

We offer a vibrant and supportive working environment built upon our core values; we are approachable and responsive, we show respect for people, we are trustworthy and straightforward and we ensure that we deliver economic solutions for our clients. Our trainees experience early responsibility and client contact as we find that this produces excellent solicitors capable of running their own caseload once they qualify. We therefore recruit graduates who are confident, articulate and sociable, who are team players, self-aware and resourceful.



Trainee

Recruitment

Kennedys

Legal advice in black and white

Trainee Recruitment

Kennedys is recognised both nationally and internationally as a leading dispute resolution firm. We have 89 partners and directors, and over 500 staff worldwide. In the UK we have three offices in London, as well as offices in Chelmsford, Cambridge and Belfast. Overseas we have offices in Hong Kong, New Zealand, Dubai, Sydney and Madrid, as well as an active network of associate offices around the world.

We specialise in litigation and dispute resolution and our client base includes, but is not restricted to, the insurance, healthcare, construction and rail industries. In addition, we have an active company and commercial practice and a specialised local authority unit. We have developed a reputation for being professional yet approachable and unusually easy to work with. Perhaps the client quote that best encapsulates why Kennedys is different is: "they are calm, they smile, they're normal!"

Our people enjoy working here and we know that because they've told us. The atmosphere is friendly, supportive and trusting. After all we employ the best people so why shouldn't we trust them to get on with the job? It's not all work though. We're a sociable bunch and get together regularly as a firm for social events. We also understand that our staff work hard and deserve to have a life of their own. People come to work at Kennedys and are amazed because we really do have a work/life balance.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the structure of the training contract?

The two years are split into four seats of six months each. Trainees are asked for their preferences before each seat allocation and we will do our best to accommodate your preferences. You will be required to gain practical experience in at least three distinct areas of law and will be given the opportunity to develop skills in both contentious and non-contentious work. You may also be given the opportunity to work for one of our clients on secondment for up to six months.

How will I be managed and appraised?

During each seat you will be assigned a senior solicitor or partner who will act as your supervisor during your time in their team. They will be responsible for monitoring your progress and workload. At the end of each seat you will be appraised on your performance. There is also a feedback meeting for all trainees every February.

What formal training will I receive?

Our aim is to produce lawyers who are competent, confident and commercially driven. A balance of work experience, responsibility, supervision and formal training achieves this. In your first two weeks at Kennedys you will attend our in-house Professional Skills Course run by BPP after which you will receive a detailed induction on the firm. Throughout your training contract you will be given the opportunity to attend in-house and external training, seminars and lectures.

Will I be offered a position on qualification?

It is our intention to offer trainees a position on qualification – this is the goal we have in mind whenever we hire a trainee. By the middle of your third seat it is likely you will have a good idea of the team you would like to qualify into and you will be given the opportunity to apply to your preferred team.

How many trainee vacancies are there per year?

Approximately ten.

What is the starting salary?

Not less than £26,000 (London) in September 2007.

Where will I be based?

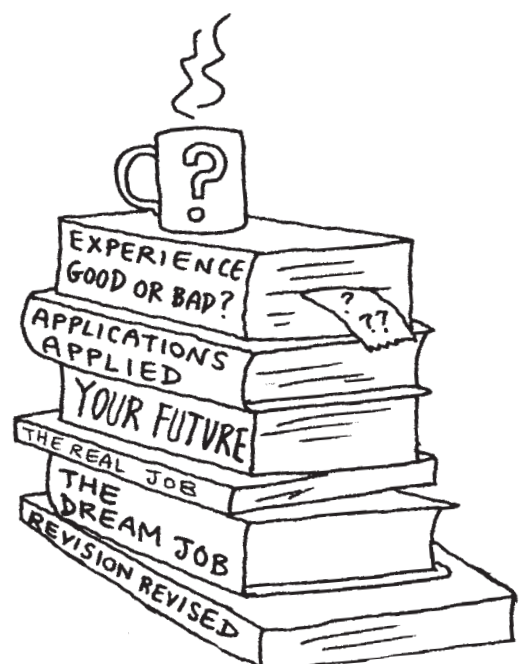
We recruit trainees either to our London, Cambridge or Chelmsford offices although the majority of our trainee posts are in London.

What are the minimum qualifications?

Our usual criteria are a 2.1 degree, not necessarily in Law, as well as 300 UCAS points or equivalent. For further clarification, please contact Sanem Hassan at s.hassan@kennedys-law.com.

How to apply?

Please visit www.kennedys-law.com/careers/graduates.aspx to find out more about our graduate programme and to apply online.





Hayley Overshott

1st year trainee
Studied Modern History at
St Andrews

“During my two interviews at Kennedys I was made to feel at ease and there were no trick questions. Everyone I met was extremely friendly and approachable, something that I have found to be representative of the firm as a whole. A good work life balance is important to me and I have found this to be excellent here. I am about to complete my first seat and I can honestly say that I enjoy being a trainee at Kennedys: it has been everything I expected it to be and certainly lived up to the firm’s literature. The work has been varied and stimulating with good exposure to clients. I have also been given a great level of responsibility but have never felt out of my depth.”



Christianne Protheroe

2nd year trainee
Studied Law at Cardiff University

“Kennedys is a real alternative to other City firms. I have received consistently high quality training and work here, whilst maintaining an enviable work-life balance (unlike my friends in other firms!). Trainees are stretched professionally and commercially. My first seat in Defendant Litigation was a real “baptism of fire” as I was given tremendous responsibility with some of my own cases to manage. Trainees here are valued by all team members and are definitely utilised as fee-earners rather than administrative assistants. My advice would be to relax and enjoy the application process, and above all, be yourself.”



Tammy McDermott

2nd year trainee
Studied Theology at
Durham University

“I found the application process really fair and liked the fact that one of the interviewers from the first interview also attended the second interview. It helped to put me at ease. Also the lunch at the second interview was fantastic and a great opportunity to get a real feel for the firm. The induction training was great and gave me a brilliant overall view of the firm thanks to the individual team explanations. Kennedys is exactly what I hoped it would be. Everyone is very friendly, with a great open door policy and I have been made to feel very welcome.”



Manraj Atwal

1st year trainee
Studied Law at Kings College
London

“My decision to apply to Kennedys was influenced by the firm’s diverse range of practice areas. Trainees have the opportunity to experience work in practice areas such as commercial, construction, insurance and personal injury. What I found most striking about the application process was how informal, relaxed and friendly it was. I immediately got the impression that the firm was particularly keen in getting to know me as a person and for me to learn about the firm. This is reflected by the fact that I was asked to prepare in advance a presentation on a topic of interest to me. The process also provided me with the opportunity to learn about the culture and values of the firm in order to ensure that I made the correct decision.”

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