering the teaching materials via the eLearning Portal. Module tutors are contactable by telephone, email or, if a student is based in the UK and is able to visit Newcastle, on a face-to-face basis. The study materials have been designed to enable students to obtain feedback and advice on written work that they submit. This is an integral part of the learning experience and students are encouraged to submit work of this type.

Each year group has a Year Director. They will be able to assist students with a range of queries, for example, how a student should proceed if they have concerns about undertaking scheduled examinations or coursework. Additionally, students can contact the Open Learning Administration Team who have a wealth of experience in distance learning support.



### **What is the time commitment for the programme?**

It is important to adopt a disciplined approach to your studies on the programme. Over the course of each year you will undertake three modules, each worth 30 credits. This equates to a total of 900 hours each year (300 hours per study module). To ensure that you do undertake the requisite amount of work, at the appropriate time, you are advised to follow the study schedule for each module, which sets weekly targets. To do this you will have to spend approximately 20 hours per week on your studies.

### **If my circumstances change am I able to transfer to the LLB (Hons) Part-time programme?**

If your circumstances change and you would like to follow the taught part-time programme it is possible to transfer. This should be discussed with the Programme Leader.



# What will I study on the programme?

The degree consists of 12 modules in total. Students will typically study three modules per year.

The diagram below outlines the structure of the programme.

<b>Year 1</b>	English Legal System	Contract	Criminal Law
<b>Year 2</b>	European Union Law	Property 1	Tort
<b>Year 3</b>	Public Law	Property 2	Option
<b>Year 4</b>	Option	Option	Jurisprudence or Project

## Is there a choice of modules?

In Years 3 and 4, students have a choice of modules.

The options include:

- Company Law
- Employment Law
- Evidence
- Family Law\*
- Intellectual Property Law\*\*
- Jurisprudence
- Medical Law
- Project (5,000 – 7,000 words)

\*Only available on the Part-time programme

\*\*Only available on the Open Learning programme

The availability of options in any year will depend upon there being sufficient student demand.

## How is the programme assessed?

Each module has one assessment which can be either written or oral and will take the form of either an assignment or an end of year examination.

Students have three opportunities to pass each module; however, students cannot proceed into the next year of study until all three modules are completed. Full details regarding deferring or retaking exams can be obtained from the Programme Handbook which will be issued once enrolment has taken place.

## Where can I sit my exams?

Assessments for both the Part-time and Open Learning programmes are held in Newcastle upon Tyne. Open Learning students may also take examinations in London. Any Open Learning students based overseas must take their assessments at the British Council venue in their country of residence. If there is no British Council where you reside or they are unable to accommodate your examination you may sit your exams in a recognised Higher Education Institution that has been approved by Northumbria Law School. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that arrangements can be made to sit your exams in your country and to pay any fees that may be charged by the venue.

## What facilities are available to me?

Once enrolled on the programme you are entitled to all the benefits available to students of Northumbria University. You will have access to all the University's facilities, including the libraries, Student Support and Wellbeing, IT Services and sporting facilities. Within the Law School you will be given access to legal databases available via the internet. Accessing these from your house is like having a library in your own home. Students on the LLB (Hons) programme who are based within the UK are also able to use their own local university library by registering on the SCONUL scheme.

