Solicitor Apprenticeships are an exciting development for the legal profession – both for employers and the next generation of solicitors.

The City Law School has been at the forefront of the launch of this new scheme since its introduction in 2016.

The support provided by The City Law School, both to us as a firm in helping us put the programme together, and to our Solicitor Apprentices with their studies, has meant that our Solicitor Apprenticeship Programme has been a huge success so far and we are excited to continue with their support as we take on more apprentices.”

Louise Ward, Apprenticeship Partner, Charles Russell Speechlys LLP

Overview of the Scheme

Solicitor Apprenticeships are an exciting development for the legal profession – both for employers and the next generation of solicitors.

In September 2015 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills announced the Legal Trailblazer Scheme which enables apprentices to qualify as a solicitor, paralegal or chartered legal executive.

The City Law School successfully launched the programme in September 2016. The solicitor route allows suitably qualified students to sign up straight from school to a six year programme, the completion of which will lead to qualification as a solicitor. This is an alternative to the traditional routes of having to embark on a full time university degree, the Legal Practice Course (LPC) and a training contract. The scheme widens participation and improves diversity of the workforce, as well as appealing to those looking for an alternative to the traditional graduate route to qualification.

The City Law School and CILEx Law School

The apprenticeship offers on and off the job learning consisting of work-based training and part-time studying.

In order to demonstrate their ability, apprentices will be rigorously assessed to ensure they meet stringent requirements. The City Law School has entered into a unique partnership with CILEx Law School to deliver a blended online and face-to-face learning experience.

The City Law School is part of City, University of London. City has a long tradition of excellence in legal education and became an independent member institution of the University of London in September 2016.

CILEx Law School has been at the forefront of legal apprenticeship design and delivery since 2012 and part of the Trailblazers in Law development group. CILEx Law School has over 450 legal apprentices working at in-house legal departments, law firms and local authorities.

Why should you appoint a Solicitor Apprentice?

The solicitor apprenticeship programme will give your organisation the opportunity to benefit from training the apprentice to develop practical expertise and know-how that match your businesses requirements. In addition, the firm will receive government financial incentives for recruiting school leavers.
How do they work?

- Apprentices are recruited for a six year period on a salaried basis. They will be based in the workplace four days a week with day release one day each week for studying.
- City Law School will provide the study programme throughout the six years.
- The apprentice will attend an induction at City in September, then attend once a month for face-to-face tuition. This will be supplemented by online studying and resources, including library and tutor support.
- The apprentice will obtain an LLB in Legal Practice after four years if all modules are successfully completed and will be prepared for the Solicitors Regulation Authority’s externally assessed two stage SQE exams during years five and six.
- The apprentice will also build a competence-based portfolio during the six years which will be assessed by their internal supervisor.

Benefits to you as an employer

- You will be recruiting staff who will have a clear career path ahead of them with the benefits of learning on the job whilst at the same time acquiring a degree and professional qualification.
- You can be safe in the knowledge that resources spent on your apprentices will bring long term returns for the firm.
- You will be able to promote a clear career structure to junior members of your organisation which is an increasingly important issue for young people facing career choices.
- Your apprentices will be motivated and have incentive to remain with you following qualification.
- The government will provide financial incentives for employers to take on apprentices.
- You will obtain an additional financial incentive payment from the government if you recruit apprentices who are under 19 when they start the apprenticeships.
- You can play a significant part in promoting the trailblazer scheme which will lead to diversification of your staff team and ultimately the profession.

What will be expected of you as the employer?

Firms will be responsible for the apprentice in a number of ways including:
- Supervising and mentoring the apprentice for the duration of the apprenticeship.
- Working with The City Law School with regards to training and assessments.
- Paying the apprentice’s salary.

Additional information

More details, including specific information aimed at apprentices, can be found at: www.city.ac.uk/law/solicitor-apprenticeships

Find out more

For further information please contact our Professional Development Department.
E: cpd@city.ac.uk
T: 020 7040 0316
www.city.ac.uk/law/courses/continuing-professional-development

The SRA is in the process of finalising details of the assessments that apprentices will undertake. The precise content of the course might change in order to meet the SRA requirements.

Solicitor Apprenticeships Employer Fact sheet

‘Choosing an apprenticeship over the traditional route to qualification has been the best decision that I could have made. City have been very supportive and I am loving the challenges and rewards that the combination of practical work and academic study brings.’

Holly Moore, Solicitor Apprentice, ITV, and part of the second year cohort at The City Law School