



This scheme is open to students studying a law related degree from year 2 upwards. If you are not sure of your eligibility, please contact the Career Mentor Scheme Team at careermentorscheme@exeter.ac.uk.

Through this scheme, you can be matched with a mentor who can answer your career-related questions and guide you through your next steps as you explore placements, different law firms, and think about how your career journey will evolve. The mentors are ready to support you through their own learnings and experience, to make your next steps easier.

Choosing Your Mentor

- Review the mentor profiles in this document (click on the names in the list on the next page to view the full profile).
- Make a note of your first and second mentor choices.
- Complete the [application form here](#). Ensure you answer the questions fully and provide a good amount of detail. If successful, the information you provide will be shared with your mentor and it's therefore important that you make a good first impression.
- Applications are processed on a **first come first serve basis** and where your first and second choices are not available, the team will match you with the next best fit.
- **Applications will close at 23:00 on Tuesday 10th December**, or earlier if all mentors have been matched.
- If you are successfully matched, your mentoring partnership will start from January and run until April 2025.
- If you have any questions, feel free to contact the team at careermentorscheme@exeter.ac.uk

Mentor Profiles – [click on the names below to learn more.](#)

<i>Oliver Bradbear, Planning & Highways Lawyer at Cornwall Council.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Hannah Lewthwaite, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Eliot Quevedo, Solicitor at Stephens Scown LLP</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Julia Wojtaszak, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Nicole Smith, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Olivia Welsh, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Elizabeth Gray, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Rich Brindley, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Abby Munday, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Alfie Carlisle, Trainee Solicitor (Real Estate) at Clarke Willmott LLP</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Louise Smith, Trainee Solicitor (Real Estate) at Ashfords LLP</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Chris Fotheringham, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Eduard-Cristian Iamandi, Trainee Solicitor (Corporate & Corporate Tax) at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Phoebe Scott, Trainee Solicitor (Employment) at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Rebecca Stephens, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Alex Solomides, Trainee Solicitor at Knights.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Linda Vilbaste, Paralegal at Every's Solicitors.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Laura Keith, Trainee Solicitor at GA Solicitors.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Molly Ripley, Trainee Solicitor at Stephens Scown.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Freddie Forkuo, Solicitor at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Abigail Leigh, Pupil Barrister at KBG Chamber.....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Nigel Hall, Barrister at KBG Chamber.....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Nicola Hall, Solicitor at Stephens Scown LLP.....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Sam Harkness, Solicitor at Clarke Willmott LLP.....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Alex Ricketts, Solicitor at Michelmores LLP.....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Rachel Quick, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Jessica Whittick, Solicitor at Tozers LLP.....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Lexi Williams, Apprentice Solicitor at Stephens Scown LLP.....</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Ben Morgan, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Tegan Forwood, Graduate Apprentice Solicitor at Stephens Scown LLP.....</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Clara Pike-Siew, Associate at Foot Anstey LLP</i>	<i>38</i>

Oliver Bradbear, Planning & Highways Lawyer at Cornwall Council

Work Location: Truro

Main responsibilities:

As an in-house lawyer, I support the council's planning and highways teams by providing a range of services. I represent the council's legal service at planning committees, advising members and officers of the legal implications of their discussions and decisions. I also advocate for the council in the magistrate's court; I prosecute planning and highway related offences, I defend the council against claims in these areas, and I submit non-contentious applications for the court's consideration. I am also the council's advocate at planning and rights of way inquiries - quasi-judicial, tribunal-like events that involve examination and cross-examination of witnesses. I've also advocated for the council at coroner's inquiries and at hearings related to compulsory purchase. Another aspect of my role is responding to judicial review applications; if I am unable to persuade the claimant they have no reasonable chance of success, I instruct counsel to represent the council in the high court. On a day-to-day level I advise officers and members, I also draft S106 and S111 agreements - effectively the contracts the council use to ensure a developer pays the necessary contributions requested in exchange for their planning permission. My work is extremely varied and a mix of advocacy and traditional drafting and advice.

Qualifications:

- Law LLB - 2:1 - University of Exeter (Streatham) 2017 - 2020

Previous employment:

My previous jobs are not overly relevant - I worked for the Planning Inspectorate (civil service) but in a non-legal capacity.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I'd like to think I'm approachable, open-minded and inquisitive. I believe I have experience worth sharing and would hope to do so in a approachable, less serious/more enjoyable way. I can provide insight into a public sector or in-house legal career through discussion and potential shadowing. I can also discuss the SQE route to qualifying as a solicitor.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation

Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)

Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

It is a good opportunity to give back to the University

To work with someone with a fresh perspective

To gain an insight into current student life

To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills

To reflect upon my own achievements and career path

To learn about a different culture

I believe local government is often wrongly overlooked by students

[Back to the top](#)

Hannah Lewthwaite, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

I currently work within the Commercial team focusing on public procurement. Day to day I draft contracts, assist Fee Earners with Dialogue and preparing documents for all stages of the Procurement process. I have previously done seats in Construction (focusing on litigation) and Planning.

Qualifications:

- LLB (2022)
- LLM (2023) Masters of Law (2023)

Previous employment: N/A

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I understand the stresses! I am not long through the process myself and understand the pressures of figuring out what path to choose and the type of firm you want. I also understand both choosing solicitor or barrister on top of the pressures of the SQE process as it was an option I could have taken. I have moved down South from Manchester so understand navigating the legal world in the South West as an 'outsider' and have had to overcome imposter syndrome as a younger trainee. I am now a committee member on the Devon and Somerset JLD so have first-hand experience of networking circles in the South West.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Help to access networking opportunities.

