

#MonthlyMotivation: Georgie Boardman (class of 2016)



Having always been drawn to a career in Law, it was actually the work experience that attracted Georgie to look at becoming a solicitor!

What have you done since school?

Since leaving Putney, I have completed a degree in history at Durham University and have just started a Law Conversion Course at BPP University in London.

What made you change your mind and pursue a career in Law?

I have actually always been drawn to law as a career option, and so after my GCSE's I carried out work experience at a family law firm. Whilst there, I was immediately attracted to a solicitor's role - in particular, helping clients navigate difficult times in their lives or careers.

Now you've started your Law Conversion Course, how are you finding it?

Really interesting and great to finally be learning about the law! This year I will complete eight core legal modules, comprising the Post Graduate Diploma in Law (PGDL).

Eversheds Sutherland are sponsoring you through your PGDL- congratulations!

Yes, very excitingly, after completing a week-long vacation scheme with them, they offered me a training contract to start in September 2022 and are currently sponsoring me through my PGDL.

Can you tell us a bit more about what the application process was like?

In terms of the process, I applied to multiple firms, each with their own process. For Eversheds Sutherland, I submitted an online application with questions; detailed my academic and extra-curricular achievements and work to-date. I then completed a video interview and was invited to attend an assessment centre comprising three parts including a face-to-face interview, written task, and negotiation exercise. Finally, I was selected to attend the vacation scheme which was carried out virtually (due to COVID) where I had to complete two further assessed tasks and show myself as engaged and committed to working at the firm.

What would you say to students and alumnae who want to follow a similar career path?

1. It is not necessary to study law at university. Many firms love non-law students as they provide a different perspective on issues. I studied history and my advice would be to study a subject you enjoy - you will get so much more out of your degree. You can then do the conversion course later.
2. It is a dreaded word for many but 'network' wherever possible! Take advice from anyone you can at all stages in their careers - there will always be something which is helpful from every conversation you have.
3. Quality not quantity - know the firm you are applying to and why that specific firm is where you want to work. Avoid submitting hundreds of applications which are not well considered, the law firms will see right through you!
4. Don't give up! The path to a training contract can be long and at times demoralising, have faith that you will end up in the right place eventually and that any setbacks will help you to learn.

What have been some of the highs and lows that you have encountered along the way?

On a more positive note, enjoy the journey as well. I have had some amazing opportunities including work experience at four top law firms; my vacation scheme; and the Mishcon de Reya sports law academy (where I learnt more about the intricacies of law and sport). Challenges have included persevering at applications; not taking rejection personally and using criticism constructively to improve.

How do you think Putney helped prepare you for your legal career?

My time at Putney has helped me in so many ways, not least in providing me with an incredible education, a brilliant circle of friends and a well-rounded experience. Career-wise Putney has instilled a huge amount of confidence in me and provided me with the belief that no career choice is out of reach, an extreme privilege which I feel incredibly lucky to have.