

STUDENT LIFE



**SPECIAL
EDITION**



BPP University
**Students'
Association**

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BPP CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Welcome

**SHAHBAN
AZIZ**Head of Student Experience and
Library Services,
BPP University &
Managing Director,
BPP Students' Association**ShahbanAziz@bpp.com**

Welcome to this special edition of the BPP Student Life magazine. The contents of this online magazine are even more important during Covid-19 and I hope you benefit from the range of articles, online events and excellent resources that are available to you.

Our Virtual Campus continues to thrive as a central community where you can comment in forums, join groups and take part in events. Whether you're interested in health and fitness, cooking, e-sports, photography or movies, we have something for everyone. You can join the virtual campus [here](#).

We have received excellent student feedback on our Library and Student Experience newsletter which provides a summary of free resources available to BPP students including the Financial Times and LinkedIn Learning. The newsletter is available [here](#) and via the Library tab of the VLE.

The Students' Association website www.bppstudents.com continues to receive thousands of visits per day and because of this we have increased the range of articles and resources available on the site. Our Diversity and Inclusion Officer has created a special Ramadan at Home guide which is proving a popular information resource pack available on the site for students.

This special edition includes a message from our Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sally-Ann Burnett, employability updates, articles on how the lockdown has impacted on the environment and details on our virtual book club.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any feedback about this magazine or any aspect of the student experience.

Stay safe and stay positive.

Shahban



Dear Students,

I hope this message reaches you in both good health and good spirits.

Over the last month we have gone through arguably the most unprecedented change in our lifetime following the outbreak of the Covid-19 global pandemic. Whilst this pandemic was anticipated by some in the scientific and medical communities, for most of us this was a new and completely unexpected series of events that have transpired, which in turn has brought immeasurable change to our lives. As your appointed President I wish to reassure you that the Students' Association and I have been working alongside the University to ensure that the best possible outcomes are reached for students in this difficult time. This has included collaborative efforts in areas such as academic exam regulations, deferral policies, FAQs, as well as playing a key role in transitioning our own service online in partnership with the Shepherd's Bush Campus Experience team, the Alumni team and the BPP Community platform, which currently hosts our online Virtual Campus.

Like all universities we are a community of learners at BPP, therefore it is important we continue our clubs and society events online to ensure that we are still able to make new friends and learn from one another. Highlights from the Students' Association this past month have included the Great BPP Quiz, FIFA football tournaments, LGBT Society & Women and Non-Binary People in Law Society joint socials, Yoga sessions, online Book clubs and a brand new YouTube channel by the Commercial Awareness Society (Holborn). The feedback for online events has been extremely positive and should you wish to see any further specific events please do get in touch (engage@bpp.com); we will do our very best to facilitate events which help create a sense of community and belonging. I recognise that academically we are also going through an extremely difficult time, and the impact of Covid-19 will affect learning in multiple ways. Therefore I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that the independent advice service, where we offer BPP students impartial, confidential and unbiased advice on matters relating to your studies at BPP is still open and available to all students (independentadvice@bpp.com) should you require it.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to take good care of yourselves and your loved ones in this time, in accordance with public health guidelines. Studying and working from home is undoubtedly a new challenge, however with exams soon approaching it is important to set up a dedicated workspace in your place of living, minimise distractions if possible and try to stick to set working hours to maximise your productivity and allowing yourself time to unwind. I have also found it helpful to set up social phone calls or video chats with friends as a way of maintaining a degree of socialising, which has certainly helped take my mind off things!

Finally I would like to wish you all the best for the upcoming summer exam period and hope revision is off to a good start. As always I am contactable by email (shahrozewarraich@bpp.com) and am available to support you in any way that I can, so please do not hesitate in the slightest to reach out. Thank you for taking the time to read this message, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Best wishes,

Shahroze Warraich

– BPP Students' Association President (2019-2020)

SHAHROZE WARRAICH

PRESIDENT



YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION TEAM

As your Student Voice Manager I want to work in partnership with you to evaluate and enhance the student experience within the university. I am here to ensure that your opinions are valued and heard by the university.

I graduated from the University of Manchester with a degree in Computation and have worked in management roles at AXA Insurance and the Co-Operative Group. Whilst at university I also worked as a Student Representative and so I'm passionate about Student Voice and the Student Experience. I am always looking for ways to improve the service provided to the students throughout their academic life.

I believe that you have a vast amount of knowledge and expertise that can bring renewed authenticity and relevance to the classrooms benefiting your student life. Most importantly, we want to put the Student Voice at the heart of the university and I look forward to working with all students across all BPP centres.

I have been with BPP for over seven years now and previously worked in the Student Advice Team.

I am passionate about improving the student experience here at BPP, by working closely with Centre Presidents & clubs and societies to encourage social events and activities. I have knowledge and experience of managing large scale and small events ranging from guest speaker conferences, cultural events and parties.

I have previously worked in student support roles and have experience in helping both international and home students; I really enjoy working in this field and look forward to providing the best support possible to all BPP Students.

The service that we provide is free and we work independently from the University to support you on resolving issues when things don't go to plan. This can range from offering feedback on Mitigating Circumstances or Academic Appeal applications to advising students on the Complaints procedure. We also offer representation to assist you at any University meetings or hearings such as Academic Misconduct Panels.

We are available to all students studying in the UK and in or partner centres across the globe.

