

CAREERS & PROGRESSION NEWSLETTER

THIS ISSUE

15th December 2025

This edition features work experience with Forrester Boyd, Wilkin Chapman Rollits, Penguin alongside Springpod, JCB. You'll also find apprenticeships with KPMG, Aldi, local employers, BNP Paribas, Pinsent Masons and the National Audit Office. Explore subject tasters in Creative Writing and Psychology, an Economics and AI masterclass with Gresham College and Hair and Makeup short course with London Screen Academy, plus university opportunities with the University of Law, Teesside University, Falmouth University and the University of Buckingham.

Be sure to complete the Google Form to be in with the chance of winning a £10 Amazon voucher!

Many thanks,

The Careers Team

#SEEEYOURFUTURE

CENTRE FOR

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fancy being in with the chance of winning a £10 Amazon voucher?

Complete [this](#) short feedback survey to be in the draw!

Career Academy

Career Academy will be a joint Mentor Catch up session for all groups in Room 50 on Wednesday 17th December.

Highflyers

This session will run on a Wednesday lunch time.

Date	Session	Room
17/12/25	Summer Schools	50

Christmas Break

Don't forget we break up for Christmas Friday 19th December and we will return on Monday 5th January.

Local Events

Some local events taking place over the Christmas holiday period.

Grimsby Farmers and Crafts Market

Riverhead Square Grimsby Town Centre 9am- 3pm Friday 19th December.

Immingham Xmas Mini Market

Immingham Civic Centre Pelham Road 10am- 4pm Friday 19th December.

Social Work Academy PPD

Starting in January during PPD we are running our 'Social Work Academy' PPD. This 5-week programme will give you the opportunity to experience what social work is really like, develop valuable people-focused skills and discover how this rewarding career makes a real difference to people's lives.

Whether you are thinking of a career in Social Work, or you are not sure exactly what a social worker does, this programme will benefit students interested in broader social sciences by giving you real-world insight into how society, policy, and human behaviour intersect, helping you build transferable skills valuable across many people-focused careers. Please register your interest with careers@franklin.ac.uk





WORK

EXPERIENCE

2026 Trainee Academy Positions at Forrester Boyd

Are you ready to kick-start your career in accountancy? Our Trainee Academy applications are now open for our summer 2026 intake, and this could be your opportunity to build a future you will be proud of!

You will be joining a team where you can earn while you learn, gaining hands-on experience alongside a fully funded study package to achieve your globally recognised chartered accountancy qualifications. As part of the Forrester Boyd team, you will have a full-time role, receive dedicated study leave for exams, and we will even cover additional costs such as petrol, lunch, and hotel stays when you're studying away from home.

If you're ambitious, motivated, and ready to start your professional journey- this is your chance!

The closing date for applications is Friday 16th January – click [here](#) for more information.

A Level Work Experience Placement with Wilkin Chapman Rollits

Are you looking for some experience of working in a law firm?

If you are age 16 and above and studying for your A Levels or equivalent, you can apply for a two-day placement. The placement will be split into four half day sessions, during which you will have the opportunity to experience four different practice areas. This will provide you with a varied and insightful placement that exposes students to the various areas of law, whilst providing the opportunity to experience a legal practice working environment. These placements are available in Grimsby, Lincoln and Hull and take place during the half term breaks in February, May and October each year.

Click [here](#) for more information or to apply.

Your Future Edited Virtual Work Experience with Penguin and Springpod


Do you want to learn from a well-known brand? The most widely recognised book publisher in the world? Step into the world of Penguin and publishing, where ideas become products, creativity meets strategy, and teams bring stories to life. From discovering new ideas to shaping a book's journey onto shelves and screens, you'll explore the roles and skills that make publishing one of the most exciting and influential industries out there. Packed with interactive activities, inside knowledge from Penguin colleagues, and the chance to start imagining your own future in publishing, this programme is sure to be a page-turner.

Click [here](#) for more information or to apply.

Careers in the Construction & Agricultural Machinery Industry with JCB

We'll tell you the story of JCB, one of the world's leading construction and agricultural machinery manufacturers, as we explore the innovative work going on in all areas of the company. At the end of this programme, you'll be familiar with the multitude of opportunities at JCB and ready to kickstart your career journey!

This work experience is available on demand – click [here](#) to take part.



APPRENTICESHIPS

Tax & Law Apprenticeship with KPMG

Tax offers you the opportunity to work on a variety of high-profile projects whilst building a career that could take many different routes. Part of a team that works collaboratively with clients, you will help them navigate complex tax policy landscapes and stay compliant with regulation, by paying the right tax at the right time. You will also tackle challenges at the heart of client organisations and develop a broad understanding of how businesses operate, whilst you develop valuable technical skills and professional qualifications.

