

Global Recruitment

Guide to Leads

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Introduction to Leeds

Leeds is considered the cultural, financial and commercial heart of the West Yorkshire Urban Area. With one of the largest financial and insurance services industries in the UK, and huge growth in the corporate and legal sectors, there's plenty of opportunities for your legal career to take off!

The Legal Market

Leeds is the largest legal market outside of London in the UK and focuses primarily on the areas of Real Estate and Corporate Commercial work. This means that there is a respectable presence of some large firms, but there are also some non-international firms that play a big role. The market is still expanding with more players trying to carve out a place for themselves. Below we have listed a number of practices to give you an overview of the kinds of opportunities available.

Firms

Minster Law: While Personal Injury is not a significant industry in Leeds, Minster is one of the leaders in providing local services, they also specialize in Employment law. Further, they follow the 'no win no fee model' attractive to their wide client base.

DLA Piper: With a reported revenue of 2.48 billion US in 2013, this international firm is not only successful, but trusted by some of the biggest corporate clients in the world. The branch in Leeds specializes and focuses on the following areas: Corporate Commercial, Dispute Resolution, Employment, and Real Estate.

Addleshaw Goddard: A highly ranked corporate firm based in London, AG has an impressive history of international performance. Having won numerous awards, they are among the best of the best in the UK and boast an exceptional international profile. Locally they focus on the areas of: Corporate/Commercial, Dispute Resolution, Employment, and Real Estate.

Pinsent Mason: Head quartered in London, this is a large international firm with 300 million in posted profits and 2500+ employees. Their activity in Leeds includes: Corporate/Commercial, Dispute Resolution, Employment, and Real Estate.

Walker Morris: A local firm that is competitive alongside the larger international practices, this business prides itself on providing quality service to Leeds despite its size. It focuses on the same areas as the others, including Commercial/Corporate and Real Estate.

There are many other firms to consider, but this list should give you an idea of what levels of practice are available. The industry is fairly focused on a few areas, making competition fierce and the demand for quality high.

Lifestyle

There is much to do and see in Leeds, with a robust reflection of history through its many preserved monuments and museums, to the modern conveniences for shopping, it is easy to find an activity to suit you. Should you be seeking entertainment there is a variety on offer including theatres, a casino, and sporting.

Shopping

Briggate is a good place to start when going shopping in Leeds. Centrally located, many of the major commercial retailers in Leeds occupy busy streets bustling with markets, shops, food, and entertainment. The list below should give you a sense of the options available to you and a good starting point to explore further.

Shopping Centres

- The Merrion Centre
- The St John's Centre
- The Headrow Centre
- The Light
- Trinity Leeds
- Victoria Quarter Complex

Shopping Streets

- Briggate
- Albion Place
- Commercial Street
- Lands Lane
- Bond Street
- Kind Edwards

Leisure & Local Attractions

There is a lot going on in Leeds, below we have listed a variety of places to visit and things to do across the spectrum of interests. This is just to get you started, there is much more to discover.

Parks & Nature

- Roundhay Park
- Tropical World
- Chevin Forest Park
- Golden Acre Park
- Rodley Nature Reserve

Museums

- The Royal Armouries
- Experience Centre
- Abbey House Museum
- Thackray Medical Museum
- Leeds City Museum
- Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills
- The Second World War

Theatre & Entertainment

- City Varieties Music Hall
- Grand Theatre
- West Yorkshire Playhouse
- Napoleons Casino
- Leeds United F.C.
- Wetherby Racecourse
- Pontefract Races

Historical

- Kirkstall Abbey
- Temple Newsam House
- Leeds and Liverpool Canal
- Harewood House
- Spofforth Castle

Food & Drink

In Leeds you will find a variety of places to eat and drink all over the City. It would be impossible to list more than a handful, and obviously personal preference would depend on your taste, but here are some places (based on the personal experiences of our team here at Douglas Scott) that we think are worth a visit!

Food

Trinity Centre: The biggest shopping centre in Leeds, the Trinity centre is host to a wide variety of bars, restaurants and fast food chains. For high quality food and some innovative cocktails then the Alchemist is well worth a visit. Making it's debut in the North, Meat Liquor is well known for it's offerings of a lot of meat with all kinds of toppings and sauces – and plenty of drink options to accompany your feast. With plenty more options to choose from we advise you take a wander and see which of the many options takes your fancy.

