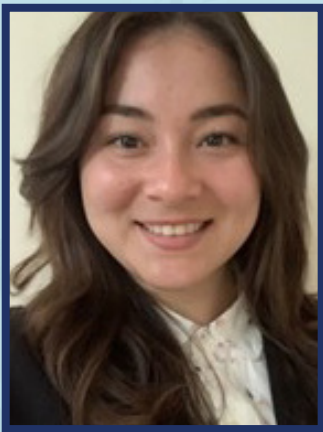




LLM Graduate Prospects

The LLM degrees offered by Swansea in the realm of commercial, maritime, trade, IP and oil and gas are enormously respected throughout the commercial sector. They put our graduates in a prime position in the job market, even in times of economic downturn or in the midst of a global pandemic. Below you can read the stories of some of our recent graduates (those who graduated November 2020 onwards) who found employment in the sector immediately after the completion of their Swansea LLM. These stories show how our links with practice help our graduates even during the most difficult of times. We are very proud of their achievements.



Nínive Sheriline Pineda Carranza

Department Head of International Maritime Affairs
in the Mexican Navy,
México City, México.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

It is a fact that without the LLM of International Maritime Law at Swansea I would not have got my current position. The degree helped me obtain the necessary knowledge to understand the diverse world of maritime law and practice. At the same time, it enabled me to think from a broader perspective, develop my critical analytical skills, and of course improve my English, both speaking and writing, which opened many new opportunities for me.

Additionally, the LLM helped me personally to enhance my network and develop friendships with amazing people, both professors and alumni, from all over the world.

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

I am not quite sure I can give insightful advice on this topic given that I work for the government, but what I can say is that everyone should search a job that they feel passionate about. There will always be a certain topic, company, department, etc that excites each of us, and that is exactly what one should strive and prepare for. Also, do not feel shy to ask for help from the university, professors or even other alumni. There are plenty of sources and experience that everyone can use and share at Swansea University.



Deven Choudhary

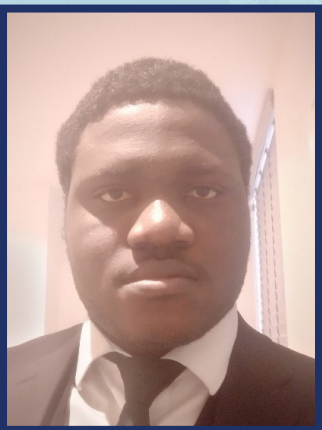
Legal Manager at Campbell Johnston Clark Ltd,
Newcastle, England.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

The LLM at Swansea University is actually quite renowned, not only for its course structure but also its faculty. The multi-prong integrated approach, interwoven in Swansea's course, allowed me to expand my horizons on learning and understanding. This not only gave me a fresh insight but also enabled me to plan strategically for my approach in the industry. Personally, where I was in my career, I needed that extra step which I knew that an LLM in International Maritime Law at Swansea University would provide me with.

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

My foremost suggestion would be to maintain a proper LinkedIn profile: it's crucial in today's world. The University organises several meet-and-greets throughout the year, which not only give you important insight into the English market but allow you an opportunity to socialise with experts in the field. I would also suggest keeping a lookout for internship opportunities, and if possible pursuing them during the winter break (whether they be in law firms, P&I Clubs or any other related organisations). Stay connected with the alumni on LinkedIn and understand the market requirements. Being a niche sector, it is highly possible that the market situation may not always remain the same. It's actually quite fluid and gets directly impacted by global events.



Azeke Ikeke Dennis

Audit Assistant Trainee, RSM UK, Bristol, England.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

First and foremost, a requirement of getting a visa sponsorship (for international students) is a recognised UK degree. In my job interview I could speak confidently about Swansea University and being trained by a team of industry experts. I could also talk about plays I had published in Waterfront, the school's prestigious student magazine.

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

My advice isn't long, it's just two words. **STAY POSITIVE**. I remember having to shut away people who were saying it was impossible to get a job out there and that nobody was sponsoring. Believe me: there are sponsors out there, you just have to look for them.

Finally, be confident, Swansea is a prestigious school, and its faculty is very well respected. Never shy away from being proud of the school and of the amazing team currently teaching you.



Xabier Gutiérrez Echevarría

Marine Account Handler at Marsh, Birmingham, England.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

The LLM from Swansea University can certainly make the difference when applying for a job. Its prestige and quality never go unnoticed in the selection processes, and I believe it is especially helpful in cases like mine where I wanted to stay and work in the UK without holding any previous British qualification.