This is due to start in Autumn 2026 – click [here](#) for more information.

Retail Management Programme with Aldi

A placement that could secure you a grad job? Look no further than Aldi. Learn leadership, project management and the ins and outs of what makes a business tick on the Retail Management Placement Programme.

You'll earn while you learn, this is due to start in July 2026 – click [here](#) for more information.

Data Administrator Apprenticeship with Ashcourt Limited Grimsby

Working for a large and respected aggregates company based at their Grimsby site, you will have the opportunity to grow and develop within the organisation whilst being supported by experienced professionals. If you are organised, detail-oriented, and passionate about making a difference then we want to hear from you.

This is due to close on Sunday 4th January 2026 – click [here](#) for more information.

Apprenticeships with BNP Paribas- Europe's Leading Bank!

Join us for this exclusive, masterclass led by recruitment experts from BNP Paribas, a global leader in banking and finance. This isn't a lecture; it's a practical training session designed to turn your potential into a successful application.

Taking place Tuesday 20th January 2026 from 6:30pm- 7:30pm to register click [here](#).

ACA Apprenticeship 2026 with National Audit Office

If your students want interesting work with real impact, this apprenticeship offers a clear route into a respected profession and the chance to help improve public services. Our work is investigative and analytical, helping Parliament hold government to account and ensuring public money is well spent. It goes far beyond auditing, covering areas such as healthcare, education, climate, and defence – helping to make government decisions transparent and impactful.

Applications open on Thursday 11th December and close on 30 March 2026.

To find out more click [here](#).

TECHNICAL
APPRENTICESHIP
SCHEME
LEVEL
3

TRAIN AS A FOOD TECHNOLOGIST



ABOUT US:

The UK Seafood Federation's (UKSF) members are leading international businesses engaged in seafood processing, ensuring the sustainable supply of seafood from the world's farms and oceans and its manufacture into thousands of delicious products for consumers.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

GCSE English and GCSE Maths at Grade 4 or above and aged 18 years or over. In addition, you will be hardworking, ambitious and passionate about a career in seafood and enjoy studying science.



OUR OFFER:

- Opportunities in Quality or New Product Development – build the skills and understanding of food science required to ensure that products are safe to eat or to produce exciting new products
- You will be immersed in every stage of production, working alongside experienced professionals to learn the trade.
- Clear pathway into a rewarding career in Technical Management with travel opportunities.
- A 2-year programme, apprentices attend the University of Lincoln's National Centre for Food Manufacturing along with the UK Seafood Federation's masterclass programme.
- Starting salary of £19,000 - £24,260 (dependent on age)
- Now recruiting for summer 2026 start.

APPLICATIONS BETWEEN 22.01.2026 - 13.02.2026

INFORMATION EVENING THURSDAY 22.01.2026, ONLINE, 6PM

Please e-mail Joanne to register

For more information, please click here

[HTTPS://NSAFD.CO.UK/STANDARDS/FOOD-TECHNOLOGIST-LEVEL-3/](https://nsafd.co.uk/standards/food-technologist-level-3/)



To apply please send a covering letter and CV to Joanne Woodhouse no later than 13.02.2026:
jo@woodhouseeducation.co.uk

Trainee Accountant opportunity

A P Robinson and Co are looking for an enthusiastic college leaver to join the firm as an apprentice and begin their exciting career as a chartered accountant.

The opportunity:

- You will receive supported training to become a chartered accountant with one of the most advanced learning and professional development programmes available. The route offered is often regarded as being much quicker than attending university.
- One to one support from a qualified, senior accountant who will help to train you and develop your skills.
- Working in a relaxed office environment with a team of friendly colleagues.
- Being paid while training.
- Getting involved with clients from day 1, forming relationships with small and medium sized business owners.

Skills and qualities we are looking for:

- You will need to be hardworking, driven and highly self-motivated with a passion for what you are doing.
- Friendly and positive demeanour to fit in with the firm's culture.
- Good time keeping skills to ensure deadlines are met as well as to maintain a high standard of punctuality.
- High attention to detail.
- Good problem-solving skills.
- Must be able to communicate in an effective manner, being confident with making phone calls and writing emails.
- Good numeracy and literacy skills.
- The office operates in a paperless manner, meaning IT literacy is essential as computers form an integral part of the working day.

