Mentoring and Careers

Career Options Event

The variety and scope of the careers that CCLS students and alumni enter into is always amazing. Each student here has their own unique combination of knowledge, experience, skills and attributes, and they come from all over the globe. This is reflected in their careers. Many go on to successful careers practising law, but a large number use their legal background as a jumping off point to branch into new roles and sectors. In celebration of this, and to expand former PG Law students' career thinking, the Professional Development team ran a two-panel Careers Options event earlier this year.

15 panellists, almost all CCLS alumni, shared their stories and insights with current students. It was like a treasure chest of the different rich and varied careers that are available to students with a legal background. The alumni who attended were eager to provide their insights and gave honest accounts of the positive aspects of their jobs and the challenges many face. All conveyed their satisfaction with the choices they made and the future prospects of their careers. These talks were especially motivating for the students who were able to meet the speakers and ask questions in the networking session afterwards.

The students greatly appreciated the chance to question alumni working in organisations such as the EBRD, PwC, Goldman Sachs and The Intellectual Property Office, and to find out about roles they hadn't previously considered - from risk management to policy to private banking. As for the panellists:

> "I wish they had held an event like this when I was here. It took me a while to realise there were so many other opportunities where I could use my legal skills and knowledge."
>
> **Former PG Law Student**

Alumni are the best role models for our students and we are always expanding our programme. So whether you are in an "alternative career" or practising law, in the UK or overseas, we would love to have you share your personal career path with current students. **Please contact pglawpdteam@qmul.ac.uk for further details.**

> "It was great to be there. Beyond the pleasure of helping students, I met some interesting professionals and, to be honest, potential clients so it worked both ways in the end."
>
> **Career Options Event Speaker**



www.ccls.qmul.ac.uk **For further information, to update your contact details or to contribute an article to the Bulletin please email us at ccls-alumni@qmul.ac.uk or call the CCLS Alumni Office on 020 7882 8659.**



PG Law Mentoring 2018 - The Mentor's View.

Our Mentoring Programme has just had its third successful year. In the academic year 2017/18, almost 78 LLM and PhD students successfully paired up with a mentor. The vast majority of mentees benefitted from the experience, and nearly 45% reported having acquired new skills, which greatly increased their confidence.

One of our new alumni mentors, Janice Acquaah, 2006 LLM graduate, specialises in Banking and Finance. She has held various roles with the Regulatory Compliance sector since graduation, mainly in Financial Regulation. She is currently the Policy, Governance and Regulatory Relations Manager for a foreign bank in London.

Janice met her mentee Layla at the annual PG Law Mentoring launch in January 2018. Following 6 months of mentoring, she now reflects on this past cycle as an eye-opening experience. Realising that mentors have a lot to give back - they inspire others to achieve and can act as great catalysts to take students' careers to the next level - she will mentor again in 2019.

Besides discussing professional goals and future career paths, Janice has been more than willing to share her experiences with Layla, to give her a realistic picture of what it is like to break into the legal market in London. For Layla, mentoring was a unique opportunity.





How you can help!

We are looking for experienced professionals at various stages of their careers who can mentor a current student for up to six months. If you would like to become a CCLS mentor, **please contact Jacqueline Steinmetz, Mentoring Co-ordinator, at j.steinmetz@qmul.ac.uk for more information.**

"My mentor helped me very much by motivating me to keep applying for jobs and giving me advice on CV and application questions. She has been most supportive. With her help I achieved a work placement at an accountancy firm and I have been much more motivated to continue applications and keep my options open."

Graduate Layla AlAlawi, General LLM 2018

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