

Slide 1: Addleshaw Goddard: Who Are We?

AG and HBJ Gateley merger

International Business Law Firm

Offices in Scotland, England, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong

Slide 2: Clients:

BP, Aviva, Columbia Threadneedle Investments, Sainsburys Argos, Muse Developments, Britvic, Siemens, Legal Technology, Mitsubishi Motors, SGN natural gas, National Grid

Energy & Utilities/ Real Estate/ Industrials/ Retail & Consumer

Being part of international firm offers a huge range of opportunities. We are a global client Bank, working with colleagues across world in a massive range of fields (from sewage processing to designer handbags)

Slide 3: Different Roles at the firm:

- ▶ Apprenticeships
- ▶ Paralegals
- ▶ Trainee solicitors
- ▶ Solicitors
- ▶ IT specialists
- ▶ Financial roles
- ▶ Marketing and Business Development

Opportunities for travel (local and international) are there if you want it; we have colleagues who have either been seconded or transferred to Hong Kong and Dubai offices.

There is so much variety in the types of jobs available (you don't have to be a lawyer to work for a law firm), the types of law (eg litigation v drafting corporate documents), the types of client, and the field of knowledge.

Slide 4: What is a Paralegal?

"A Paralegal is a person qualified through education and training to perform substantive legal work that requires knowledge of the law and procedures but who is not a qualified solicitor, barrister or chartered legal executive"

There is never a dull moment. There are some times of pressure / deadlines / heavy workload, but we enjoy getting stuck in and solving clients' problems.

Slide 5: My career path:

My journey to Law... speaker 1

Work Experience

Scottish Highers

LLB in Law in England (3 years vs 4 years in Scotland)

Diploma in Professional Legal Practice

2 years work experience as a paralegal

Paralegal in the real estate department at the Firm's Edinburgh office

English and Scottish law needs different qualifications; you can avoid 4 years of English tuition fees by doing Scottish Law at a Scottish University, then only having to pay one year of fees to convert to English Law at the end.

It is also possible to do an English law qualification in Scotland (e.g. Dundee offer English LLB, and Strathclyde offer a dual Scottish / English qualification, but demand is high for only a few places).

You don't need to be an academic superstar, different Universities have different entry criteria, but there is also the option to join as school leaver and work your way up.

My journey to Law... speaker 2

I did not get the Higher results I needed for University.

I applied for a Business Apprenticeship through QA Apprenticeships

I wanted to continue working and moved towards the legal profession

The firm sponsored me through the Central Law Training's Paralegal programme

Graduated from Strathclyde University October 2018 as a Specialist Paralegal

I was surprised by poor results in my Highers, but I applied for a legal apprenticeship through QA Training; I didn't even know which firm was hiring, and the application process was rigorous, but I landed a trainee role at HBJ Gately (later taken over by AG); you have to study as well as doing full time job, but you're earning while you're learning (rather than accumulating student debt) ; after qualifying through apprenticeship, the firm offered me a job, and I made the case for studying to become a qualified Paralegal - which the company supported me through (more earning while learning!), and I have now completed this and have been offered permanent role as Paralegal

- so if you don't get the results you wanted, don't lose heart - there are other routes to success than a Uni degree.

Any Questions:

Work Experience?

Law firms offer opportunities for work experience (a few days or a week); students should absolutely seek these out if considering a career with a law firm - not only are they useful in helping you determine whether you are making the right career choice, but they are VERY HELPFUL when it comes to applying for University places.

Law



Again, seek work experience for apprenticeships, and jobs - a firm will look very favourably on a student who has taken the time and effort to gain relevant work experience.

Other Advice?

One thing to consider is doing a second language, it opens up additional doors when it comes to the world of work (many firms operate in many countries, so having a second language can be a big help); it also opens up the chance to go for joint degrees in law and a language; I had a colleague who studied Law / German, and was able to spend a year in Germany working in a German law firm.

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