

aspiringsolicitors
foundation

Making a difference





Gloria

I'm Gloria, I have just finished my A-Levels at the NCS and in September will start a Law degree at the University of Leeds.

Having completed the Pathways to Law Programme at LSE and work experience at magic and silver circle law firms, I realised that the corporate sphere is genuinely accessible despite socio-economic and racial barriers. I have hopes of becoming a commercial solicitor as I would like to maximise the scale of impact I will create on society. Through helping sizeable clients and undertaking pro-bono work for vulnerable individuals, I will create both an in depth and broad impact. I am also interested in supporting clients from a business perspective as a future entrepreneur.

The AS Foundation has supported my aspirations by gifting me a laptop which I will use throughout my Law degree at university. It has already been extremely beneficial in helping me take part in online webinars which have improved my commercial awareness. In addition, it has allowed me to complete virtual internships to continue building practical legal skills. At university I will be able to use the laptop to engage in virtual teaching as well as conduct research. I am immensely grateful for the AS Foundation supporting my journey towards becoming a lawyer.



Anthony

My name is Anthony and I study law at Northumbria University. I am currently employed as a legal assistant at a local law firm, and also hold other part time positions in the leisure sector.

I come from a working-class background in the North East of England and I'm the first generation of my family to attend University. I became homeless before sitting my A Levels and it wasn't until my late twenties that I realised I could return to education and pursue a rewarding career in law. I have taken the opportunity with both hands, but I could not do it without support.

The AS Foundation recognised that I am striving for my dream career but struggling to do it on my own. After applying for support, the AS Foundation offered me a grant to purchase a suit and shoes. These simple items have made a material difference to my circumstance and helped me to become a more confident version of myself. The AS Foundation has also provided opportunities for me to expand my professional network through events at a number of international law firms.

I strongly believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to realise their potential and encourage anyone who feels that they lack the financial means to pursue a career in law to contact the AS Foundation.



Wajma

My name is Wajma, a second year law student at Warwick University.

After applying for a financial grant, the AS Foundation provided me with a new laptop, which has benefitted me hugely through the global pandemic. During this time I had to revise for exams and participate in virtual internships, and the laptop has made a big difference at a time when everything moved online.

This support has helped make working and studying more efficient, giving me more time to focus on vacation scheme applications, webinars and also to engage with my mentors. The AS Foundation has a genuine understanding in what you could be provided with to help you excel as an aspiring solicitor. The Foundation aims to remove the barriers disadvantaged students face where previously they would have juggled working and studying a law degree.

I highly recommend others to engage with the AS Foundation, as they can provide you with the tools for success in your journey as a future solicitor.



Shannon

My name is Shannon, I am a second year university student reading history at Warwick. I come from a working class background and am the first member of my family to attend university.

I became interested in a legal career in 2017 when studying Law at A Level. At that time, I wanted to be a criminal barrister, so I researched the profession, completed a one week work placement and attended the young lawyer conference in London. However, I soon realised that I was more intrigued by the commercial solicitors – the international nature of their work, secondments and high calibre clients impressed me greatly, and made me keen to explore a career as a solicitor.

Since my first year university at university, I have undertaken a number of work placements at global commercial law firms in London, which has given me a great insight into the life of a commercial solicitor. These experiences confirmed that I understand the career I am committing to and make me excited for my life as a trainee corporate solicitor in the city.

The AS Foundation offered me a scholarship. The grant enabled me to buy a suit and professional clothes for interviews and vacation schemes (which I otherwise would not have been able to afford). I was able to look impressive at open days and on my Vacation Scheme which boosted my confidence by making me feel and look the part. This was important to me and I'm very grateful for how the AS Foundation is supporting me in my endeavours – I encourage anyone pursuing a legal career to reach out to the AS Foundation for similar support.



Martha

My name is Martha and I study Politics and International Relations with French at the University of Exeter.

I decided that I wanted to pursue a career in law in my first year, after attending an Aspiring Solicitors conference in Bristol. At the event, I networked with lawyers from international law firms and gained a real insight into the role of a commercial solicitor. However, the event also led me to realise how costly it is for someone from a low-socioeconomic background to attend events and interviews (particularly when based outside of London).

I was introduced to the AS Foundation and applied for a scholarship. The AS Foundation offered me a grant to help me pursue my dream career. The grant enabled me to attend the DLA Piper Insight Scheme in London that I secured a place on in Spring. This Scheme opened my eyes to the various tasks expected of a trainee and has given me a solid head start as a future commercial lawyer.



Bashirat

My name is Bashirat and I have just completed my first year studying Law and Sociology at Warwick University.

I am really enjoying the course so far, and find the interplay between Law and Sociology extremely interesting. For example, I had the opportunity to write about how contemporary society can often fail to recognise intersectionality in the laws.

My passion for law is driven by a desire to evoke positive change in society, whether it is advising governments in emerging markets on infrastructure projects, or helping individuals better understand the nuances of religion, gender and race and eliminate racial discrimination in all forms (and, in particular, Hijab discrimination). Coming from an African background, I am particularly interested in contributing to the 'development' of a society; for example, by financing roads, bridges or hospitals.

After making an application, the AS Foundation provided me with an Economist subscription. This has been fantastic, particularly given how expensive it is for the average university student. The subscription has enabled me to follow more closely international developments which impact big business and commercial law firms, understand them from my own perspective and develop my own opinions. Finally, the subscription has also helped to develop my commercial awareness.

I came across the AS Foundation and found out they were setup to provide support for students. Since the Economist was so expensive and I was contemplating purchasing it myself, I decided to apply to the AS Foundation and was awarded the subscription.



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to the legal profession.”

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