## If I already have a degree can I finish the programme in a shorter period than four years?

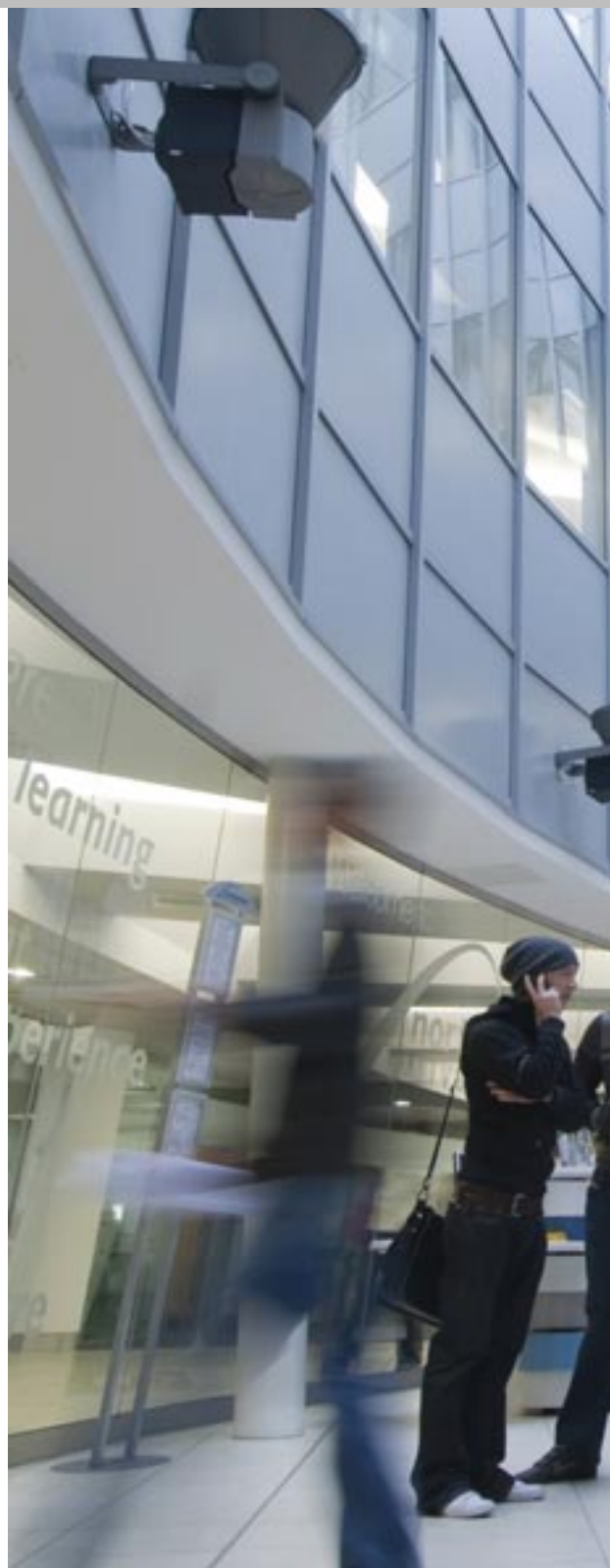
If you have a degree or a qualification which is equivalent to a UK Honours degree you may be able to complete the degree in three years by having your previous qualifications recognised as Accredited Prior Learning.

Additionally if you have recently studied law at degree level, or you wish to transfer your law degree from another institution, you may be able to obtain exemption from certain subjects. This should be raised in your application form.

## What funding is available to me?

Changes to Higher Education funding mean that part-time students from the UK and EU can now apply for a tuition fee loan to cover their tuition costs.

To be eligible for a tuition fee loan, this must generally be the first time you are studying on a Higher Education course. To qualify you must complete a minimum of 25% of the equivalent full-time course per year. Part-time students are not eligible for a grant to cover living costs.







## I'm concerned that I will not be able to cope with degree level study?

Degree level study requires good study skills, time management, discipline and an ability to work independently. Teaching on the law degree assumes no prior knowledge of the law and you will be guided, particularly during Year 1, as to what you should be studying. The lecturers and seminar tutors will be available to answer questions by email, telephone or on a face-to-face basis. Students on the LLB (Hons) Part-time programme will be allocated a Guidance Tutor who will be able to provide advice on issues such as choosing options, choosing project titles and future career or study opportunities, as well as providing help with general problems affecting your study or with specific study problems. Students on the LLB (Hons) Open Learning degree will have a Year Director available to assist with the same matters.

## How do I obtain a place on the programme?

The programme is open access and is designed to encourage wider access to those who do not have traditional educational qualifications. Applicants must be able to show a high level of motivation, discipline and the necessary intellectual ability required to complete the programme. This may be demonstrated by:

- Relevant experience e.g. work, community activities
- Formal educational qualifications

Applicants for whom English is not their first language should have an English Language score of 6.5 on IELTS (or equivalent) or have previously studied in English.

Applications can be made on a standard University application form which is available by contacting [law@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:law@northumbria.ac.uk) or 0191 243 7035. Online applications can be made through the School's website [www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk](http://www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk).





## University Library

City Campus Library, as well as our Law Practice Library and Coach Lane Campus Library, contain in total around half a million books and 2,000 print articles. As distance learning students you will have access to these libraries; however we recognise that many of you are not able to physically access them.

The University Library provides a postal service for books and journal articles which can be sent worldwide to Northumbria University students who are studying part-time or by distance learning. A Northumbria University Smartcard is required for this service; you can register for these online. Students can borrow up to 10 four-week loan books. To allow for postage, seven-day books will be issued initially for two weeks and four-week loans for six weeks. As long as items are not required by another user they can be renewed up to four times for the normal loan period. Postage of the book to students will be paid by the University however students are responsible for the postage to return the book.

