



DENTONS

ONE OF US.

CHALLENGERS.

ACCEPTED.

challengers.dentons.com

DENTONS.

PATHWAYS INTO LAW.

We are Dentons

The world's largest global law firm. That's 12,500+ lawyers working across 200+ locations in over 80 countries. Over 600 of us work in the UK. That's just the numbers though, each one of us brings something unique to the table and you could too. With size comes diversity, and that's one strength we'll always play to.

So if you're an individual with talents, perspective and experience of your own, we'd love to hear from you. After all, it's building a rich culture of challengers that allows us to say...

Pathways to law

There are two main pathways into commercial law: the Solicitor Apprenticeship and the Trainee Solicitor Programme. Both routes take six years to complete and share some similarities.

The key difference is whether you wish to continue full-time university education, or begin working towards becoming a commercial solicitor straight after finishing school.

Please see overleaf for a comparison of these two pathways after completing your A Levels.

WE ARE THE FUTURE OF LAW.

What is commercial law?

Commercial law is a broad area of law that covers the work City law firms do. At Dentons, our lawyers work on deals and provide a full service to commercial clients across the below practice areas (departments).

- Banking & Finance
- Competition
- Corporate
- Dispute Resolution
- Projects
- People, Reward and Mobility
- Real Estate
- Tax
- Technology Media & Telecommunications.

Experience Dentons

Our award-winning virtual work experience programme contains 5 days' worth of work and insider information on the firm, as well as a closer look at the skills that make a successful commercial lawyer.

As you progress through the virtual programme, you will complete work related to each of our key practice areas, honing both your technical and commercial skills.

There is no application process or deadline for Experience Dentons. Simply visit challengers.dentons.com and get started straight away!

PATHWAYS INTO LAW.

Complete A Levels

The Solicitor Apprenticeship

STEP 1. SECURING THE SOLICITOR APPRENTICESHIP.

University is not the right path for everyone, and that is perfectly fine. Our Solicitor Apprenticeship allows you to work towards your Law degree while gaining practical experience on the job—without accumulating student debt or taking out large loans. It is an excellent opportunity to learn and build your career from the outset.

This opportunity is intended for school leavers who have not yet started an undergraduate degree.

STEP 2. WORK AND LEARN.

While on our apprenticeship you'll work four days a week in the office.

Throughout the six years you will work in eight different practice areas (departments), so you can develop a wide range of skills and decide what you would like to specialise in.

STEP 3. LAW DEGREE + SQE.

During the apprenticeship you will also spend one day a week studying. You'll take part in workshops and seminars and complete various assessments across the six years, all working towards completing your Law degree.

You will also study for and pass your legal qualification exams, 'the SQE' (Solicitors Qualifying Examination). This will take place during the last two years of your Solicitor Apprenticeship.

The Trainee Solicitor Programme

STEP 1. THE TRAINEE SOLICITOR PROGRAMME.

If you choose to attend university full time, you can study law or any other subject that interests you.

Our Trainee Solicitor Programme is aimed at university students in their penultimate year or later.

We recommend applying for our Vacation Scheme first, which gives you the opportunity to spend two weeks at the firm, combining real work experience with training and networking opportunities.

STEP 2. LEGAL EXAMS: THE SQE.

The SQE is a set of legal exams you will need to complete to become a qualified solicitor in England & Wales.

On this route you will take a year to prepare for and sit these exams, before joining Dentons.

If your degree is not a qualifying law degree, you will need to complete a Law Conversion Course (the PGDL) before starting the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE).

If you secure an offer for our Trainee Solicitor Programme prior to starting the SQE, Dentons would cover the fees and provide you with a maintenance grant.

STEP 3. QUALIFYING WORK EXPERIENCE (QWE).

Once you have completed your degree and the SQE, you once you have completed your degree and SQE you will start your two year qualifying work experience (QWE) with the firm. You will rotate between four departments, working full time for the firm. This is what we called, our Trainee Solicitor Programme.

STEP 4. QUALIFICATION.

At the end of both the Trainee Solicitor Programme and the Apprenticeship you will be signed off as a Qualified Solicitor! You will have passed both your degree and the SQE (legal exams), and be ready to take the next step on your career journey.

Solicitor Apprenticeship Key dates

If you are a school leaver ready to kickstart your legal career, applications for our 2026 Solicitor Apprenticeships will open on 27 October 2025 and close on 21 December 2025. We will be recruiting for both our London and Milton Keynes offices.

Our recruitment process consists of the following stages: Application Form > Legal High Potential Assessment > Video Interview > Assessment Centre.

Dentons has welcomed nine cohorts of Solicitor Apprentices over the years, and we are now recruiting for our tenth cohort who will start with the firm in **September 2026**. We are pioneers in this space as one of the first firms to introduce a Solicitor Apprenticeship in 2017, and we have proudly seen two cohorts of Solicitor Apprentices qualify through the route since 2023. Since the start of our programme, we have welcomed 33 school leavers, and positioned ourselves as one of the leaders in the UK legal market with one of the largest cohorts.

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CSBrand-84165-School Leavers Flyer-17 — 20/08/2025

Useful links

INSTAGRAM.

Follow [@dentonsearlycareersuk](https://www.instagram.com/dentonsearlycareersuk) for apprentice and trainee Q&As, office spotlights, application guidance and more!

EMAIL.

If you have any questions, please let us know at earlycareers@dentons.com

WEBSITE.

Visit challengers.dentons.com for further information on our opportunities. Have a look at our FAQs and get started on Experience Dentons.

DENTONS.NEXT TALENT.



Scan the QR code to join our Dentons.Next Talent network and gain exclusive access to a range of resources, webinars and updates on our upcoming opportunities.