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University

[Back to the top](#)

Eliot Quevedo, Solicitor at Stephens Scown LLP

Work Location: Truro

Main responsibilities:

I am a solicitor specialising in corporate and commercial law. My work consists of transactional corporate work including assisting with high value mergers and acquisitions, as well as drafting and negotiating contracts on the commercial side. I also specialise in the charities sector and have experience assisting a wide range of charity clients in governance and structuring matters.

Qualifications:

- I qualified as a solicitor in March 2024. I attended Cardiff University where I obtained a First Class Honours in my LLB Law Degree and a Distinction on the LPC-LLM course (2020/2021)

Previous employment:

- Having qualified as a solicitor at the beginning of 2024, I have only recently completed my training contract. As part of my training, I also gained legal experience in other speciality areas such as litigation (inheritance and trust disputes) and commercial real estate.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I am passionate about helping aspiring lawyers break into the legal profession and can (hopefully) provide insight and knowledge where I am able to, and inspire mentees to pursue a career in law. Having recently qualified as a solicitor, I can also offer a fresh perspective having just been through the qualification process. As a recent graduate, I can also offer guidance and advice on CVs and job applications.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skill
- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- I would like to help young people get a leg up in a difficult job market.;

[Back to the top](#)

Julia Wojtaszak, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

Trainee in the Residential and Rural Property team consisting of drafting leases, licences, contracts, drafting and replying to enquiries.

Qualifications:

- LLB Law with Politics. Currently finishing my LLM in Legal Practice (SQE1 & SQE2)

Previous employment:

- Paralegal in Residential Property Team for 1 year and 9 months, Paralegal in Debt Recovery Team for 1 year and 6 months; and legal assistant placement in high street firm for a year as part of my degree.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I have over 3 years' experience as a paralegal in two different sectors and I am now a trainee solicitor using the skills I learned during that time. I am a good listener, but I can provide corrective feedback in an encouraging manner. I am more than happy to share about my experiences in law to help a mentee find out what they want to do next. Finally, I have been a mentee myself in a mentoring scheme which helped me successfully receive multiple training contract applications.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- I would like to help young people get a leg up in a difficult job market

[Back to the top](#)

Nicole Smith, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

Assisting with drafting documents within the Real Estate sector, meeting with clients, organising files.

Qualifications:

- Law undergrad degree
- SQE1&2 Passed
- Awaiting Masters results for Law.

Previous employment:

- Paralegal - Construction and Infrastructure Ashfords LLP (2 years)
- Trainee Solicitor - Real Estate Ashfords LLP (since September 2024)

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I am a friendly and committed individual. I speak honestly and will support you as best as I can. I am open to sharing my past experiences and hearing about your career goals and how best mentoring you on how best I can help you. I am also a first-generation university student.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Help to access work experience
- SQE Process, Training Contract applications

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path

[Back to the top](#)

Olivia Welsh, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

I am currently in the first seat of my training contract which is within the Commercial and Intellectual Property department. My day-to-day tasks include drafting documents, sitting in on client meetings and liaising with clients by email. The commercial tasks are non-contentious which provide great experience for your contract law knowledge and drafting skills. The IP work is both contentious and non-contentious, some tasks I have been given for IP include drafting a witness statement, many statements of costs, filing documents with the court and serving documents on the other side. I also have 5 years' experience within real estate which is both the commercial and residential side of conveyancing, so I am happy to answer any questions in this regard also.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Law (with Honours) - obtained 2021
- I am currently undertaking the SQE Graduate Solicitor Apprenticeship

Previous employment:

- Lester Aldridge LLP June 2019- August 2020
- Ashfords LLP 2021- current

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I have a lot of experience with training new starters at the firm, in total I have assisted in training over 5 people that are usually fresh out of university. I actually started at Ashfords whilst undertaking my undergraduate degree, so I understand the pressure and stress you are likely to be under! I will try to assist you with any questions you may have in relation to any relevant departmental experience or with just the knowledge of the firm in general and training contract applications.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Help to access work experience

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

[Back to the top](#)

Elizabeth Gray, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

I am a trainee solicitor in the construction and infrastructure team. I assist the team with contentious and non-contentious matters, advising on and negotiating the contractual documentation used within the construction and engineering sector and providing advice and assistance on dispute avoidance and resolution.

Qualifications:

- GDL- commendation- 2022
- Undergraduate degree- 1st- 2021

Previous employment:

- Paralegal at Ashfords LLP

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I am happy to help and chat through anything to do with recruitment and a career in law.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

[Back to the top](#)

Rich Brindley, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

Seats during training have included: Real Estate and Family Law. Currently in Disputed Wills and Trusts.

Qualifications:

- Legal Practice Course (LLM) (Distinction)
- Graduate Diploma in Law (Part time, distance learning) (Distinction)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Musical Theatre (Merit, Royal Academy of Music)
- BA(hons) Drama (2:1, University of Exeter)

Previous employment:

- running own business - touring theatre company,
- working as a professional actor
- Junior management/supervisory roles at Commercial (West End) theatres

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

Friendly and approachable.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Help to access work experience
- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation.

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University.

[Back to the top](#)

Abby Munday, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

I am a trainee solicitor in the Banking and Finance department assisting the team on loan agreements and loan variations, acting for both the borrower and lender

Qualifications:

- 2021 - Law degree - undergraduate.
- 2023 - LPC with Masters in Business.

