

Making a Difference

Edition 7



aspiringsolicitors
foundation



Introduction

Welcome to the Spring 2023 edition of the AS Foundation's 'Making a Difference' report. In this edition, we will be measuring the impact of our grants by exploring the number of grants given and the types of difficulties faced by our beneficiaries. Importantly, we will also be highlighting the direct impact of the work we do on our beneficiaries in our personal testimonial pages. We also have highlights on our partnership with 'WeWork' last winter and the fundraising event hosted by Akin in April.

We believe that everyone, no matter their background, should have the means and access to enter the legal profession. According to the Solicitors Regulations Authority (SRA) in 2021, the national percentage of people from a lower socio-economic background is 37% when looking at the percentage of solicitors from lower socio-economic backgrounds, this is only 17%. This is far too low to be considered representative.

The AS Foundation are proud to continue to support individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds access the legal profession. By providing financial assistance to support aspiring solicitors in their studies, we are dedicated to ensuring they are able reach their legal ambitions, thus improving social mobility within the field of law, making it more diverse and representative.

The AS Foundation is incredibly pleased to be able to continue to work with our founders, our ongoing supporters and our newer supporters. Thank you to all. We support those entering the legal world to access appropriate work experience and support with their studies, which not only helps them realise their long-held career ambitions, but also enhances the workforce of commercial law firms across the UK.

Our vision

Financial barriers will no longer impact aspiring solicitors seeking to enter the legal profession in the U.K.

Our mission

We aim to remove financial barriers to entering the legal profession for aspiring solicitors. We do this by providing financial assistance to those who need it most.

Our impact from January to April 2023

113

Applications received

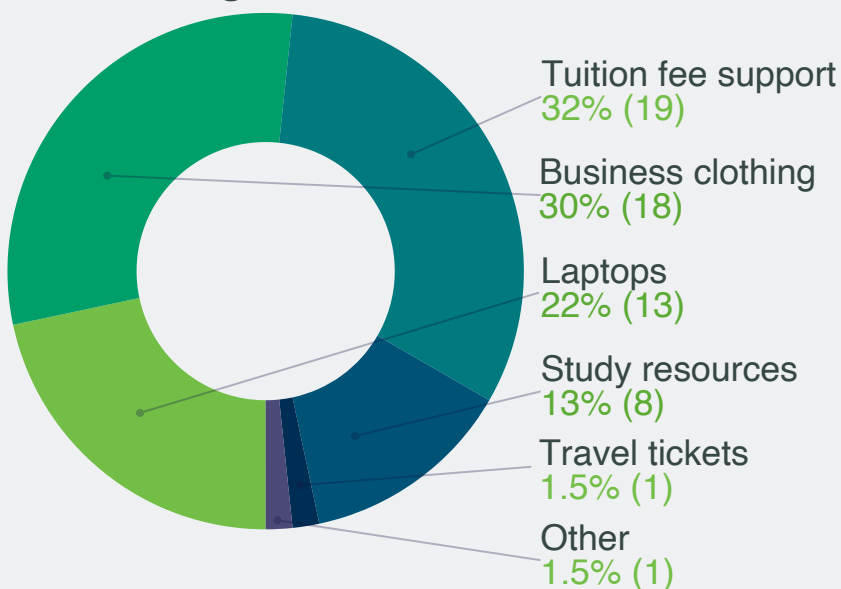
60

Awards granted

£1,042

Average grant value

Our grants



Our applicants

We receive applications from across the UK and include wide variety of backgrounds and geographies.

This map shows the approximate locations of our beneficiaries so far this year.