You can get in touch with us via email on independentadvice@bpp.com



Hajra Babariya
Student Voice Manager



Azmat Suleman
Student Engagement Manager

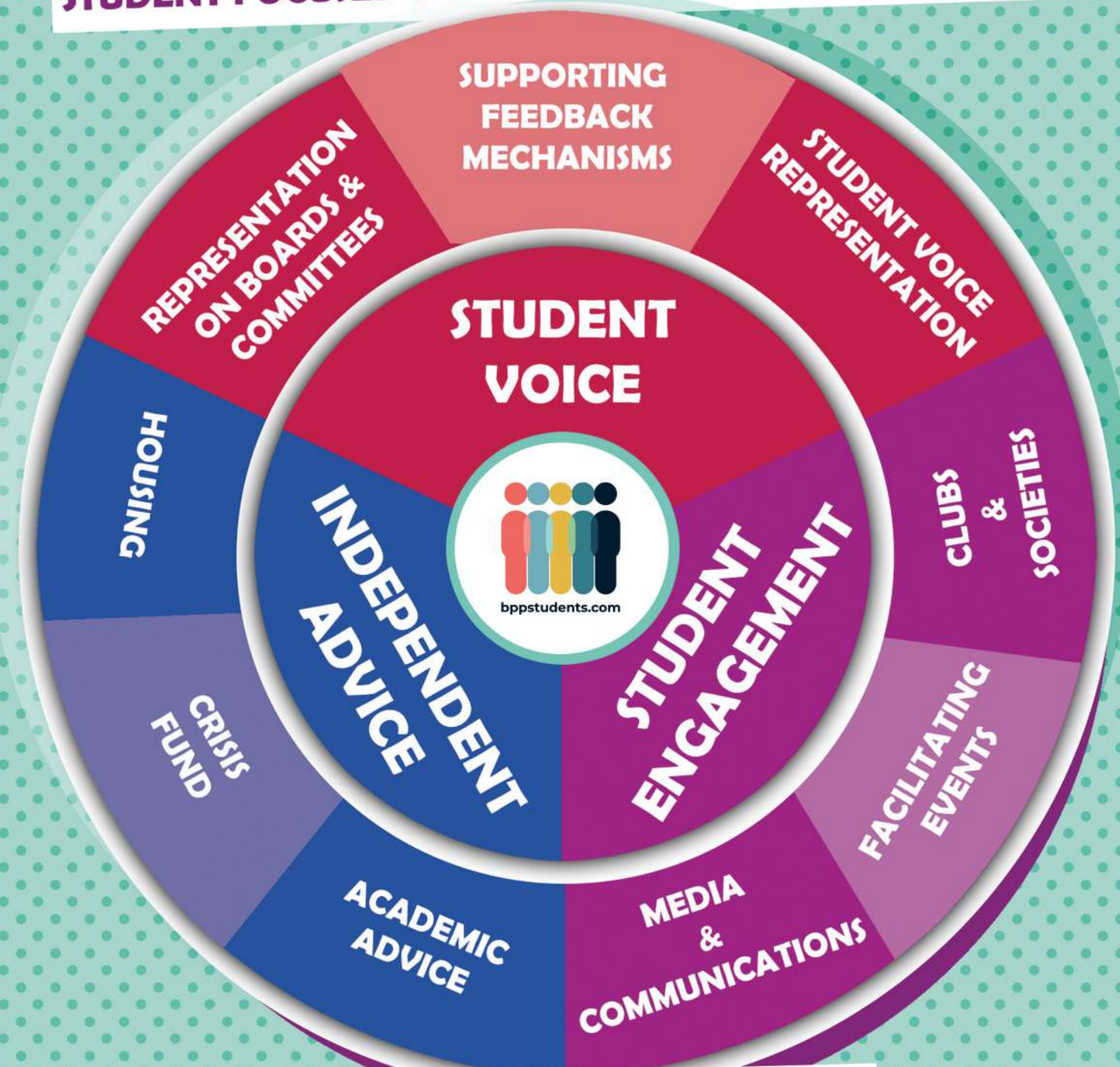


Charlotte Dare
Independent Advice Team

BPP UNIVERSITY

INDEPENDENT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

STUDENT FOCUSED & STUDENT LED IN EVERYTHING WE DO



WHAT WE DO
AND HOW WE DO IT

WWW.BPPSTUDENTS.COM

COVID - 19: A MESSAGE

FROM THE UNIVERSITY'S DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR



PROFESSOR

Sally Ann Burnett

Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Dear Students,

I hope this message reaches you in good health given the current circumstances. I know that this is a very difficult time for everyone, as we all need to navigate through significant uncertainty whilst trying to ensure we also stay well and safe and take care of our loved ones. At BPP University we have always viewed our students as partners, and in these unprecedented times I am pleased to be working very closely with the Students' Association to continually prioritise our students in all university decisions.

At BPP we are a community and during the Covid-19 pandemic the safety and security of all our students and staff has been our top priority; this has been at the forefront of all our decision-making. Our second priority has always been to enable students to continue to progress through their studies, where possible. We have had to plan for increased levels of sickness in our students and staff and for other responsibilities sometimes having to take higher priority due to the pandemic.

With a view to minimising any disadvantage to students we have made many important adjustments to university life around learning, teaching, assessments and campus life generally. All of these adjustments are designed to provide options for students to remain safe whilst continuing with their studies, if at all possible, whilst minimising disadvantage where this is not possible.

We are also aware that in many unfortunate situations, our students have not or will not be able to proceed with their studies and we will do everything in our power to ensure that any disadvantage is minimised. The range of adjustments we have made, during the pandemic, include:

1. All teaching has been online since March 23, 98% of timetabled classes have been delivered and overall feedback from students has been very positive at 4.4 out of 5 (from 5,000 responses).
2. All learning materials and library resources are available online [here](#).
3. We have adjusted more than 200 exams that were due to run from 13 March - 31 July 2020 and alternative options for the vast majority have been confirmed. In some cases, we are trail blazing as we use technology in a way previously unknown to universities.
4. There are Automatic Deferrals for any student not taking an assessment.
5. There are Automatic Mitigating Circumstances for any student who fails an assessment.
6. Self-certification is in place for students who would ordinarily need medical evidence.
7. We are ensuring that Undergraduate Degree Classifications are not negatively affected.
8. We are ensuring that Postgraduate Module results are not negatively affected.
9. We have launched the **Virtual Campus** to support students as part of a community that exists outside of the classroom. This is especially important during social distancing.

I am acutely aware of the impact of these unprecedented times on our students and I hope that you will continue to take care of yourself whilst carrying on with your studies, if possible, with the assurance that you will not be disadvantaged whether you can continue to study or not. I would like to reassure you that the University will continue to prioritise your personal and academic wellbeing at this time, and I would like to thank you all for your understanding and commitment; I hope that you and your loved ones remain well and safe.

For detailed information please see your VLE and the FAQs on the [University website](#), which are both regularly updated for the latest information with regards to Covid-19.

Students, stay connected on Virtual Campus

Check out our Virtual Campus on community.bpp.com where you can:



Connect

Stay in touch with your BPP community



Advance

Check out our online employability and professional development events



Enjoy

Take part in a wide range of activities and discussions - plus enter competitions to win top prizes!



How to join the Virtual Campus on BPP Community:

- 1 Go to community.bpp.com
- 2 Sign up using LinkedIn or a personal email address
- 3 Complete your full profile
- 4 Download the app
- 5 Use BPP Virtual Campus to stay connected





SOCIAL DISTANCING: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF – GROWTH?

By Alisha Ban and Helene Yerocostopoulos – Learning Support Team

We have entered unprecedented waters - our lives may feel like they've been turned upside down whether it's at home, study or work. We recognise whilst trying to keep normality with deadlines and other responsibilities, many of us are going through a cycle of emotions with the most common being uncertainty, frustration and acceptance - This cycle can be hard to break:



We would like you to take a moment to help recognise how we can use these emotions as an opportunity to practice self-growth, love and care.

ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FEELINGS:

Don't be hard on yourself or feel guilty if you haven't met all your daily goals. It is completely okay to be feeling the way you are, it is a new situation for all of us and it is not easy. Each day may be different and that is okay if you start to feel down, frustrated or over whelmed. There is no right or wrong way to feel in this situation.