Previous employment:

- Ashfords LLP - Paralegal in the Trusts and Estates Department - administering trusts on behalf of trustees and attorneyship/deputyship administration (2022-2024).
- Gilbert Stephens - Paralegal in the Litigation Department - managing initial enquiries, drafting documents and sitting in on meetings with Counsel (2021 - 2022)

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

Approachable, Patient, Understanding

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To give back - I used a mentoring scheme, and it was really beneficial

[Back to the top](#)

Alfie Carlisle, Trainee Solicitor (Real Estate) at Clarke Willmott LLP

Work Location: Taunton

Main responsibilities:

Commercial property, planning, property litigation

Qualifications:

- Exeter LLB 2019 – 2022
- SQE 1 Passed January 2024. Currently awaiting SQE 2 results.

Previous employment:

- Paralegal - Clarke Willmott LLP between June 2022 and June 2023, then promoted to Trainee Solicitor.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I am a frank and honest mentor who likes to be open about the many benefits (and challenges) of working in the Law. I am a friendly face who tries to listen more than he speaks!

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- To hear about news regarding the University
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

[Back to the top](#)

Louise Smith, Trainee Solicitor (Real Estate) at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

I am responsible for progressing and in some instances running a variety of matters. I am currently a trainee within the Planning and Infrastructure Consenting team and assist the team on a wide array of contentious and non-contentious planning matters.

Qualifications:

- LLB from Durham University 2:1

Previous employment:

- Ashfords LLP Paralegal in the Commercial Real Estate team with a specific focus on energy projects.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I have been on the law career path since choosing law as an A-Level option and I would love to help others on their own career journey. I understand just how useful it can be to talk to someone who has 'been there and done that' and who may be in the very position you would like to get to. I can provide information and guidance on different pathways into law, how to apply for vacation schemes and training contracts, different types of firms in the South West. I am also friendly and approachable and understand that the process can be lengthy and daunting.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Help to access networking opportunities.

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- Voluntary experience for my CV
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with.

[Back to the top](#)

Chris Fotheringham, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

Solicitor in Ashfords' Commercial/IP team dealing with both contentious and non-contentious IP issues. My day-to-day currently involves running and assisting litigation cases with regard to IP, assisting partners with drafting of IP contracts (assignments and licences) and also undertaking preliminary calls with clients to ascertain what legal services they require and what we can do to assist.

Qualifications:

- BA, History, First Class (Swansea University 2011 - 2014),
- MA, Medieval Studies, Commendation (Swansea University 2014 - 2016),
- Graduate Diploma in Law, Commendation (University of Law, Exeter Campus, 2017 - 2018),
- Legal Practise Course with MSc in Business, Law and Management (University of Law, Exeter Campus, 2019 - 2020),
- Qualified as a Solicitor in September 2022.

Previous employment:

- N/A

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

A junior Solicitor who has had a wide range of legal experience and able to impart knowledge on a mentee who is keen to enter the IP/Commercial legal world. I know the area very well, having lived here my whole life, and am the current Chair of the Junior Division of the Devon and Somerset Law Society. I have a wide and varied practise (both contentious/non-contentious IP and Commercial law) so can give a lot of insight into what it is like to practise law and the realities of the job.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Help to access networking opportunities.

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with
- To assist the up-and-coming legal professionals

[Back to the top](#)

Eduard-Cristian Iamandi, Trainee Solicitor (Corporate & Corporate Tax) at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

My work consists of assisting on corporate acquisitions, company handovers and reorganisations. In terms of corporate tax, I also assist on enterprise investment schemes, seed enterprise investment schemes, enterprise management incentives options, stamp duty, stamp duty land tax, VAT and other tax aspects. I had previously worked as a conveyancing assistant in the residential department, working on conveyancing transactions, leases, and transfers of equity and re-mortgages.

Qualifications:

- 1st Class LL.B Degree (average grade 80%) 2021
- Solicitors Qualifying Exams passed (Grades 81%, 74%, 77%) 2024
- Masters of Law (awaiting grade confirmation) 2024.

Previous employment:

- Conveyancing Assistant August 2021 - September 2024

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I had recently gone through the process of finishing my Law degree, working as an assistant and further obtaining a Training Contract and passing my SQE. This enhances my knowledge of the journey students are currently experiencing in reaching similar targets. I am willing to share the parts that worked well and the parts that weren't as successful with the aim of the mentee building upon this. I take a pro-active approach whereby I provide support and guidance; the mentee then actions a certain aspect to their best attempt, and I further provide constructive feedback and tools for any further improvements. No question is a bad question, and I am more than happy to listen to any concerns the Mentee may have, as I am sure I had similar questions during my studies.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Help to access work experience
- Help to access networking opportunities
- Assist with studies and exam techniques.

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with
- To gain an insight into current student life

- To learn about a different culture.

[Back to the top](#)

Phoebe Scott, Trainee Solicitor (Employment) at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

My work consists of assisting on corporate acquisitions, company handovers and reorganisations. In terms of corporate tax, I also assist on enterprise investment schemes, seed enterprise investment schemes, enterprise management incentives options, stamp duty, stamp duty land tax, VAT and other tax aspects. I had previously worked as a conveyancing assistant in the residential department, working on conveyancing transactions, leases, and transfers of equity and re-mortgages.

