

Access to the Professions ~~X~~ Reach Scotland



Case Study: Matthew Scott

Matthew attended Currie Community High School in Edinburgh and took part in Access to the Professions for Law. While studying Law at the University of Edinburgh, he also played professional rugby. Matthew graduated in 2012.

What attracted you to studying Law at Edinburgh?

The fantastic reputation that Edinburgh has not only in the Law Faculty but across all of its subjects, making it one of the top universities in the world. Edinburgh is also an amazing place to live and as it is the city I grew up in I was keen to stay here to study.

How did LEAPS and Access to the Professions help you in your decision making process?

It helped me in a couple of ways. Firstly, the helpers at the Access to the Professions open days were extremely friendly and down to earth which reassured me that not all law students/lawyers came from a wealthy upper class background.

Secondly, it aided me in ultimately choosing to study Law as I was unsure whether it was the right subject for me. I come from a sporting background and the idea of studying PE teaching appealed to me a lot around the time I was choosing university courses.

Through LEAPS and Access to the Professions I discovered that the opportunities that can arise post-graduation with a Law degree can be great. A Law degree is versatile and doesn't limit you to follow one career path. The knowledge I gained from this was invaluable in guiding me towards studying Law.

What have been the best and the worst things about studying Law at Edinburgh so far?

What I have been impressed with is the quality of teaching that the Law School provides. There are many world leaders in Law in their own fields and are easily approachable through a quick email or a knock at their door.

The worst thing is the workload! Law is a demanding course and I know it is a bit of a cliché but you get out what you put in! 8 exams at the end of second year was not the most enjoyable experience of my life!

How have you found balancing study alongside University life?

I have found it tough but the University and Scottish Rugby have been very accommodating, with both parties making sacrifices in order to help me through the course.

Second year was definitely the toughest for me as I was involved in the Scotland Under 20's which is a very busy programme.

I missed 5 weeks of lectures in February/March during the Junior 6 Nations which wasn't the best preparation for the 8 upcoming exams! Now that I have signed a contract with Edinburgh Rugby I am training full time which presents new challenges for me.

I am looking forward to long, late nights in the Law library now that I am training during the day.

Rugby is my release from the pressures of university work and this is a really important balance to have. It's not healthy to sit in the library all day with your head in a statute book (although some lecturers would disagree with me!).

What are you currently doing and what your plans for your future career?

I want to take my Rugby as far as I can go but I have always felt it is vitally important to have a degree behind me due to the high risk nature of the sport.

Short term I want to finish my Honours Degree and graduate at the end of this academic year then have a real go with my Rugby. Ideally I want to have a long Rugby career.