TAKE CONTROL:

Staying connected and talking is important to help minimise catastrophic thoughts, whether this be with family, friends or support services. For example, "I know I am going to get Coronavirus" or "there is no point sitting my exams, im going to fail" remember these thoughts are NOT fact, they are just thoughts. Take control by asking what can I do to help the situation?

Often staying connected with family, friends, BPP support services will help to minimise these catastrophic thoughts. It may be difficult but it's important to speak about how you are feeling – you will feel better once speaking to someone even if it doesn't feel like it at the start.

Goal setting is also a good idea to help stay in control. Think about the goal and why you want to achieve it? Then, try to think about your goal and divide it into smaller manageable chunks. Focus on yourself and what you are doing! And most importantly, do not forget to reward yourself when you have completed your goal!

DISCIPLINE:

Discipline is self-love! It is very easy to procrastinate as routine may be difficult to keep track of and of course sleeping patterns and eating patterns may have changed. There may also be distractions from looking after yourself such as home schooling kids, working from home and preparing for exams.

Despite these pressures, remember time can be used creatively to do something for yourself. For example, the time that you used to commute to university/work or get the kids ready for school – could you do something that will benefit you or make you feel good? Maybe something that will help you be productive for the rest of the day?

LEARN NEW SKILLS:

We always say if we had more time we would perhaps brush up on our guitar skills, practice sewing, learn a language – well this is the time! In the current situation it can be difficult to stimulate the mind. Learning a new skill can help productivity levels, give you something to look forward to and help build resilience and mental wellness.

This is a great opportunity to learn something new to show on your CV! If you feel that your Excel skills need a bit of revision, you can review Pivot tables or Data Validation by accessing tutorials through Youtube or through Udemy.com which can give you a step by step guide as well as a set of exercises!

You can learn a new language through interactive lessons through the Duolingo application which can be downloaded from the App Store. You can receive reminders of when your lesson starts, and you can also take part in language challenges with your friends!

How about tuning in to TedTalks Community in order to learn something new? There is a wide range of videos that you can access: from space exploration or how to patent a gene! Learn something new and start an online discussion with your peers!

DO SOMETHING FOR THE GREATER GOOD:

Remember we are all in this together despite the social distancing – it is proven when feeling helpless or frustrated one way to help these feelings is to give back and connect with others.

Offer to do the neighbours' errands if you feel it's safe. If you need to stay at home, you can volunteer remotely by befriending an elderly individual and engaging them by telephone!

You can also try your local volunteer centre (<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/ncvo-volunteering/find-a-volunteer-centre>) and organisations such Volunteer Matters can link you with support where you live. Reach Volunteering is a specialist volunteering centre which will match people with specialist professional skills, such as IT or Law expertise to charities that need your help.

If you are not keen to go out, you can also do some online fundraising from the comfort of your own couch! The Mental Health Foundation can help you host a Virtual Tea and Talk where you ask people to donate £2- £3 each for the support of mental health and you can all share a cuppa! Or how about having a drink with fellow students or colleagues with a virtual Friday Night drinks? It is really up to you!

If you are worried about your health or feel isolated/stressed please do get in touch with our team for support: learningsupport@bpp.com

COPING WITH A PANDEMIC AS A STUDENT NURSE APPRENTICE



By *Ellen Eyers...*

I'm sure many of us have felt overwhelmed with emotions during this unpredictable time and I'd like to reassure you, you're not alone.

Working in a designated major trauma hospital as a Student Nurse Apprentice in Southampton is an experience like no other. Every day is unpredictable, students are being relocated to different areas in the hospital to work, agreeing to work overtime to support colleagues and yet, we gladly attend our nursing lectures online every week.

Managing our emotions is undoubtedly exhausting; nevertheless, the academic staff from our nursing

school have been especially supportive. Our lecturers have provided students with a morning of mindfulness and Professor Lynne Gell, our Dean, has devoted copious amounts of her time to support each and every student.

Days are more than stressful at the moment yet BPP students are being commended for their composure and professionalism whilst working on the front line.

We remain as positive as we can, motivating our colleagues and uniting as a team, knowing we are a part of a pandemic that will go down in history.

HAS COVID-19 MADE US GREENER?

Our Health, Safety and Environmental Officer, Amelia Cavinder, explains why we shouldn't be completely deceived by those newly blue skies.

As we continue to live lives in lockdown, we have time to consider the marks we leave on our planet. How has the current situation changed your behaviour - are you buying less? (Yes!) Shopping local? (Of course!) Rediscovering the pleasures of urban cycling? (That breeze!) How many of these changes will you take into the future, as we return to a new normal?

When working to understand how global communities can reverse the impact of climate change, it's interesting to reflect on the quick green wins we've witnessed as a direct result of the coronavirus outbreak. Our travel patterns make for the most striking example here. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 'transport accounted for 28% of global final energy demand and 23% of global energy-related CO2 emissions in 2014'. When our flights are cancelled, commutes take all of 30 seconds, and non-essential adventures are consigned to the unknown future, it's easy to picture our carbon emissions nosediving. Industry, a sector that typically makes up nearly a fifth of greenhouse gas emissions, is living largely in lockdown, and oil demand has slumped as a result of the global impasse.

But we must address these quick green wins with a note of trepidation.



You'd be hard-pressed to find anyone whose life hasn't been utterly disrupted by the outbreak – whether impacted directly by sickness or grief or hit hard by the many practical changes we're all being forced to make. Speaking more broadly, the crisis is casting huge ripples across economies. Sustainability is commonly recognised as a combination of environmental protection, economic viability and social equity. So while we may feel cheered by bright and beautiful photographs of Venice's smog-less skies and satellite images depicting decreased levels of nitrogen dioxide across China, it's vital to note that – without a robust economy and just and fair societies – such changes can only be temporary. And then there's the clear-cut negative impacts, seen in research linking

the outbreak to increased rates of deforestation in Brazil, as law enforcement is cut back on health and safety grounds, or enhanced fears of poaching in Tanzania as rangers lose out on salaries usually covered by safari tourism.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development predicts a dip of around 0.3% in our carbon emissions in 2020. If we want to make a more significant and more lasting impact, we must use this time to assess what we can change – and that's both on a personal and organisational level. At BPP, we are using this period to gain a better understanding of our baseline energy consumption. We've also found out that we can collaborate and learn from

each other in style from separate houses. We've been pushed to new limits, and have discovered a lot in the process. When the lockdown is lifted, will our commutes and business travel return to the same levels as before? We'll be adapting our existing targets, informed by the lessons we've learnt through this crisis. I hope you can join us.

What will you change, and how would you like this to be reflected across BPP? If you have any suggestions for how we can all build back greener, drop environmental@bpp.com a line.



EMPLOYABILITY

BPP Employability Service is **Matrix quality accredited**. This means you can use it in confidence that you are getting top-class advice, guidance, information and opportunities to develop yourself for a professional career and/or to move forward in one.

