

LLM Student Employability

Our Shipping and Trade LLM Programmes cater to a wide range of legal areas, including maritime, commercial, offshore energy, intellectual property and international trade law.

Our specialities might be varied, but the quality of each of our programmes remains stellar and our strong links with the legal industry put our students in the best positions possible to seek and obtain employment opportunities (our links bear fruit via modules with prizes sponsored by London law firms, mootings, specialised employability lectures and a tight-knit alumni community who regularly recruit from our graduates).

We take great pride in our students' achievements, their successes are a testament of their hard work and dedication. As such, we are more than happy to showcase the following students from our 2021/22 cohort (who have managed to secure employment/internships in relevant positions even before they have completed their degree!).

Employment



ALEXANDRA LASSO MARIN
Senior Associate Lawyer,
Anzola Robles y Asociados
(Mergers and Acquisitions),
Panama

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you in getting your current position?

I am aware that, with my experience and studies, I have been successful throughout my professional life. However, I consider that having completed my LLM in International Commercial Law and Maritime Law at Swansea University, I have been allowed to reach the next level, one that I was anxiously awaiting.

Swansea University gave me the tools I needed for the job position I am in today; not just the legal knowledge that I developed during my classes, but my English has also improved, allowing me to continue creating more connections with both clients and colleagues.

Q. What advice can you give to current students in their job search?

The best advice I can give when looking for a job opportunity is to never give up. Never think that any job position is above your expertise, because sometimes you are exactly what a company needs.

Do not doubt what you have learned and show that it is not only about what you studied but how you apply it.

Don't be afraid to apply to new positions that may be considered outside your scope, experiencing new opportunities is always a refreshing adventure. Be constant, thorough and stay active on LinkedIn and always seek to create connections. You never really know what a friendship can bring to your professional life.



FAN ZUORAN

**Claim Assistant at the Standard Club,
London**

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you in getting your current position?

The Maritime Law LLM program offered at Swansea University is well renowned within the international maritime industry, and many former graduates are highly regarded within the field, which is particularly advantageous for me as a new graduate. Being someone with no former legal study background, I found the teaching styles of our lecturers very accommodating in the sense that the lectures are designed in a way that caters not only to those who are former law graduates and practitioners, but also to those without former knowledge and experience like myself.

For instance, the LLM program offers a 'tasting menu' of all the modules one can take during the induction week for new students to try out and form a general sense of each module. This is a brilliant way for new students with no experience in Maritime law to test the water before making a full commitment. Thanks to our phenomenal lecturers and supporting peers, I have gained valuable and practical legal knowledge that prepared me to face the technical questions raised during my interview confidently. Together with the great reputation set forth by our lecturers and alumni of the Maritime LLM program, I was able to secure the position as a claim assistant at the Standard Club in London.

Q. What advice can you give to current students in their job search?

My advice to current students is not to wait for the last minute and constantly seek new opportunities. Always be prepared by having the relevant materials ready for submission such as an up-to-date CV and a template cover letter which can be easily tinkered with to be tailored to the job positions you are applying to.

Furthermore, taking the Employability module offered as a non-credit bearing module also will assist you tremendously in searching for the right job in the industry since not only will this course be useful for giving you an idea of what each career option will offer, it also gives you the opportunity to meet and greet with people that are well positioned within their specialised field. This networking opportunity is invaluable and can be the key to landing a job as it shows that you are truly interested in the field and position you are applying for.



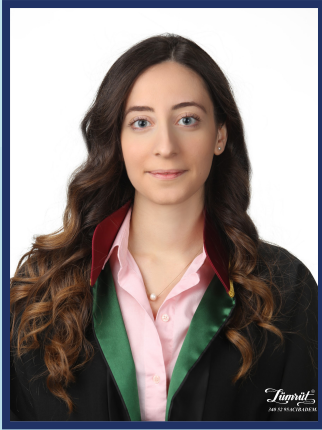
EFFRISYNI STEFANOPOULOU
Claims assistant, North of England P&I Club
(Greek Team),
Newcastle, England

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you in getting your current position?

Studying International Maritime Law in Swansea not only gave me the opportunity to understand the maritime sector from a legal perspective, but it also enabled me to fulfil my dreams unexpectedly early, even before my graduation. The LLM program has a global reputation in the field of maritime law, as it provides academic excellence in the most critical and practical factors for a postgraduate programme. I couldn't imagine how many useful things I could learn in a year. Finally, the fact that I was surrounded by students from different nationalities allowed me to create an international network of contacts.

