



A legal
career
with global
opportunity.

Where law *unlocks* potential



GRADUATE BROCHURE
2026

FROM OUR COUNTRY MANAGING PARTNER

Opportunity, *unlocked.*

We're a world of opportunity, and the key to a global career. Here, you'll have the freedom to seize opportunities and discover your own path. Come and make an extraordinary impact beyond the borders of traditional law.

Laura Scampion
Country Managing Partner



“In my view, there’s never been a more exciting time to join us here at DLA Piper in New Zealand.”

We’re a global business that’s redefining the expectations of a law firm. We operate across more than 40 countries, but we’re still locally connected. That’s because trusting, collaborative relationships with our clients and each other are at the heart of our success. We’re creating exceptional experiences, outcomes and growth for our clients and people.

We make this happen with a culture where you bring your passion and individuality to work every day. No two careers – or two people – are the same here. We want you to reach your full potential as part of a diverse, global team that thrives on collaboration, seizing opportunities and commercial edge.

We work with a diverse range of clients across the world and the matters we advise on are often complex and challenging – transcending not just practice areas, but borders, languages and legal systems.

Our global workplace has significant benefits.

On a day-to-day level, it means you can call a colleague on the other side of the world and be able to count on their support, advice and service delivery. It also means you’ll build strong relationships with talented lawyers from every corner of the globe.

And perhaps most excitingly, it means you can take on global cross border projects and gain international experience and training.

We’re making an extraordinary impact, beyond the borders of traditional law. Looking forward, without forgetting how far we’ve come.

All this is just a glimpse of what we have to offer.



Laura Scampion
Country Managing Partner

“Our global commitment to pro bono is unmatched, and deeply ingrained in our culture.”

DLA Piper has a robust pro bono practice, actively encouraging all lawyers to engage in pro bono work. This approach aligns with our vision to be “truly local, truly global,” ensuring that our pro bono efforts are tailored to the local contexts and cultures in which we operate.

I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to assist the UNHCR with their flagship digital project, the Rights Mapping and Analysis Platform (RiMAP), which maps and analyses state refugee laws and policies across more than 90 countries. I collaborated with my colleagues to develop the matrix for New Zealand, analysing the country’s laws and policies relevant to refugees.

The highlight of my experience at DLA Piper has been the authentic friendships I’ve built with my colleagues. The supportive and close-knit culture among the juniors makes it easy to form lasting personal connections and professional networks that go beyond our roles at the firm. In fact, I was so grateful for these relationships that I invited my DLA Piper colleagues to my wedding!



Scan the QR code or search
dlapiper.com/nzgrads
to discover more.

You define
the impact
you make.

Opportunity, *unlocked*



Huma Shehzad

Solicitor, Litigation & Regulatory
Auckland

Global careers without limits

We may operate across more than 40 countries, but we're still locally connected. We take on complex challenges and create exceptional results with high-profile clients around the world.

4,000+
Lawyers
worldwide



90+
offices



40+
countries



10 industry
sectors we
operate in



**Winner: Best New Zealand
Law Firm**

Beaton Client Choice Award
2025

Locally, DLA Piper has been recognised as the best law firm in New Zealand at the Beaton Client Choice Awards 2025.



Named Highest Trust

New Zealand Law Firm
Award 2025

These awards are based entirely on independent client feedback, making this recognition a true reflection of the firm's ability to deliver exceptional service, value, and innovation, as judged by those who matter to us the most – our clients.

Our values are all about *unlocking potential*



Be Supportive

We are compassionate and inclusive, valuing diversity and acting thoughtfully.



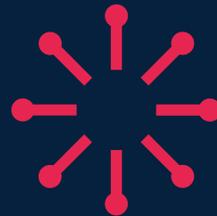
Be Collaborative

We are proactive, passionate team players, investing in our relationships.



Be Bold

We are fearless and inquisitive, challenging ourselves to think big and find creative new solutions.



Be Exceptional

We are strategic and driven, exceeding standards and expectations.

“Partners and senior team members are generous with their time and support, which has been invaluable in building confidence and capability early in my career.”

From my first experience of the firm, DLA Piper stood out as welcoming, supportive and forward-thinking. It felt collaborative rather than rigid or traditional. I was also attracted by the exposure to international clients and matters, as well as the breadth of learning and development opportunities available early in your career.