This is, overwhelmingly, your experience.

“My appointments were very bespoke and relevant to what I wanted”

“There is a huge variety of workshops and you can select those that are relevant to you”

“The Pro Bono projects gave me great experience and helped me decide what I want to do”

(from Matrix Assessment Report, April 2020)

In fact, since September last year, you've given us an average score of 8.9 out of 10 for the appointments and events you've attended, telling us that our service has **“exceeded your expectations.”**

“I came to BPP because I knew the Employability Service provided great support.”

“They helped me understand how my skills are transferable, which really helped me with working out my options”.

5 THINGS YOU COULD BE DOING OVER THE NEXT MONTH TO MAKE YOU STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD:

1. [Book an online appointment here through Microsoft Teams, Skype or 'phone](#)

2. [Join our Professional Development Webinars here](#)

Pro Bono for distance learning students, GLD opportunities, International students' update, Compliance Officer 'Life in Practice', Horwich Farrelly, Commercial Awareness and how COVID-19 might affect the legal industry and clients, how to excel on a vacation scheme, Recruiter in Residence series: Government Legal Department.

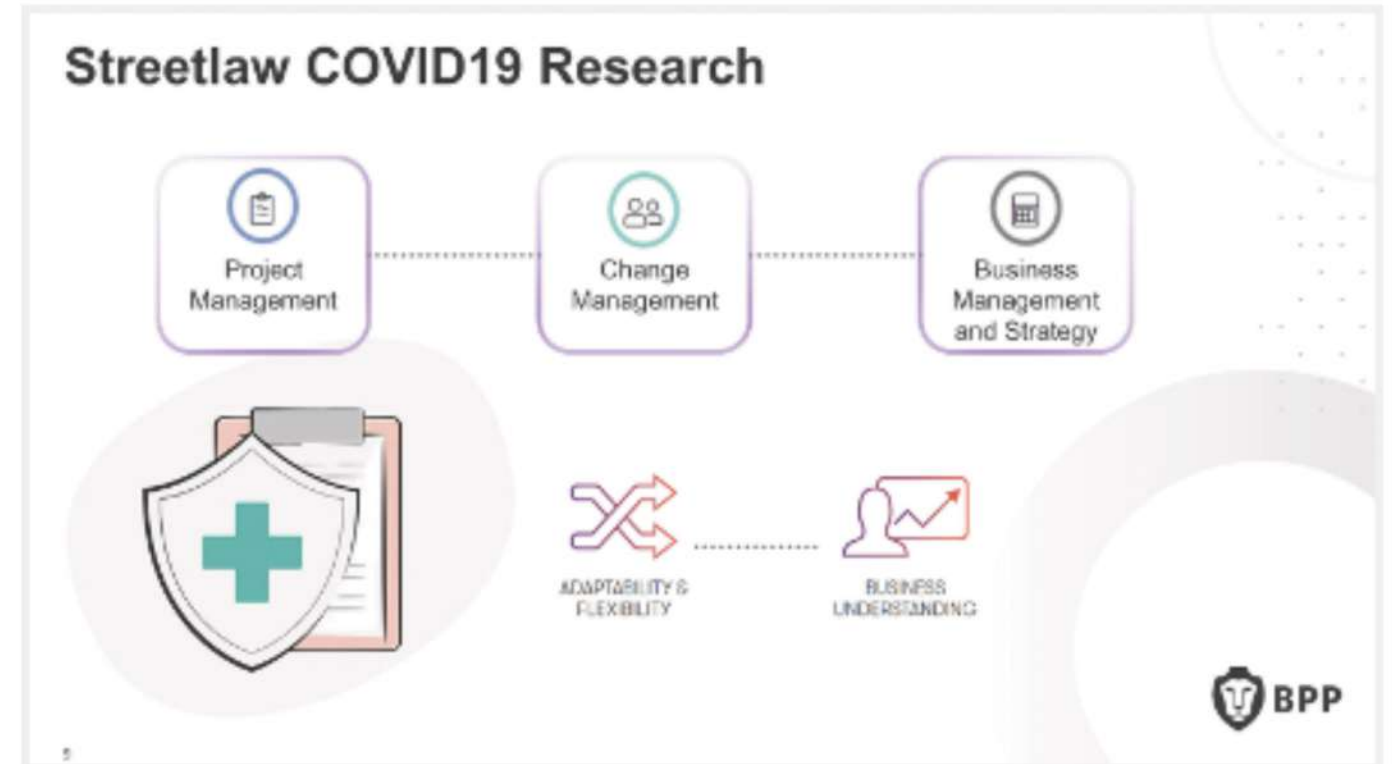
3. Check the VLE for Pro Bono projects that are currently recruiting under national opportunities [here](#).

4. Attend our first-ever **Virtual Careers Fairs** – 20, 21, 28 May - 15 minute presentations from Law and Business/Technology employers.

5. [Click here to Ask a Question to a Careers Consultant](#)



EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE - PRO BONO UPDATE



60 BPP law students have worked with the Pro Bono Team over the last month to provide a really useful and pragmatic approach to demystify Covid19 via FAQs about different areas it affects such as housing and travelling abroad. A huge thank you to all the students involved. **Each fact sheet will be available to download from BPP Virtual Campus [here](#) and on our BPP blog [here](#).** Below is some of the key T-shaped lawyer skills and BPP's own Career Ready skills that students have enhanced whilst working on the project.



**PRO BONO'S
MAIN FLAGSHIP
PROJECTS
AND HOW THEY
HAVE ADAPTED
DURING COVID-19**

FOOTSTEPS TOWARDS CHANGE

Momin Mohamed



@ The MTM Awards 2019 at Bristol Marriott Hotel representing Integrate UK and speaking about the humanitarian work in Morocco

Momin Mohamed, BPP Student Representative, shares his insight into being a public speaker for diversity in law and a young activist for Integrate UK, a charity specialising in campaigning against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG).

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF INTEGRATE UK

Integrate UK is a youth-led charity that invests in the skills, passions and talents of young people to nurture future leaders who promote our vision of gender and racial equality, integration and community cohesion.

From a small, local voluntary group co-founded in 2009 with a small group of girls, Integrate has grown to a national, multi award winning charity that is increasingly run by representatives from the groups with whom we work: 8 of our 9 staff are from our target communities and 7 are between the ages of 21 and 26. Our approach to achieving our ambitious vision is multi-fold, focussing on tackling the ongoing inequalities associated with race and gender, including access, participation, attainment, discrimination and all forms of violence and abuse against women and girls (VAAWG). At the same time, we provide platforms and opportunities for black and minority ethnic (BAME)/ Muslim YP to counter divisive rhetoric and advocate for themselves outside the echo chamber amongst the audiences that most fear and mistrust them and to form positive relationships with YP who have had little or no contact with BAME / Muslim people.

