

So, I'm Lauren and I'm currently a legal apprentice with South London Legal Partnership, and SLLP is a shared legal service between five different London boroughs. So those are Wandsworth, Richmond, Kingston, Merton and Sutton and I've been in my role for about two years now.

So, the main reason I chose to do an apprenticeship was because I was torn between an apprenticeship and university.

When I was finishing up my A-Levels, I wanted to study law at university but I was worried about finding a training contract because everyone knows it's competitive to get, a training contract, so I just thought if I do it this way, the Cilex route, I don't have to find a training contract and I can still qualify as a lawyer and then cross qualify as a solicitor eventually.

And yeah, at the end of this apprenticeship my plan is to qualify as a solicitor. Before joining Merton I was actually working for another international firm, and I was doing auditing, so completely different sector. But since joining Merton I found everyone to be very supportive of your studying.

Everyone's encouraging, everyone's willing to help you and they're just it's a really comfortable environment. Like everyone's so friendly, willing to help, willing to train you and everything. I definitely feel that this apprenticeship has been useful and it has given me the skills to kick start my legal career as well as the qualification.

And the main thing that I've gained from it, is being able to experience different areas of law and being given the responsibility to get on with certain things myself, and just develop all the skills I need, and after this apprenticeship I feel that I am well equipped.