

Apprenticeship case study

Raece Sarwar, conveyancing apprentice with Hannah Solicitors

What made you choose an apprenticeship?

I tried the more traditional route and went to sixth form college but I knew that learning by reading lots of books was not for me. I have a background in computing and programming and got a distinction at college, then went overseas to work for a family member, but didn't have enough interest in it to want to do it for rest of my life.

I prefer not being behind the screen all day but want to be interacting with people instead and I'm also more of a practical learner and so wanted something more hands on. I looked for opportunities including apprenticeships in all fields and while I was searching I came across Hannah solicitors.

Initially I was taken on to do work experience but this moved on to an apprenticeship. This is the first time the company has had an apprenticeship role on offer.

Describe your day to day role

My role at the solicitors is conveyancing which is dealing with legal matters relating to the transfer of ownership of land or property from a seller to a buyer. I have a very mixed day:

- dealing with calls
- liaising with estate agents and clients
- making sure they have all the documents to fill out
- helping those who'd rather not complete documents online
- printing and scanning witnesses signatures
- meeting and helping clients when they come into the office

For some people it's the biggest move in their life and one of their biggest goals they've achieved so it's an important moment.

What do you enjoy about your apprenticeship?

I thought I would be doing lots of administrative work and so it would be quite boring, but it's doing so much more than that and it's very varied. It can be stressful at times because I'm helping clients with such an important stage in their life but I really like the reaction I get from people I help.

It's also a positive and fun environment to work in. We have a 5-a-side football team, badminton every week and I feel a bond with my colleagues. They're all older than me and experienced so I can learn a lot and learn how to deal with certain situations and with people, and how to act in an office environment.

Would you recommend an apprenticeship?

Yes I would. Unlike university for example, there's not a definite outcome. Some of my friends have left with degrees and masters but not yet found a graduate level job. This is fine but I feel that doing an apprenticeship I am more certain of my future. I have more of a chance of getting a job in the field I have been learning about and working in as part of my apprenticeship.

If you're more of a practical person it's also a no-brainer. It's hard studying and working at the same time but you just need to find the balance and be well organised. I think it helps build your character.

I also want to advise people looking for an apprenticeship to not just look in the obvious places such as the government's website where you can find a list of apprenticeships. You should also seek out companies that are of interest and contact them and ask if they would consider offering one if they don't already. That worked for me and now the company I work at is offering other apprenticeships.

I'm really pleased that at the end of this I will be a licensed conveyancer and I'm also having fun along the way - including doughnuts every week in the office!