Qualifications:

- September 2017 to July 2020: LLB Law Degree - University of Leeds - 1st Class
- September 2022 to July 2023: Legal Practice Course with University of Law - Pass

Previous employment:

- September 2021 to August 2022: Paralegal at Dorset Council assisting the Adult Social Care Team with a range of contentious matters, mainly assisting with Court of Protection cases.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

Kind, approachable, generous with time to help others with queries and good at encouraging people to consider a matter from a different perspective.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To learn about a different culture
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with.

[Back to the top](#)

Rebecca Stephens, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

Property Litigation

Qualifications:

- LLB, SQE, LLM (awaiting results)

Previous employment:

- Summer holiday paralegal role at Ashfords LLP during university holidays

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

As a mentor I understand the pressure of completing applications alongside the LLB. I applied for vacation schemes during my 2nd year at Exeter during my LLB and completed a vacation scheme that summer. I can also mentor regarding transitioning from the LLB to full time SQE and maintaining a relationship with the firm during the gap between the vacation scheme and starting the training contract. I am currently in my first seat of the training contract so I can give an insight into trainee life, work and responsibility. I am also a very social person so I can give an insight into the social side of being a trainee too, but also a work-life balance whilst preparing for the training contract and studying.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Help to access networking opportunities.
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills.

[Back to the top](#)

Alex Solomides, Trainee Solicitor at Knights

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

Experience in contentious and non-contentious Intellectual Property and Wider Commercial (e.g. data protection/ contracts)

Qualifications:

- LLB Law with Business Degree from the University of Exeter - 2023

Previous employment:

- Completed a Placement Year at Hugh James in Cardiff (Industrial Disease)

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

Currently undertaking the qualification process to become a solicitor. Completing a Training Contract at Knights' Exeter office. Also studying an LLM SQE with the University of Law.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Help to access networking opportunities
- Help to access work experience

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To hear about news regarding the University
- Voluntary experience for my CV
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

[Back to the top](#)

Linda Vilbaste, Paralegal at Every's Solicitors

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

Drafting, client communication (letters, calls, meetings), taking instructions, property inspections, certifying documents

Qualifications:

- LLB Law LLB Law, current LLM LPC student

Previous employment:

- Peer mentor for Law students at Exeter Uni

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

Will provide students with guidance how to navigate applications for both employment and TCs, seeking volunteering opportunities and balancing this on top of full-time education

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To gain an insight into current student life
- To hear about news regarding the University
- Voluntary experience for my CV
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

[Back to the top](#)

Laura Keith, Trainee Solicitor at GA Solicitors

Work Location: Plymouth

Main responsibilities:

First Seat - Commercial Property Assisting the private lending team with their ongoing matters. This included completing report on titles to appraise the client of a property's legal title and outlining any potential risks to the lender client. Drafting legal mortgages and personal guarantees and raising enquiries with borrower's legal representatives. Assisting the commercial team generally with lease work. This involved drafting long leases for both landlord and tenant. Dealing with and raising enquiries as part of the pre-completion due diligence and reporting to the client on the main terms of the lease.

Second Seat - Dispute Resolution Assisting both the commercial litigation and disputed trusts and estates teams. Consisted of drafting witness statements, court documents and instructions to counsel and expert witnesses. Dealing with enforcement of debt recovery files where obtained, and summary judgment. Responsible for the conduct of small claims case for client relating to breach of contract dispute. Assisting supervising fee earner by gathering witness evidence, compiling disclosure and reviewing opposing parties' disclosure.

Third seat - Employment I have gained experience in both corporate support work and litigation. I have undertaken a wide range of tasks consisting of drafting employment contracts and supporting employers with grievance and disciplinary processes. I have also assisted clients with issuing employment tribunal claims and advising on options surrounding employment issues for client's who are employees.

Qualifications:

- LPC (LLM) (part time)- August 2022 (University of Law (online)),
- L.L.B Law (hons) - Sep 2018- Sep 2021 (University of Plymouth)

Previous employment:

- Trainee Solicitor - Sep 2023 - present (seats so far have been: Commercial Property, Dispute Resolution and Employment (current))
- Legal Assistant - Commercial Property May 2021 - Sep 2023

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I am a second-year trainee solicitor in her penultimate seat before qualification. I have a range of experience and have been in the corporate legal sector for 4 years (starting as an assistant). I am also the Educations Officer for the Plymouth Junior Lawyers Division and have arranged many education events for students/junior lawyers in the legal profession.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- Voluntary experience for my CV
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path.

[Back to the top](#)

Molly Ripley, Trainee Solicitor at Stephens Scown

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

As a trainee solicitor in the Corporate and Commercial team at Stephens Scown (qualifying in December 2024), I am actively involved in a variety of deals involving the sale of shares or assets in private companies. My tasks include creating the first drafts of ancillary documents (think board minutes, directors' letters, Companies House forms), drafting the disclosure letters and share purchase agreements, liaising with clients and writing attendance notes following a meeting.

I am also involved in more general corporate transactions where tasks can include drafting board minutes, stock transfer forms, advising clients on what form of incorporation is most suited to their business etc. The old cliché is true that not two days are ever really the same! On the commercial side, I assist with advising clients on their business structures, reviewing contracts and drawing up agreements. A good understanding of what is going on in the client's sector is key for this.

As a trainee you are often the first point of contact for a client and its down to you to manage your own capacity and organisation.

Qualifications:

- Undergraduate Degree in History from University of Exeter: 2017-2020
- Graduate Diploma in Law from BPP University: 2020-2021
- LPC with MSc in Law and Business from University of Law (Bristol): 2021-2022
- Training contract: Dec 2022-Dec 2024

Previous employment:

I have also done seats in the firms Property Litigation and Real Estate teams.