Q. What advice can you give to current students in their job search?

If I could give some advice, I would suggest they choose their modules wisely, as these will be the first thing that the recruiters check, and attend the optional employability courses, as they are useful and helpful for everyone. Also, students should avoid limiting their focus to one field or specific company but instead be open to gaining any experience they can first. I highly recommend students use professional web platforms, such as LinkedIn, which is an essential tool to find great professional opportunities. Believe in yourself, and always remember that you are lucky choosing to study this program. Swansea's LLM will certainly open doors for you!



ECE BIRINCI
Hannaford Turner LLP,
London

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you in getting your current position?

I studied my LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea. The program was very detailed, with the modules being quite comprehensive. The four modules that I selected were the ones I found most interesting, personally, and additionally, I picked the Mooting and Employability modules – which I found to be invaluable. As a lawyer qualified in Turkey I had initial doubts about studying English law, thinking that it would be difficult to understand, however all of the modules, apart from teaching the peculiarities of maritime law, also gave us the main basics of English law.

Swansea's IISTL has a remarkable teaching team. Moreover, the lecturers consider every student and their career plans. The institute plans the Employability module for the whole year and each week the students get to chance to meet successful professionals from the maritime market. Having a professional background of seven years in maritime law combined with Swansea's knowledge and vision, helped me to obtain my career objective.

The most important things I could advise: be curious, choose the modules you are enthusiastic about, and use Mooting and Employability modules as a way of networking.

Q. What advice can you give to current students in their job search?

It was the first term's first Employability class when Dr Leloudas advised us to make a list of the firms/companies that we would like to apply to. I made my list right away. When I started looking for a job, it was twice as easy for me because I knew what I wanted, and what I didn't want.

Be prepared before coming to Employability sessions, make a quick background search of the guest lecturer for that week and have your questions ready. Job searching is a stressful period, so have a plan, have a table showing where you applied for, and update it. Have your cover letter and CV ready, and be sure that their contents are worthy of the position you are aiming for. Be yourself, ready for anything, do not give up easily, do not be obsessed, just find a balance right for you. When deciding, do not hesitate to ask questions to the people you see as mentors. You will discover your potential, and what you are capable of. In the end, it is important to build yourself and make the most of the time you have in Swansea.



CAPT. VINEET SABHARWAL
Vessel Manager,
HST Marine,
Swansea

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you in getting your current position?

The Swansea LLM degree has two distinct yet connected aspects to it.

The first feature is the actual knowledge that you gain while pursuing your degree here at Swansea. It pushes you to broaden your horizon and by doing so, you gain insight and perspective on how the maritime industry reacts to the legal principles and framework established by the English Law.

The second and equally important feature is about the people who help you to realize your true potential here and achieve the desired academic excellence you are after. The efforts and influence of this much respected and celebrated faculty of Swansea ensures that during your degree, you are presented with numerous opportunities to interact and share experiences with highly placed professionals from the maritime industry and those who hold key positions in various respectable organisations.

Along with my vast sea going experience, both of the above mentioned aspects were instrumental in helping me bag the opportunity to work in the maritime (renewables) industry.

Q. What advice can you give to current students in their job search?

The process of looking for a job is no perfect science. There are lots of variables at play. Some variables are in your control while the others are not. Try and keep your focus on the variables you can control and how you can improve upon them, and leave the rest to GOD. If you are dedicated and sincere in your efforts, I assure you that your share of success will be just around the corner.....All the very best!



EKATERINA DANZAS,
Contract and Tender Engineer,
HST Marine,
Swansea

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you in getting your current position?

I completed an LLM in Maritime law at Swansea University and the opportunity to study here was one of my best decisions. Having experience in marine insurance, the choice of four modules before starting the program was quite obvious to me (i.e., The Law of Marine Insurance, Charterparties: Law and Practice, Carriage of Goods by Sea, Land and Air, Admiralty law). I knew from the very beginning what I came for and what I needed. The fact that I didn't have a law degree made my year challenging but even more interesting than I could have anticipated.

During the year I had to study a lot, however, thanks to an extremely adaptive and concisely built program, clarity appeared quite quickly. A huge amount of interesting and relevant materials were provided by lecturers at lectures and seminars, and everything for additional reading could be found in the library, which, by the way, is open 24/7.

And the most important value of the program (I said so already and will continue to do so) is the teaching staff. In addition to being experts in their field, the lecturers are also amazing people who, during the lessons, charged with energy and a love for their work, motivated me to work even harder. Yes, indeed, the flow of information was huge and varied. One thing I can say for sure - it was worth it. Already at the beginning of June, I started working as a Contract and Tender Engineer at HST Marine.

