

Hi! I am Matthew, and I am one of your Community Exe Student Leaders, primarily working with the Young Leaders strand. I am a current Law LLB student here at the University of Exeter, and aspiring barrister!

It has been great to meet so many of you participants at our award days, but for those of you who haven't, here is a rundown of myself!

To start off, I am from Weymouth, in Dorset, which is only around 60 miles (1.5 hour) drive away! It's most famous for its beaches, historic harbour, Georgian Esplanade, and being within the Jurassic Coast – a UNESCO World Heritage Area. Part of this is why we hosted the Sailing Events in the 2012 Olympics.

Before I came to Exeter, I studied at The Thomas Hardye School in Dorchester. My GCSEs consisted of Biology, Business, Chemistry, English Language and Literature, History, Health and Social Care, Maths, Theology and Ethics, Spanish, and Physics. In my A-Levels, I studied Law, Economics and Politics, and here I realised that Law was what I was passionate about, as it was by far my most interesting subject – with my interest stemming from studying tort law and human rights law. In this time, I also was part of Exeter's 16<sup>th</sup> Cohort of Pathways to Law students, which opened opportunities for myself relating to studying law and law in practice.

Many of you will be at the least looking at university and trying to see if it appeals to you. As Exeter is local to you, you may be considering it as well. Personally, I chose the University of Exeter due to it being a great all-round option. It was within a reasonable distance from home – not too far that I was excessively far from family support but far enough that I have complete independence and feel completely responsible for myself.



Exeter also is a great university for my course choice - Law. Exeter Law is highly ranked within the country and a competitive option for law firms and barristers' chambers, with a great range of optional modules for our third year, which allowed us to specialise into a certain area of law if wanted. As part of this, we also have amazing opportunities to take part in national competitions, such as the ESU National Mooting Competition as I am this year, as well as other opportunities like the Global Leaders Scheme – which led to me being able to visit The Hague, Netherlands late last year!

My final reasoning for picking Exeter was the city itself and area it is in. Having come only from Weymouth, I know how lovely the South West is, but Exeter (for me) was a larger, but safe, city, with a great high street, lots of greenery, and being nearby to local beaches and Dartmoor. This was very important, as in my spare time I have always enjoyed going down to the Harbour to catch up with friends, going on long walks (with my dog, Sweep, when I am home), and occasionally finding myself at the beach! Exeter also has great links to London, which is very important for me as an avid concert goer!

Hopefully this has helped you to get to know me better, and I look forward to continuing to get to know you better on our upcoming award days!

