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Use your STEM degree
to break new ground in Law.
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A career in Law
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You don't need a law degree to become a lawyer

Law firms have a diverse mix of skills and perspectives by bringing together law, science and humanities students. We are particularly focused on attracting an increasing number of science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) students to enhance that diversity of skills. Bringing together the brightest minds across the full range of subjects will help us break new ground in the legal industry and contribute to the success of our clients in the various industry sectors in which they operate. So, if you have studied one of those subjects and want to combine it with law, working on high-profile, complex and sometimes ground-breaking cases, we want to hear from you.

“At Allen & Overy I get to be part of an ambitious, empowering firm with an exceptional quality of work.”

Daniel Lim

Senior Associate in the Intellectual Property (IP) Litigation team, studied Science and Law at university.





Choose a highly specialised & varied career in IP

Intellectual Property (IP) – a highly specialised and technical field – is a career particularly well suited to STEM graduates.

Being highly adaptable, those who study science-related degrees transition well into this area due to the complex processes and knowledge involved. IP is ideal for anyone passionate about science and technology, allowing you to work with some of the brightest and most innovative experts in their fields, including Nobel Prize winners. Due to the mix of both law and non-law students in IP, there is an extremely collegiate culture that will support you each step of the way.

We'll fund your legal training

Your journey towards a professional law qualification comes in two stages: the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) and the Legal Practice Course (LPC). If you already have or are predicted to get a 2:1 in any subject, then you're already eligible to apply for a training contract with Allen & Overy. If your application is successful, we'll pay your GDL fees and give you a maintenance grant to help with your living costs. You'll then take our bespoke LPC course. This accelerated qualification takes just seven months and when you pass, you'll be ready to start your training contract. During your training contract you'll rotate through four six-month placements known as 'seats' which will allow you the flexibility to choose the practice areas that interest you.



Daniel Lim

University of Sydney – combined degree in Science and Law with an honours in Bio-Chem Molecular Biology Genetics.
University of Oxford – Postgraduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Law and Practice.

Senior Associate in Intellectual Property.

Working in Intellectual Property at Allen & Overy means I get to be part of an ambitious, empowering firm with an exceptional quality of work. The London IP practice is experiencing a real upturn at the moment and we have an ambitious growth strategy in place.

The work I do is all about Life Sciences Patent Litigation and Strategy cases for pharmaceutical companies; which allows me to apply my academic knowledge in the legal field. My day-to-day responsibilities include coordinating patent strategy for our clients' global litigation, which means making sure things are consistent across the different jurisdictions.

From neuroscience and oncology to prenatal testing, what's particularly rewarding in this role is being able to be on equal terms with luminaries in these fields. I get to engage with exceptionally bright and innovative experts – even Nobel Prize winners!

I'm currently spearheading a case on CRISPR – a technology that allows permanent modification of genes within organisms – and have even published an article about it. This is helping position the firm as the go-to for high-end, cutting-edge bio work. I'm really enjoying this kind of project and hope to continue pitching for new work in the future.

I'd advise any STEM students considering a career in the legal industry to make sure they've got a good understanding of what daily life in a legal firm will entail. You'll need to have an equal interest in both sides of the role – understanding life science and technology and having the necessary legal intuition.



Shohta Ueno

University of Cambridge – degree in Natural Sciences with a PhD in Pathology.

University of Oxford – Postgraduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Law and Practice.

Associate in Intellectual Property.

What attracted me to Allen & Overy was the friendly and collaborative environment. Its inclusive culture means you're exposed to different teams, and different ways of working. I get to work on really high-profile, complex cases in Intellectual Property. We look at patents and liaise with technology experts, developing strategies and negotiating settlements. Most cases we deal with usually get litigated in the Patents Court (High Court), often escalated to the Court of Appeal and in some instances, the Supreme Court.

Having a life sciences and technical background means I'm used to reading scientific papers which allows me to analyse the actual data behind patents. Once a case goes to court, part of my role is to help transfer this technology into a more digestible language – making it more accessible for the judges to understand.

This requires the application of my technical knowledge and combining it with the legal intuition required to make a case. One of the most rewarding aspects of the role is the exposure to potentially life-changing technology – patents which these large pharmaceutical companies realise are worth fighting over. You get to see technology that is not just going to have real commercial impact, but one which is also revolutionary.