DLA Piper’s global reach, combined with a strong domestic client base, sets it apart. I have had the opportunity to work with international clients while also supporting leading New Zealand organisations, which means you are exposed to a wide range of legal and commercial issues from day one. This breadth of experience, alongside strong client relationships, makes the work both challenging and rewarding.

I have learned that no two days are the same and that there is always an opportunity to learn something new. The firm places a strong emphasis on development, with partners and senior team members generous with their time and support, which has been invaluable in building confidence and capability early in my career.



Scan the QR code or search
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to discover more.



Shape your future.

Confidence, *unlocked*

Hannah Retimana

Solicitor, Environment, Planning
& Natural Resources
Auckland

Forward-looking teams require *a world of perspective*

Career Academies

We realise potential together. Our International Career Academies are one of the ways we recognise and invest in high potential at crucial career stages. They're spaces to learn from each other, grow your personal networks and build your professional and leadership skills.

We're always striving to increase the impact of our work beyond the borders of law and the focus here is to develop your commercial, business development and managerial skills.

Realising your potential

When you grow, we grow. Wherever you join us, you'll have the training, support and opportunities to unlock your full potential.

Every career is different so our tailored support will help you build one you're proud of. Our breadth and depth mean we offer a unique range of experiences to help you discover your own path.

Our constant pursuit of innovation is only possible with a continued commitment to learning and development.

We encourage everyone to invest in developing a learning plan with their leader which is supported by a range of training opportunities to grow.

Innovation

We go beyond law and innovate to create value, delivering efficient legal services that unlocks transformative change. Join our creative, growing team to help leaders harness innovation and efficiency to achieve their goals together.



Aniston Inger-Holland
Solicitor, Tax
Auckland

A responsible business

The world needs responsible businesses. We're proud of the impact we make beyond the borders of law. Here, you'll use your skills to address some of the world's most pressing challenges and give something back.

A different
kind of
law firm.

Potential, *unlocked*



James Beasley, Solicitor
Corporate, Investment
Management & Funds
Wellington

“The ability to work collaboratively across offices and practice areas creates opportunities to learn from colleagues internationally, while still being closely connected to the local market.”

I chose DLA Piper because of its collaborative and supportive culture, as well as its strong emphasis on professional development. The firm places real value on learning, mentorship and giving people opportunities early in their careers. Its commitment to pro bono work was also important to me, as it allows lawyers to contribute to matters that make a meaningful difference, alongside their commercial practice.

DLA Piper’s global platform, combined with a strong local presence in New Zealand, sets it apart from other firms. The ability to work collaboratively across offices and practice areas means you are exposed to a wide range of perspectives and ways of working. This creates opportunities to learn from colleagues internationally while still being closely connected to the local market.

I have learned the importance of adaptability and continuous learning. Every day presents new challenges and opportunities to develop, and the level of mentorship and support within the firm has been exceptional. From day one, people have genuinely invested in my growth and taken the time to help me build both my technical skills and confidence.



Scan the QR code or search
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to discover more.

Global reach and *local focus.*

Corporate



From mergers and acquisitions to private equity and public offerings, our corporate lawyers help clients through every stage of the deal.

Employment



Our employment team advises organisations on one of their key assets – their people. We partner with clients to manage risk and support them in navigating complex employment issues.

Environment, Planning & Natural Resources



Our EPNR team provides exceptional advice on resource management and local government issues to councils, central government and private clients from a wide range of sectors, including iwi.

Finance



We support leading financial services players to anticipate market changes, business trends, and new technologies on a global basis. We help clients and their investors evolve, wherever they do business.

Intellectual Property & Technology



As a fast-moving and constantly developing area, our international reach gives us a distinct advantage on advising on emerging technologies. We represent multinationals and start-ups alike with a strong focus on privacy, data and cybersecurity.

Litigation & Regulatory



As one of the largest practices in the world, our regulatory, compliance and disputes lawyers provide unrivalled multi-jurisdictional coverage and experience for our clients.

Real Estate



We partner with a wide range of clients, advising them on every aspect of their real estate investments – from planning and financing, to development, and disposals.

