



Careers
Service

Explore. Develop. Connect.

University of Aberdeen Law Fair

Thursday 25th September
11am – 3pm
Elphinstone Hall

IT'S NOT JUST FOR THE FREEBIES!

The law fair comes along once a year and is your opportunity to explore some of your career options in much greater depth than the internet allows. It can be tempting to turn up, walk around picking up some freebies and leave – but if you do, you're missing out on the full benefits of having a fair which is ultimately being organised for you! To make the most of it and find out who's coming, read on...

Why come to the Law Fair?

1. **In such a competitive market**, getting work experience and/or a traineeship is harder than ever, but by no means impossible. Coming and making the most of the fair may open some doors or open your mind to opportunities for you to consider.
2. **This is your chance** to find out all sorts about law firms and organisations which can be difficult to glean from the web. This includes - what kind of work firms do, what kind of clients they work for, how they value their trainees, what responsibilities they give to work experience students and trainees, what the social life at the firm is like, what the culture of the firm is like and what they are doing to safeguard the future of their firm in the current economic climate.
3. **It is a recruitment event**, so when someone asks your name and writes it down, they are doing this for a reason – typically to make a note of applications they would like to fast-track to interview, or definitely wouldn't want to interview. The impression you make counts.
4. Need to write a covering letter or an application form answer about why you want to join a particular firm/organisation? What better way to give you some answers than **talking to current trainees** about how they approached it and what they like about their firm!
5. **If you're not sure about qualifying**, doing your DPLP without a traineeship offer, what to do with a gap year if you're applying for 2016 then the Careers Service will be on hand to answer all of your other questions. We'll also be giving feedback on your applications at the fair if you are preparing your CV or application forms for closing dates in September and October 2014.

What should I do before the Law Fair?

1. **Find out who is coming in advance** – this will help you to decide which exhibitors you definitely want to speak to and approach it in an organised way, especially if you're short of time as the fair can get very busy.
2. **Do some research** on the organisations you wish to speak to in advance of the fair. This booklet provides you with a list of who is coming and brief profiles to give you a head start! Further information can be found on the firms' own websites and at www.legal500.com
3. **Work out what questions you would like to ask** and make sure you ask questions which you can't answer yourself by a quick scan of their website. See the final page for tips on good questions to ask at the fair.

What should I do at the Law Fair?

1. Dress fairly smartly as this can help you to feel more confident and makes a good first impression.
2. It's best to go around the fair on your own, rather than in larger groups, so that you can ask your own questions, and make an individual impression.
3. Ask for the name of any representatives you speak to as it is good practice to follow up with a thank you note for the time they spent with you.
4. If you're not sure where to start when you arrive, then come and speak to us at the Careers Service stand first to give you time to settle any nerves and form a plan.

Exhibitor Profiles

Aberdeen, Considine

Aberdeen Considine is one of Scotland's top 20 Law Firms and is recognised as being a dynamic and forward thinking provider of Legal services. We are committed to providing pro-active and quality advice to our diverse bank of clients which include international lending institutions, international, national and local businesses and private clients.

Being a full service Law Firm, we can offer a diverse and challenging Traineeship with the opportunity to gain experience in various areas of the Law and work with a high quality client base. There are no glass ceilings in our Firm and those with talent, drive and ambition will see these qualities recognised at an early stage and this is evident from the number of our Trainees who have gone on to become Partners of the Firm. The closing date for traineeships in 2016 will be Monday 13th October 2014.

BarBri International

Being locally educated and locally qualified is no longer enough to succeed as a 21st century lawyer. Become more marketable in a competitive legal market at home and abroad by becoming a New York Attorney. BARBRI International specialise in delivering a tailored programme of study for non-US candidates so as to maximise chances of success at these Bar examinations.

Bond Dickinson

We operate in the best markets with the best clients but we don't boast about it. We encourage our people to really get under the skin of our clients, to show commercial inquisitiveness and demonstrate passion for delivering on our clients' strategic needs. Our people lie at the heart of our success. Our clients buy into individuals and those individuals contribute to what is our unique culture. It's a win-win situation for everyone. Our approach is really quite simple; we work hard but we also want our people to enjoy long and successful careers with us. Therefore we make sure that everybody has the opportunity to develop and grow, and be rewarded appropriately.

Brodies LLP

Brodies LLP is a progressive independent commercial law practice committed to being the law firm our clients want us to be, with offices in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen. Our prominence as a commercial law firm means that we work in all of the business areas important to the health and well-being of the Scottish economy. We provide wide ranging legal services to many of the country's best known corporate and financial institutions as well as to a range of government departments, public authorities and private business clients. Our clients single us out for our pro-activity, pragmatism and appetite to understand their business and its needs.

Burness Paull

We are a premier law firm serving our clients in Scotland and from Scotland, with deep resource that straddles law and business. Knowing our world is a given. Immersing ourselves in your world allows us to make the difference. We are always looking for a way to do it even better - delivering results through sharp thinking and impeccable execution.