My advice for anyone considering a legal career would be to go to Law fairs and talk to current employees to find out what it's really like to work at a law firm. It's also worth bearing in mind that you'll be seated in different areas like finance and corporate law when you're training – it's not just a one way road into Intellectual Property.



Taly Dvorkis

Massachusetts Institute of Technology –
Bachelor of Science in Physics.

University of Pennsylvania Law School –
Honours degree in Law.

University of Oxford – Postgraduate
Diploma in Intellectual Property Law
and Practice.

Senior Associate in Intellectual Property.

I have found Allen & Overy to be a collaborative firm with an impressive global presence. The Intellectual Property department is comprised of intelligent individuals who are extremely dedicated to doing great work. While studying Physics at MIT, I had known that I wanted to do law in the long run.

I was interested in finding an interactive working environment, so combining Physics with Law meant Intellectual Property was a perfect fit for me. It allows me to combine my analytical skills and academic background to carry out work in a new field and with new technology as it relates to each case.

In my current role I manage litigation from the moment it comes in, from the time of filing the proceedings all the way through until trial and appellate procedure. When a patent is challenged, I work with experts on gathering evidence related to the technology behind it, which requires a technical understanding of the invention and subject matter itself. Learning the new technology is a fun challenge that goes hand in hand with being a patent lawyer.

To succeed as a lawyer it is important to be confident at multitasking, managing different requirements and the various moving aspects of each case. I'd advise any STEM students considering a career in the legal industry to spend some time learning about careers in law, shadowing a lawyer and reading as much as you can on Intellectual Property to ensure it's the right career path.



Jin Ooi

University of Sydney – Combined degree in Science (Pharmacology) and Law (Hons 1).

University of Oxford – Postgraduate diploma in Intellectual Property Law and Practice.

Senior Associate in Intellectual Property.

What attracted me to Allen & Overy is its interest and investment in IP Litigation. The firm has a friendly and collegiate culture, and the IP department is made up of both scientists and non-scientists, so it feels very inclusive. Everyone is very approachable and we all learn from one another by sharing our experiences of working on different cases.

Whilst at university studying a STEM and Law degree, I realised that a career in science, either in a lab or academia, just wasn't for me. However, I was still keen to work in an area of law that would utilise this knowledge, and Intellectual Property ticked all of these boxes. I'm an IP Litigator, working mostly in the pharmaceuticals and life sciences space. This involves looking into the validity of patents and whether or not the patent has been infringed by a competitor product. I've recently worked on a ground-breaking second medical use patent case, which has generated a lot of attention in the medical and legal news. Whilst challenging – it's been very interesting and it's even made its way up to the Supreme Court to be heard.

For any STEM students considering a career in law, I'd suggest gaining vocational experience in a legal environment to ensure it's the right path for you. Law firms are interested in students with STEM degrees because they know you'll be able to understand the complex science behind the technology and be able to communicate this to a wide audience.



Show us what you're made of

1. Application process

At Allen & Overy, we pride ourselves on delivering an application process that is straightforward and transparent, allowing you to demonstrate your potential to become a good lawyer.

The online application form is your first opportunity to stand out, so make the most of it with thorough preparation. Make sure you use your strongest examples that demonstrate the skills we are looking for and, above all, good attention to detail. The same in-depth preparation should also go into your interview – we want you to shine, and to showcase your talents so that we can see your success as a trainee.

2. Interviews

If your application is successful, the next stage will be an assessment day comprising of two one-on-one interviews.

The first interview is based on a commercial case study, where you'll have time to work through a brief and prepare a short presentation to deliver to your interviewer. This will be followed by a discussion on the key points from the case study. The second interview is based on your application form and shall assess your skills and knowledge, your motivation for a legal career at Allen & Overy and your commercial awareness.

3. Offer

After your interview, we will aim to get back to you with a decision as quickly as possible.

Regardless of the outcome, we're committed to providing constructive feedback on your performance throughout the process. This will help you to understand our decision and allow you to refine your interview technique and preparation for any future applications.

And, of course, if it's good news, the Graduate Recruitment Team will be on hand to support you in your decision-making process.

To find out more about graduate careers at Allen & Overy, visit aograduate.com

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