Lisa Zimmermann, Director of Integrate UK says "We engage around 150 young people annually in a range of creative and educational activities focusing on addressing issues relating to gender and racial inequality that they identify as affecting their lives. Many of the issues are controversial, including extremism, Islamophobia, honour-based violence, and abuse, FGM and homophobia. They produce videos, organise and host conferences and other events. Our young activists over the age of 18 who become Outreach Workers use their media resources and lesson plans to deliver workshops, reaching 7,000 young people each year directly. Momin is a much-valued Outreach Worker - as well as delivering workshops in schools, he has spoken at numerous events both nationally and internationally, notably Sweden and Morocco. He has worked with an organisation in Morocco campaigning and raising awareness about disability and created a short film with a videographer for the charity to help gain funding and lobby government to make the laws surrounding disability more prominent."



CAMPAIGNING TO DIVERSIFY THE LEGAL INDUSTRY

Momin has been delivering conferences since his undergraduate studies campaigning to diversify the legal industry and tackling the under representation of groups such as Women and Black and Minority Ethnic Groups. At an undergraduate level, he led the Diversity in Law Sub-committee (part of the Law Society), to successfully organise a number of events with presentations from law firms and key speakers to raise awareness of this issue and the chance to network with one another.

From this, the passion grew to speak in many conferences around the UK, not to mention schools and sixth forms making his own presentations and educating the youth on the legal system as it is. He has had the chance to work with the United Nations and has made a name for himself within the international organisation. This is all whilst studying for a legal career throughout undergraduate and postgraduate studies. He is a true testament to both the legal industry and youth activism.

WHAT MOMIN HAS TO SAY

It has now become such a necessity to speak about issues that are rife in both a societal and political context. As a black Muslim, it is key for me to stand up and speak about these issues that both are a major problem in the legal industry and do not get much coverage. Whatever I can do to bridge the gap between underrepresented groups and widely represented groups in any area, let alone the legal industry, I will wholeheartedly put my all in. With every event/conference/networking, I learn more about the steps taken for me to make a substantial change and my passion grows for the subject.

Working with Integrate UK has allowed me to develop both my public speaking skills and be apart of a team that is making change around the world. Disseminating FGM safeguarding training to front line professionals such as lawyers and doctors has been extremely rewarding as the individuals I am training, are ones I aspire to be like (lawyers in this context). All in all, I will continue this fight to diversify the legal industry and seek to carry this enthusiasm into the company I choose to work for in the near future as this is where it is fundamental. I seek to carry on doing work with Integrate UK and work with the inspirational colleagues I have maintaining the same drive and passion in changing the world for the greater good.

Should you wish to get involved or learn more about Integrate UK, their details are as follow

Website - <https://integrateuk.org/>

Email - info@integrateuk.org

Should you need anything from myself or wish to ask anything, my email is

m.mohamed11@my.bpp.com.



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

BLOGS - *Lucy Erin-Hunter*



During my first year at College, I struggled when faced with the question - what do you want to do for the rest of your life? After extensive research, insight days and work experience, I decided I would like to pursue a career in law. Like a lot of Colleges, careers education was practically non-existent and they pushed me towards UCAS applications for University, for which I applied. Like many others, I received offers and went on to attain the grades needed to attend institutions that I could see myself thriving in. Although this route can work well for many students, I knew this wasn't something which appealed to me.

The smaller class sizes at my college and more 'hands-on' approach to learning made me realise I am a pragmatic learner. I knew I would work better in an environment where I could put into practice what I was learning. This pushed me into considering alternative routes to law aside from University. My older brother, in the year above me at school, was successful in securing a degree apprenticeship at one of the big four accounting firms; he inspired me to consider all the options out there.

In July 2018 I was offered the Paralegal Apprenticeship at Addleshaw Goddard LLP. As you can imagine, I was ecstatic - I had my foot in the door in what is a very competitive industry. I moved to Leeds in September 2018 to start my new journey. Living away from my home, friends and family was scary but also exciting. The apprenticeship has meant that I had to quickly adapt and learn a lot for myself: dealing with my finances, cooking and cleaning while working four days a week and studying part time. This was a little

overwhelming at first, but it has made me grow as a person. I have matured and learned to take responsibility from an early age.

My role over the past two years has consisted of rotating throughout the divisions gaining a breadth of experience, drafting legal documents, liaising with fee earners and external providers and getting involved in the firms' wider initiatives such as the Wellbeing group. The apprenticeship has opened up my future and instead of rejecting a route into law entirely, the apprenticeship programme has made me feel more focused, ambitious and confident towards being fully qualified.

I am delighted to have been offered a place on the Solicitor Apprenticeship at Addleshaw Goddard starting in January 2021 (due to Covid-19). People say "Find a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life". Although this is not entirely true, it's a privilege to enjoy the work I do and get along with the surrounding team. I get given high levels of responsibility which allow me to test myself further, extend my knowledge and put what I learn in theory into practice. It's great to have an employer that is willing to invest in you. My passion for both the apprenticeship and my day to day job role has been fundamental to my development.

Apprenticeships have the potential to hold the key to many young people's futures and if I was to give one piece of advice it would be: look into them and be open minded to them as an alternative to University.

MY HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR INCLUDE:

- Taking a leading role in a Banking completion signing;
- Working across offices with fee earners from Dubai so that arbitration could proceed quicker than anticipated;
- Becoming a BPP Student Voice Representative working closely with Shahban Aziz (Managing Director), Hajra Babariya (Student Voice Manager) and the team, taking an active role in gathering feedback from apprentices which were noted in the Student Written Submission Report, an external document recognised by the QAA;
- Attending Law School Board meetings with key stakeholders at BPP University to influence change for degree apprenticeship students.

5 TIPS FOR APPLYING TO LAW APPRENTICESHIPS:

1. Look into both the Paralegal (2 years) and Solicitor (6 years) apprenticeship routes. If you don't know if law is 100% for you, then 6 years is a big commitment to make at 18 years old;
2. Research the firm - can you see yourself working there? The process is as much a case of whether you can see yourself fitting into the firm as much as whether the firm wants you;
3. Keep up to date with what the firms you are interested in get up to: follow them on twitter, LinkedIn and keep up to date with their current affairs;
4. Look for opportunities where you can find out more, apply for work experience, attend insight days, speak to people who work in law firms or are doing an apprenticeship;
5. Don't be disheartened if, at first, you get rejected. One of the best pieces of advice I've been told is "fail often, fail smart, and learn". People often think about how to succeed, but you can't succeed without learning to fail.

IN PROFILE WITH...



Natasha Saleh

CAREER ADVICE

Q: What advice do you have for law students looking to stand out in their applications with law firms?

