What are you applying for? Ask yourself the following questions…..

- **What am I qualified to do in the legal field?**
  This will depend on your qualifications and experience from your home country and on the jurisdiction you are applying within in the UK (i.e. Scotland or England/Wales). Many international LLM students find that they are not qualified to practise as a Solicitor or Advocate/Barrister in the UK based upon their existing qualifications and experience. The route to gaining admission to the appropriate Law Society will depend on your current qualifications. You should check the route you would need to follow to be admitted as a Solicitor with the appropriate Law Society ([www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk) (England/Wales) and [www.lawscot.org.uk](http://www.lawscot.org.uk) (Scotland).

If you are not qualified to practise as a qualified Solicitor then you need to explore the alternatives to this. It is occasionally (although not often) possible to find work in the in-house departments of international commercial organisations based in the UK – such as oil & gas companies in Aberdeen. You may be able to find work within a law firm as a paralegal/legal assistant – the chances of this will depend on the types of firms and location – it is fairly uncommon in Scotland, you may get more opportunities in large English firms particularly in the largest cities (such as London, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds …). These are often advertised via specialist legal employment agencies (see websites such as [www.thelawyer.com](http://www.thelawyer.com), [www.totallylegal.com](http://www.totallylegal.com)).

- **What areas of legal work am I interested / experienced in?**
  This will help you in your search for companies and firms who you might send a speculative application to. Look on the websites listed below for the categories you can search under.

- **What have I got to offer law firms/legal departments?**
  Depending on your nationality and visa requirements, a company who needs to apply for a work permit on your behalf will have to justify that they cannot fill the position with someone from the EU. It is therefore useful to think about what experiences, languages, qualifications and skills you have to offer the employer before making your application.

- **What level of work am I seeking or prepared to apply for?**
  If you’re not qualified to practise as a Solicitor in Scotland or England/Wales are you prepared to work as a legal assistant/paralegal? Put a timescale on your plans for staying in the UK and review these regularly. Think about your reasons for wishing to stay in the UK and what you need to do to achieve them. To find out more about paralegal work in Scotland visit [www.scottishparalegal.org.uk](http://www.scottishparalegal.org.uk)

**UK-wide**

- [www.legal500.com](http://www.legal500.com) - use website to identify recommended firms in different geographical areas and in different areas of practice.

**England & Wales**

- [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk) - use website to search full database of law firms in England & Wales by location and by area of legal practice. Also search firms offering services in different languages. Website includes a section on qualifying to practise law in England/Wales.

**Scotland**

- [www.lawscot.org.uk](http://www.lawscot.org.uk) - use website to search full database of law firms in Scotland by location and by area of legal practice. Also section on qualifying to practise law in Scotland.

**Aberdeen**

- [www.abdn.ac.uk/careers](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers) - use the new local employer search for legal organisations in Aberdeen and the Northeast of Scotland and their contact details.