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

Getting a job can be a lengthy process. I would suggest that students start looking for jobs as soon as possible and invest a fair amount of time in completing applications. No doubt you will sometimes get an email template with a rejection or not even a response at all. But, you should show resilience and not give up!

Also, learn from the unsuccessful interviews. You might be the best candidate for a role, but if you cannot demonstrate that during the interview you will not get anywhere. My last piece of advice would be to take advantage of all the means that the School provides to enhance your employability prospects. What I mean is do not only take the Employability module and assume all will be fine. The module is very useful but do not hesitate to ask the professors about tips for interviews or suggestions for specific companies and roles. They know the market very well and that is what makes Swansea LLM different than most!



Elif Nur KAMIŞLIK

Lawyer at Esenyel Partners Lawyers & Consultants,
Istanbul, Turkey.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

My LLM at Swansea in International Commercial and Maritime Law not only enabled me to understand the maritime sector from a legal perspective, but it taught me about the job opportunities which were available to me. In addition, it created an environment which allowed my peers and I, all of different nationalities and business fields, to learn from each other. I became a more open-minded person. My degree not only presented the legal aspects of the maritime sector, but other aspects of working life as well, thanks to the additional activities the course offered, including employability and mooting. I have now had the chance to see what my degree has done for me: in my applications and interviews, it took me one step ahead of others. Law firms know the programme. I am at this point today thanks to what the LLM programme and my professors offered me, and I am working in the area that I dream of.

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

My first suggestion would be to think carefully about job opportunities when choosing your modules at Swansea. Secondly, students should also consider taking non-credit bearing modules like the "Employability" module. In this way, they can learn a lot about the sector and job opportunities and how to present themselves to employers. And finally, they should chase their dreams, no matter how difficult it might be to achieve them. Working towards a set goal will always result in happiness!



Huseyin Kilcik

Claims Executive at AET UK Ltd, London, England.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

The LLM in International Maritime Law of Swansea University was the main reason for reaching my dreams so early, even before graduation. The LLM program has an international reputation for being the best in the field of maritime law and it was amazing to see how much recruiters and employers appreciated my maritime law studies at Swansea. I strongly believe that it was one of the main reasons for hiring me immediately after our final lectures.

Its international reputation is not a coincidence. Having gone through it I can attest that the Swansea LLM gives you a thorough knowledge of all aspects of maritime law and it also but it enables you to link this knowledge to the practical side of the marine industry. In my opinion, this is the main advantage of Swansea compared to other similar programmes and makes it the leading LLM in Maritime Law.

The benefits of the programme were obvious from an early stage of my studies. The highly-qualified lecturers have a hands-on approach and they are always available to assist the students in addition to providing thought provoking lectures and tutorials. The close contact with them and their motivating lectures were priceless and inspired me to seek a job in the industry. In addition, the LLM program prepares you for the life after it, especially CV-writing and interviewing. With a dedicated employability course, I was given the chance to be mock interviewed by a senior industry professional who gave me comprehensive feedback about my performance. In fact, the mock interview that I had at Swansea University was held a few days before my interview with AET UK Ltd and played a major role in being offered the position.

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

My advice is to attend as many modules as possible even as a guest, including the extracurricular ones such as employability and mootings and to contact the lecturers for guidance for academic and employability issues. The University and the programme offer a broad range of activities for your academic and professional development – make the most of them. Last but not least, never lose hope despite the difficult times we are facing since the outbreak of the pandemic. Be determined and dedicated to your studies and the rest will come. Surround your environment with qualified and positive people and join the LLM in Maritime Law of Swansea University. This would be the ideal first step in your maritime career.



Mert Mohac

English Legal Counsel at Esenyel Partners Lawyers & Consultants, Istanbul, Turkey.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

Looking back, the Swansea LLM has helped me get a grasp of the maritime industry and the legal field behind it before becoming a part of it. The various trips to London firms, and the practical anecdotes of the lecturers, helped create a picture of my work field before actually having a job. And add to that having an understanding academic team of lecturers that were always open to have a chat and mentor us for our studies as well as our future. This has formed the legal and professional personality that I am today.

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

My advice would be this. Rather than trying to create a path that will allow you to get a job, try to create a path that allows you to improve your professional identity. Participate in seminars, attend webinars and always communicate with your mentors. Have an independent attitude towards employment; do not limit yourself to one field. Do your research, add in what you have been taught and achieved for yourself, and you will eventually get you the job you desire.



Aristeidis I. Papaioannou

Compliance Department - The American P&I Club, Piraeus, Greece.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

The Shipping and Trade LLM at Swansea University provides academic excellence in the most critical factors for a postgraduate programme, namely field of studies, employability opportunities and the human element.