About us:

A P Robinson and Co is a growing but well-established firm of Chartered accountants with offices in both Grimsby and Barton-upon-Humber. The firm boasts an excellent reputation as well as a diverse range of clients both locally and nationally. The firm was originally set up by Andrew Robinson over 25 years ago. Andrew still manages the firm now along with 2 additional partners who both trained and qualified here and helped grow the business to what it is today. The firm has adopted a relaxed, caring culture that has adapted throughout the recent Covid-19 pandemic to become a more flexible, forward thinking and supportive employer.

A Day in the life:

The working day usually starts at 8:30am, with a chance to make a coffee and get settled in before this. From the start you will be trusted with preparing draft accounts for small businesses with support from a whole team of accountants. This will take up the majority of each day, but no day is ever the same as you will have regular communication from clients needing assistance with queries as well as internal opportunities for learning. Every client is different and you will be trained on how to use a variety of software to meet their unique requirements and needs. Beyond accounts, you will also carry out bookkeeping, prepare VAT returns and help out with ad hoc administrative tasks.

The Opportunity would start around June but will be discussed with applicants. To apply please send CV's to matthew.shore@aprobinson.biz



Pinsent Masons

Legal Apprenticeships and Work Experience

Pinsent Masons is a global law firm with over 3,800 employees operating in over 29 offices across Europe, Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East. We have a long-standing reputation for delivering high-quality legal advice rooted in a deep understanding of the sectors and geographies in which our clients operate.

Our core values are Approachable, Bold and Connected and as a firm we hold these in high regard. Personally and collectively, we live them every day and our firm is a better place for it. We pride ourselves on being an innovative law firm who put people at the heart of the business.

Pinsent Masons won the Most Innovative Law Firm in Europe award for the third time at the 2023 Financial Times Innovative Lawyer Awards Europe.

The firm has been awarded Gold Employer status in this year's 2025 Global Workplace Equality Index by Stonewall, recognising our continued commitment to fostering an LGBTQ+ inclusive workplace.

We are proud to be a Top 75 Employer in the Social Mobility Index 2025. This recognition highlights our commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable workplace.

We're proud to have been placed amongst the Rate My Apprenticeship Best 100 Employers in 2024-2025.



Solicitor Apprenticeship

- The Solicitor Apprenticeship is a 6-year, level 7 degree apprenticeship programme.
- Solicitor Apprentices spend 4 days working with their team in the office and have 1 dedicated study day per week.
- Solicitor Apprentices will gain a fully sponsored LLB in Legal Practice and Skills. In addition, they work towards and then sit the Solicitors Qualifying Exam (SQE).
- Upon successful completion, subject to SRA Character & Suitability assessment, apprentices will become a qualified solicitor and be eligible to apply for Newly Qualified Solicitor roles.
- Solicitor Apprentices work on client projects along with experienced colleagues who provide regular mentoring & feedback.
- Apprentices can expect to get involved in client meetings, assist solicitors with legal matters, conduct legal research and draft legal correspondence and documents. As apprentices progress in the programme, they are introduced to more advanced tasks.
- Solicitor Apprentices receive comprehensive training & development throughout the apprenticeship.
- Solicitor Apprentices are supported by a supervisor, who will be an experienced solicitor, as well as a dedicated early talent team. Apprentices have an apprentice buddy to help them settle into both working and studying.

- Solicitor Apprentices have the opportunity to spend time in several different teams during the apprenticeship.
- The current starting salary for solicitor apprentices is £28,350 in London and £25,200 in Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester.

The academic requirements for the Solicitor Apprenticeship are:

- Minimum 5 GCSEs (or equivalent qualification), including Maths and English, at grade C or 4 or above.
- Minimum 3 A-levels at grades ABB or above (obtained or predicted) or an equivalent qualification amounting to 128 UCAS points.
- If you don't meet the minimum academic criteria but you have mitigating circumstances, we will take this into account.



The location of our roles can vary each year depending on business needs.

Applications for the 2026 Solicitor Apprenticeship are now open.

2026 opportunities are available in our Birmingham, Leeds and London offices.