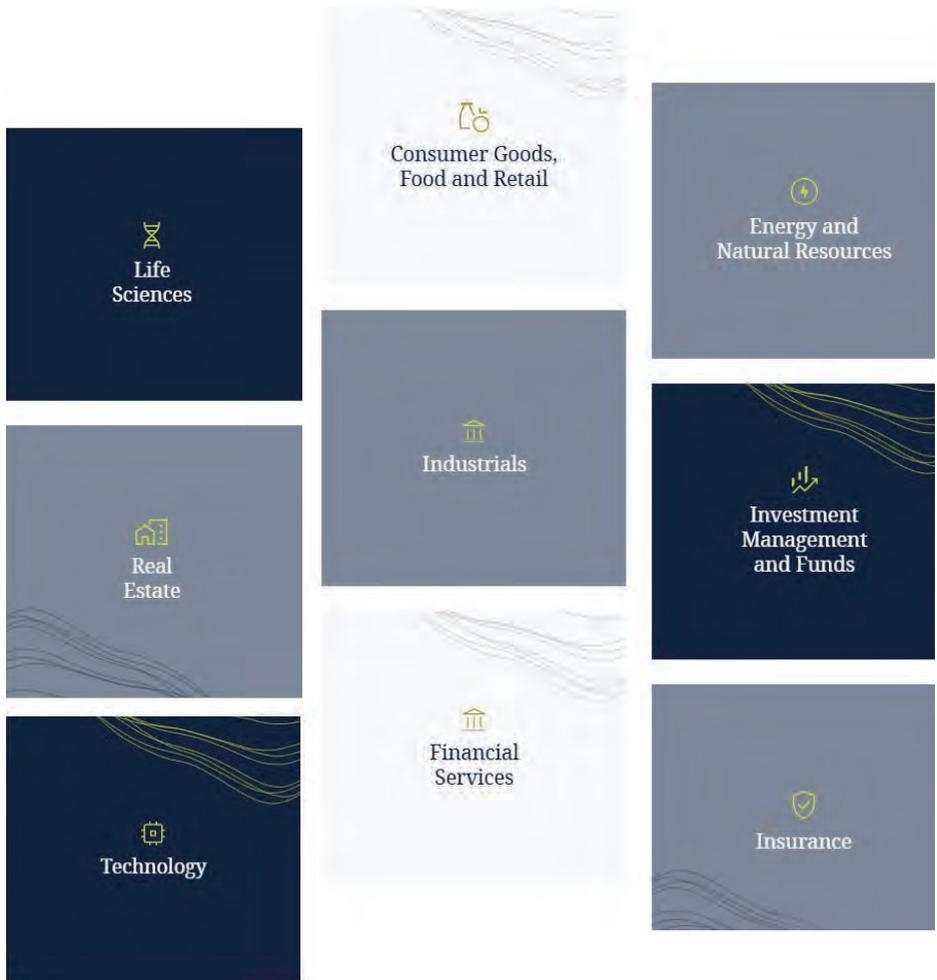
Tax



Our tax team works closely with both local and international clients on a wide range of tax issues – from tax structuring as part of large transactions and fund formation, to cross-border taxation, and the tax elements of employee share option plans.

Transforming the way legal services are delivered.

We value the importance of providing sector expertise to our international clients. Our sector approach promotes cross-practice and cross-jurisdiction working. It makes us different.



“International sector group sessions keep us on the cutting-edge of legal issues, whether it’s cyber insurance, judicial review in the UK, or greenwashing litigation across the globe.”

The work we do is truly global. On any one day I might be working for clients in London, Sydney, Singapore or Milan, and I have had the chance to build connections with lawyers at my level across the firm. We are able to create a seamless international team at a moment’s notice and draw on a vast pool of experience. This sometimes means scary, but rewarding, moments where a much more senior lawyer in another jurisdiction wants to hear your view on New Zealand law.

Our open plan offices and collaborative working style also help as a junior lawyer. There are so many soft skills which you can pick up by hearing how a partner handles a phone call or having a conversation while you’re making your morning coffee.

Both of DLA Piper’s offices in New Zealand are a great size – big enough to get a broad range of interesting work, and small enough that you know everyone by name and feel comfortable asking for help.



Scan the QR code or search
dlalipiper.com/nzgrads
to discover more.

Think
across
borders.

