

## Sofia's Case Study

### What is your current job role?

Trainee Solicitor at Ashurst LLP

### What was your journey to this role?

After studying my GCSE's at Fir Vale, I undertook A-levels in English Language, Sociology and Psychology at King Edward VII Sixthform. I then studied a Law degree at the University of Sheffield. I secured my training contract whilst in my second year of study through a work placement (vacation scheme) at Ashurst LLP which is an international commercial law firm. I moved to London following my degree and studied the legal practice course alongside a Masters, before beginning my training contract in September 2018.

### What experience/s developed your key employability skills?

Being proactive in thinking about where I wanted to study, what career option I wanted to pursue and what transferable skills I had gained from all of my experience. Work experience / industry exposure is really important in understanding the career that you want to go on into and can help you make more informed choices. Similarly, going to Sixth Form or University open days can be really useful in helping you think about what kind of experience or skill you want to gain throughout your academic journey.

### What advice would you give to current students around developing their own skills ready for leaving education?

Think early about your career aspirations and what motivates you to work hard. Having this kind of focus is super helpful so that you can try to get access to the right work experience opportunities and reach out to the right people for career guidance and support. Think about what grades, experiences and skills you need to achieve to enter the career that you have chosen and work hard to achieve all of these things. You should always try to develop your interests as well as your academic skills as it pays off to be well rounded! Working on professional and interpersonal skills is also really important, both in preparation for interview processes but also on a daily basis in most jobs.

### Any further advice?

Always have big ambitions, work hard and make the most of every opportunity available to you - it will all pay off!

