

A guide to giving a good interview

**A great
interview is**

about you



Freshfields

Successful interviews

If you've received your interview invitation, well done – you're already doing extremely well.

The next stage is to prepare for your half-day assessment at our London office. There will be two hour-long interviews, each conducted by two interviewers – usually a partner and an associate:

1. the general interview – a chance to tell us more about you and your skills; and
2. the analytical interview – an assessment of your 'business mind'. You'll read a press article and then discuss it with the interviewers.

In addition, as much of our client work involves writing, you'll complete a 45-minute written exercise. You'll do this before the first interview.

And, between the two interviews, you'll have a tour of the office with a trainee. They can answer your questions in a more informal setting.



People sometimes write about
Freshfields and what it has achieved.
During an interview we want to know

about you

You need to have done some deep thinking
about yourself and be quite self-aware.

Richard Thexton
Partner



[Read more online](#)

What should I do before the interview?

You won't know exactly what we're going to ask you about. But you can still prepare and do your research.

We're interested in hearing about your background and experience and in assessing things like your ability to argue, your eye for detail and how self-aware you are. So try to think of some examples of when you've worked in a team, dealt with a difficult individual or organised a project or event. Also, try to think of times when things didn't go well and what you did in response.

For the analytical interview, read articles from recent editions of the *Financial Times* or *The Economist*. These publications will help you understand the political, economic and financial developments that affect our clients.

You should also think about the sort of work that Freshfields does, what being a trainee at the firm would involve, and why you would be good for that role. Talking to current trainees or other people at open days or workshops is a great way of getting that inside track, but there is also lots of information available on freshfields.com and on other legal websites.

'I'd applied to other law firms, but after attending my interview and doing the vacation scheme, I felt that Freshfields' culture was the perfect fit.'

John Hand
Associate



Before the day of the interview

In the run-up to the interview, you should:

- plan what you're going to wear – we expect business attire;
- arrange how you're going to get to our Fleet Street office with time to spare – we provide a contribution towards travel expenses and overnight accommodation if necessary; and
- think of some questions to ask the interviewers.

If possible, practise by getting a friend or relation to ask you some typical interview questions.

An interview is a two-way street: an opportunity for you to assess the firm and for us to see if you have what we are looking for. So the main thing is to be yourself; be open and honest about what motivates you, about your strengths and weaknesses, about why you want to work here and about any concerns you may have. If you have questions about what we do or what working here is like, come prepared to ask them and we will do our best to answer.

What happens after the interview?

Once the interview is over,
feel proud of yourself.

You will hear the outcome after we have completed our interviewing season.

If you are successful, you will receive a call from one of your interviewers. The graduate recruitment team will then follow up with further details.

Don't be too downhearted if you're unsuccessful – interview technique is a skill that needs practice, so your time hasn't been wasted. And we'll give you feedback if you'd find it helpful.



What should I do during the interview?

The two interviews are for you to prove to us that you have the potential to become a top commercial lawyer.

The general interview

When you introduce yourself to your interviewers, you want to appear (and feel) confident, so take a deep breath, shake their hands, look them in the eye and smile.

Try to relax.

If you're unable to answer a question, say so. They're not trying to trick you.

Make notes if you want – and ask questions that you've prepared or have thought of during the interview.

The analytical interview

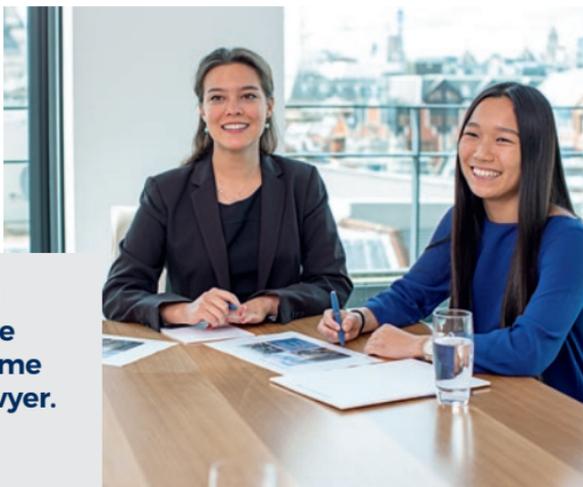
You will have 20 minutes to read an article, possibly from the *Financial Times* or *The Economist*.

We'll then ask you questions about what you've read.

These will test your:

- understanding of the business and legal world; and
- ability to take a position on an issue.

Tell us about you and show us that you have what it takes to become a top commercial lawyer.



Application dates 2017/18

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.

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