



APPRENTICE Q&A

INTRODUCING ISOBEL CLARK

Isobel Clark is a Solicitor Apprentice within our Public Law and Projects team in our Newcastle office. Isobel joined WBD in September 2024.

What inspired you to apply for a Solicitor Apprenticeship?

During year 12 I was able to take part in the Think Law programme, ran by the North Tyneside Learning Trust. This involved six sessions throughout the year, five of which took place in a law firm and one which took place at Newcastle Law School. While attending the first sessions I learnt about the apprenticeship programme and was able to meet some people who were currently completing their apprenticeship. From speaking to them I knew that this was the path that I wanted to go down and I started to research which firms currently had apprentices. I attended as many events as I could and each time I attended an event and spoke to more people who were Solicitor Apprentices this only solidified that this was the route I wanted to take.

I was initially inspired to apply for a Solicitor Apprenticeship as I knew a career in law was my end goal and the apprenticeship allows this to happen at 18. Completing an apprenticeship is such a valuable way to gain experience. I have always enjoyed learning practically and learn best when I am able to apply the knowledge that I have, which doing an apprenticeship allows you to do so I thought this would be a great way to learn.

How has your first couple of months at WBD been?

My first few months at the firm have been amazing so far, it has been better than I could have ever imagined it would be. I have been welcomed with open arms into my team and everyone has been so friendly and willing to help. There are so many social events, both internal and external, which I have already attended which has been a great way to meet people.

What kind of tasks do you complete on a typical day?

I am really lucky to be able to complete the first four years of my apprenticeship within the Projects and Public Law team, this has allowed me to complete a large variety of different work as the team covers property, procurement, commercial and public law. This means that so far I have not necessarily had a 'typical day' which is amazing as it has allowed me to complete lots of different tasks and I feel like I have already been able to learn so much. Some of the tasks I have completed so far include: completing searches on a property for titles and plans and creating documents to be sent to the client providing details of further searches that can be carried out. I have been compiling the amendments that need to be made to multiple contracts in order to update them.

What advice would you give to any other aspiring Solicitor Apprentices?

Take every opportunity that you get. Attend as many events as you can, speak to as many people as you can. This will not only help you to gain knowledge and experience but also to form connections.

Don't underestimate the skills you have gained outside of legal work experience. Whilst legal experience is useful and a great way to expand your knowledge and build connections it is really hard to secure placements. So don't underestimate the skills that you have from part-time jobs, volunteering or clubs you attend.

It is really easy to lose confidence when you get knocked back so it is so important to remember that this is a tough process, less than 0.75% of people are able to secure a degree apprenticeship nationwide. Each firm you apply to will have a different idea of their ideal candidate and so just because you aren't successful with one firm does not mean you won't be successful elsewhere.



GRASP EVERY OPPORTUNITY



APPRECIATE ALL YOUR SKILLS



STAY RESILIENT



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