The application deadline is:

London: 5pm on Thursday 15 January 2026

Birmingham & Leeds: 5pm on Thursday 29 January 2026



Paralegal Apprenticeship

- A Paralegal Apprenticeship is a 2-year, level 3 apprenticeship programme.
- Paralegal Apprentices spend 4 days working in the office with 1 dedicated study day per week.
- Pinsent Masons partner with an experienced training provider and apprentices can access ongoing support.
- Paralegal Apprentices can expect a wide variety of work, including administrative and legal tasks. Legal work will include helping to manage the documentation required in legal matters, including creating bundles of documents that will be used in court; drafting of legal documents such as contracts, settlement agreements and legal correspondence; legal research; taking minutes and writing up notes for meetings or legal proceedings.
- Excellent training and networking opportunities are available throughout the apprenticeship programme. Apprentices will study a range of legal modules and regularly undertake team specific training.
- The current starting salary for the Paralegal Apprenticeship is £22,950.
- Upon successful completion of a Paralegal Apprenticeship, individuals could have the opportunity to apply for Paralegal roles. Alternatively depending on role availability and individual preference, you could also apply for our Solicitor Apprenticeship programme.

If you are successful in securing a Pinsent Masons Solicitor Apprenticeship following completion of our Paralegal Apprenticeship, the duration of the Solicitor Apprenticeship may be shortened.

The academic requirements for the Paralegal Apprenticeship are:

- Minimum 5 GCSEs (or equivalent qualification), including Maths and English, at grade C or 4 or above.
- Minimum 3 A-levels at grade C or above (obtained or predicted), or an equivalent qualification amounting to 96 UCAS points.
- If you don't meet the minimum academic criteria but you have mitigating circumstances, we will take this into account.



The location of our roles can vary each year depending on business needs.

Applications for the 2026 Paralegal Apprenticeship are now open.

2026 Paralegal Apprenticeship opportunities are available in our Birmingham and Manchester offices.

The application deadline is 29th January 2026 at 5pm.



Legal Work Experience

Join us for a 5-day work experience placement and you'll get a full overview of what it's like to work in a leading commercial law firm. You'll get valuable experience and discover for yourself what law in practice is really like. What's more, the experience will give your CV a real boost!

Applications for summer 2026 will open in the first half of 2026. This will be an in-person paid placement taking place across our UK offices during the first week of August. Please note, to be eligible, you must be at least 16 years of age and have the right to work in the UK. Scan the QR code for more details, our criteria and the application form.



Insight Events

Join us at one of our Legal Apprenticeships Insight Events to learn about our apprenticeship programmes and speak with the Early Talent Team and current legal apprentices.

Please use the following link to sign up for an insight event:
<https://www.pinsentmasons.com/careers/early-talent/events>

Virtual

Thursday 20 November 2025, 4.30pm – 6.00pm
Tuesday 16 December 2025, 4.30pm – 6.00pm
Thursday 8 January 2026, 4.30pm – 6.00pm

In-person

Leeds office: Wednesday 21 January 2026, 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Birmingham office: Thursday 22 January 2026, 5.00pm – 7.00pm



Virtual Work Experience

Our open access Introduction to Law virtual work experience programme does not require any prior legal experience. The virtual programme is completely free and doesn't require an application process. It was designed for secondary school students interested in Law and aims to enhance your time management, legal research and drafting and commercial awareness skills. It will also give you a flavour of what working as a lawyer at Pinsent Masons is like. Scan the QR code for more details.



Further Information



You can read more & apply for all the programmes we offer on our website:

[pinsentmasons.com](https://www.pinsentmasons.com)



Instagram - [lifeatPinsentMasons](https://www.instagram.com/lifeatPinsentMasons)



LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/pinsent-masons>

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact:

- Apprenticeships – apprenticeships@pinsentmasons.com
- Work Experience – workexperience@pinsentmasons.com

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For a full list of the jurisdictions where we operate, see www.pinsentmasons.com

MASTERCLASSES

English Literature and Creative Writing Subject Spotlight with Professor John Holmes

Join Professor John Holmes as he looks at developing skills within English Literature, thinks about how you read, and explores the notion of expanding consciousness, with a focus on literature and diversity. He also considers literature and the environment, discussing how studying literature can help us to think through major global issues, before offering a deep dive into Shakespeare. Here, John explores the different ways in which an English degree might help you understand and enjoy a specific author.

Click [here](#) to take part.

Psychology Subject Spotlight with Dr Emma Barrowcliffe

Join Dr Emma Barrowcliffe on this fascinating journey into the human mind and understand the unique role of clinical and forensic psychologists. In episode one, Emma establishes the key differences between clinical and forensic psychology, and where they sit in the wider field. In episode two, Emma discusses the various clientele that clinical and forensic scientists may work with, and the settings you may find them in.

Emma also outlines the necessity for ethical considerations as well as the various methods and assessments for clients. In episode three, Emma talks through a case study with a focus on analysing the information and determining how we can successfully assess a client, and what treatments we could adopt for efficient rehabilitation. Finally, in episode four, Emma sets you an activity which asks you to look at another case study, identify the notable causes of the offender's behaviour, and then outline what the best care options look like for the offender.