## Legal Journals

There are also around 30,000 journals available through the e-Library which is accessed via our website. These journals can be accessed through NORA Power Search. Using NORA Power Search you are able to:

- Use a single search box to get fast results from across a wide and reliable range of quality academic resources
- Search for print and electronic material at the same time
- Quickly refine and filter your search results
- Easily limit your search to items with full-text online
- Set up an RSS feed for your search.

New features and functionality are continually being developed and added to the service.

In addition, once students have enrolled they can gain borrowing rights from other libraries across the UK. These borrowing rights allow students to use other libraries and their facilities as well as allowing them to withdraw books. Information about the libraries that take part can be obtained from the website [www.access.sconul.ac.uk](http://www.access.sconul.ac.uk).



## Legal Databases

Law students can also access the legal databases which Northumbria School of Law subscribes to in order to view case reports, law reviews, statutes and journals online. The databases currently subscribed to include Lexis Nexis, Westlaw and Lawtel.

## Photocopying

The Library also provides a photocopying service for distance learning students. A charge is levied for this to cover copying and postage. For more information, contact the University Library.

## IT at Northumbria

There's plenty of choice in how you access IT here at Northumbria. As well as your own email account, you are also given a generous space allocation on a server to store your academic work. You also have access to your own personalised student homepage on the Northumbria website called MyNorthumbria, where you can keep track of your University life, including being able to make payments online.

The Desktop Anywhere service allows you to access University IT facilities from most computers with a connection to the internet, including access to your work space and your email using Outlook Web Access (OWA).

The modules that you are enrolled on will be available to you via the eLearning Portal (eLP), which can be accessed through the University website. For each module there will be detailed course information including the course handbooks and assessment information. Most modules also have online workbooks and audio/video lectures to assist students in their studies.

You can get help and advice about any aspect of IT from our IT Helpline, which is open 24 hours a day, every day. The contact numbers for this helpline are +44 (0)191 227 4242 or free phone 0800 923 4242. Alternatively you can email the IT Helpline [it.helpline@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:it.helpline@northumbria.ac.uk).

For more information about IT at Northumbria visit our website at [www.northumbria.ac.uk/it](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/it).

## Student Support and Wellbeing

The School of Law wants all of its students to get the best out of their time with us and we want you to be comfortable studying here. To that end there are services available to provide support to all students. Information about the services can be found on the University website at [www.northumbria.ac.uk/student-services](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/student-services).

Students with any form of disability who feel their study may be impaired or who require additional assistance for studying, examinations, etc., should contact Disability Support for further information and to discuss their requirements. You can contact the Disability Support team through the Student Support and Wellbeing website [www.northumbria.ac.uk/student-services](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/student-services) and clicking on 'Disability Support'.

The University has a counselling and mental health service which is available to all students. Appointments may be made to discuss any matters affecting your study. All issues are dealt with in confidence. With Open Learning students in mind, the counselling service has introduced an email counselling service. More information about the counselling service can also be accessed through the Student Support and Wellbeing website [www.northumbria.ac.uk/student-services](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/student-services) and clicking on 'Counselling and Mental Health Support'.



## Useful Contacts

### Northumbria University School of Law

City Campus East  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 8ST  
Tel: 0191 243 7035  
Email: [law@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:law@northumbria.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk](http://www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk)

### Admissions

Northumbria University  
Trinity Building  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 8ST  
Tel: 0191 227 4453  
Email: [et.admissions@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:et.admissions@northumbria.ac.uk)

### International Admissions

Northumbria University  
21/22 Ellison Place  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 8ST  
Tel: +44 (0)191 243 7906  
Email: [er.internationaladmissions@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:er.internationaladmissions@northumbria.ac.uk)

### Return to Learning Service

Northumbria University  
Trinity Building  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 8ST  
Tel: 0191 227 4323  
Email: [er.rtlservice@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:er.rtlservice@northumbria.ac.uk)

### Student Support and Wellbeing

Northumbria University  
Northumberland Building  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 8ST  
Tel: 0191 227 4127  
Web: [www.northumbria.ac.uk/studentsservices](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/studentsservices)

### University Library

City Campus Library  
Sandyford Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 8ST  
Tel: 0191 227 4383  
Web: [www.northumbria.ac.uk/library](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/library)



