

CAREERS & PROGRESSION NEWSLETTER

THIS ISSUE

12th January 2026

This edition features work experience opportunities with Forrester Boyd, UCAS, Springpod and Barclays. You'll also find apprenticeship opportunities with Dunelm, Catch, Althaus Digital, EDF and Early Talent Academy. Explore subject tasters with Gresham College and the Universities of Portsmouth and Exeter, alongside university opportunities with the University of Sheffield, scholarships with Specsavers, PwC degree programmes, and a Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference with UK Universities.

Don't forget to complete the Google Form for your chance to win a £10 Amazon voucher

Many thanks,

The Careers Team

#SEETHEYOURFUTURE

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

Students who take part in our Career Academy should attend the Bridge on Wednesday 14th January for the ice breaker at 2:45pm- 3:45pm. Please confirm your attendance with Becky.

High Flyers

Your upcoming High Flyers session over lunch will be.

| Date | Session | Room |
|------------|---|------|
| 14/01/2026 | Russell Group - making competitive applications | 50 |

Work Experience

If you are looking for or are interested in work experience opportunities, please email nicola.loyd-jones@franklin.ac.uk for further information on how to apply or visit the CFPD office.

Careers Appointments

If you are unsure of your next steps or want some advice and guidance about courses, training, employment, or apprenticeships – please make a careers appointment.

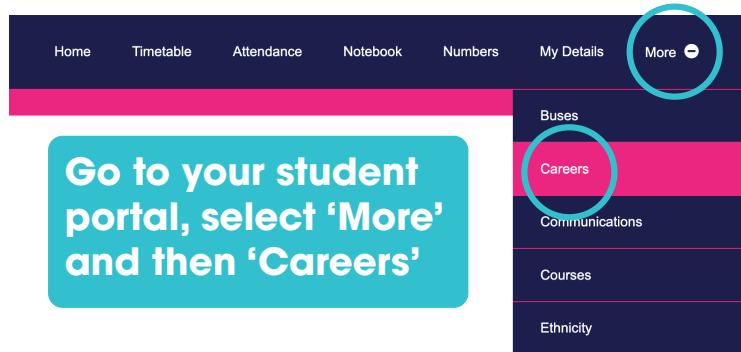
If you need any help, please follow the guide on the next page, or email zofia.ciopcinski@franklin.ac.uk.

Leading Minds Fellowship on Climate Education with UNICEF

Are you passionate about climate education and transforming the way the world responds to the climate crisis? This is your chance to help reimagine climate education, so that every child, everywhere, grows up prepared, empowered, and able to shape a just and sustainable future. As a Leading Minds Climate Education Fellow, you will join a global cohort elevating youth-led initiatives, conducting research and foresight, shaping policy and helping design strategic convenings.

To find out more and how to apply click [here](#)

How to book a Careers Appointment



Fill in the information on the Careers Appointment Booking page

Careers Appointment

Careers Appointment Booking

Drop in advice sessions may be available - please contact College Services.

If you would like a careers appointment please complete all of the following fields:

What work history or work experience have you had?

Do you have any medical condition or other factor which may affect your career choice?

☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes then please give details:

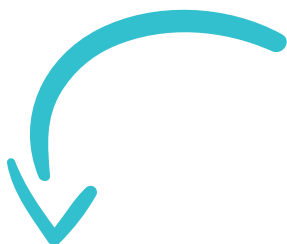
What are your interests / what do you do in your spare time?

Please tell me how I can help you.

Examples: I want to be an accountant; I am interested in doing a course in nursing.

Finally, what type of interview would you prefer?

Please Select



Book an appointment (not during lessons)

1. Select a date to see a list of available appointments (not today, at the weekend or in the past).

| March 2023 | | | | | | |
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 |

2. Select one of the available appointments (Red text represent slots where careers are available, but you are not).

-- Select Time --

3. Book the selected appointment.

Book Appointment

You will receive a confirmation email and an appointment will be created in your Outlook Calendar.

If College has your mobile number you will also receive a reminder text on the morning of your appointment.

Book an appointment (not during lessons)

1. Select a date to see a list of available appointments (not today, at the weekend or in the past).

| March 2023 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
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2. Select one of the available appointments (Red text represent slots where careers are available, but you are not).

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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.