Regarding the field of studies, the shipping and trade industry is a very demanding and dynamic market. The Swansea Shipping and Trade LLM prepared me for the demands of the industry by exposing me to its most current legal issues across all modules.

The strength of the curriculum is evidenced by the comfortable transition I experienced from being a student to working for the Compliance Department of the American P&I Club. My current job makes me appreciate the depth of knowledge and expertise that I gained through my studies.

Regarding employability opportunities, I was able to demonstrate my enhanced competence in shipping and trade during my recruitment process. Central to this ability was the knowledge I acquired by attending the employability module of the LLM and the distinguished speakers' sessions. The sessions made it easier for me to draft my CV and cover letter and to go through interviews

One of the most significant aspects of the Shipping and Trade LLM of Swansea University was the human element. I had the opportunity to meet people from all around the world with different backgrounds and cultures with whom I share the same passion and vision about shipping and life. Even if the pandemic created unprecedented conditions, communication with my classmates was the best remedy to confront courseworks and exams along with stress.

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

I would like to give two pieces of advice that really helped me: persistence and adaptability. First, you must not take rejections of your applications personally. Your skills and personality will be recognised as long as you persist. Secondly, you require adaptability. Since there are numerous professional specialisations within the shipping and trade industry which require unique skills and capabilities, you always need to have open horizons in terms of the place and the role of your potential job.

And always remember, the Swansea LLM degree is the first step, yet the most important one in your future career in shipping and trade. Enjoy!



Ioanna Peraki

Associate, G. Trantalidis & Associates, Piraeus,
Athens, Greece.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

Swansea's LLMs in Maritime and Commercial Law are currently among the top LLM programmes in the sector, and as a Swansea LLM graduate I can totally see the reason for this good reputation. The programme has a significantly well-organised structure, combining theoretical knowledge and practical application, through weekly seminars and moot-court competitions.

In addition, it consists of very high-level academic personnel, who are international experts in the field of shipping law, and are always open to talk with students and advise them on their modules and career.

My LLM in International Commercial and Maritime Law provided me with all the knowledge required to get a job as a shipping lawyer and gave me an insight into the relevant job market by organising trips to various prominent firms, and many relevant visits by well-known legal professionals to the university.

As a result, completing my LLM in Swansea University, made me feel professionally confident; a confidence which stemmed from knowledge, and which, in combination with the good perception of Greek maritime law I had on an academic level, led me to obtaining my current position.

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

I would advise them to choose their modules wisely, as these will be the first base in shaping their knowledge in their future career, and also attend the optional employability courses, as they are really useful for a successful job search.

Make a plan for your next career steps and try to stay focused on it. These strange times might prove to be tough when searching for a job, but keep your mind open, stay positive and passionate about your dreams, continue evolving and developing your skills, and you will succeed.



Teresa Jimenez del Campo Sanchez
Transport Department, TRACTIO RISK
Correduría de Seguros, Bilbao, Spain.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

Swansea's LLM programme was an excellent choice for me. Its international reputation stems from the fact that what students learn is practical and contemporary for the market. What I learnt there was relevant and useful in terms of the law, but they also placed focus on the development of invaluable, transferable skills, such as critical analysis and spoken/written English.

During my time there, I was surrounded by students from different nationalities, which in itself broadened my horizons, and has allowed me to establish an immense international network of contacts.

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

My main advice is that students should think broadly. Do not limit yourself to one field, a specific company/law firm or even a city/country.

At the end you can always move on to a different job, but you need to start somewhere. Your main objective should be to gain work experience in maritime field as soon as you finish your LLM. Swansea LLM will certainly open doors for you!



Puneet Sareen

Claims Executive at The Standard Club, London, England

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

Very many factors combine together to help anyone get their dream job. Being here at Swansea provided more than one advantage to me:

1. The reputation of the course and faculty teaching the course – a prime factor in the impression created by my CV. The interviewers literally discussed the fact that they themselves had been taught by some of the present faculty, whether at Swansea or elsewhere. There's a difference when you are taught by faculty, and when you are taught by legends.
2. The network of versatile people I established during my time in Swansea. It is no secret that the majority of job applications originate through internal references, after which you rely on your calibre to take you further towards your goal. It was through one such person in the network, which I formed here, that I got the lead for applying for my present role.
3. The knowledge gained in the course helped me gain immense confidence and acquire the necessary technical skills. These were well acknowledged during my interview, and are being continuously put in practice by me in my present role.

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

Irrespective of the global situation at the time, the shipping industry cannot stop. Do not let external factors influence or demotivate you. Choose your modules very wisely, and give your best efforts in gaining knowledge that can take you places. Respect the hardship being faced by all, stay patient, and take one step at a time.



