



# PROFESSIONAL MENTORING SCHEME

## 2025/26

### About the scheme

The Professional Mentoring Scheme has been running in the Liverpool Law School since 2007, and is part of the School's ongoing commitment to student employability. We aim to assist students to develop skills, knowledge and personal attributes that will help them be successful in their future careers.

Law graduates face an increasingly competitive job market. To secure a career in the law or other area of work, we recognise that, in addition to gaining a good degree our graduates need to acquire a range of practical, professional and interpersonal skills that they will not necessarily obtain simply from attending classes. Professional mentors come from a wide range of organisations and individuals both within and outside the legal profession in and around Liverpool, the rest of the UK and overseas.

Within the legal profession, mentors have been drawn from local, regional and international firms of solicitors, barristers' chambers, lawyers employed in-house, in the public sector, and in the courts.

Outside of the law, professional mentors are drawn from the world of business and finance, as well as the third sector. Through email / phone / video calling, international as well as national and local mentors are able to participate in the scheme. In exchange, we are able to grant you access to the talent and knowledge of our student body - an invaluable asset to any future employer.

A testament of the success of the scheme is demonstrated by 100% of those who provided feedback on previous years' participation would recommend the scheme to fellow professionals.

### About the School

The Liverpool Law School, part of the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool, has a proud tradition and over a century's experience of inspiring and challenging its students to reach their potential.

Eminent scholars have served on its staff and former students include Judges at all levels, including former Lord Chancellor (1919-1922) Lord Birkenhead F.E Smith, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead (1956), and Dame Rose Heilbron (1935), the first woman to sit as a judge at the Old Bailey, in 1972.

Teaching is provided by experts in their respective fields of law, and students benefit from dedicated staff who maintain a high degree of professionalism, whilst relating to students on a personal level.

The School also enjoys an excellent reputation in research and believes that scholarship drives good teaching practice.

The School provides the foundations of a legal academic background through the combination of traditional teaching experience with modern methods of delivery and development of skills placing our graduates in an enviable position.

## Expectations

Any time and effort put in by mentors is always very gratefully received, but we feel there is a minimum expectation of input from mentors and mentees to ensure both parties are getting the most out of the scheme. Therefore, we would anticipate mentors to be able to commit to the following:

- Mentors will facilitate a minimum of two meetings with their student mentees (remotely by telephone or video calling) each term, amounting to at least six hours of mentoring over the course of the academic year.
- Typically, the mentor may offer advice and answer questions about the legal profession including what their job entails, opportunities within their organisation and industry, drafting a CV, completing job applications, interview and presentation techniques, networking skills and advice on further study if appropriate.
- There may also be the opportunity for the student to observe life in the mentor's office if reasonably practicable. This may include sitting in on meetings, attending court, reading through client files and accompanying the mentor to meetings with other professionals.
- The mentor may be able to assist in helping to arrange formal or informal placement or mini-pupillage depending on the policy of the organisation – please contact the University if you are able to offer this.
- Mentee's are to be fully engaged in the mentorship, ensuring professionalism and respect at all times.
- Mentee's must maintain confidentiality. Including any discussions with the mentor or any private information shared as part of the mentoring programme.

## Timeline for 2025/26

### Summer 2025

Industry professionals and students are invited to participate in the scheme for academic year 2025/2026.

### September / October 2025

Applications close for students.

### October – November 2025

Matching process – mentees matched to their mentor.

### November – December 2025

Students attend a briefing delivered by the University and are introduced to their mentor via email.

Meetings in the Autumn term may cover:

- Introductions and outlines by the mentor about what their job involves
- Introductions about the work and sector of the firm/organisation
- Guidance on a CV for the student
- Advice on applying for work experience

### January – June 2026

Meetings in the spring term may cover:

- Advice on dealing with clients
- Advice on commercial awareness
- Advice from the mentor's experience as a student – what they would like to have known
- How the student can maximise their employability and further advice on applying for legal and graduate jobs

## Testimonials

### Mentor

"I have enjoyed having the chance to help my mentees get a feel for the legal profession. I hope I have been able to allay some of their fears as to how difficult it will be to pursue their careers and I have enjoyed getting to know them and giving something back."

### Mentee

"I have gained some insight into the working lives of professional legal workers and I have gained real-life advice which is useful as it helps me understand what direction I want to veer my career and factors to consider. Also, I may have secured work experience which will further help me to understand the legal profession."



**If you would like further information or if you are interested in participating in the scheme as a Mentor, please get in touch.**

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