

Summer internship

Where law *unlocks* potential

About this programme

On our two to three week, in-person paid summer internship you will have the opportunity to see the impact we make in the UK and around the world and explore the intersection of law and business.

Programme details

You'll start to build the foundation of a global legal career, collaborating with colleagues and clients on high value matters that shape industries. You'll do all this, and more, on our two to three week internship in our UK offices.

From attending court hearings to working with clients and collaborating with leading professionals, you'll gain hands-on insight into the legal world. Our internship goes beyond shadowing, you'll be part of the team, trusted with real responsibilities. You'll see how our purpose-led approach drives impact through technology, pro-bono work and sustainability initiatives. You will learn what it takes to succeed as a commercial lawyer in a fast-paced, global environment and connect with partners, lawyers, and trainees along the way.

The internship is your chance to see if law is a career you can thrive in. Working across our practice groups and sectors, you'll be giving your career the best platform by developing the knowledge, skills and behaviours that will support your professional growth.

During the internship, you will:

- Kick off with an induction in London with peers from across the internship programme.
- Experience the complexities of our work and discover how you can make a real impact around the world.

- Join a forward-looking, innovative team while gaining experience working on client matters.
- Develop your knowledge and skills through structured learning and development opportunities.
- Be supported by a strong network of supervisors, buddies, and mentors to develop your confidence and identify your own personal and professional goals.
- Explore further interests beyond your role, including legal tech, sustainability and pro bono work.

You'll have the freedom to discover your own path and make an extraordinary impact beyond the borders of traditional law. Tomorrow's legal industry can't hire yesterday's skills. Unlock your potential and start building a different kind of legal career.

Show us your strengths in action. Once you've completed your 2026 summer internship, you could be offered a place on the 2028 [international training programme](#). Please note you'll be considered for a position on the international training programme in the office where you do your summer internship.

Applications open for our 2026 Summer Internship:

17 September 2025

Applications close for our 2026 Summer Internship:

- London – 21 November 2025
- Birmingham, Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester – 12 December 2025

What do we look for?

We're looking for people from a diverse range of backgrounds who have the potential to thrive at our firm.

To succeed on our early careers' programmes, you don't need any specific legal experience or education, but you will, in addition to the eligibility criteria:

- Have an interest in international commercial law and business.
- Have a forward-thinking and entrepreneurial mindset and will be excited about doing things differently in the legal industry.
- Be proactive and self-motivated with a strong desire to achieve your personal and professional goals.
- Enjoy collaborating with others and will be instinctively socially aware.
- Have a growth mindset. You'll see setbacks as learning opportunities, and you'll proactively look for ways to grow and develop.
- Enjoy working in an ever-changing environment.
- Enjoy taking ownership of tasks and thinking critically.

Am I eligible?

- **Studying a law degree:** you can apply for the programme if you are a second-year student on a three-year course or a third-year student on a four-year course. You can also apply if you are in your final year of study.
- **Studying a non-law degree:** you can apply for the programme if you are in your final year of study.
- You are also eligible to apply if you are a graduate or career changer.
- **Edinburgh office:** To practise as a solicitor in Scotland, the Law Society of Scotland requires that you **must** complete an LLB and the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice. Therefore, to be eligible for the Edinburgh summer internship:
 - **Law students:** you must be a penultimate or final year student, or graduate, of an accredited undergraduate degree in law (LLB); **OR**
 - **Non-law students:** you must have already graduated and be in the process of completing the accelerated LLB route. You must also be ready to undertake the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice immediately following completion of your LLB studies.
- Please note: We recruit two years in advance and therefore **all 2026 summer internship** applicants will be assessed for a place on the international training programme, commencing in **Autumn 2028**.
- We welcome applications from all degree disciplines, but only one application, to one location, can be made per year.

You must have the right to work for the duration of the programme (35 hours a week) in the UK. DLA Piper is unable to sponsor visas for the summer internship programme.

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