



TAKE A LITTLE TIME

To consider your options

So you're probably thinking 'what next?' Perhaps you're in your first couple of weeks at university? Maybe you'd like to secure a Vacation Placement to give you some insight into commercial law? Or, you're a final year non-law graduate thinking about converting to law? This short guide shows you what the path to qualifying as a lawyer looks like and provides some helpful hints for the journey ahead from some current Pinsent Masons trainees.



Pinsent Masons

TAKE THE LAW INTO YOUR OWN HANDS

#takethelaw



University life

"My biggest piece of advice is: get involved. Whether that be social clubs and societies, playing a sport (or two, or three), volunteering for a charity or being an active member of the student council. You'll have an incredible experience and meet a lot of new and interesting people, developing skills as you go."

Lois, Trainee,
Birmingham office



Assessment centre

"If you're invited to an assessment centre, you're already half way there. Think of it as an opportunity for you to showcase yourself, and for the firm to get to know you. My best piece of advice would be to be yourself, stay positive, and enjoy the day."

Raam, Trainee,
Birmingham office



The LPC

"The LPC really helps to prepare you for undertaking a training contract by improving key skills such as research and drafting. I chose to do the additional Masters qualification in Law, Business & Management and found this useful for improving my commercial awareness and business and economics knowledge."

Carrie, Trainee,
Birmingham office



Early responsibility

"The scale and scope of the work that Pinsent Masons does is impressive, and I have been involved in multibillion-pound transactions from very early in my training contract. The culture of the firm is flexible and forward-looking, and there are lots of opportunities to build your experience and take on responsibility."

Sarah, Trainee,
Manchester office

pinsentmasons.com/graduate

If you are passionate about a career in law, it's important to start laying the foundations in your first year of university. Think about joining the law society or attending sponsored firm events on campus.

1 UNIVERSITY 1st YEAR

Use this time to create a to-do list where there are gaps in your experience. Here are some suggestions to get you started...



2 PENULTIMATE/FINAL YEAR

It's important to make the most of your time at university while preparing yourself for your career. Get organised to make sure you are fitting plenty in while maintaining good academic results.



We offer summer Vacation Placements to penultimate year law students or final year non-law students. A Vacation Placement is a great way to show your commitment to law, gain first-hand experience of what a Training Contract could be like at Pinsent Masons and confirm whether or not we are the right firm for you.

SEAT ONE

TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED IN WORK-RELATED AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

4 TRAINING CONTRACT

Although you need to remain flexible and react to business needs, it doesn't do any harm to start thinking about your training goals.



3 POSTGRADUATE LEGAL STUDIES

In all UK jurisdictions, there is a period of postgraduate legal education you must complete before or during your Training Contract. The detail for each jurisdiction is shown on the left.



ENGLAND: A law degree is not essential. Convert a non-law degree via the Graduate Diploma in Law before completing the mandatory Legal Practice course.
SCOTLAND: You need a Scots law degree but an accelerated degree is available for graduates of other disciplines. All candidates must complete the Diploma in Legal Practice.
NORTHERN IRELAND: You must have a place at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies before you can commence your Training Contract.

There are a variety of things you can get involved with while you train. Become a Relationship Trainee, social representative or involve yourself in corporate responsibility and sports. Also think about how to make yourself stand out from the crowd and which Practice Group and sector you want to focus on once qualified.

SEAT TWO

SEAT THREE

SEAT FOUR

SEAT FIVE

5 POSTTRAINING CONTRACT

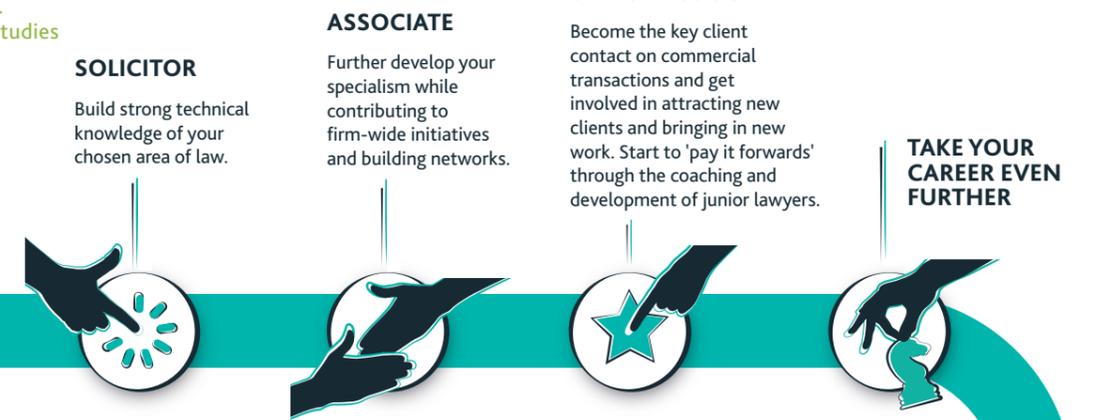
You've completed the transition, via your Training Contract, from university to the world of work. Now is when things really get started as you work towards becoming a specialist in your chosen field.



CONSIDER SECONDMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PREPARE FOR NQ PROCESS AND QUALIFICATION

QUALIFY AND EXPERIENCE EVEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE THE LAW INTO YOUR OWN HANDS



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TAKE THE LAW INTO YOUR OWN HANDS