A: In summary I would say there are four things that law firms are looking for in students seeking to pursue a career with them: some work experience, commercial awareness, good academics and certain personal qualities. Taking each in turn...

Natasha is Training Manager at BPP Law School for the Holborn centre and Lecturer in Law on the post-graduate LPC Programme, teaching Business Law and Practice and Corporate Finance.

Natasha trained, qualified and practiced Banking and Finance Law in the City of London at Dentons LLP.

She has over ten years of lecturing experience across a broad range of foundation and practice-based subject areas and has designed, developed, delivered and served as Module Leader for courses at Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Professional and Apprenticeship levels, both face to face and online.

Natasha has a postgraduate degree (Masters in Law (LLM)) in International Corporate and Commercial Law obtained at the University of York (Distinction), an LLB and a First Class Honours undergraduate degree in English Literature.

Natasha was recently invited to speak on a panel on the subject of 'Brexit and its impact on M&A – A legal perspective led by female lawyers', hosted by the London School of Economics and open to both undergraduate and postgraduate law and non-law students. The event allowed students to ask Natasha questions on M&A but also, questions and advice on how to pursue a career in law.

Natasha was also recently invited to speak on a panel representing BPP Law School and the legal sector at a Women Inspired event and attends Women in Law events all of which are aimed at inspiring young women to work in the City.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Recognise the value of any experience in employment you have to date

I have had students come to me and say 'I have only worked in a supermarket, or behind a bar, or I only coach an under 9s football team on a Sunday'. All of these demonstrate Employability Skills which are transferable.

For example, you may be dealing with demanding customers so this demonstrates your diplomacy or negotiation skills; you may be managing customer money, for example if you are working on the tills, this demonstrates fiscal responsibility; if you worked while being a student, you have managed to balance commitments and the demands on your time between your studies and your work; you will have shown that you are reliable and responsible by arriving on time to work; perhaps you have shown leadership skills by training new joiners, and team and interpersonal skills by working within a team.

Think about the key skills you can demonstrate from any jobs you have had and make a list of them with your examples.

Get legal experience in firms

To start with, I recommend even just writing to your local high street firms 'on spec'; which means just on the off chance that you would be able to go and work shadow someone for a week or two (unpaid).

Get involved with some pro bono work. Here, you are getting to work with real clients on real issues so you get 'client facing' experience.

Utilise your Uni Careers' Service for guidance on writing a good covering letter.

Remember that no experience is bad experience, so even if you don't like that particular practice area, you will now know that. Also it demonstrates your commitment to gaining experience and when it comes to the interview for the area of legal practice in which you do want to work, you will be able to say that you know you want to work in this area, as you have also got experience in other areas which has informed your choice

Be proactive

When you get some work experience, be keen, proactive and use your initiative. Walk around the office introducing yourself and asking if there is any work you could do for them. It allows you to meet different people and ask what they are working on. This is your chance to get some experience, so show that you are willing.

COMMERCIAL AWARENESS

Research the different areas of legal practice

This is so that you can see what is actually involved on a day to day basis in different practice areas. If you don't like working to tight deadlines under pressure; transactional, deal activity in a corporate environment might not be your best area. If you prefer research and the black letter of the law (and better hours!), a more advisory practice area may suit you better, e.g. Pensions or Banking Regulation.

Build your commercial awareness – read the business press

Law firms attach great importance to this. This basically means having an awareness of the wider commercial world within which a law firm and its client is operating, and what issues might be affecting the firm or its clients.

A law firm is not expecting you to be able to recite the FT or The Economist. It is simply looking for an awareness of current, topical issues, your interest in them and your being able to discuss them.



A STRONG ACADEMIC RECORD

Get the best academic results you can

Most leading City firms will be pretty stringent on their academic requirements. However, it may be encouraging to know that, while of course the law is a demanding discipline and you do need good grades, if, for example, you were disappointed with your A Level results or you haven't done particularly well in a module during your degree, this will not automatically preclude you from entering into the legal profession. The key thing is to be able to show resilience and the ability to bounce back from any set back by, for example, going on to do very well in your next module.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

Don't forget the human element

Personal qualities are a big factor in general. Only 5% of people get to interview so if you have got that far, it is likely that you are considered strong enough as a candidate. What the interviewers will be asking themselves is 'would we want to work with them in our team?' 'Are they a nice person to work with?' 'If it is going to be a late night in the office, will they carry on with a sense of humour and be of support, or will they be working with an ill-grace all evening because they have had to cancel their prearranged plans?' 'Will they build and maintain a good-working relationships with the team and clients?'

I have known some trainees who, as soon as they start their Training Contract, will act as though they are Senior Equity Partner! I am sure it goes without saying to you all, but it costs nothing to be nice. Some of us may have had opportunities that others may not have been fortunate to have - but that is the only difference, so always treat everyone the same, from the cleaning staff to the real Senior Equity Partners.

Whatever area of law takes your interest, you may be acting for clients during highly stressful periods in their lives. If you were to go into Family Law, you may be acting for someone going through a divorce and who may lose custody of their children; if you go into Criminal Law, someone may be losing their liberty; if you go into Commercial Litigation, someone may be getting sued for large amounts of money! So, as well as being able to get along with a wide range of people, you need to be able to empathise with people while also being able to keep a professional distance.