# A law school for the twenty-first century

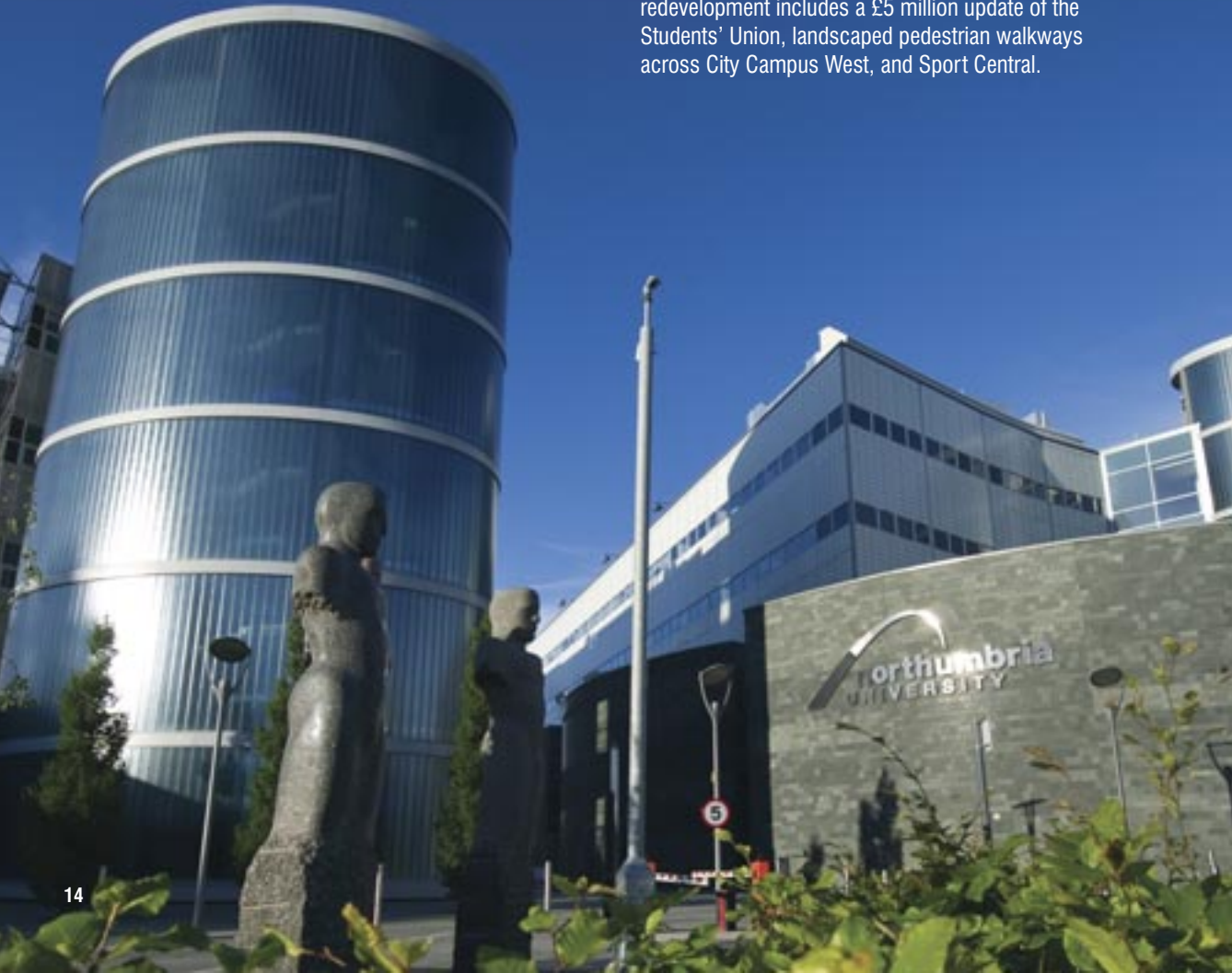
Northumbria School of Law is located on a modern, state-of-the-art £70 million development in central Newcastle – City Campus East. The development was officially opened in 2008 in a ceremony which marked one of the most significant developments in the history of Northumbria University. The development has now massed 20 awards and continues to be enthusiastically received by both students and staff.

The School of Law, which shares its building with Newcastle Business School, incorporates 16,000 square metres of purpose-built accommodation including three large state-of-the-art lecture theatres and workshop rooms equipped with the latest technology, as well as student hub areas. There are courtrooms modelled on those that students will experience as qualified practitioners, with the ability to use technological developments to be found in a modern court. The School's original courtroom, installed courtesy of South East Northumberland Magistrates, has been reconstructed in the futuristic building.

