Career Ready Q&A

Clare and Tomi share their experience of Career Ready

CLARE

Why did you get involved in the Career Ready initiative?

I was really impressed by how well-organised Career Ready was and the positive impact that it was having in supporting students from high schools in less privileged areas.

The two year commitment for the mentoring programme did give me pause for thought, but when I explored further I realised that I could (hopefully) make a significant impact in relatively short bursts of time.

I was keen to support Brodies’ involvement with the initiative as I think it is good for our firm, the people in it and the people outside it that we connect with our local community.

What was your involvement in the programme?

My mentee, Tomi, who was starting 5th year at Broughton High school, and I followed a structured plan of mentoring meetings as set out by Career Ready, usually taking place in the office or in a local coffee shop.

We covered topics such as preparing a CV, revision techniques, workplace expectations, and goal setting.

There was also plenty of time to catch up on other things and find out how Tomi was getting on at school.

In addition, Tomi spent four weeks working in our Edinburgh office, spending time with the banking team, as well as other parts of the firm.

What have you gained from the experience?

It was a pleasure to get to know Tomi over the two years and it was very satisfying to know that she appreciated the experience and it helped her towards a successful career.

I had it easy as Tomi was a model mentee and already had an expert grasp of some of the topics we covered such as revision planning!

An added bonus of being involved in Career Ready was that it gave me the opportunity to connect and re-connect to people across Brodies, including other mentors and HR and Communications colleagues.

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Have you enjoyed the Career Ready programme?

Yes definitely. It was great that Clare arranged for me to meet solicitors from different practice areas across the firm so I got a broad overview of the legal work which is done in Brodies.

Before I spent time shadowing Clare, I didn’t expect to be interested in banking law (I was only interested in criminal law) but now I would consider more commercial areas.

The programme helped me to decide that I definitely wanted to become a lawyer, even though I had been considering it before.

What have you learned?

Although I didn’t speak to clients directly, through my work helping the banking team and from just being in the office and over-hearing other lawyers doing their job, I learned about different ways to deal with clients.

Something that surprised me was how much independence the lawyers had in doing their job to day to day work.

I knew working as a lawyer in a law firm would not be as structured as high school, but I didn’t expect that lawyers would have so much independence in how to organise their own workload and the time they spend in the office.

I also learned that not all people who work in a law firm are lawyers! In particular, it was really interesting to spend a week working with the HR team.

What are your plans for the future?

I received three As and a C in my highers this year which meant I could accept my conditional offer to study law at Abertay University.

I moved to Dundee in September to begin my studies.

Eventually I hope to qualify as a lawyer but I don’t know what type of lawyer I want to be yet.

I am going to keep in touch with Clare and with Brodies and maybe one day I will be back to work with Brodies again!

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