

West of England Legal Early Careers Network

ABOUT US

West of England Legal Early Careers Network (WLECN) was established in 2022. In July of that year the network brought together 6 law firms and 5 schools to provide an opportunity for year 10 students to experience the work place through a week long insight programme. The scheme has been running every year since then, supported by more than 15 legal organisations including law firms of varying sizes, in-house legal teams, universities and a Judge! We have supported more than 25 schools and over 200 students by providing week long insight placements for year 10 students across Bristol and Bath, over a four week period, offering invaluable hands-on legal experience. This year we will be extending the programme to the Southampton region.

WHY WLECN?

In the legal sector, we know that the struggle for social mobility persists. Historically, it's not about what you know but who you know. Securing work placements, vacation schemes, and training contracts can feel like navigating a maze without connections. For those breaking new ground in their families, by obtaining GCSEs and A-levels, or heading to university, the lack of connections may be a barrier.

The West of England Legal Early Careers Network is a collective effort to move the dial on social mobility in the legal sector. Our network provides a platform for first-hand exposure to legal experience and invaluable connections.

APPLICATION

All applications must be submitted by 7 March 2025.
Places will be confirmed by 4 April 2025..

Be part of a movement that opens doors for aspiring legal professionals. Join WLECN and contribute to a culture shift that makes legal careers accessible to everyone!

OUR PROGRAMME



A week-long experience, spending each day in a different law firm



Learn about a typical day at a law firm



Discover career paths into law



The chance to undertake interactive mock tasks



Receive guidance from experienced legal professionals

“The programme was ran excellently, and our daughter gained so much out of the exposure to the programme content. She felt fully supported by those looking after her each day which is great for her confidence around how things may work in further education and eventually in the workplace.”