Q. What advice can you give to current students in their job search?

A year of study at Swansea University is an investment in yourself, in your own intellectual capital. I believe it is necessary to understand this from the beginning and to start studying without putting it off until the last moment. Any changes, especially when they are conscious, are very good and there is no need to be afraid of them. I would highly recommend to subsequent students not to miss the opportunities provided by the institute; attend lectures, participate in seminars, go to electives, communicate with classmates and invited experts, expand your own contacts, which is especially important in the shipping sector.

I found my job with the help of the university when I received a notice of a vacancy - I confirm from my own experience that this is a working scheme that should not be neglected. The collaboration of my experience and the knowledge gained over the year made me feel confident enough at my very first interview in the UK, which later led to a job offer and employment. Now I am doing what I love, in a wonderful company with wonderful people, and I am sincerely grateful for this to Swansea University and the Professors.



OMKAR JOSHI
Master Mariner,
MFB,
London

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you in getting your current position?

The LLM from Swansea University has helped me in two ways:

Firstly, the knowledge imparted by the faculty during the course was invaluable. Moreover, the faculty, without a doubt, is legendary with their vast experience in this sector. Such factors act as a confident booster and help to aim high.

Secondly, the university created a great platform for us to network within the industry with its employability initiatives and alumni.

Q. What advice can you give to current students in their job search?

Holistically, many factors influence a job hunt, and good education is just part of it. I would recommend using this time to push boundaries by working hard towards your LLM and building a good network.



EDMUNDO DEVILLE-DEL-AGUILLA
Paralegal,
Tatham Macinnes LLP,
London

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you in getting your current position?

The LLM Programme offered by Swansea University is very well regarded in practice. That put any Swansea LLM graduate in a prime position when looking for a job. This is undoubtedly due to the amazing education you will receive, which will give you all the knowledge you require and are looked for by the industry. In that sense, the LLM I pursued at Swansea helped me become visible to potential employers.

Additionally, thanks to its renowned reputation, the Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law received requests from several employers looking to hire new talent which are then offered to the students, increasing the chances to obtain a job.

Q. What advice can you give to current students in their job search?

Holistically, many factors influence a job hunt, and good education is just part of it. I would recommend using this time to push boundaries by working hard towards your LLM and building a good network.



Internships

As a result of our reputation and close links with the sector, during the summer of 2022 several of our students obtained internships in London. Below you can read about their experiences.



OMAR MARTIN CORDOVA CORDOVI **Clyde & Co**

My experience with Clyde & Co. has been remarkable, especially since I have had the chance to make use of my knowledge and expertise in marine insurance and admiralty law. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to learn and work with renowned lawyers, such as Jai Sharma, Stirling Leech, Cameron Boyd and Jennifer Lavelle amongst others - colleagues and mentors who now I can happily consider friends.

During my time at Clyde's I assisted with the analysis of insurance covers, passing plans and also in defending the interests of clients in cargo and shortage claims. None of the above could have been possible without the teachings and encouragement of my tutors and the prestige of Swansea University. I am delighted and honoured to be part of the Swansea family!



WILLIAM TACKIE-YARBOI **Stephenson Harwood**

I have had some work experience; however, this was my first time working in a law firm, and I will say it was not just an exciting experience, it was an impactful one. My desire and resolve to pursue a career in the energy sector, as well as building my capacity within the ESG market has been reinforced. Stephenson Harwood LLP is such a great family, in fact, I actually felt I was already part of the team. I want to express my sincere gratitude to my lecturers, especially Tabetha and Yuri van Logchem for their guidance and to the Faculty for granting me this great opportunity. Thanks to Suraj Saggar and Cathal Leigh-Doyle and the entire Marine and International Trade team at Stephenson Harwood.



LIAN MIAN
BIMCO

The Swansea LLM program not only helped me develop and understand both the academic and professional aspects of maritime law, but it also offered me great support on job hunting, and this was one of the main reasons that I obtained the internship at BIMCO. I am very grateful to all the teachers who enhanced an already excellent studying experience for my LLM program. The mooted experience on my LLM program also improved case analysis and team work skills, the seminars and coursework developed my critical thinking. All of these were essential for a law student and vital for practice. I believe that what I learnt from Swansea LLM will have a constant influence on my future career.



FAN ZUORAN
Stephenson Harwood

I was lucky to have obtained an internship with Stephen Harwood through my LLM degree at Swansea University. My one-week internship at SH's Marine and International Trade department was both eye-opening and educational. Through this opportunity, not only was I able to have an in-depth understanding of the daily tasks lawyers are engaged in within an international commercial law firm, but I was also able to meet and greet many lawyers at different points in their careers and have informed conversations on their experiences as a solicitor in the UK. I am so grateful both to SH and Swansea for giving me this opportunity.



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Making waves in shipping and trade for over 20 years

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