During my time in Property Litigation, my tasks would include (to name just a few):

- a. drafting letters before claim.
- b. preparing particulars of claim and the claim form.
- c. part 36 and Calderbank offers to settle.
- d. attending hearings.
- e. drafting contentious letters.
- f. preparing instructions to counsel; and
- g. e) attending meetings with counsel

I sat in this seat for 6 months and got a real breadth of experience.

I have also spent 11 months in Real Estate where my tasks would include:

- a. drafting sale contracts.
- b. drafting leases.

- c. drafting transfers.
- d. preparing CPSES (pre contract enquiries);
- e. preparing first registrations of land.
- f. conducting searches; and
- g. preparing reports on title.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I am open, friendly, and approachable and understand first-hand what it's like to be going through the process of applying for vacation schemes and training contracts having gone through this myself in the last few years. I have good attention to detail and will be able to assist with reading through and offering guidance on your applications. I'm happy to do interview practice and will be flexible to adapt to what it is you require help with.

As an alumnus of the University of Exeter, it would be great to give back to the University and help students trying to break into the legal sphere.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

[Back to the top](#)

Freddie Forkuo, Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

As a Newly Qualified Solicitor in the Corporate team, I can assist on a range of M&A transactions (acting for buyer and seller), investment rounds and company reorganisations.

Qualifications:

- The University of Law - Legal Practice Course - Sep 2021 - Jun 2022
- The University of Law - Graduate Diploma in Law - 2020 - 2021
- University of Exeter - BSc Management with Marketing with Industrial Experience - 2016 - 2020
- Devonport High School for Boys Sixth Form- 2014 - 2016
- A Levels: Business Studies (A*), History (A), Economics (B) A Levels: Business Studies (A*), History (A), Economics (B)
- Devonport High School for Boys - 2009 - 2014
- GCSE Level: 11x A, 1x B (including A Grades in Mathematics, Business Studies and English Literature)

Previous employment:

Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP. Sep 2022 - Mar 2024

My final seat was in our Employment team where I gained experience in both contentious and non-contentious employment law matters, assisting both claimants and respondents in bringing and defending claims in the Employment Tribunal. I worked with a variety of clients, ranging from individuals to large companies and franchises.

I also completed a seat in our Real Estate team where I supported the team on a range of commercial property matters including acquisition, disposal, finance and management of investment properties.

I spent the first six months of my training contract in the corporate team where I supported the team on a range of M&A transactions (acting for buyer and seller), investment rounds and company reorganisations.

Legal Assistant at Bright Solicitors. Jul 2021 - Sep 2022

As a Legal Assistant in the New Homes Team, I reported to Henry Lawson (Head of New Homes) and worked collaboratively with the rest of the team to provide an efficient service to our clients. During my time with the team, I worked on a range of matters involving representing both client purchasers and developers.

Some of my key tasks included:

- Dealing with initial instructions from clients.
- Opening and closing matters.
- Raising searches and on receipt, filing them on the client matter.
- Preparing completion documentation for the finance department.
- Undertaking the post completion work.
- Raising enquiries.

- Replying to enquiries.
- Drafting reports on title; and
- Reporting on mortgages.

As well as the above, I also had to be a point of call for clients, solicitors and estate agents giving updates, maintaining good professional working relationships with external institutions and organisations.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I have recently qualified as a Solicitor in the Corporate team at Ashfords. I believe I can provide some useful insight into the corporate sector and/or Ashfords and can also provide advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice).

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- Voluntary experience for my CV
- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective

[Back to the top](#)

Abigail Leigh, Pupil Barrister at KBG Chamber

Work Location: Plymouth, Truro, Exeter

Main responsibilities:

I am in my second six during pupillage, taking on my own cases in family and civil matters. I represent clients in all types of hearings.

Qualifications:

- LLB - 2018-2021
- BTC/LLM - 2021-2023
- ADR ODR Accredited Civil Commercial Mediator

Previous employment:

- Lecturer in Law at UWE

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

A recent graduate of the Bar Training Course and the LLM. Previous experience as a law lecturer with knowledge of the skills and attributes to be successful in gaining pupillage. Friendly and non-judgmental, there is no question too silly! Advice on applications, interviews and personal development.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Help to access networking opportunities
- Help to access work experience

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University

[Back to the top](#)

Nigel Hall, Barrister at KBG Chamber

Work Location: Plymouth

Main responsibilities:

I practice in all areas of criminal law, acting for both prosecution and defence. I have experience includes appearances before the Divisional Court and the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division). I have experience in a wide range of criminal offences, with special interest in matters involving drugs, computing, fraud, money laundering and sexual offences including trials involving video link and child witnesses. I have been instructed as a junior (being led by KC) on a number of cases involving rape and serious crimes of violence. As a CPS prosecutor I is often instructed in matters of serious violence, including aggravated arson and serious public order matters (large scale violent disorder). I have a background in mental health care, and have particular expertise is in dealing with mentally disordered offenders and mental health defences, including defences of non-insane automatism.

Regulatory Crime

I am also instructed by both prosecution and defence to advise on and appear in a wide range of regulatory criminal matters including Trading Standards prosecutions, Prosecutions brought under Health and Safety legislation, Matters arising from Noise Nuisance, Environmental Protection and Dangerous Dogs legislation.

Mental Health Law

I have experience of Inquests and Mental Health Review Tribunals. Before joining The Bar, I was a Mental Health Nurse.

