

## Scholarship Success

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BY FIONA ST-CLAIR BOLAM

**Whilst still at school or in further education, it can be difficult to decide upon a career path. Talking to family and friends about their professions and careers is often helpful, but gaining actual work experience with a firm can be invaluable; even if just to rule out a particular career path or section of a profession. Each year, Appleby sponsor students at various stages of their further education, providing work experience, Scholarships and Bursary Awards.**

Our Legal Education Scholarships are available to those who have decided that they would like to pursue a career in law, providing both paid work experience and financial assistance during their studies. Here, two current Scholarship recipients talk about their experiences.

*Appleby Scholarship recipient Hannah Ferrari-Bradley, who has just completed her Legal Practice Course at*

*Guildford College of Law, writes about the practical benefits of the LPC.*

“I have always been lucky enough to know from a young age what career I wanted to progress and my work placements with local firms both before and during university confirmed my interest in working in the legal profession.

There are a number of recognized routes into law but I chose to study for a law degree at the University of Aberystwyth, followed by a Legal Practice Course at Guildford College of Law.

University life provided me with the opportunity to conduct legal research, develop an understanding of different areas of law and taught me to cook and look after myself generally. However, it did not teach me what it would be like to work on a daily basis with case loads and deadlines and for this the only way to really learn is ‘on the job.’

With this in mind, in 2008 I successfully applied for work experience with Appleby and in the following year undertook a number of placements in various departments. In today's economic climate, more importantly than ever, it is a significant advantage to build up a relationship with a local firm. The Human Resources team at Appleby informed me about their Scholarship programme and encouraged me to apply.

In 2009 having successfully applied for the Scholarship, I was able to undertake the Legal Practice Course at Guildford. The financial support offered by the Scholarship, as well as some help from my parents, enabled me to fund the course without resorting to a loan. This independence meant a lot after University life. I was able to cover my expenses including fees, course books and the registration for the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

University is about research and learning. The Legal Practice Course is more practical, preparing the graduate for general case management with skills including interviewing clients, and preparing accounts. I would certainly recommend this route to anyone interested in a career in law.

My Legal Practice Course sat perfectly alongside the Scholarship from Appleby because the additional work experience it offered allowed me to 'test' out certain areas of law in preparation for choosing my electives. Appleby always took the time to find out how I was doing and how best they could support my studies.

On completion of my LPC, I returned to Jersey and was offered a position within the firm. I am currently working in two departments, Litigation & Insolvency and Private Client & Trusts. I would like to thank Appleby for their continuing support."

*James Hay, a law student at the University of Nottingham and Appleby Scholarship recipient, writes about his recent year abroad at the University of Hong Kong reading Chinese law.*

"During my second year of law at the University of Nottingham, I successfully applied to undertake a joint degree programme: Law with Chinese Law. This entailed spending a year abroad at the University of Hong Kong. There are numerous advantages to a joint degree programme or spending a year abroad; not least that facing an industry that requires high standards from its graduates I would be graduating with more than just an LLB.

Fortunately for a student of the Common Law, Hong Kong law has its basis in English law. Therefore, there is no immediate difficulty in choosing to study in the jurisdiction. However, given Hong Kong's close ties with mainland China and its strategic location, the University offers a plethora of PRC (Chinese) Law modules. In pursuit of a broader education I took a couple of these modules focusing on civil, commercial and economic law.

While the lecture theatre was where I developed my academics, it was away from my books that I reaped

the most benefit out of the programme. I explored the older side of Hong Kong away from the spectacular skyscrapers and joined a rugby club affiliated with the University. A highlight of my year abroad was to be asked to present the Old Trowel used at the founding of the University in 1910 at the foundation of the University's Centennial Campus exactly 100 years later. This was in the presence of the Chief Executive, Donald Tsang, the Honourary Guard and other Hong Kong dignitaries. To be selected for this role from the entire student body was quite an honour.

On the point of languages, I cannot emphasise enough the important role they play in business and social life especially in the Far East. Well aware of foreign students' interest in learning Chinese, the University offers classes tailored to foreign students in Mandarin and Cantonese with rapid results.

I benefited enormously from the year abroad in all aspects and I strongly recommend any student considering one to grasp the opportunity.

I would also like to thank Appleby for their continued support, academic and financial, throughout the year. Their Scholarship funds enabled me to further my Mandarin and Cantonese studies, and undertake trips into Mainland China, all of which permitted me to engage the Chinese culture in greater depth."

**Full details of our Scholarship scheme and Bursary Awards and how to apply are available on the careers section of our website: [www.applebyglobal.com](http://www.applebyglobal.com)**

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