Gaucha: If you fancy something a bit more up-market, then Gaucha is well known for it's fine dining menu options. Well known for their beautiful cuts of steak and their fine wine list, we highly recommend a visit.

Sapporo Teppanyaki: Well known for their skillful delivery, watch as the chefs cook your food in front of you, juggling, flipping and with a dash of fire. If you enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine then this is a must.

Drink

Epernay: If you're a champagne fan, then you should definitely give this venue a visit. You'll find anything ranging from well known brands to rare and exclusive bottles - you won't be disappointed!

Call Lane: The central hub of Leeds nightlife, you can find some of Leeds best bars along this strip. With venues ranging from rock to pop, and house to drag acts, you're likely to find somewhere here that suits your taste.

Quality of Life & Costs

To give you an idea of the relative cost, we've compared a few basic costs to other large cities in the UK. This data is approximate, collected from an online source (<http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/comparison.jsp> 17/03/15). On the whole costs are not too high, and the majority are comparatively lower than London, which is seen as one of the more expensive cities to live in.

Item	London	Manchester	Birmingham	Bristol	Leeds	Liverpool
Loaf of Bread	£1.05	£0.88	£1.02	£0.97	£0.96	£1.03
Eggs (12)	£2.32	£2.01	£2.05	£2.31	£2.10	£1.95
Capuccino	£2.54	£2.38	£2.19	£2.10	£2.48	£2.19
Rice	£1.73	£1.30	£1.20	£0.98	£1.38	£1.12
3 course meal - mid range (2 people)	£50.00	£50.00	£32.50	£40.00	£47.50	£30.00
Pint of lager	£4.00	£3.00	£3.00	£3.35	£3.35	£2.75
Cinema ticket	£12.00	£7.50	£7.75	£8.00	£8.10	£8.00
Gym membership	£49.94	£26.48	£23.33	£39.67	£28.17	£32.50
1 bed apartment	£1586.00	£638.00	£683.00	£692.00	£595.00	£542.00
Internet	£20.00	£15.56	£18.10	£20.03	£20.60	£17.50
Standard monthly bills	£148.28	£126.95	£105.11	£148.40	£157.67	£110.00
Monthly transport pass	£130.00	£49.00	£57.00	£68.00	£52.50	£55.00

Education

Education, much like most of the country, is a mixture of public and private funded options, the merits of which depend on preference and means. Among colleges Leeds is home to Leeds City College, Leeds College of Building, and Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College. Universities include: The University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, and Leeds Trinity University. It is notable that the University of Leeds has an excellent law school and facilitates a respectable amount of local talent.

Safety

Comparing Leeds with Manchester, the two cities do not differ greatly in statistics on crime rates. Problem occurrences are usually theft. However, Leeds does perform better when it comes to violent crime, and significantly so in respect to mischief. On the numbers, Leeds is 'safer' to its counterpart, but we still caution the regular measures one would take. This includes, walking home with company, minding your surroundings in the night, or even using a cab. If you wish to know more you can look on the web for detailed statistics: www.crimerrates.co.uk and www.ukcrimestats.com.

Weather

With an overall mild climate throughout the year, Leeds experiences relatively less rainfall than many other places in the UK. Summers tend range below 20 degree Celsius on average with occasional highs peaking the 30s. Winters do not see negative temperatures often as January is the coldest month with an average of 3 degrees Celsius. It is typical British weather and you can expect some instances of snow or frost in the winter months. Average lows in the winter months of December, January, and February are approximately 0 degrees Celsius, whereas the summer months average highs in June, July, and August, are between 18-20 degrees.

Transportation

If travelling further than the locality, there is excellent train infrastructure with abundant service in and out of the city, as Leeds has one of the largest stations and rider numbers outside of London. Locally you will decide between buses, which provide the majority of public services, or taxi cabs. There is a project currently in the progress of approval and implementation called New Generation Transport. Jointly promoted by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leeds City Council, the plan seeks to install trolleybus lines to transform transportation in the city. Not only will the service extend to the outer and inner areas of the city, but will also command dedicated lanes and traffic priority to ensure efficient travel.

The Little Things

With so much to consider it is easy to forget the little things. These are far too many to list so do be thorough in your research! This guide is a great starting point and if you do choose to work with Douglas Scott, we'll make sure that you've got all your bases covered. Otherwise, we wish you luck on this new and exciting journey!



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