Qualifications:

- Registered Mental Health Nurse.
- Level 4 Diploma in Management and Leadership.
- LLB.
- BPTC Masters.

Previous employment:

- Please see above

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I have been a Barrister for more than 20 years. During that time, I have been actively involved in supporting, teaching, assessing and guiding pupil Barristers. Further, I was a mentor in my previous role as an RMN, as well as being a nurse tutor and assessor. Furthermore, since being called to the Bar I have been actively involved in legal training and mooting as well as regularly giving talks to schools and universities. I am aware that some of my experience may no longer be relevant and therefore I may be unsuitable to be a mentor. However, I am keen to share my expertise and genuinely want to assist. I make no promises that I will be the conduit from LLB to pupillage, but I am willing to support in that process. I will 'say it as it is' but hope that I can use my experience to do that in a constructive way. I like to think that I am honest, supportive and kind.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation

- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Help to access work experience

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University

[Back to the top](#)

Nicola Hall, Solicitor at Stephens Scown LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

I am a 4-year PQE solicitor working in property litigation. I run my own caseload in addition to assisting more senior colleagues within the team with their cases.

Qualifications:

- June 2016-June 2017 Masters and Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice at the University of Law (Distinction)
- February 2010-June 2016 Bachelor of Laws. Grade: 2:2
- This degree covered the seven 'Foundations of Legal Knowledge' as required for a QLD.
- The English Legal System: Pass (64%)
- EU law Grade 2 Pass (74%)
- Public law and Criminal Law Grade 2 Pass (71%)
- Contract law and Tort Law Grade 2 Pass (70%)
- Land law, Equity and Trusts Grade 4 Pass (51%)
- Youth justice module Grade 2 Pass (70%)

Previous employment:

- May 2023-Present. Property Litigation Solicitor at Stephens Scown.
- April 2020-April 2023 Litigation Solicitor at Cartridges Law. I ran my own case load of personal injury, housing and general litigation cases and was the firm's debt recovery go to!
- April 2018-April 2020 Trainee Solicitor at Cartridges Law. I did seats in Housing Law, Personal Injury and Divorce and Finance.
- June 2017-April 2018 Paralegal at Cartridges Law in Personal Injury.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I am friendly and approachable with a good sense of humour which I think is important for anyone contemplating a career in law.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Help to access networking opportunities
- Help to access work experience

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- To give a better experience than I had with a mentor!

[Back to the top](#)

Sam Harkness, Solicitor at Clarke Willmott LLP

Work Location: Taunton

Main responsibilities:

I am one of three solicitors in the Crime & Regulatory team at Clarke Willmott - we regularly assist defendants with private prosecutions, police interviews and CPS prosecutions, and investigations by agencies such as the Health and Safety Executive and Environment Agency. I act at police interviews, represent clients in Court and brief barristers. I also occasionally prosecute cases on behalf of local authorities.

Qualifications:

- LPC - BPP Law School, Bristol - October 2022 - Commendation
- BA Law with French and French Law, University of Nottingham - July 2019 - 2:1 (Upper Second Class Honours)
- A Levels - The King Alfred Sixth Form, Highbridge - August 2015 - AAAB (French, German, English Literature, History)

Previous employment:

- November 2022 to present - Solicitor, Clarke Willmott LLP (as above)
- March 2021 to November 2022 - Trainee Solicitor, Clarke Willmott LLP. Trained in Commercial Litigation, Crime & Regulatory and Private Property & Agriculture.
- August 2019 to February 2021 - Paralegal, Clarke Willmott LLP. Began in Commercial & Private Client Litigation and specialised into Crime and Regulatory.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I am determined to give back to mentees through mentoring, having benefited personally from mentoring during applications to university as part of the Sutton Trust's work with the University of Nottingham. I have also gained significant experience mentoring both throughout university and since qualification as a solicitor with the University of Bristol and through ConnectHive on behalf of the Sutton Trust, for whom I am now a member of the Alumni Leadership Board. I aim as a mentor to be engaged, honest, willing to go the extra mile and positive come what may, and I would hope those I have mentored would describe me similarly.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Help to access networking opportunities

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To gain an insight into current student life
- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with.

[Back to the top](#)

Alex Ricketts, Solicitor at Michelmores LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

I am a solicitor in the Commercial & Regulatory Disputes team at Michelmores.

I completed my training contract with the firm and spent time in the following seats:

(1) Disputed Wills & Trusts in our Exeter office, (2) Commercial & Regulatory Disputes in our London office, (3) Commercial Property in Bristol and (4) Agriculture in our Bristol office. I also previously worked at the firm as a paralegal.

I have experience conducting commercial litigation in the High Court, in arbitration proceedings and at mediation. I act for a broad array of clients, including private companies, directors and partners, regulated professionals and high net worth individuals. I advise on a range of general litigation matters but have a particular interest in disputes which involve intellectual property and technology, reputation management and privacy, professional negligence and private wealth / trusts. I also have experience advising on matters with a financial services or insurance angle.

