



January 2019

Dear Member

Bristol Law Society/UWE - Work Placement Scheme 2019

This is our ninth year in collaboration with UWE and their work placement scheme. The object of the scheme is simple. We want to enable those students who have not yet secured a training contract to gain invaluable experience in a law firm and hopefully allow them to enhance their CV and career prospects at the same time.

Over the last few years, we have been able to place around 25 GDL and LPC students each year in various firms in and around Bristol, Bath, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, many of whom would otherwise not have had this opportunity. The feedback from participating firms confirmed that they too benefited greatly from their involvement. It is a great opportunity for firms to provide meaningful guidance and motivation to some very talented students who, for one reason or another, haven't had their break yet.

The placements over the last few years have been very successful with a couple of students later securing paralegal roles with their placement firm. However, we are very clear with each participating student that there can be no expectation of employment or a training contract. The GDL and LPC students all volunteer for this scheme and just want valuable work experience and a real opportunity to consider how they should progress into practice, whether that's as a solicitor, legal executive or paralegal.

The Placement

We would ask that each student placement(s) is for a minimum period of 5 days with an overall maximum of 10 days.

All of the students have volunteered to participate in the scheme. They do not expect payment.

To coincide with the students' studying commitments, the 5-10 day placements should be scheduled between:

- Monday 17 June and Friday 23 August 2019. If you prefer alternative dates however please let us know.

We are able to be entirely flexible with the scheme. There are a number of ways we can assist the placement to be successful, by either selecting the best student suitable for your firm or, alternatively, allowing you to choose your own student from a small selection of suitable candidate CVs. You, of course, dictate what dates to participate. We will do our best to match you with a student who has expressed an interest in your specialisms, whether that's crime, private client, PI, litigation, property, family, corporate or commercial, to name a few.

If you would like to help a local student gain some invaluable experience, then please contact our co-ordinator Helen Read, Head of Operations at Bristol Law Society either:

- by email Helen.read@bristollawsociety.com; or
- by telephone 0117 9458486; or
- in her absence, please speak to Clair Ponting, BLS Membership and Events Co-ordinator, on 0117 945 8486 or info@bristollawsociety.com

Please let Helen know how many students you feel able to offer a placement to over the summer; how long each placement would be (i.e. one or two weeks) and which practice areas you can offer the placement. If you are able to contact Helen by 1 March 2019, it will greatly assist us with the administration of the scheme.

We hope you will join the scheme and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Ben Reeves
Senior Lecturer
University of the West of England



Nicholas Lee
President of Bristol Law Society