Aerospace Work Experience with UCAS

Always been fascinated by space? Simply don't understand how a 300-tonne plane can make it into the sky? Maybe it's time to take the Airbus Aerospace programme! We'll go into detail about Space Exploration and how new initiatives help us here on Earth.

Click here to [start](#).

Spring pod Visual Work Experience

Unlock the door to in-person work experiences that take your career aspirations to new heights. Our virtual work experiences have already empowered thousands of students like you to explore diverse industries and gain valuable insights into their dream careers. Now, it's time to turn those insights into real-world action.

To get started click [here](#) to see what visual work experience is available

Barclays: Data Analytics Virtual Work Experience

This Virtual Taster Course is a way for you to carry out a real-world task and will give you a taste of what a future career with Barclays could look like. You'll learn more about what data analytics is, and we'll dive deep into what a career could look like in this area. You'll hear from your mentor, a real Barclays employee, who'll provide you with the context you need to try out this task for yourself.

You'll learn from your Barclays mentor through videos and compare your work with their model answers to further refine your abilities.

Click [here](#) to sign up.



WILDER WORK EXPERIENCE



Lincolnshire
Wildlife Trust

Thinking about working with wildlife or in nature conservation?

Aged between 14 and 17?

Our Wilder Work Experience offers a challenging and enjoyable opportunity to gain new skills and meet like-minded people, as you gain experience within different areas of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's work.



What you will do:

- Practical conservation management
- Wildlife surveying
- Engaging with visitors to our reserves
- Producing media content



What skills you will gain:

- Time management & teamwork
- Communication and customer service skills
- Presentation skills
- Problem-solving and IT skills
- Planning and organisation skills



When and where

6th - 10 July 2026
Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve,
Skegness



HOW TO APPLY





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

APPRENTICESHIPS

Dunelm Apprenticeship Vacancies

Join us on 15th January to find out about Dunelm's new Fitter Apprenticeship - a unique role blending hands-on technical skills, customer interaction and the freedom of being out on the road. Apprentices work towards a Customer Service apprenticeship qualification, while gaining specialist training in fitting blinds in customers' homes.

Taking place 15th January 4pm- 5pm, register [here](#)

Catch Apprenticeship Opportunities

Catch have some important dates to share in preparation for their 2025/2026 apprenticeship recruitment intake opening.

CATCH Apprenticeship applications will close on the 30th of January 2026, the last CATCH Open Evening will be 15th January 2026. Information is available [here](#) but to register for the open evening email outreach@catchuk.org

Multi-Channel Marketing Apprentice with Althaus Digital

Are you passionate about social media, digital content and business growth? This company is all about helping clients build long-term wealth through strategic property investment.

We're offering a fantastic Digital Marketing Apprenticeship where you'll work closely with both an in-house team and outsourced marketing agency. This is a brilliant opportunity to learn how real marketing activity drives lead generation, sales, and long-term growth in a fast-moving industry. Throughout your apprenticeship, you'll receive full training and support as you work towards your **Level 3 Multi-Channel Marketer qualification**, with the potential to secure a permanent role after completion. Click here to find out more and to [apply](#).

Apprenticeships with EDF

If you're passionate about tackling climate change, EDF's Apprenticeship programmes offer an exciting opportunity to build a rewarding career while contributing to a more sustainable energy future. Their Apprenticeship opportunities will open for applications in January and February, but in the meantime, find out more about the programmes they offer [here](#).

Early Talent Academy

Not sure about your next steps after school or college? Not sure university is the right path for you? No problem.

The world is full of possibilities, and we want to make sure you know about them! Consider this your gateway to connect with well-established brands that are actively looking for fresh talent and the future of their business.

At the Early Talent Academy, you can explore industries, apprenticeship opportunities and resources that will help you realise and take the next steps of your career.

To find out more about apprenticeships and what they do, visit their [website](#)

MASTERCLASSES

So, You Want a Career in Social Work? Webinar with University of Portsmouth

Are you passionate about making a difference in people's lives? Curious about what it's really like to study social work? Join us for an engaging and informative webinar hosted by the University of Portsmouth.

Taking place Friday 16th January 4pm-5pm to find out more and enquire click [here](#).

Free Webinar: Law with University of Exeter

Our 'Discover University' platform provides information, advice and guidance aimed at prospective students. We host regular online conferences which take place on Monday evenings from 6pm-7pm. They are an opportunity for students to find out more about university, consider their options and to hear about specific courses.