Qualifications:

- Law LLB (2.1) from the University of Exeter
- LPC with LLM in Professional Practice (Distinction) from the University of Law (Exeter)

Previous employment:

- Solicitor (Michelmores) – September 2024 to current day
- Trainee Solicitor (Michelmores) – September 2022 to August 2024
- Paralegal (Michelmores) – July 2017 to August 2021
- Paralegal (Russell Worth Solicitors) – September 2016 to July 2017

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I am keen to mentor anyone who might be interested in a career working for a regional commercial law firm. I am happy to talk about my experience, my journey to becoming a solicitor and to offer any advice/tips for training contract applications, interview techniques and vacation scheme / assessment centre preparation. I am an Exeter University alumnus and live and work in the city.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building); Help to access networking opportunities
- Help to access work experience
- Training contract application process

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To gain an insight into current student life
- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To learn about a different culture
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- Voluntary experience for my CV
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

[Back to the top](#)

Rachel Quick, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

I am currently in my third seat of my training contract in Trusts and Estates. My first seat was Property Litigation, and my second seat was Employment. My responsibilities have differed from seat to seat.

In Property Litigation, I worked mostly on Housing Disrepair matters and became very familiar with the process. This included work from the Pre-Action stage up to Court Proceedings.

In Employment, I assisted the team with contentious and non-contentious matter. This included (but was not limited to) drafting Employment Contracts, providing advice in relation to Settlement Agreements and dealing with discrimination claims. I also carried out a lot of research, mostly in relation to Immigration Law.

In Trusts and Estates, I assist the team primarily with the preparation of Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney, the preparation of Trust deeds, and Estate Administration.

Qualifications:

- LPC with LLM - Distinction - 2021 to 2023 (University of Law)
- LLB Law - 2:1 - 2015 to 2018 (University of Exeter)
- A-Levels - Law (A), Sociology (A), History (B), English Lit (C) - 2012 - 2014 (Truro and Penwith College)

Previous employment:

- Prior to obtaining a training contract with Ashfords, I worked as a paralegal at Ashfords for 4 years in the Trusts and Administration team, dealing primarily with Trust Administration.
- Before joining Ashfords, I worked at Everys Solicitors in the Private Client team (Wills, LPAs and Probate) for around one year.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I know how daunting it can be transitioning from studying Law to practicing Law, but I can offer guidance and advice having gone through it myself, and with years of experience working in a Law firm behind me.

I'm open to any questions and will give honest answers and feedback. I would probably take a more relaxed approach to the fortnightly meetings, with it being more of an informal conversation than strictly Q&As, but happy to adjust to a mentee's preference.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Help to access networking opportunities

- Help to access work experience

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To learn about a different culture
- Voluntary experience for my CV

[Back to the top](#)

Jessica Whittick, Solicitor at Tozers LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

Litigation solicitor with a particular background and focus in intellectual property and data protection law. Also work on contract disputes, equine disputes and property disputes.

Qualifications:

- LLB European Magister (dual qualification in English and German Law), University of Exeter 2017
- LLM, University of Exeter 2018
- LPC, Bournemouth University 2020

Previous employment:

- Trainee solicitor at Tozers 2021
- Intellectual Property Analyst at Cerberus IP 2018-2019

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I have experience guiding and supporting law students in their academic and professional journey with mentoring experience as a Pathways to Law, GROW, Strive and Judicial Office mentor. I offer insights and practical advice about different legal sectors, studying abroad, neurodiversity, applications and work experience and practicing as a lawyer in the South West.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Help to access networking opportunities
- Help to access work experience

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

[Back to the top](#)

Lexi Williams, Apprentice Solicitor at Stephens Scown LLP

Work Location: Truro

Main responsibilities:

I currently work in the Commercial Dispute Resolution department at Stephens Scown. Previously, I have worked in the Property Litigation Team, Corporate Team and the Development Team. In these areas I undertook work relating to share purchase agreements, shareholder agreements, option agreement and promotion agreements. I also sold and purchased residential properties and dealt with lease renewals and sales.

I am one of the firm's employee ownership trustees and was elected to this role in June 2021. In this role I represent the views of the firm's employees to the board and regularly meet with the board to discuss ways in which we can improve employee experience at the firm.

Qualifications:

- University of Law (LLB) - started in December 2019, due to complete this year
- University of Exeter (BA Hons - History) - 2015 - 2018, graduating with a 2:1
- Brighton College - A*AA - English Literature, History, Maths A Levels
- Beechwood Sacred Heart - 8A*s, 2 As GCSEs

Previous employment:

- Stephens Scown LLP - Apprentice Solicitor - December 2019 - present day
- England Touch Rugby - Assistant Coach to England Women 27s - variety of coaching roles from December 2020 to present day. Currently involved in coaching the England Women to World Cup in July having won the 2023 European Championships.
- University of Exeter - Graduate Project Assistant, Law School - August 2019 - December 2019. Assisted in setting up the law school in August 2019, worked closely alongside the lecturers and developed law lab each Monday.
- Ski Ami - Chalet Host - November 2018 - April 2019 - ran an 18 bed ski chalet, included cooking breakfast and dinner.
- House of Bruar - Retail Assistant - August 2018 - November 2018 - worked as a retail assistant at the House of Bruar.

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

As a mentor, I will honestly answer any queries that you might have as to the realities of a career in law. Having been a 'guinea pig' apprentice, I am acutely aware of all the new pathways into law and will be able to help give you genuine advice as to which routes are best to take.

Due to my sporting background, I will be able to challenge you and ask questions of you that you might not expect or anticipate. I will encourage you to think outside of the box in terms of the opportunities available to you and will endeavour to help you achieve your ambitions. I will also be able to help you understand the different ways in which any extra-curricular interests could be utilised to further a career in law.