Click [here](#) to take part.

Economics and Artificial Intelligence with Gresham College

ChatGPT, the AI chatbot developed by OpenAI, was the fastest growing app in history. But this achievement, as sudden and remarkable as it might seem, was simply the most recent chapter in a fascinating story that has been unfolding for almost seven decades. This lecture explores the full history of the relationship between AI and work, and how economists have tried to make sense of it. It's a journey that begins with a remarkable gathering of minds in a nondescript mathematics department at Dartmouth University in 1956 and ends with the technological convulsions that we see around us today.

This will take place on Tuesday 13th January from 6pm – click [here](#) to register.

Short Course in Hair and Makeup with London Screen Academy

London Screen Academy is running a fully funded BFI Film Academy specialist short course in Hair and Makeup during the first week of Easter. It's targeted at young people hoping to develop their practical skills and looking to work towards entering the Film and Television industry.

It's completely free and open to 16-to-19-year-olds nationwide. We pay for travel from the student's home to and from London, a 5-night hotel stay, catering and social activities in London, in addition to the practical education and progression advice from industry experts. The programme takes place in the Easter break and will cause no disruption to scheduled education.

To apply click [here](#) the deadline is 12th January 2026 and if you have any question you can contact us on: bfifilmacademy@lsa.ac.uk



A SPOTLIGHT

ON...

Social Care

Social care is about helping older people, adults with disabilities, or supporting vulnerable children and adults through social work. Social care is about helping people tackle life's challenges. You could work with older adults, children or people facing mental health struggles, disabilities or homelessness. If you want to make a difference in people's lives, this career could be for you!

What are some of the jobs can I do?

- **Care Assistant:** helping older or disabled people with day-to-day stuff like eating, dressing and taking meds. Whether it's in care homes or people's houses, they make life easier for others.
- **Nurse:** providing medical care for people with specific health needs. They work in care homes or communities, managing conditions, giving meds and helping with clients' general medical care.
- **Social Worker:** helping people through tough times like family issues, addiction, or housing problems. They work in schools, councils or charities, making a big difference in people's lives.
- **Support Worker:** help people with everyday challenges, like living independently or coping with mental health issues, disabilities or homelessness.

What are the top skills?

- Compassion
- Communication
- People Skills
- Resilience
- Time Management

How do I start a career in Social Care?

- **Apprenticeships:** You could go for apprenticeships like adult care worker (level 2), lead adult care worker (level 3), lead practitioner in adult care (level 4) or train as a social worker (level 6).
- **University:** You can study social work, nursing, or health and social care at uni to get into the social care field. These degrees give you the skills and knowledge employers look for.
- **Postgraduate Qualifications:** You can take a master's in social work, public health, or even specialise in areas like mental health. Postgrad courses help you level up and get into more advanced roles.
- **Stand Out:** Get hands-on experience through volunteering or internships, work on your people skills, and keep learning. Employers love strong communicators who can handle tough situations with resilience.

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION



Real World Lecture: What Do Hackers Know About You? with the University of Law

In this lecture we will explore the topic of social engineering, a key approach that is increasingly being used to secure private details and has led to some high-profile security incidents. Find out more about hackers, the case study of hacker Kevin Mitnick, and identify techniques to develop good cyber hygiene. We will also look at how this interesting topic forms part of our computer science programmes, and we will talk about the other exciting areas of our courses.

This will take place on Wednesday 17th December from 4pm – 5pm – click [here](#) for more information.

Digital Frontiers with Teesside University

Join us in our new digital life building to explore cutting-edge innovations in digital art, concept design, interactive media, and immersive technologies. Engage with industry professionals and university experts through hands-on workshops, live demonstrations and insightful talks.

Taking place Wednesday 17th December, click [here](#) to find out more and enquire.

Open Day with the University of Buckingham

Whether you are embarking on your first degree as an undergraduate student or pursuing further study as a postgraduate student, choosing where to study is an important decision. Joining our university open days is the perfect way to find out if The University of Buckingham is right for you.

This will take place on Saturday 10th January 2026. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Portfolio Advice Webinar with Falmouth University.

In this session we'll cover the basics for putting together a portfolio ready for interview. We'll discuss what we look for in a portfolio and the kinds of things to include. This session broadly covers advice for visual arts subjects, and we'll also tell you where you can get further advice related specifically to your course of interest

This will take place on Wednesday 7th January from 4 – 5pm. Click [here](#) to book.

