Overview of the Scheme

Trailblazer 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 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 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.

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.

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 in 2015 the National Student Survey found that City was the top university in London for student satisfaction.

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 200 legal apprentices, working at in-house legal departments, law firms and local authorities.

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

‘Choosing an apprenticeship over the traditional route to qualification has been the best decision that I could have made. City University have been very supportive and I am loving the challenges and rewards that the combination of practical work and academic study brings.’
Find out more
For further information please contact our Professional Development Department.
E: Cpds-cls@city.ac.uk
T: 020 7040 0316
www.city.ac.uk/law/courses/continuing-professional-development

The SRA is currently carrying out a consultation on the nature of the assessments that apprentices will undertake. The precise content of the course might change in order to meet the SRA requirements.

Sarah-Jane Legge, Solicitor Apprentice, Ashtons Legal

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 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.

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 and CILEX with regards to training and assessments
- Paying the apprentice’s salary.

Additional information
More details, including specific information aimed at apprentices, can be found here.

Watch our interview with Barry Matthews, Director of Legal Affairs & Third Party Sales at ITV.

Solicitor Apprenticeships Employer Fact Sheet

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