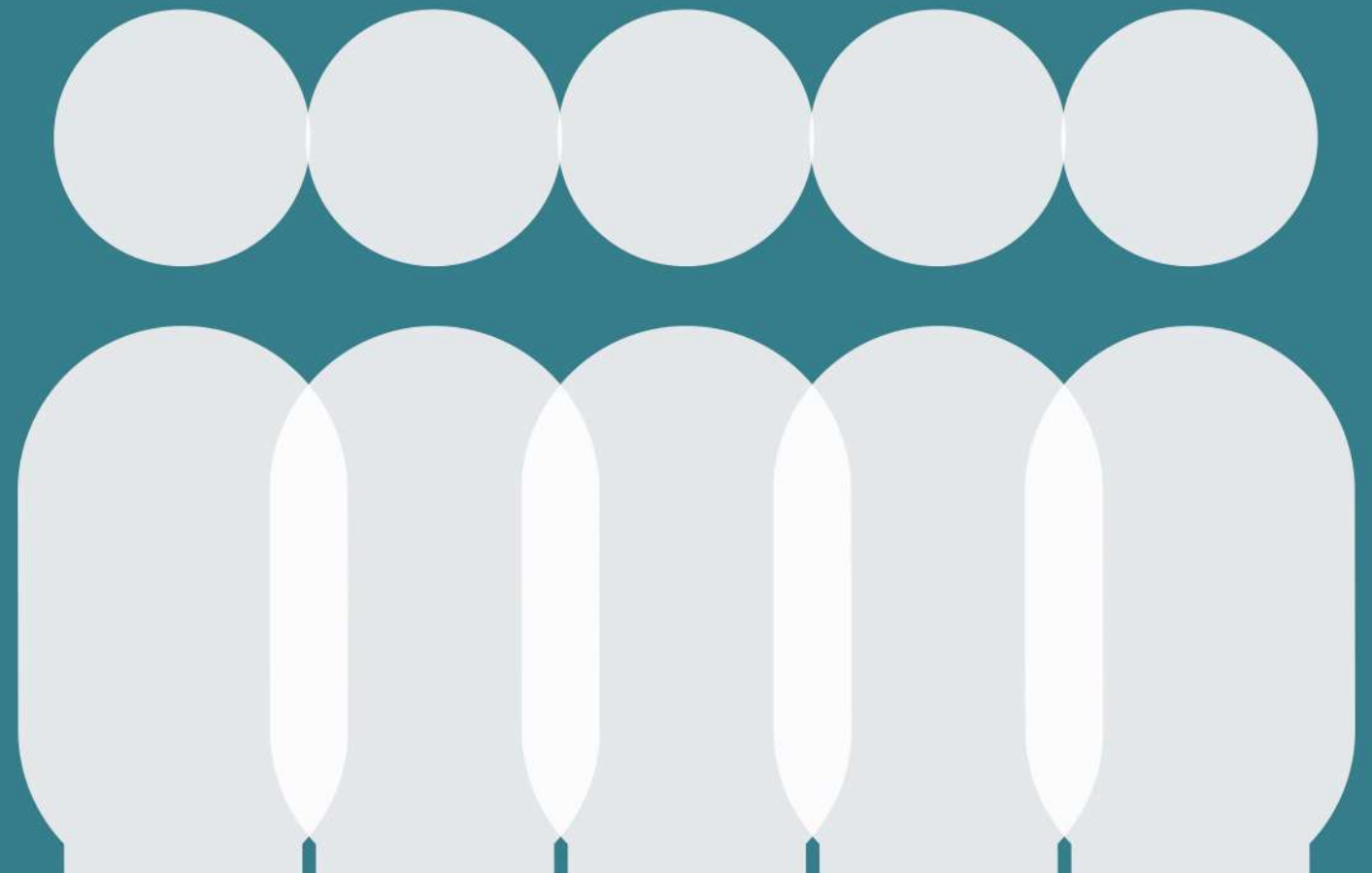
The full interview is available on bppstudents.com.

Believe in yourself and be yourself

Remember that careers are lifelong. Others may race ahead at the start, but you are not in a race with anyone. You are very much on time. Compete only with yourself and believe in yourself.

That is what I say to my students. I feel really passionate about helping and supporting them, because that was me once.

BPP CLUBS & SOCIETIES





VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB



10.42

BPP's Virtual Book Club has been meeting every Thursday since the 9th April. The first book was *The Diary of a Bookseller* by Shaun Blythell. It was agreed that this memoir of a second hand bookshop in rural Scotland provided an insight into the trade along with an amusing angle on odd and rude customers in a delightful landscape, giving the reader a chance of escape. As well as discussing the chosen title, club members have shared titles of books that have been important to them or which they think the group will enjoy.

At the last meeting, the group chose a new title: *The History of Bees* by Maja Lunde. A novel that moves between the past and the future with elements of mystery sounds intriguing. We look forward to welcoming new readers to our club. Email MichaelMartin@b-pp.com for your free e-book. And get involved with the conversation in the Book Club on community.bpp.com you don't have to have read much (or any!) of the novel to join the next meeting of the club on **Microsoft Teams** at 5pm every Thursday. See you on the 7th May when we'll kick off with the Great BPP Book Quiz!



bppstudents.com



ENVIRONMENTAL

LAW AND AWARENESS SOCIETY

Environmental Law is an up-and-coming area in the legal sector due to more importance being given to climate change. ELA aims to increase students' knowledge and awareness of how the environment and climate change has an impact on the legal sector. ELA aims to do this by being a society where students share ideas, research and benefit from guest speakers. Students' would also benefit from ELA as it is an interactive way of increasing students' commercial awareness. If you would like to join and share ideas please do not hesitate to contact us.



Follow us on Instagram:
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Ema Francisco
Position: President
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Farhana Shaikh
Position: Vice-president
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COMMERCIAL AWARENESS

BPP SOCIETY

APRIL 2020 ISSUE 1

BE IN THE KNOW! GET YOUR COMMERCIAL
AWARENESS UPDATE HERE!

WHAT IS AND ISN'T IN THIS ISSUE

CAS have decided, with the volatility of the news and in the business world, to release our newsletters fortnightly for the time being. This will hopefully allow our readers to keep up to date with commercial developments whilst the lockdown persists.

Once again, we would like to reiterate that we are aware of the significant problems across all sectors that stem from the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak. However, where possible, this and future newsletters will attempt to inform our readership of stories that they may have missed and help them remain commercially aware. For other stories, such as the UK Government's financial support for businesses, CAS would direct you to the BBC or your preferred news network. Equally, please go to the NHS website or gov.uk/coronavirus if you have any questions or concerns about the coronavirus itself, and what you should do to protect yourself against it.

To read our full article, please visit the **BPP Students' Association website here.**



Lawyers against Poverty (LAP) is a charity with a large network of lawyers committed to protecting human rights, upholding the rule of law, and securing sustainable development both domestically and internationally. Its student branch - Junior Lawyers against Poverty (JLAP) - pulls together a network of students passionate about fighting poverty and injustice. It was founded at BPP University in early 2020.

If you would like to join this society please get in touch with Maria on m.shepard@my.bpp.com

RECENT PROJECTS

Homeless outreach

JLAP piloted its first few homeless outreach shifts in March, with student volunteers delivering food, hot drinks, and information booklets to homeless people around Waterloo. We would love to continue this in the future after lockdown is lifted.



Research for LAP's international partnerships

Thank you to the volunteers who researched the work of NGOs and British government aid initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa. This will be very useful to LAP's growing partnerships in the region.

Collaborative article on the impact of Covid-19

JLAP members have written an article series called 'Junior Lawyers against Poverty review the impact of Covid-19'. It is due to be published soon on BPP's Human Rights Blog and Lawyers against Poverty's main website.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Twinning with the University of Ibadan

We also want to connect with the wider network of law students across the globe and are in the process of establishing a partnership with the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. If things go to plan, the BPP students who have expressed an interest will be paired up with a pen pal law student at Ibadan, in order to research and write about a topic of their choice.

Webinars

LAP is reaching out to senior lawyers in its network to deliver webinars to students on topical human rights issues and career advice. These are not confirmed, but please get in touch if you are interested.

