

aspiringsolicitors
foundation

Making a difference



Edition 5

Profile of our applicants (January – December 2021)

89%

Attended a
state (non-selective)
secondary school

82%

First generation
of family to attend
University

62%

Eligible to receive
free school meals aged
11–16 due to financial
limitations

55%

In paid
employment for 10+
hours per week during
their undergraduate
degree

“Being from a low-income background, I was disadvantaged at the very start. I wanted to change that by pursuing a law degree. This grant has given me the opportunity to be able to have the same opportunities as everyone else – To be able to be professionally clothed thus helping to boost future employment.”

Noor, Aston University

SMART
WORKS

“We believe that all students, regardless of their backgrounds and personal circumstances, should be given the same opportunities to thrive in their law careers. We are proud to work in partnership with The AS Foundation to ensure students feel confident and look and feel their best for their interviews or placements.”

Joanne Penn-Crossland, Manager, Smart Works Birmingham

“The AS Foundation’s part-funded BPP scholarship has been a blessing and will undoubtedly aid me in my legal studies. With the AS Foundation’s help, I can direct my attention on my course without having to worry about how to finance it. This will certainly make me a better legal practitioner and I hope one day to return the favour through my work and by supporting others.”

Tamika, Durham University (undergraduate), BPP (postgraduate)



BPP
UNIVERSITY
LAW SCHOOL

“Breaking into the legal profession is not always possible for those from low-income backgrounds. That’s why the AS Foundation helps committed, driven and talented individuals who aspire to be solicitors by removing financial barriers and providing equal access to opportunities.”

BPP University



My name is Alex. I received my bachelors in Astrophysics at UCL and I am now studying the PGDL conversion course at BPP Law School.

I loved studying a pure science, but I did not particularly enjoy the careers that were on offer to me. Considering my skillset and experiences, I chose to convert to law after discovering that it was the perfect blend of what I loved to do and what I was good at. However, I did not have the means to fully fund the course.

The AS Foundation's BPP Scholarship has allowed me to pay the rest of my fees so I could concentrate on building my career and studying, instead of worrying about paying tuition fees. I truly thank them for their support as this is a huge help to my career and mental state.

“The AS Foundation business clothing grant has helped me immensely when it has come to applying for work experience and attending legal networking events. I no longer feel like an imposter or as though I don’t fit in because I have the same attire as everyone else, and this has encouraged me to apply for more opportunities. I am eternally grateful for the AS Foundation.”

Hasan, University of Huddersfield

“I have always known I wanted to be a lawyer, and I chose to first study Philosophy and Theology in order to gain skills in analytical reasoning, critical thinking and structuring arguments, which I knew would be valuable to my legal career. After finishing my postgraduate degree, I was ready to embark on my transition into the legal profession but was unable to fund my law conversion. The AS Foundation has helped to dissolve the financial barrier to my pursuance of a career in law. The scholarship has allowed me to take a full-time law conversion and to focus my attention on doing justice to my studies.”

Student, BPP University

“As for me, the laptop grant from the AS Foundation means that I don’t need to share a PC device with my siblings. This has given me the freedom to focus on my work and increase my productivity levels. I am incredibly appreciative to the AS Foundation for providing this opportunity, removing a financial barrier, and assisting me in my pursuit of a legal career.”

Aiya, University of Sussex

“I am very grateful for the grant of a laptop which was provided by AS Foundation. This has helped me substantially with my studies and I intend to use my laptop for my future career as a solicitor and beyond, where I aim to achieve a position of a higher capacity within a law firm. Thank you AS Foundation for making this a possibility and I will certainly provide further feedback when I succeed!”

Nazreen, University of Derby

“It was really reassuring to know I would not have to sacrifice necessities in order to buy textbooks. Being granted these from the AS Foundation was incredibly helpful. I can now work on obtaining the highest marks that I can.”

Tamzin, University of Sussex

“The AS Foundations scholarship has been very helpful in reducing the financial stress I was under during term time, by covering the course fees my postgraduate loan won’t cover. I was able to decrease the number of shifts I was working. This has been especially invaluable during exam season as I’ve had time to focus on my studies and graduate scheme applications with confidence.”

Hatice, BPP University

“I am a care leaver from a low-income household, I attended a state funded school and was eligible for free school meals. I achieved a first for my undergraduate degree and am about to undertake a conversion master’s course at the University of Law. However, my student loan only covers the course and I have nothing left over to support my rent and living costs. The AS Foundation helped me relieve some financial worry by granting me a laptop to use for my course. I wish to be a solicitor to give free legal aid to charities and disadvantaged people to continue to give back to the community.”

Victoria, University of Hull

“I am a third-year university student studying law at the University of Aberdeen. I also volunteer as a Representation Advisor at the Aberdeen Law Project.

I come from a working-class background, and I am the first in my family to attend university. Having been lucky enough to be selected to participate in a weeks’ work experience during my last year of high school at an international law firm, I realised I wished to pursue a career in law. The AS Foundation has assisted in this pursuit by supplying me with a new laptop to replace my broken one. This meant I could continue to efficiently complete my university work while also filling out applications for vacation schemes.”

Steven, University of Aberdeen



I am Arta, a second-year law student at the University of Exeter. I am a state-educated, first-generation student from London. My motivation for pursuing a career in law stemmed from undertaking legal work experience at a commercial law firm during my A-levels.

During my first year studying law, my laptop would randomly stop working, and this would prolong the time I spent on assessments and exams. Money was tight, so purchasing a new laptop was not possible. However, I knew that the requirement of a new laptop would aid me in my law degree.

Receiving a laptop from the AS Foundation has allowed me to write applications to law firms for their vacation schemes. I can also spend less time on assessments and exams as this laptop doesn't crash. This has freed up my time and allowed me to worry less about my laptop not working and needing to save my document every five minutes.

The AS Foundation is breaking financial barriers that students such as myself face. It is fantastic that I have been supported by the AS Foundation and I urge students in a similar position to apply for financial support.

A&L Goodbody

Akin Gump
STRAUSS HAUER & FELD

ALLEN & OVERY

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bp

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LEIGHTON
PAISNER

BARCLAYS

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THE BURNSIDE
PARTNERSHIP

C/M/S'
Law. Tax

Cooley

Dechert
LLP

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HERBERT
SMITH
FREEHILLS

HFw

Linklaters

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MAYER | BROWN

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT

orrick

Pinsent Masons

ROOK • •
• • IRWIN
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& HANBURY

Skadden
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (US) LLP

SHOO SMITHS

+simmons
simmons

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TRIVERS
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“Removing financial barriers to the
legal profession for aspiring solicitors.”

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