BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER BCLP

MANCHESTER LEGAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

MEET YOUR FUTURE

#MEETBCLP

...WHERE
DIVERSE
MINDS MEET
AN OPEN
CULTURE

MANCHESTER LEGAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

Joining Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner as a Paralegal Apprentice could be your first step in a rewarding legal career with us. Partnering with BPP University, who will deliver the Paralegal and Solicitor training, you will combine working in our successful Manchester Office as part of one of our legal teams alongside studying for nationally recognised qualifications.

Our rotation based programme provides the opportunity to work across a number of our departments and with colleagues across the firm.

We are recruiting a number of apprentices to join our firm in September 2020 and are looking for ambitious and motivated individuals who are passionate about starting their career in law. These are great opportunities and should you choose to continue studying after completing the Paralegal Apprenticeship, there will be opportunities to move onto the Solicitor Apprenticeship.

The JobCrowd TOP COMPANIES FOR APPRENTICES TO WORK FOR 2019/20

TOP EMPLOYER - LAW BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER BLP SCHOOLLEAVER AWARDS 2019

SO WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINING?

- Gain excellent legal skills without the expense of years of studying and earn a top market salary at the same time
- One day off every week on a consistent basis for you to focus on your studies and off-the-job learning
- Excellent networking opportunities e.g. speaking at Westminster or presenting to local schools
- The opportunity to gain relevant apprenticeship and other qualifications
- For those apprentices who show great potential, the opportunity to ultimately qualify as a solicitor

Earn a top market salary

One day off every week to focus on studies

Excellent networking opportunities

Gain experience / qualifications

Qualify as a solicitor

BRADLEY FISHER

Why did you choose to apply to the apprenticeship programme?

I chose to apply to the apprenticeship programme because it looked to me to be an interesting and unique opportunity to get into the legal profession. To be able to work for one of the biggest firms in the country and also rub shoulders with established legal professionals on a daily basis seemed to be a great opportunity to learn how things should be done. Also, the fact that the firm offered a detailed plan for my future progression made me very keen to apply.

Did you consider going to university and if so what made you opt for the apprenticeship route instead?

I did consider going to university yes. I had looked into going to university quite considerably and I knew I wanted to study law. I had attended several open days at various universities and completed the usual application process through UCAS. I had accepted a firm offer to attend Leicester University and an insurance offer for Manchester Metropolitan University. However, after doing some more research into the apprenticeship route, and attending the assessment days at BCLP and other firms offering apprenticeships, I decided that university wasn't for me and that the apprenticeship on offer was much better suited to me. The apprenticeship means I can obtain six/seven years practical experience at a leading global law firm, alongside studying for my degree, whilst earning a competitive wage and not having to pay any university fees.

How have you found the apprenticeship programme so far, is it what you expected?

I have found the apprenticeship programme thoroughly engaging and rewarding. I have learnt so much in my first two years on the programme and been able to reinforce my learning through practical application at BCLP. It has met my expectations in the fact I knew I'd have to work really hard and be very committed, but also exceeded my expectations in terms of the work I have been exposed to and the clients I have worked for.

What have you enjoyed most about the programme?

I've enjoyed the opportunity to do work for some of the biggest global companies and get to know loads of new people in the workplace. I have enjoyed working in an office environment and gaining exposure to various different workflows. Furthermore, I have also enjoyed the study side of the apprenticeship as it has actually helped my understanding in my day to day job.

What advice would you give to students considering applying for the programme?

I would always advise students to take a detailed look into the apprenticeship programme. The opportunities it can offer at such a young age are excellent and the potential to succeed through being on the programme is massive. Make sure you do lots of research around the firm you are applying for and also make sure that law is something you are definitely interested in. I would also say make sure to have a look at universities as well as the apprenticeship, as it is important to know what they have to offer too before making your decision. The final piece of advice I would give is just to be confident and believe in yourself!

