



Dukies Careers Week Resources – Thursday 17th March

BUSINESS & LAW

Good morning, and welcome to Thursday's resources for our Careers Week. Today, we will be looking at careers related to Business and Law.

Business



Money makes the world go round, as the saying goes, and for many people, a major part of finding the 'right career' will involve earning enough money to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. Working in business attracts, because the usual, stereotypical picture of a successful business entrepreneur involves the trappings of big car, big house, expensive clothes. However, unless you are really fortunate, that sort of lifestyle may only be achieved after many years hard work.

'Working in Business' as a career aim can, very generally, be divided into two sectors: working for an organization or company – and maybe one day heading up such a business – or establishing and building up your own company. Firstly, let us look at a career working for a company, whether large, medium or small.

Traditionally, one way of entering a business is 'working your way up' – starting young, with a relatively small, junior position, and by hard work and skill, gaining promotions up the seniority ladder. This is still a viable option, and nowadays finding a business apprenticeship is a good way of starting – see Monday's resources for plenty of ideas of how to find apprenticeships.

However, nowadays an equally valid route into business will be to study for qualifications before entering the job market. UCAS lists over 4400 different degree courses over 272 universities: many of these have another subject added to them to offer a joint degree – Business and Law, Business and Marketing, Business and Human Resources, Business and Accounting – the list of other subjects you can take along with Business is almost endless,



and each will offer different insights and opportunities. Business degrees very often offer a chance to work within a company for a while, either in the UK or overseas. Business with a foreign language is becoming increasingly popular, as someone with business skills and the ability to work with suppliers, customers or associates in other parts of the world will always be in great demand.

With so many different Business degree courses available, it is very difficult to say what sort of A level or BTEC grades you would need – however, as long as you have passed your GCSEs in English and Maths with at least a grade 5, most will not require you to have studied Business at 6th Form.

For some ideas of what type of business careers are available, the Government Careers Service has a comprehensive list, with 42 different job roles, each with ideas and advice on salaries, prospects, and qualifications: [Business and finance | Explore careers \(nationalcareers.service.gov.uk\)](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/business-and-finance)

The Target Careers website (<https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors/business>) has ideas on different routes into business, and other useful information.

Here are just a few examples of successful businesspeople in all sorts of organizations:

Yvonne, Managing Director, Global Markets, Bank of America <https://youtu.be/Kkdm52LlNkk>

Tony, Head of Supply Chain, Auto Windscreens: https://youtu.be/yn2NNauv_LY

Gwenyth, Business Relationship Manager, IBM: <https://youtu.be/seGd9acepxM>

Robbie, Distillery Manager, Glengoyne Distillery: <https://youtu.be/RLDy8b9lxk>

Sarah, Marketing Manager, Sheffield United Football Club: <https://youtu.be/ysvolAyRKKs>

Laurence, Trainee Auditor, Audit Commission: <https://youtu.be/Ovxft8sNunk>

Margo, Events Manager, British Racing School: <https://youtu.be/ZIMD4WiyGCI>

Finally in this section, an interesting article from an American website looking at, not only the best career professions for business graduates, but also some of the personal skills a qualification in Business would give you: [Best Jobs for Graduates With a Business Degree \(thebalancecareers.com\)](https://thebalancecareers.com/best-jobs-for-graduates-with-a-business-degree)

Want to get some experience? This video from CXK has lots of good ideas on how to find work experience within business – and how to recognise some skills you may already have: [NAW2021 Business Knowledge - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAW2021)

Turning now to business entrepreneurship. Who doesn't dream of being your own boss, making all the decisions, building an empire? Did you know there are 5.7 million small businesses in the UK and that more than 1,000 start up every single day?

Not only that, but there are about 450,000 16–24-year-olds running smaller businesses in the UK. There is plenty of help and advice available, whether you dream of running your own sandwich delivery company, or have a revolutionary idea that will change the world and earn millions of pounds. Of course, success isn't guaranteed, and you will need help and support along the way.



