



Q. What is your job title?

A. Trainee Solicitor

Q. Briefly explain what your job entails.

A. My job entails attending meetings with clients, assisting other lawyers with drafting a variety of legal documents, undertaking legal research, managing projects, presenting seminars and attending a variety of training seminars and networking events.

Q. What was your study route (Further Education, Higher Education, professional qualifications)?

- GCSEs and A-levels at Elizabeth College (2003 – 2010)
- Law degree at Bristol University (2010 – 2013) – graduated with first class honours
- Worked as a paralegal in the Commercial Department at Collas Crill for one year after graduating during which I was offered a training contract to train and qualify as a solicitor (2013 – 2014)
- Legal Practice Course at BPP University (2014 – 2015)
- Started my training contract at Collas Crill in September 2015 (to present) (I will qualify as a solicitor in September 2017)

Q. What were your favourite subjects at school and do you think they have helped in your chosen career? Are there any other subjects that have helped you?

A. At school, my favourite subject was English Literature and I also enjoyed Economics and Maths.

Studying English Literature, without a doubt, helped develop my analytical skills, attention to detail, ability to interpret language and enhance my general writing and grammar skills – all of which are key to my career.

Studying Economics was definitely a good starting ground for me being able to start understanding all the jargon I was hearing on the news or reading in the business sections of newspapers when it came to preparing for tutorials at university and job interviews. I think that having an awareness of how global markets work and micro and macro economics generally is extremely beneficial to anyone thinking about a career in the finance industry (or any business for that matter).

Maths, whether you love it or hate it, is relevant to probably every career you can think of. Having a good understanding of maths and a decent level of mathematical ability means that I am able to feel more confident about my calculations at times when the numbers really matter.

Q. What do you like best about your job?

A. Two things: (1) the variety of work; and (2) problem solving.

As a trainee I will spend 6 months in each of the Dispute Resolution, Fiduciary, Commercial and UK Property departments.

It is very satisfying to be able to analyse a client's problem (however complex) and provide them with a solution that will add value to their business or personal life. No two problems are ever the same and the intellectual challenge of working through the differences and tailoring a solution to remedy a particular problem is something I really enjoy.

Q. Do you have the opportunity to study through your work? If so, what are you/have you been studying/studied?

A. Collas Crill do offer the opportunity to study courses part-time whilst working full-time, but this is not a path I have decided to / needed to take.

Q. Would you recommend a career in the finance industry in Guernsey to young people, and why?

A. Yes. The Guernsey finance industry offers a lot more than what young people probably realise.

Many of the firms which make up the Guernsey finance industry are global leaders in their fields. This means there is always opportunity to work on large scale global matters with interesting clients (something which is often seen to be an attraction to the City) and the level of training received is second to none. In fact, in my opinion, starting a career in the Guernsey office of an international firm can often mean that you are given more responsibility sooner and have closer working relationships with managers, directors, partners etc.

Aside from the work itself, the Guernsey finance industry (at least in my experience) is made up of friendly, down-to-earth people, which makes working together more enjoyable. Also, the fact that you can meet up with friends for a drink or head down the beach within about 10 minutes of leaving the office is pretty good too.

Q. What is your advice to school leavers?

A. Get as much work experience as you can and in a variety of areas; don't just get work experience in what you think you'll enjoy. My studies guided me towards a career in law and so I

did work experience in small barristers' chambers as well as big City law firms; but I also spent time at fund administrators, trust administrators, banks and businesses not in the finance sector at all (I worked at a local garage and as a magician). The job market seems to be more competitive than ever and so take up every opportunity of work experience you can get.