When mentoring, I like my mentees to take ownership of sessions and to dictate the formality and tone of the session. This experience is all about helping you develop, so I will be as flexible and adaptable as required to ensure you get the best out of this experience.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Help to access networking opportunities

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- It is a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective

[Back to the top](#)

Ben Morgan, Trainee Solicitor at Ashfords LLP

Work Location: Exeter

Main responsibilities:

I am based within the Commercial & IP team with a focus on energy and utility clients, including waste. My tasks will include reviewing contracts and highlighting risks to our client, preparing amendments to existing or drafting contracts for new matters. Liaising with clients both to obtain further information if necessary or when dealing with administrative matters such as completion (arranging signing of documents, consent to complete etc). I will also assist with non-chargeable tasks such as articles on legal updates, research on varying topics and assistance with firm-wide initiatives like office events.

Qualifications:

- GCSEs - 5A*, 4A and 1B;
- A Levels - A at Business Studies (AS Level), A*AA at A Level
- LLB Law - 2:1
- LPC: Distinction for LPC with MSc in Law & Business

Previous employment:

- Paralegal with Ashfords LLP - Jan 2021 - September 2022 (similar tasks to trainee solicitor)
- Bar / Waiting Staff at a local pub - July 2020 - December 2020 (Taking orders / serving food / drink, cleaning tables etc)

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- Voluntary experience for my CV
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with
- I was asked by a colleague to help with the scheme too!

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I'm pretty upfront and honest with anything people want to know so my mentee will know my honest opinion whenever it is asked for. I didn't have a mentor when I was going through uni so I will definitely try and impart what wisdom I do have and hopefully we can build a constructive relationship that helps my mentee get the knowledge and assistance they want from the program!

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- Voluntary experience for my CV
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with
- I was asked by a colleague to help with the scheme too!

[Back to the top](#)

Tegan Forwood, Graduate Apprentice Solicitor at Stephens Scown LLP

Work Location: Truro

Main responsibilities:

I worked in the Real Estate team for about two years (as a Paralegal and then Solicitor Apprentice) and am now working in the Corporate team as a Solicitor Apprentice as my second seat. My work in the Corporate team, so far, has included drafting and reviewing Articles of Associations, incorporating charities and reviewing commercial documents (such as terms and conditions and equipment hire agreements). My work in Real Estate, predominantly involved acting for landlords in the sale of properties, acquisition of land and deed of variations.

Qualifications:

Graduated from LLB Law with Business in 2022.

Previous employment:

I started at Stephens Scown in 2022 as a Paralegal and begun the Graduate Solicitor Apprenticeship in 2023. Before then, I had worked in various workplaces, including a school, hotel, shop, restaurants and remotely during a business internship (working in business operations). I am now studying towards the SQE exams which I will take in 2025.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To gain an insight into current student life
- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- It's a good opportunity to give back to the University
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- Voluntary experience for my CV
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I consider myself a thoughtful person who enjoys helping others where I can. I enjoy having open conversations about career journeys and progression and sharing experiences with others where it may be beneficial to one another. Therefore, I am open to discussing various relevant topics to assist mentees in understanding more about potential careers in law and / or business as well as discussing other relevant topics that they may find helpful. I am more than happy to discuss my career journey so far and share insights and experiences that I think may help mentees with job applications / deciding on a career and I look forward to having open conversations that will hopefully provide students with a reassuring and positive outlook on their prospects following university.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- Voluntary experience for my CV
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

[Back to the top](#)

Clara Pike-Siew, Associate at Foot Anstey LLP

Work Location: Bristol

Main responsibilities:

I am a newly qualified planning & environment solicitor at Foot Anstey LLP. As an NQ, I am developing a practice in supporting a mix of planning and environmental matters linked to housing, renewable energy and other development projects.

Qualifications:

- LPC 2017 LLB 2016.

Previous employment:

I started at Stephens Scown in 2022 as a Paralegal and begun the Graduate Solicitor Apprentices 2021 In-House Paralegal at a London-based consultancy 2020 Commercial Executive at an Exeter-based technology/engineering SME hip in 2023. Before then, I had worked in various workplaces, including a school, hotel, shop, restaurants and remotely during a business internship (working in business operations). I am now studying towards the SQE exams which I will take in 2025.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)
- Help to access networking opportunities

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To learn about a different culture
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

How would you describe yourself as a mentor?

I would describe myself as a personable and practical mentor. It is important to me to get to know a mentee because I think certain categories of advice cannot be one-size-fits-all. At the same time, I see (a present but gentle) accountability as a key component of being a mentor, and I am generally consistent with following up on the progress of goals/queries discussed with a mentee. Having been through the process, I understand that the mental challenges associated with entering the legal profession are often the biggest and I would be interested in discussing mindset and self-care strategies that helped me as an applicant, and in my current role. Lastly, I would be interested in discussing a mentee's motivations for entering / exploring law as I think this can be key to finding the right fit.

I

was not born in the UK and had no contacts prior to entering the profession, so I would be interested in mentoring a positive, motivated individual from an interesting/diverse

background. I also have a 2:2 undergraduate degree so can speak to addressing mitigating circumstances in applications.

Indicate the areas of career development that you can offer.

- Insight into a specific sector and/or organisation
- Advice regarding recruitment activities (interview techniques, application forms, CV advice)
- Personal development (e.g. confidence building)

Why would you like to mentor a University of Exeter student?

- To use and develop my information, advice and guidance skills
- To work with someone with a fresh perspective
- To reflect upon my own achievements and career path
- Voluntary experience for my CV
- To develop my communication skills by working with someone I wouldn't usually be in regular contact with

[Back to the top](#)

~End of Document~