

aspiringsolicitors
foundation

Making a difference

Edition 6
Featuring 'Keeping in touch'



Welcome to this extended edition of ‘Making a difference’. We have remained in contact with beneficiaries on their progress as aspiring solicitors. In this edition we share stories of beneficiaries who we have been engaged with over a longer term under our ‘Keeping in touch’ initiative.

We remain grateful for the donations of supporters as we seek to remove the financial barriers to the legal profession for aspiring solicitors.

AS Foundation

Grant Types

(1st January 2022 – 1st June 2022)



Laptops

46%



Study resources

11%



Business clothing

24%



Scholarships

17%



Accommodation

1%



Travel

1%

Applicants Survey

(both beneficiaries and declines) since launch in 2020:

100%

of successful applicants
would recommend
the AS Foundation
to others

90%

of successful applicants
thought our application
process was simple and
straightforward

66%

of unsuccessful applicants
would still recommend
the AS Foundation
to others

The AS Foundation initiative ‘Closing the digital divide’ continues to attract donations from supporters. It ensures aspiring solicitors from low income/socially mobile backgrounds have access to the technology they need to keep up with the increasingly virtual working world.

“The laptop grant has enabled me carry out my research without interruptions. I am able to access electronic materials with ease and also work from home, without the need to be in the library at all times.”

Student, University of East Anglia

“I no longer have to use my siblings’ laptops or university laptops for my studies and applications. The application process is nice and simple, and I feel that the AS Foundation really hears you out. It is a great service.”

Sakariya, Aston University

“The grant has enabled me to complete my work more efficiently on a laptop that works at a much faster pace. It allows me to view my online learning in a better format and be able to complete my work much more easily. It has also saved me worrying about having to afford resources for university on top of the stress of studies.”

Caitlin, Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London

“As a first generation student, the AS Foundation offered me a grant (laptop) which I’m currently using to finish my degree. I am grateful for this grant as it made life easier for me and I would love to give back to the AS Foundation in the future.”

Student, University of Exeter



“The AS Foundation grant has made a massive difference to my learning. I can now access materials readily rather than borrowing from the library and having to return items after short periods of time. The AS Foundation was so easy to apply for, they were understanding, and have provided me with the extra boost I needed to complete my degree.”

Jasmine, University of Lincoln



“I am so thankful for this grant. I had a very old laptop, it was constantly crashing and was very unreliable. Due to COVID, all my exams were online, and I was extremely worried that it would impact my exam performance. Thanks to this grant I was able to get a new laptop which really helped me complete my exams as well as make applications to law firms.”

Vickie, University of Warwick



“I needed a laptop for my legal education to watch lecture videos and write essays. It has helped me since I no longer have to go to a computer room to study but can conduct my research and independent study from home. I would recommend the AS Foundation to anyone who may need support, because they help people from socially mobile backgrounds gain better access to the legal profession.”

Maryam, University of Bristol



“This grant has allowed me to meticulously and effectively study my Law Degree. It has ensured that I can research, plan, and make notes from lectures, as well as efficiently prepare for exams. The laptop is fast and powerful, which allows me to multitask and have many documents and webpages open.”

Student, Aston University



“I feel more confident in professional settings because my clothing is new and more appropriate for the workplace. I also do not need to worry about working whilst studying to be able to afford clothing. It is also nice having staple pieces that are long-lasting and do not need to be replaced constantly, thus wasting more money in the long term. I am very grateful. The application process was welcoming and accessible, and the team were very understanding and supportive.”

Student, Warwick University



“The AS Foundation grant has been very helpful in getting all the books I required for my modules. The support was offered promptly, and the process was very simple.”

Student, Manchester Metropolitan University



I come from a single-parent, working-class background. I am also the first person to attend university in my family and I was estranged in 2021.

I'm in my second year at Warwick University. I currently work as a Legal Advisor, and I have been fast-tracked onto a vacation scheme. The AS Foundation has provided me business clothing and travel tickets for the vacation scheme.

I was granted a laptop by the AS Foundation last June and I'm still using it today. It has allowed me to complete work experience opportunities, attend networking sessions, apply for jobs/vacation schemes, and explore further opportunities with ease. So many doors have been opened for me after I was provided with the laptop, and I am now able to confidently pursue my career in law. I would recommend the AS Foundation to anyone from a low income background. I would have otherwise really struggled. A laptop is such a big thing for university, and I couldn't afford one. I am very grateful.



The Law
Society

We are grateful for the grant from the Law Society that has enabled the AS Foundation to provide several laptops this year.

Keeping in touch: Klaudia



Keeping in touch: Isabella

I am currently working in a conveyancy firm, but the big dream for me is to work with different LEDCs to help with issues such as immigration. I want to start my LPC soon but will have to save money to self fund the course.

I graduated from the University of Law in November 2021, and the laptop granted by the AS Foundation was really helpful during my undergraduate degree. When COVID hit, it helped me to do my coursework at home and I would have really struggled to get any work done without it.

I would definitely advise other aspiring solicitors to apply for a grant. When I applied, I was on my way home from a night shift and was tired from juggling work and university. I wasn't in the financial situation to get a laptop and I don't know how I would have been able to do anything without the help of the AS Foundation.



Keeping in touch: Tamia

The AS Foundation has been really helpful. My previous laptop was heavy and didn't work very well, so I was struggling. I have an autoimmune condition which makes it hard to type, but the AS Foundation granted me a laptop that can be used as a tablet, which makes it much easier as it has a touch screen. It is also easier to transport to university with me, and I have completed some virtual internships using the laptop.

I want to be a real estate lawyer: I have done many varied internships and real estate is most interesting to me. I did an internship in construction and have done lots of internships in law, so I feel like this combines the two.

Thanks to the AS Foundation, I was also granted a part funded scholarship to BPP, which will help me progress in my journey to becoming a solicitor. I wouldn't have been able to do a Law Conversion course without the scholarship – it just wouldn't have been an option for me. Working and studying at the same time was difficult because of my condition and I found that very stressful.

I found the AS Foundation easy to apply for and was pleasantly surprised to be granted twice. The scholarships are particularly useful as so many students have no idea how they are going to get that kind of money.



Keeping in touch: Aimee

I really appreciate everything the AS Foundation has done for me in my journey towards becoming a solicitor. After applying for a laptop, the AS Foundation bought me one to help with my studying. This has allowed me to hit the ground running in my degree and take proper, detailed notes during lectures and seminars.

I applied to A&L Goodbody for their summer intern programme and was successful. The AS Foundation provided me with business clothing, so I was able to attend the intern programme, looking and feeling equal in the office. Ahead of that I was offered some coaching from one of the AS Foundation's charity partners who specialise in helping individuals be the best version of themselves at crucial moments in their lives. Many resources needed for a law career have been made more accessible for socially mobile students thanks to the AS Foundation.

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A&L Goodbody

The AS Foundation is pleased to partner with A&L Goodbody to support students in Northern Ireland.

Platinum



Gold



Silver





aspiringsolicitors
foundation

“Removing financial barriers to the
legal profession for aspiring solicitors.”

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