FARZANA SHUMI

Why did you choose to apply to the apprenticeship programme?

After completing my Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Law and National Diploma in Business Law, I knew that I would prefer a vocational course whereby I could gain a qualification whilst applying my knowledge into practise. I realised I would enjoy this whilst completing coursework and exams whereby I was required to apply my legal knowledge. I am a practical learner and figured that an Apprenticeship would enable me to do this.

Did you consider going to university and if so what made you opt for the apprenticeship route instead?

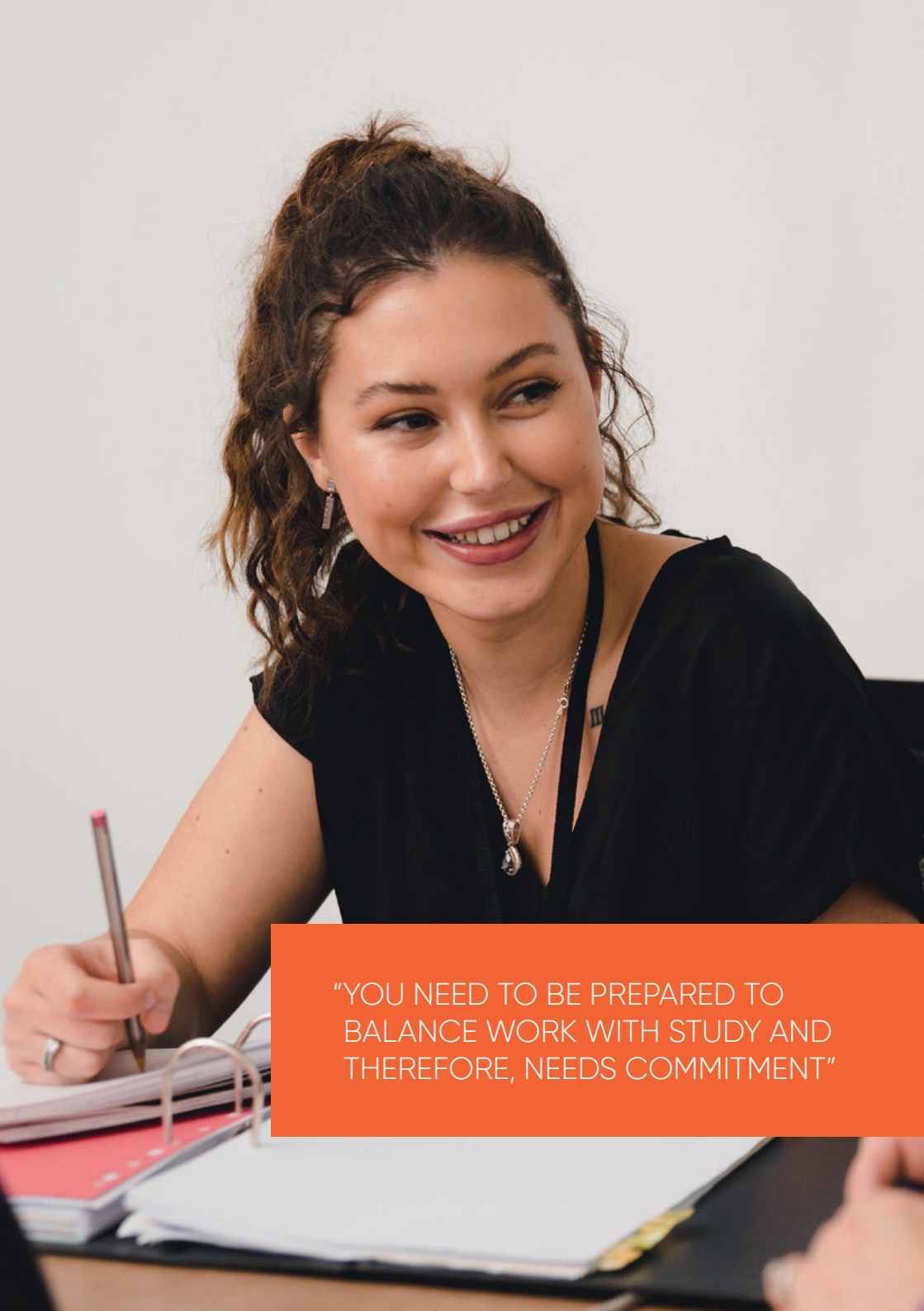
Whilst in college, I attended many career fairs and researched further into Apprenticeships and found that there were not many training providers who offered legal based apprenticeships. My ultimate goal was to become a Solicitor and for this, I required a degree, which no one offered. I therefore applied for University and was offered a place by the University of Law. I studied a full time LLB course and very soon realised that University wasn't the route for me. I eventually left University prior to sitting my first year exams and came across the degree apprenticeships that BPP University offered. I took my chance and submitted my application for BCLP.