To find out more and book a place click [here](#).

Pictures from Afghanistan: Are We Making the Same Mistakes: with Gresham College

This lecture explores the legal lessons Professor Stafford-Smith learned from visiting Afghanistan. He argues critical Western rhetoric betrays the country's liberal majority (80% of its population and leadership), drawing parallels to U.S. involvement in other drawn-out conflicts. He asks: what positives do we see in Afghanistan? What legal lessons should we learn from it, about how we can best support those who share our values? How can we create a world that upholds individual rights and the rule of law?

Thursday 15th January at 6pm, click [here](#) to join.

Why Do We Grieve: with Gresham College

Grieving is a uniquely human emotion – or is it? Is the apparent attachment of elephants or orcas to the bodies of dead relatives a sign of grief, or simply an instinctive behaviour without emotional implications? Why do some people seem able to handle grief so much better than others? And how close are we to finding a pharmaceutical 'cure' for grief...and if we find it, should we use it?

Wednesday 21st January at 6pm, click [here](#) to join.



A SPOTLIGHT

ON...

Roles in Pharmacy

A pharmacy career offers the chance to make a positive difference to people's lives and wellbeing, by providing care in a wide range of settings, often at the heart of communities.

As well as having an expert knowledge of medicines, and how they work to treat illnesses, you'll help people to stay well by supporting healthy lifestyles.

Being a pharmacy professional, is rewarding when you know you have helped a patient. But it is more than that. With ongoing training, you'll be able to progress, moving to more senior positions with a higher pay grade.

You'll also enjoy competitive salary, one of the most generous pension schemes in the UK, and discounts at shops, restaurants and more.

What is it like to work in Pharmacy?

A career in Pharmacy uses your people skills and scientific knowledge to make a real difference to people's lives. There are hundreds of career options and opportunities for even the most ambitious. There are thousands of pharmacy technicians and pharmacists registered to practice across the country; each with their own unique journey and career path. View testimonials [here](#).

Roles in Pharmacy

Pharmacist

Pharmacy Assistant/ medicines counter assistant

Pharmacy Technician

To find out more on these positions and what is required to be able to go down the pharmacy career path click [here](#).

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION



Access to Sheffield with University of Sheffield

The University of Sheffield runs the **Access to Sheffield programme** for Year 12 and 13 students, designed to give a real taste of university life and help with decisions about higher education. There are five subject pathways to choose from—Arts & Humanities, STEM, Medicine, Dentistry, and Law—each including workshops, campus visits, summer schools, and guidance with UCAS applications. All participants benefit from skills-building activities, optional mentoring from current undergraduates, and free access to online study resources. The programme is aimed at students who meet widening participation criteria (such as being the first in their family to attend university, receiving free school meals, or having experience of care) and who are on track to meet the academic requirements for their chosen pathway. Completing the programme can also lead to a reduced (“contextual”) offer for a place at the University of Sheffield.

More information can be found [here](#).

Bright Stars University Scholarship with Specsavers

Optometry is more than just glasses. It's detecting and diagnosing abnormalities and diseases using the latest technology. It's identifying problems with health – think high blood pressure and diabetes. Interested? If you are, you should see what Specsavers have on offer through their Bright Stars university scholarship.

All you need to do is register your interest after you've applied for an Optometry course at your chosen university, then you'll be invited to a selection event. If successful, you'll be matched with a local Specsavers practice where you can work part-time and learn more about Optometry.

Click [here](#) for more information.

PwC Flying Start Degree Programmes

The Flying Start degree programmes offer you the opportunity to start a career and gain a degree at the same time. Whether it's accounting or business management, you can earn a salary and fast-track your career while studying for your chosen subject. Whichever programme you choose, you'll work on a range of projects in a culture that embraces difference and encourages you to think imaginatively. At PwC, they want you to feel challenged, to grow and to thrive. You'll have the opportunity to make an impact, being the difference to clients from day one.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Student Experience: Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference 2026 with Universities UK

Join us for our annual conference on all things mental health and wellbeing on Thursday 26 February 2026. Take part in engaging plenaries, interactive sessions and networking opportunities.

Register now to either join us in-person in London or Online via livestream of the plenary sessions and select breakout sessions.

Taking place 26th February 2026 9:30am- 4:30pm to find out more and book your place click [here](#).