Yuyang Sun

Claims assistant at China Shipowners Mutual Assurance Association (China P&I), Shanghai, China.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

The Swansea LLM is a great platform. Swansea provides highly specialised courses with a strong focus on shipping and commercial law, combined with a personalised approach to teaching, and comprehensive support in career development.

This not only gives you the knowledge and skills required, but also prepares you for a promising career in various other respects. The opportunities available during the Swansea LLM, and after finishing the program, are truly worldwide. You get to make friends with people from all over the world, and the extra-curricular activities, such as conferences and networking events arranged by the professors, are great opportunities for expanding networks.

Shortly after finishing Part I of the program, I was very lucky to secure an internship at BIMCO, based in Shanghai, with the support of a Hannaford Turner Award. Swansea co-operated with Hannaford Turner LLP. As someone who was just about to step into my career, this was a great opportunity to gain more understanding about the industry and figure out what direction I would take. Later, with great interest in English law and claims handling, I decided to apply for the claims assistant position at China P&I. The extra-credit employment courses I took at Swansea, and the advanced knowledge I acquired in the program, were a great benefit during the application process. I was excited to get the offer and very happy to take the job.

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

I may not be able to give much advice for those of you who are already professionals, since I am just a freshman in my career. But to me, I think it's vital to follow your heart and pursue the job you want. I know it's a very difficult time, and some of you may be frustrated, but it's important to believe in yourself and keep the confidence that Swansea gives you. Try as many job applications as you can (be targeted!). Reach out to alumni and your networks, who will be very willing to help. There are a lot of opportunities all around the world. All you need to do is to catch the right one, and with the knowledge and passion earned at Swansea, you will be able to do just that!



Milana Tomic

Advisor at the Government of Montenegro / Research and Teaching Assistant at University of Montenegro, Faculty of Law, Montenegro

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

Swansea University is internationally recognised as a leading institution that every year attracts many international students. Therefore, LL.M at Swansea University has provided me with contemporary education and teaching excellence.

First and foremost, after LL.M at Swansea University I was able to continue my education and enrol in PhD studies. Further, LL.M was useful for me, because of the practical education offered at Swansea. As teaching assistant, I am able to share and transfer the knowledge I acquired at Swansea University to students at the University of Montenegro, Faculty of Law. Also, seminars and course-works that consist of practical tasks provided me with new ideas how to develop our program. Montenegro is civil law country and the difference in legal systems gave me the opportunity to learn many new cases, which I currently use in my academic research. Last, but not least, acquired knowledge helps me every day in providing legal advice for resolving international legal issues that face the Government.

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

True rewards are proportional with the work and the sacrifices. Try to learn and advance foreign languages, which can help you step out from the rest of the candidates. Also, be adaptable. Sometimes you need to work in a different area until you find the job of your dreams.



Carolina Velez-Vanegas

Claims and Recoveries Executive, Saint Clement Management Ltd., London, England.

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, I am grateful that we were offered in-person classes at Swansea. This enabled me to forge a strong relationship not only with fellow students but also with highly qualified lecturers. The modules and the knowledge of the professors exceeded my expectations. Those who teach at Swansea have broad expertise in academia and in the maritime industry. Personally, my LLM International Maritime Law provided me with the opportunity to acquire legal knowledge of the maritime sector and develop invaluable skills such as critical analysis and concise writing. These combined with my previous job experience helped me to develop my professional outlook. As a result, I obtained an amazing offer to stay in the UK before I finished the LLM course.

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

I highly recommend students to use professional job sites and keep up with up-to-date information on recent job opportunities. In particular, LinkedIn is an essential tool not just to keep updated and maintain contact with your network, but also to find great professional opportunities.

I also suggest to all students to benefit from employability courses offered by the School particularly those designed for LLM students. Also, remember that when applying for a job it is vital to address specific job requirements in your application form.



Eline Vergotte

Marine Claims Advocate at Marsh McLennan, Belgium

Q. How did your Swansea LLM help you?

First of all, the LLM degree was my ticket to get an interview. The quality of the LLM degree is known worldwide in the industry, so it opens a lot of doors. It gives you in depth knowledge in maritime law and prepares you for a lifetime of learning. It challenges you and pushes you to give the best of yourself while the professors are there to support you in your learning journey. This makes sure you get confidence in the discipline which you radiate in job interviews.

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

Keep on believing in yourself, you've made it so far to the LLM, so with some perseverance you will definitely get where you want to be in the end. Further, be open for jobs you might not have considered before starting the LLM, because a job title or description never fully says what a job contains and you might be pleasantly surprised when you effectively do the job.



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