Ingenuity, *unlocked*



Michael Fitzpatrick-Cockram
Associate, Litigation & Regulatory
Wellington

OPPORTUNITIES

Starting your career with us.

Opportunity, unlocked



Sundaresh Thangavelu
Associate, Real Estate
Auckland

DLAIPER.COM/NZGRADS

Law clerkship

Who: Law Clerk positions are available for students in their final year of study.

Where: Positions are available in our Auckland office.

When: Law Clerkships typically start in March. But we are open to discuss this based on your personal situation.

Summer clerkship

Who: Students in their penultimate year of study can apply for one of our Summer Clerk positions.

Where: We have positions available in our Auckland and Wellington offices.

When: Typically, the clerkship starts mid-November and finishes late-February, fitting around the university break.

Discovery Day

Who: Our Discovery Day is open to students in their antepenultimate year of study. This equates to the third year of study for students completing a five year degree.

Where: A national event, in our Auckland and Wellington offices, as well as online.

When: One full day, during the August/September break.



Scan the QR code or visit dlapiper.com/nzgrads to find out more about the programmes we offer students.

Where law
unlocks **potential.**



“Get stuck in!
Take advantage of
firm events and
interviews to learn
about the firm, our
culture, and assess
how you would fit in.
There are so many
opportunities.”

Vivian Mitchell
Solicitor, IP & Technology
Auckland

Initial application

- **Tell us about you:** Answer some key questions which help us understand you better.
- **CV:** Highlight your work experience, community involvement, and interests outside of study.
- **Academic transcript**

Video submission

Should you be shortlisted to the next stage, you will be asked to complete a one-way video interview. This process is designed to assess your capabilities and potential fit for the role.

The format is to answer questions on video, giving you the opportunity to demonstrate the skills and qualities needed to succeed at DLA Piper.

Assessment Day

The final stage is our Assessment Day on **Wednesday 6 May 2026**.

This will include an interview to discuss your motivations, experiences, and aspirations. Team and individual exercises will allow you to demonstrate your strengths, problem-solving skills, and collaborative approach.

A chance to *meet us*

Monday 2 March, 12pm–12:50pm

University of Otago
Law Prep with DLA Piper (via Zoom)

Tuesday 3 March, 11am–1pm

University of Auckland
Meet the recruiters

Thursday 5 March, 11am–2pm

Victoria University of Wellington
Careers Expo

Monday 9 March, 10:30–11:20am

Victoria University of Wellington
DLA Piper Recruitment Presentation

Tuesday 10 March, 1pm–2pm

University of Auckland
DLA Piper Recruitment Presentation

Tuesday 10 March, 10am–1pm

Auckland University of Technology
(AUT) Careers Expo

Wednesday 11 March, 11am–2pm

University of Waikato
Careers Fair

Thursday 12 March, 10:30–2:30pm

University of Auckland
Careers Expo

Thursday 19 March, 10am–11am

University of Otago
DLA Piper Recruitment Presentation

Wednesday 18 March, 11am–2pm

University of Otago
Careers Expo

Thursday 19 March, 4pm–6:30pm

University of Canterbury
DLA Piper Law Recruitment Evening



Dates for your diary

Applications open

9am, Tuesday 3 March

Applications close

12pm, Tuesday 24 March

Assessment Day

Wednesday 6 May

Offers made

12pm, Monday 18 May

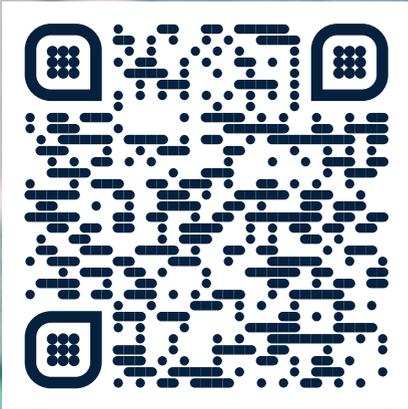
Acceptances due

12pm, Friday 29 May

For more information

dlapiper.com/nzgrads

If you need to contact our recruitment team, please email
nzcareers@dlapiper.com



Discover more about
DLA Piper and the
programmes we offer
students. Use the QR
code to visit our Early
Careers website at
dlapiper.com/nzgrads