What advice would you give to students considering applying for the programme?

My advice to students considering applying to the programme would be that it is a fantastic programme that I highly recommend. However, you need to be prepared to balance work with study and therefore, needs commitment.

Have you found it daunting being on a six – seven year programme?

I started off on the Paralegal Apprenticeship programme which is a two year course. I feel like this helped me to reach a milestone before I enrolled onto the Solicitor Apprenticeship which is a further 5 years. Although it is daunting knowing it is a very long time, it helps to think about the end achievement.



"YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED TO BALANCE WORK WITH STUDY AND THEREFORE, NEEDS COMMITMENT"

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We are deeply committed to taking a strong, visible and authentic stance in equality and inclusion. To make sure we keep making meaningful progress, we introduced a global diversity and inclusion strategy in 2018.

We believe that supporting diversity and inclusivity has a positive impact on our workforce, clients and wider communities. That's why we'll strive to recruit, retain, develop and progress a diverse pool of talent, creating an environment where our people are able to thrive and fulfil their potential regardless of background or diversity characteristic.

Our LGBTQ* group formed in 2007 and has helped the firm become one of the most LGBTQ* friendly employers in the UK and beyond. BCLP ranks 2nd in Stonewall's 2019 UK Workplace Equality Index, is a Stonewall Top Trans Employer and has earned a 100 per cent score for LGBTQ* Equality on the 2019 (US) Corporate Equality Index.

We're committed to making sure that those affected by disability are able to thrive and fulfil their potential. Right now, we are actively engaging with a cross section of our people throughout our London office to develop a robust and comprehensive adjustments process.

"WE BELIEVE THAT SUPPORTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR WORKFORCE, CLIENTS AND WIDER COMMUNITIES"

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

We are proud to partner with Aspiring Solicitors (AS), an organisation focused on increasing diversity and inclusion within the legal industry. We run annual events with them, welcoming students from diverse backgrounds to attend events at our London office.

We also work with Rare Recruitment to help drive social mobility in our selection process. Their Contextual Recruitment System helps us put candidates' achievements into context.

aspiringsolicitors

rare | DIVERSITY RECRUITMENT EXCELLENCE

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. **Online application form** - includes your personal details, academics, work experience and some career motivation questions.

2. **Telephone screening** - once you have submitted your application, you will be contacted by our Graduate Recruitment team who will conduct an initial telephone screening.

3. **Assessment centre** - assessment centres will be held in April 2020; these include a written exercise, a group negotiation exercise and interview. There will also be an opportunity to meet with some of our existing apprentices.

4. **Offers made** - congratulations! Provisional offers made subject to confirmation of A-level results.

5. **Offers confirmed** - candidates confirm A-level grades to BCLP in August 2020; BPP and BCLP on-boarding commences.

We will be holding two to three assessment days following the deadline which is **31 March 2020**. To apply please visit **trainee.bclplaw.com/opportunities-manchester**

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