Tuition fee grants per institution

19 AS Foundation grant recipients were supported to attend three esteemed law institutions in the UK.



7 Applicants



3 Applicants



5 Applicants



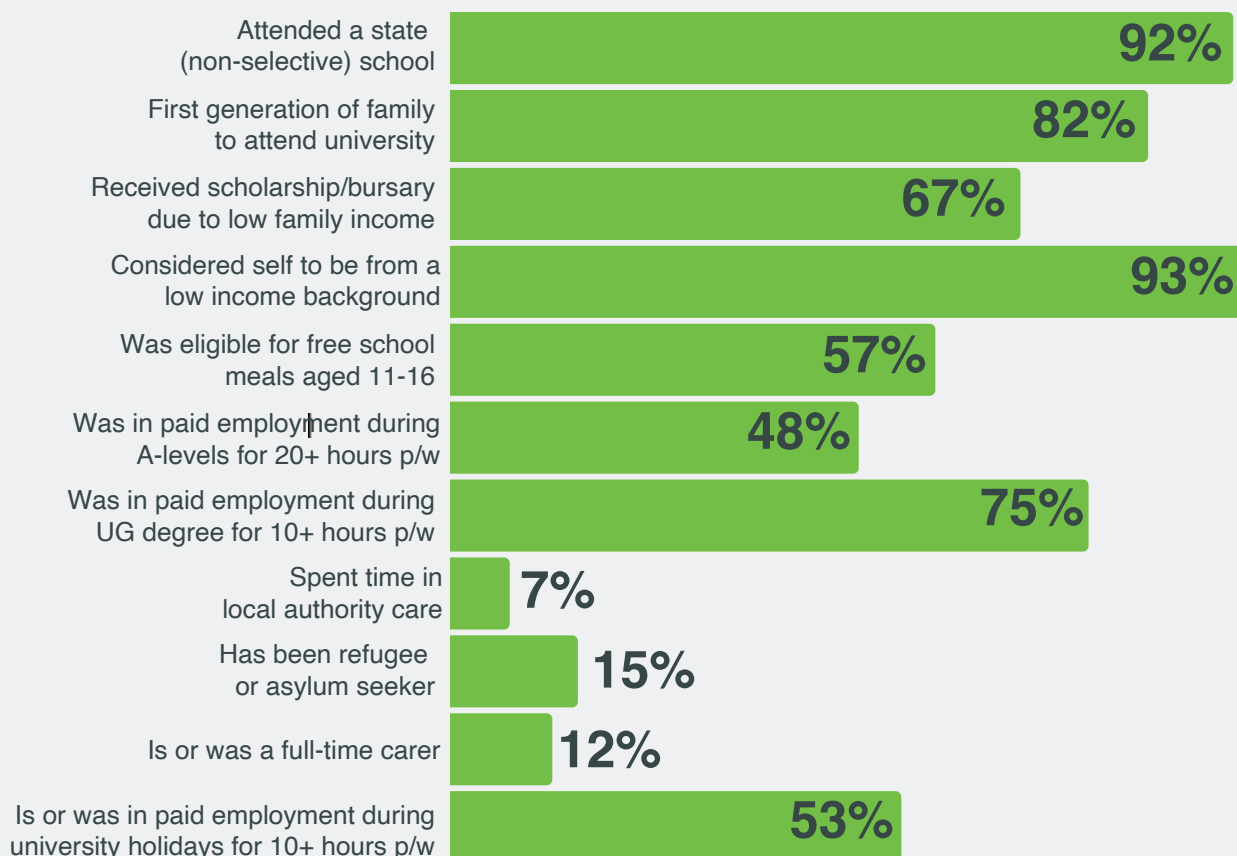
2 Applicants

2 Applicants awaiting confirmation

Our impact in 2023 so far...

Our grant application process assesses applicants on a wide range of accepted social mobility indicators, ensuring that our support goes to the right people.

Our successful applicants



Total % of approved applicants from January to April 2023



This has allowed me to be able to pursue a career as a solicitor as I had very much wanted...without your help, there is absolutely no way that I would have been able to find the difference between the cost of doing the LPC, and the maximum loan permitted from SFE. I cannot express my gratitude enough.

Hayley, ASF Grant Recipient

WeWork X AS Foundation Partnership

Last winter, we partnered with WeWork to provide some of our beneficiaries with discount codes that would give them up to 6 bookings to be able to study in a WeWork space over the following 12 months. We knew that in the current cost-of-living crisis, having a warm safe place to study could be a challenge therefore we are delighted this timely partnership has allowed us to offer this to our grant recipients. When asked how they found the opportunity, they responded with the following...



“I have found (WeWork) to be very useful. I enjoy going to the WeWork space because my house is quite noisy and I live opposite a school so it’s never really quiet and I often lose focus so having the opportunity to study elsewhere is useful....Also, the fact that I can book space is much better than going to the library because I am guaranteed a space to study...It helps me focus and get things done without disruptions. I am more comfortable going here than to my local library.

- Tamia

Grant Recipient, April 2022



“I am looking forward to using the other codes around exam period time. I have found the space very beneficial as it is a great quiet place to study and revise.

- Mariam

Grant Recipient, December 2022

We are very pleased to have been able to offer this opportunity to a limited number of our beneficiaries as it’s clear that the space is incredibly valuable in order to study in comfort and without disruption. It has allowed beneficiaries to have a space to focus solely on their studying, an opportunity that may not have been accessible before.

wework

Akin Fundraising Event

We are delighted to report that Akin, one of our longstanding and committed supporters hosted a fundraising event for us in April 2023. This event raised in total £10,000 for the AS Foundation via generous donations from employees and alumni of Akin. The evening was an enormous success, made only better by four of our brilliant beneficiaries attending the event to say for themselves just how impactful their grant was on their future careers and financial stresses. This event allowed the AS Foundation to showcase some of the important work we do, whilst raising valuable funds to continue to provide grants to those who need them.



The event was a huge success and it was an honour to be able to share the impact the ASF has had on me. I cannot thank the AS Foundation enough for the continued support, in addition to the financial support, the foundation have allowed me to feel believed in and that my goals are within reach.

