

# ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN LAW?



# Pathways *Plus*

The Sutton Trust has teamed up with leading law firms DLA Piper, Hogan Lovells and Linklaters, along with the Law Society and University of Law, to pilot a new undergraduate programme to support a group of non-privileged Law students during their degree. A key aim of the programme is to boost social mobility, as research conducted by the Trust shows that the top echelons of the legal profession are drawn from a narrow range of social backgrounds, and that law firms are not always making full use of the talents of students from low and middle income homes.

This research was the inspiration behind the original Pathways to Law programme, which was set up in 2006 by The Sutton Trust and the Legal Education Foundation, along with major law firms, to inspire and support academically-able students from non-privileged backgrounds interested in a career in law.

*Plus*, which is a separate programme, will offer academic and careers support to undergraduate students who are interested in a career in a law. Students will be offered a range of supporting activities and events, both in person and online, throughout the three years of their degree. In particular, the programme will support students through their applications for vacation schemes, which are an important step towards being offered a training contract. The programme will have a focus on commercial law, and will offer great exposure to the partner firms, but will also be good preparation for a career anywhere in the legal sector.

*Plus* will be piloted in 2014, with 60 undergraduate Law students taking part. Students can be based anywhere in the country, and don't need to have taken part in the core Pathways to Law programme to be eligible.

## Application and selection process

In the pilot year, *Plus* will be accepting 60 students onto the programme. In order to be selected for the programme, students must:

- Be studying Law
- Have achieved at least AAB or ABB at A level (or equivalent)

- Have attended a state school; and
- Either have been eligible for Free School Meals whilst at school, or will be the first generation in their immediate family to attend university

Preference will be given to students who attended a school with a high percentage of students on Free School Meals, or with low progression rates to university. Preference will also be given to students with a strong academic record.

The online application form will open in November 2013 on the Sutton Trust website, and will include a 500 word essay detailing why you are interested in law, and what you would bring to the programme. Shortlisted students will then be asked to take part in a telephone interview, before the final 60 are selected.

## Programme content

A range of opportunities will be available to *Plus* students:

### Core activities

- E-mentoring from a mentor within the legal profession
- Regional careers and academic workshops
- Annual dinner and networking drinks in London
- Access to online academic and careers resources
- Support during the vacation scheme application process
- A 3-day residential skills session in London
- Careers advice

### Opportunities to apply for

- E-mentoring from a law firm
- Work experience placement

The programme will cover the cost of all events and a need-based travel grant will be available to ensure that all students can attend this and other events.

*"Having been involved in the Pathways to Law programme for several years, we are delighted to be extending this involvement to Pathways Plus and are looking forward to offering our support to, and working with the undergraduates on the programme".*

**DLA Piper**

*"Hogan Lovells has been a supporter of Pathways to Law for many years. During that time we have been privileged to engage with many of the talented and interesting students participating in the programme. Consequently we are delighted to be involved in this next phase - Pathways Plus. Social mobility and diversity are important to us and we are committed to ensuring our people represent many cultural, social and ethnically diverse communities and backgrounds. Pathways Plus will form an important element in realising this commitment for the next generation of lawyers joining the profession."*

**Clare Harris,**

**Associate Director, Legal Resourcing**

*"We have met a lot of incredibly bright and capable students through Pathways to Law so are delighted to be able to extend our support to the Pathways Plus programme. Linklaters is genuinely committed to recruiting the best talent from the widest possible pool and I have every confidence Pathways Plus will help the firm meet this objective."*

**Jennifer Cook,**

**Graduate Recruitment Manager, Linklaters**

