



Adapting to the Future: Studying for Success in the Digital Age

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been described as the fifth industrial revolution—a cognitive age where AI platforms do more than execute pre-programmed tasks, but are seamlessly integrating into our lives, reshaping workflows, and redefining industries. For legal education providers, this transformation presents both a challenge and an opportunity. At Nottingham Law School, we're taking proactive steps to ensure our students are prepared for a digitally integrated workplace. Our new bespoke online module, **Studying for Success in the Digital Age**, is designed to equip students with the skills they need to thrive in this evolving landscape. This module focuses on building digital literacy, using AI ethically, enhancing commercial awareness, and fostering sustainable professional practices.

Building Digital Literacy

Today's students are often described as digital natives, having grown up in an era where the internet and smart devices are pervasive. There is debate about whether this description is appropriate and to what extent it may conceal digital inequities. Gen Z may be more adept at navigating technology in daily life, but the workplace demands a different level of proficiency. Our module seeks to bridge this gap, helping students align their nascent use of technology with professional expectations.

To support this transition, Nottingham Law School provides students with a range of resources of varying skill levels—from beginner level introductions to advanced digital tools. Students can earn points for completing tasks, contributing to a **Digital Award** coordinated by our Employability team. This approach not only enhances their technical capabilities but also develops their confidence in applying these skills within their academic work and a professional context.

Using AI with Integrity

The rapid evolution of AI poses significant ethical challenges. Students today have unparalleled access to electronic resources, but not all are of equal legal and academic authority. Students must learn to critically evaluate their sources and conduct research with integrity.

Our module provides guidance on ethical AI use, linking students to University policies relating to academic integrity and to professional conduct frameworks such as the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and the Bar Standards Board (BSB). By understanding these standards, students can navigate the often-delicate line between using AI's capabilities effectively, while maintaining the integrity of their work. This approach allows students to develop good academic practice and provides a foundation for conduct they will be expected to carry into their professional careers.

Enhancing Commercial Awareness

AI is revolutionising the legal profession by streamlining labour-intensive tasks. Law firms increasingly deploy these technologies to reduce costs, improve efficiency, and to enhance client care. To thrive in this environment, students must understand these broader commercial implications of AI.

Our module explores how and why legal tech is transforming the industry. Once students appreciate why legal tech plays an important role in running a successful practice, they are better equipped to start their development into professionals who can help firms adapt to technological advancements. This is important in ensuring students meet the evolving expectations of employers. Candidates who are able to demonstrate they are more than qualified, with a mastery to lead on the integration of technology, will in turn add value to the business they join.

Promoting Sustainable Professional Development

Change is the only constant in life. Managing and adapting to change is a reality of long-term professional success. With rapid advancements in generative AI, quantum computing, and the looming possibility of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), the pace of technological change is accelerating. Our module provides students with a framework to navigate these changes thoughtfully and sustainably.

Students are introduced to the intersection of law, technology, and sustainability, exploring how principles of sustainability can guide their professional growth. Reflecting on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), they learn to balance social, economic, and environmental considerations in their decision-making. This holistic perspective equips them to contribute meaningfully to the growth of sustainable legal practices and prepares them for success in a rapidly changing digital age.

Visit www.ntu.ac.uk/law to explore our range of courses.

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