BPP FIFA TOURNAMENT

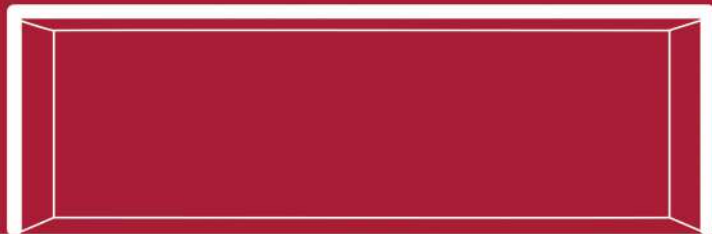
BPP Men's Football adapted to the national lockdown by running two online FIFA tournaments in April: one on PlayStation and the other on Xbox. The PlayStation tournament was held over four days, whilst the Xbox tournament was a two-day affair.

The format of the tournaments was a group stage, where players played twice against everyone else in their group, and then two-legged finals. The timing of matches was decided between players so that they could structure this around work and revision commitments.

Ultimately, the tournaments were very competitive as players sent the results of their matches onto WhatsApp groups containing all their opponents. Ben Naken won the PlayStation tournament, whilst Ben George won the Xbox tournament. Both winners were awarded a football shirt of their choice.

Thanks to everyone who participated!

Please contact o.adebajo@my.bpp.com for enquiries about future activities from BPP Men's Football.



You can reach out to us here:

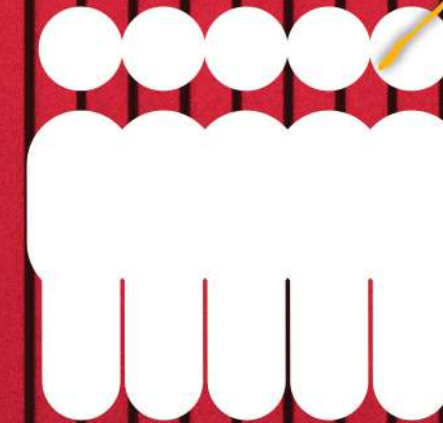
BPP Virtual Campus:



FACEBOOK PAGE:



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BPP SOCIETY

OUR NEWLY FORMED BANGLADESH SOCIETY HAS BEEN CREATED SO STUDENTS FROM BANGLADESH STUDYING AT BPP CAN CONNECT AND HOPEFULLY DON'T FEEL ALONE DURING THEIR TIME HERE. PLEASE JOIN OUR BPP BANGLADESH SOCIETY AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS, TO MAKE A STRONG BOND WITH FELLOW STUDENTS AND GO FORWARD WITH OUR VISIONS. WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU THROUGH YOUR STUDENT JOURNEY.



bppsstudents.com



PRESENTS

WEBINAR
**LAW
SPECIAL**

5TH MAY 2020-6PM

NETWORK WITH LEADING LAW
PROFESSIONALS AND LEARN HOW TO GET
INTO AND AHEAD IN THE LAW INDUSTRY

WWW.GENERATION-SUCCESS.COM

FEATURED SPEAKERS



DANIEL BURNAND

Associate at Bryan Cave
Leighton Paisner LLP



**CHARLIE - LOUISE
AKINTILO**

Offshore Associate at Olisa Agbakoba
Legal and Foreign Qualified Lawyer
for Insightsoftware



SOWANDE COKER

Lateral Recruitment
Manager at White Case LLP



SPORTS LAW COMPETITION



Gateley Legal hosted their annual UK Sports Law Competition on Friday 28 February 2020 at the iconic Etihad Stadium, home of Manchester City Football Club. Two teams of students from BPP comprising Joe Thompson, Christian Mills, James Wood and Matthew Haigh competed in the competition and were tested on their ability to think commercially when faced with a fictitious topical legal problem within the sports industry. The panels of judges was made up of professionals from across the spectrum of the sports industry from lawyers, CEO's, commercial managers and directors representing all sorts of sporting companies/organisations. Despite not winning the first and second prizes, the teams performed admirably and represented BPP with distinction.





SLACK WORKSPACE

The BPP Law Society Birmingham has set-up an interactive method for ALL BPP LPC students studying the same electives to support each other throughout the remainder of the term. We understand that many students are used to working together on SGS preps and even just casually discussing their progress in different modules; we aim to recreate that collaborative spirit through the Workspaces. Slack is a simple and intuitive (and free) application which you can get on your mobile phone & laptop. Each workspace has a moderator to help guide the discussion.

To join the workspaces for your elective please click here: shorturl.at/BKPS2

GTA SOCIAL

At the time of writing we are very much looking forward to our GTA V ONLINE session and hope to run similar socials to help students relax and socialise.

The current crisis is a tough time for all students so we, as a society, would like to encourage students to remember to look after their mental health as well as their physical health. Rest is also key for productivity so remember to take breaks where and when you can. We wish students all the best during these unprecedented times.

Join the society to receive our weekly newsletter <https://www.bppstudents.com/organisation/BhamLawSoc/>

Follow us on our social media pages for events & useful information:

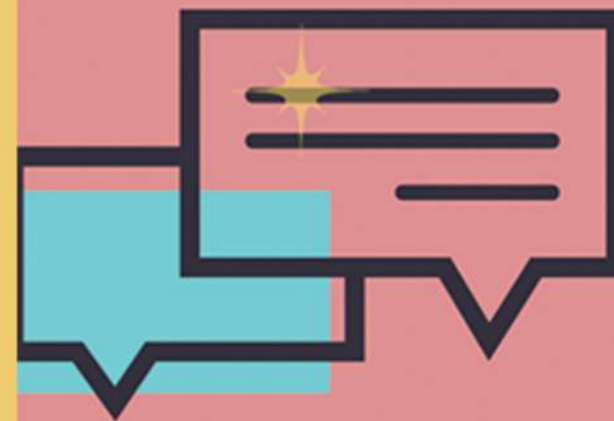
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BPP BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY PRESENTS

LPC ELECTIVES
SLACK
WORKSPACES



Bhangra Night

By Mick Yuen

BPP School of Business and Technology at our Shepherd's Bush campus hosted a fun and exciting themed event on Wednesday the 11th March named Bhangra Night.

As the name suggests, Bhangra music was played the whole night and students were encouraged to wear traditional clothing to which they certainly obliged!

Over 150 students plus staff attended and as you can see from the photos, they all had lots and lots of fun!!! Students enjoyed complimentary food and drinks whilst dancing together "Bhangra-style" to famous music that they only know so well.

Music videos were displayed via large projected screens and students were taking in turns both requesting songs and becoming the DJ for the night too!

The event was painted with a sea of bright colours, joyous smiles and endless laughter! Needless to say, the night was highly enjoyable and proved to be a huge success for both BPP University and the wonderful students at our campus.

Special thanks to **Isha Sharma**, our Indian society student representative for assisting in making this event a welcoming and enjoyable one for her peers.



Did you know
we have organised
dozens of bespoke
online events
every week?

Visit the [Students' Association website](#)
and the [virtual campus](#) for full details.



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