

A guide to your training contract

# A Freshfields training contract offers

*responsibility*



Freshfields

## Your training contract

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You've done it! You've got a training contract with Freshfields. This is where your journey to becoming a qualified lawyer begins. Wondering what the next few years might look like? Follow the timeline from graduation to qualification to find out what you'll learn and experience along the way.



We're a firm that does market-leading,  
unique, transformational work and  
one that requires you to take

responsibility

for lots of different things  
on a daily basis.

**Nick Ames**  
Senior associate



[Read more online](#)





### October 2017

The firm gave me a grant of £7,250 to do my GDL

### October 2017

Met my cohort for a 'GDL Welcome'. On the train home I connect with them on Yammer so that we can keep in touch

### January 2018

I want to improve my Spanish, so the firm gave me a £500 grant to do so

### February 2019

I received another grant for £7k to help with my LPC studies at BPP Holborn

### January 2019

I'm moving to London for the LPC – can't wait to get started!

### August 2018

Off I go to South America for six months



### September 2019

Just finished departmental training. It was great to learn about the structure of a deal. I'm now ready to hit the ground running

### December 2019

I've moved to Dispute Resolution and got to work on an interesting bribery investigation

### February 2020

I've signed up for the hockey team – met loads of new people



### September 2020

Currently in Finance and they've asked me to go on the ski trip – can't wait!

### May 2020

Nine months in and I'm on the Eurostar heading to the Paris office – Bonjour!

### March 2020

Decided to do another three months in DR as I like it so much

# Our experience of a Freshfields training contract

Six Freshfields lawyers, at different stages of their career, describe their experiences and offer some words of advice.



**Gifty Okonkwo**  
Trainee

There's an amazing level of flexibility, and trainees get a wide and varied range of choice. We have the opportunity to experience many different areas of commercial law and can choose to spend more time in those we enjoy. Freshfields is a very open firm and there is a strong commitment to mentoring.



**Lucy Fallen**  
Trainee

In my first six months I worked on the biggest merger in UK history. To start as a trainee on the AB InBev-SABMiller deal was amazing. Freshfields is a great place to work: the work is stimulating and the people are great. Freshfields is a very supportive place. There is a lot of flexibility and support to allow you to have interests outside of work. And the training is the best you could ask for – it will set you up for life.



**John Hand**  
Associate

The prospect of deciding where to live in London was daunting. I emailed the trainee development team to ask for recommendations because I had no idea where to look. They were really helpful and gave me a list of some places.

In about six months, I had a much better idea of where other people were, what other areas of the city were like and where all the best bars and restaurants were.



Find out more online



**Nick Ames**  
Senior associate

I came into my training contract with a completely open mind and this really helped me get the most out of it. As the training contract progressed, my experience in a range of seats gave me a much clearer idea of what type of lawyer I wanted to be and ultimately where I wanted to qualify.

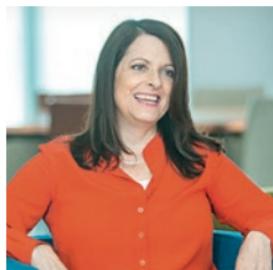
When I came here for the interview day and other recruitment events, it seemed an exciting environment and one which, crucially, I could actually see myself working in.



**Richard Thexton**  
Partner, Corporate

My advice to applicants is not to worry if you haven't done a law degree – these days, only about half of our trainees have.

I work closely with all of the trainees in my team and, as I'm the appraisal partner for a number of them, I have a pastoral role as well. Sometimes people just pop in and want to talk to me about qualification or where they should go next with their career, and I'm happy to provide that support.



**Flora McLean**  
Partner, Finance

We give trainees a lot of responsibility but it's definitely not a culture of having to be at your desk at all hours. My advice is to be enthusiastic; ask for work and get involved, so you can absorb and learn as much as possible.

# Application dates 2017/18

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## London training contract

### Winter

2 Oct 2017 – 4 Jan 2018

### Summer

1 June 2018 – 17 July 2018

## London/Asia training contract

2 Oct 2017 – 31 Jan 2018

## Vacation scheme

2 Oct 2017 – 4 Jan 2018

For more information  
about application eligibility,  
please see our website.

## Workshops

For details on our workshops  
and two-day programmes, see  
[freshfields.com/ukgraduates](http://freshfields.com/ukgraduates).

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