The government has plenty of advice available for young people looking to set up their own business here: [Support for young entrepreneurs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

The Young Enterprise organization has training and education programmes specifically to help in this area: [Enterprise Education - Young Enterprise & Young Money \(young-enterprise.org.uk\)](https://www.young-enterprise.org.uk)

Here is a list of the top 10 young entrepreneurs, with their helpful hints and tips: [Young guns: 10 of the top young entrepreneurs in the UK today | Workspace](#)

Our friends at CXK have an excellent article on being self-employed, with recommendations, pitfalls to look out for, and many websites to view: [A Guide to Becoming Self Employed - Self Employment Explained - CXK](#)

If you have ambitions of becoming a truly successful entrepreneur, there are, of course, two TV programmes you should be watching: The Apprentice, and Dragon's Den. Here are some famous – and not so famous – ideas and products from Dragon's Den: [20 Most Successful Pitches From Dragon's Den of All Time \(Updated 2022\) - Insider Growth](#)

There are many videos available on YouTube of "How I made my first million" – but beware of scams and swindles. If you are interested in doing it all yourself, there is really one person you will want to listen to:

Sir Richard, Head of the Virgin organization: https://youtu.be/i_Gy_J1qlts



Law



Lawyer, Barrister, Solicitor, Paralegal... all of these are professional careers in the legal sector. Law is another popular declared destination for Dukies but, like Medicine, it can be extremely hard to enter. Again, similar to Medicine, many universities will require you to take the LNAT (Law National Aptitude Test) early in Year 13. A really clear introduction to law and explanations of different jobs in the legal industry can be found on BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkmvnrq>. There are lots of videos to explore here as well.

The Law Careers website offers a good diagram about the routes into practising law: <https://www.lawcareers.net/Courses/LegalCareerPaths>. You will also find really clear explanations of the right GCSEs and A-Levels to take if you are interested in this field.

UCAS Law section: <https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects/law> - requirements for studying law at university, information about law degrees in different fields, which professions a law degree can lead you to and details of which universities offer law degrees.

Law and legal studies industry guide: <https://www.ucas.com/explore/industry-guides/law-and-legal-studies> - career profiles, information about apprenticeships

Prospects careers guide Law: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/law> - explore different industries where a law degree is useful, includes case studies and guidance for gaining relevant work experience

Find out about opportunities for work experience or shadowing a professional lawyer or solicitor: <https://www.thelawyerportal.com/study-law/law-work-experience/law-work-experience-year-12/>.

Volunteering is highly beneficial if you want to see if a career in law might suit you. For opportunities, it would be a good idea to contact a law firm or solicitors that's local to you. You can also gain work experience through virtual placements. You can find out more and meet some professionals on this highly rated website: <https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience/law-work-experience>. Many placements are open to applications from students of any age. **The next virtual work experience is being hosted from 4.-15. April. You can apply for a variety of different aspects and sectors but you must get your application in online by March 30th.**



Watch videos of law professionals talking about their careers, including an MP, on the icould...website: <https://icould.com/focus-on/law-order/>

This episode of The Learn Lounge explores career paths for people interested in law: <https://advice.springpod.com/series-episodes/an-insiders-guide-to-a-career-in-law-careers-talk-by-samantha-hope>.

All you need to know about legal apprenticeships can be found on The Lawyer Portal: <https://www.thelawyerportal.com/study-law/legal-apprenticeships/>. You can also take a quiz to see if this is a suitable career path for you and there are videos from professionals who explain what a legal apprenticeship involves.

The Complete University Guide offers detailed information about entry requirements for law degrees. You can explore different career pathways, as well as various universities from this portal: <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/subject-guide/law>.

An excellent free 3-hour online course about Starting with Law is available from the Open University on their platform OpenLearn. Register for free and learn at your own pace. <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/society-politics-law/starting-law/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

Serious about studying law? Take a free online preparation course for studying a law degree with the University of Law via FutureLearn: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/international-foundation-programme-in-law-the-first-step-towards-your-future-successful-career>. You could also complete a free 20 hour introductory course about English Common Law on Coursera: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/intro-common-law#about>.

So, whether you think you've got a business brain, or a leaning towards law, hopefully there are resources here to help you start your journey. Tomorrow, in the fifth and final Careers Week resource, we will look at careers linked to the humanities and the arts. If you have any questions, please do email me, or drop into the Library for a chat.

Stephen King, Careers Leader