A specialist Law Practice Library contains practitioner materials, journals and law reports and, in addition, students have access to IT and wireless facilities throughout the building and both study and social space, including a cafeteria.

The building also houses the School's internationally renowned Student Law Office, which provides students with the opportunity to provide legal advice and representation to members of the public and thus experience life as a professional lawyer.

The University's overall £160 million campus redevelopment includes a £5 million update of the Students' Union, landscaped pedestrian walkways across City Campus West, and Sport Central.



# Sport Central



Sport Central provides some of the most outstanding fitness and training facilities in the country. The centre offers a 25-metre pool with a variable depth floor, a sports hall provision equivalent to the size of four netball courts, a Health and Fitness suite with more than 150 pieces of the highest spec Technogym equipment, a climbing wall, glass-backed squash courts, a dedicated strength and conditioning suite, a 60-metre sprint track and specialised training environments for a number of different sports. At the heart of the facility is an indoor arena, fully media-enabled and with 3,000 seats.

The striking new development opened to students, staff and members of the community in September 2010.



# About Newcastle upon Tyne

Newcastle is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city – making it the perfect place to be a student. Newcastle has been voted one of the friendliest places in the UK and you will see why once you get in to the city and see how helpful and friendly the Geordies really are.



**Northumbria University is located in the heart of Newcastle. It's right on the doorstep of everything, including some of the best shops, bars, parks, galleries and museums. Once you arrive it's not hard to see why over 42,000 students choose to study in this passionate city.**

If you are visiting Northumbria University for a study day then you may need to find accommodation. There are a variety of hotels in the city from budget hostels to five star

hotels, most of which are close to the Northumbria University City Campus. You can visit the tourist information website [www.newcastle Gateshead.com](http://www.newcastle Gateshead.com) to find out more information about staying in Newcastle.

Please note that we are located right in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne and therefore the University is unable to provide car parking facilities. If possible, you should travel by public transport, but if you do need to bring a car then parking is available in one of the many car parks in the city.

## Sports and events

In the city you can find a number of places to watch sporting and music events. In terms of sport, there is the world famous Premier League football team, Newcastle United. There are many opportunities to catch a basketball or ice hockey match or if you're into rugby, head over to the Northumbria University-owned Kingston Park to watch the Newcastle Falcons in action. The biggest sporting event in the North East is the Great North Run with over 50,000 runners taking part each year.

Music venues include the Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle City Hall and the O2 Academy, which have gigs and club nights almost every night of the week, catering for almost all genres of music. Over the Tyne, there is The Sage Gateshead, a pioneering centre for music education offering a variety of live music.

## Shop till you drop

If shopping is what you do best, Newcastle is the place for you. You can take a stroll up Northumberland Street, lined with high street stores, or browse Eldon Square, a huge shopping centre, until you find exactly what you're looking for. And if that isn't enough, you can browse the chic boutiques and even visit the monthly farmers' market. Just over the river there is the MetroCentre, one of the largest shopping centres in Europe, where you can find endless shops, restaurants and an IMAX cinema.



## Getting around

Newcastle has excellent transport links and is very easy to get to. It's only three hours from London by train and an hour and a half from Edinburgh. Newcastle also has its own International Airport.

Newcastle has a modern Metro rail system and a reliable and regular bus service. Northumbria School of Law is located right next to Manors Metro station.

## Legal community

The North East legal community has a justified reputation for the breadth and depth of its work and provides a comprehensive range of legal services of the highest standard. The work of the firms and chambers in the region is viewed as both progressive and innovative. The North East provides the prospective trainee or qualified practitioner with a wide range of opportunities. There are firms with regional, national and international reputations. There are also smaller practices that have developed niche specialisms and expertise. Whether you are looking to gain experience in the corporate or the public sectors, with private clients, with financial institutions or with educational establishments, there are opportunities for you in the North East.

For those with an eye on the Bar, the North East has a number of leading chambers and several smaller sets, covering all of the main areas of practice, in addition to a number of important specialist areas. Indeed, the busy Crown Court on Newcastle's Quayside presents opportunities to study leading and junior counsel in action on both high profile and mainstream cases, whilst the various sets of chambers allow for practical experience to be gained in a supportive yet challenging environment.



[www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk](http://www.northumbrialawschool.co.uk)

Copies of this publication are available in alternative formats such as braille, large print, tape or disk. In the first instance please contact Karen Newton (Disabilities Adviser) for details.

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Northumbria University is the trading name of the University of Northumbria at Newcastle.

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