- Kiera

Grant recipient and Attendee

Akin SM

Who we have supported

Nicole

Nicole is currently studying the LPC LLM at The University of Law.

Nicole received a grant from the AS Foundation for business clothing.

"Receiving a grant from the AS Foundation was not only helpful practically, but it was emotionally helpful. I have had a real struggle gaining funding in even studying for the LPC, as options seem limited for those who struggle financially. I felt as though I was never going to be able to follow my dream, so the helpfulness and support from the amazing staff at the AS Foundation really boosted my hopes for my future.

The grant itself has allowed me to feel confident in myself when attending interviews or completing role play assessments for the LPC, such as advising a 'client'.

(For the future) ...I am still unsure of the area of law I would like to qualify in. At the moment, I simply want to do well in my LPC LLM and be offered a training contract with a firm that values their employees and supports them with their training into qualification, and one-day partnership.

The people at AS Foundation have always been professional and kind. They could not have been more helpful and if you are struggling, there is no shame in getting help. I used to feel this way, but the people at ASF made me feel the opposite and made me feel like they truly wanted to help me in any way that they could.



Who we have supported

Anthony

Anthony is currently studying at Northumbria University.

They received two grants from the AS Foundation one to purchase business professional clothing and more recently, a subscription to keep up to date with legal news.

"As a formerly homeless person, I feel acutely out of place in commercial law environments...the first day of my work experience at a commercial law firm, (my jacket ripped at the seams... it undermined my confidence and reminded me that I didn't belong. The suit that (the AS Foundation) purchased for me totally removed that barrier...the suit also removed another mental barrier, as I felt empowered that an organisation believed in me....and my ability to secure a training contract at a commercial law firm. The grant gave me the confidence to attend commercial law firms free from the previous anxiety about my work wear.

The FT subscription allowed me to stay on top of the commercial news and set alerts on my phone. I was able to...stay abreast of developments in the commercial world that could affect my future legal practice. It was very useful in my TC interview, to be able to speak confidently about these issues and demonstrate my commercial awareness...and allowed me to develop a habit which would be materially beneficial in my TC interview and vac scheme.

I graduate officially in July 2023. I will then start a training contract at a commercial law firm in September 2023. As I have caring responsibilities for my grandfather, I could not leave the region...and have therefore joined a commercial firm in Newcastle. I love the region but I am also very ambitious and motivated. I may find myself in London in the future.

“They’ say you can’t go from the regions to the City, but I wonder what ‘they’ think of a homeless person going to university unsupported through his late 20's and early 30's, securing a TC at the only firm he applied to while caring for his grandfather, working three jobs and chairing the North East Junior Lawyers Division. As the ASF proves, such barriers are there to be broken

”

Who we have supported

I am so grateful for this charity. You have made such positive impacts on my legal journey.

- La'Shaunna, Grant Recipient

The (application) process is very clear and straightforward....The ASF can take some of the pressure off. Going through law school, applying for TCs and balancing all of your other commitments is extremely challenging, especially when you don't have the financial advantages of many of your peers. I don't think most people realise how much catching up needs to be done, culturally as much as anything else, when you're working class.

- Anthony, Grant Recipient

I am just writing to thank you abundantly for all your help in allowing me to get to my vac schemes by funding my train tickets. I'm pleased to confirm that I was offered a TC from both Addleshaw Goddard and Linklaters and could not have done this without the help you kindly and generously offered. I hope that many more students can continue to benefit from the ASF and I will certainly be donating once I am financially able enough to, as this is such a great way of increasing access to the legal profession. I am so grateful so thank you again! - Farah, Grant Recipient



That's amazing, thank you for your help. It is honestly so appreciated and truly helping me to pass these exams! - Nicole, Grant Recipient

From our socials...

Massive thanks to [The AS Foundation](#) for covering my accommodation costs for an upcoming vacation scheme in London. The Foundation helps aspiring solicitors by part funding scholarships, providing train tickets, study resources, laptops, and business clothing. If you are an aspiring solicitor in need of financial assistance, check out the eligibility criteria and make an application by following this link: <https://lnkd.in/ePXryqRJ>.

Thank you to [The AS Foundation](#) for the grant of my laptop! Very grateful and this is already helping me so much with my dissertation! Thank you for all the help and all the help you give future solicitors. [#younglawyers](#) [#ASfoundation](#)

I want to say a massive thank you to [The AS Foundation](#) and their Trustees for the grant provided to me for my Tuition Fees at [BPP University](#). This will be a great help for myself and my studies in my legal pathway 🙏

I advise any students or any person pursuing law to approach AS Foundation and apply as they are very helpful, the process is easily done and the response is very quick!

With thanks to our supporters

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**For more information
please visit:**

TheASF.org.uk