At Burness Paull, openings abound. It's your chance to become part of one of Scotland's biggest law firms with offices in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Your chance to work in a committed, vibrant, and sociable working environment, home to some of the country's top talents and servicing clients in Scotland, the UK and across the world. And your chance to bring out the very best in yourself - professionally and personally.

Clifford Chance

Together we are Clifford Chance. We are a truly pioneering law firm. Working together, we offer incomparable legal expertise. Our firm spans jurisdictions, cultures, languages. In a world where commercial success increasingly relies on globalisation, we offer clients a truly international perspective. Our network encompasses 35 offices in 25 countries and we continue to extend our global footprint, most recently in Seoul and our first base in Africa, Casablanca.

Our work is complex, challenging, exhilarating. We work with multinationals, governments and regulatory bodies. Many of our deals are newsworthy. Often they demand specific knowledge that only international, cross-practice teams can provide. Here are some recent examples. We advised Santander on the sale of its stake in Thames Water to the China Investment Corporation. We were appointed by the Supreme Committee for Qatar 2022 on their bid for the FIFA World Cup. We also advised Royal Dutch Shell on its US\$4.4bn acquisition of part of Repsol's LNG portfolio.

Our people come from remarkably diverse backgrounds. Many who join us have studied law. Many haven't. What they share is a sense of togetherness. Client challenges rarely fall within one practice area, so specialists at every level work together to cut through the most complex of problems. Whatever their background, it's their combined ambition, intellect and entrepreneurial spirit that set them apart. Our offer stretches beyond training contracts, vacation schemes, insight workshops. You'll work on high profile deals. You'll learn from established experts. You'll take real responsibility. It's a refreshing and stimulating environment. One where your unique talents will have the space to shine, develop and make an impact.

Careers Service & Careers Zone

Visit the Careers Service stand who will be there to answer any questions you may have about training to become a Solicitor in Scotland (and elsewhere) or about alternative options with a law degree. We'll also be giving feedback on CV and application forms in the Careers Zone.

CMS Cameron McKenna LLP

At CMS Cameron McKenna LLP we work hard to be a truly client focused law firm. This means understanding the unique needs and challenges of each market sector, and providing a service that is tailored to the particular concerns and requirements of each client. Our Aberdeen and Edinburgh offices offer trainees an exceptional opportunity to develop varied skills and valuable knowledge by providing a range of corporate and commercial services.

Dickson Minto

Dickson Minto specialises in all areas of corporate and commercial property law. Established in 1985, the firm through its offices in London and Edinburgh, has grown substantially and handles a wide range of corporate transactions. The firm deals with transactions of all sizes and complexity for its clients, which include private companies, listed companies, banks and financial institutions.

Dickson Minto continues to expand and, through its emphasis on the recruitment and intensive training of high quality staff, it has been able to maintain and continues to provide a flexible service, responsive and dedicated to the needs of its clients. Details of our traineeships and summer placements can be found on www.dicksonminto.com.

Digby Brown

Digby Brown is Scotland's largest personal injury practices. From our five offices in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Kirkcaldy and Inverness, we cover the length and breadth of the country.

Our expertise in personal injury law, particularly in the fields of catastrophic head and spinal injury is widely acknowledged. Digby Brown is ranked Band 1 for Personal Injury in Scotland by Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession and Legal 500.

DLA Piper

DLA Piper is a global law firm with 4,200 lawyers located in more than 30 countries throughout the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East, positioning us to help companies with their legal needs anywhere in the world. In the UK we provide full service legal advice from London and the major UK centres.

Unlike many law firms, we are organised to provide clients with a range of essential business advice, not just on large scale mergers and acquisitions and banking deals but also on people and employment, commercial dealings, litigation, insurance, real estate, IT, intellectual property and plans for restructuring.

We have a comprehensive, award winning client relationship management programme and our brand is built upon local legal excellence, global capability and long-term full service relationships with our clients. Our success depends on our people and we need a diverse group of talented individuals who are articulate, ambitious and driven with sharp minds, enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity.

DWF

Described by market commentators as "blazing a trail", DWF is one of the UK's largest law firms and has an award-winning reputation for client service excellence and effective operational management. Independently ranked 1st of all top 20 law firms for the quality of its legal advice and joint 1st of all national law firms for its service delivery and responsiveness, DWF has recently been named 'Best Managed National Firm' at the Managing Partners' Forum Awards for Management Excellence 2014. Employing over 2,500 people across 12 locations in the UK & Ireland, the firm has core strengths in insurance, corporate & banking, real estate and litigation, and in-depth industry expertise in six chosen sectors including central & local government; energy & industrials; financial services; retail, food & hospitality; technology; and transport. Our unique training contract is divided into six four-month seats. This allows trainees to get a real taste of the variety of work we offer and make well informed decisions about their future career.

Trainees will have the opportunity to sit in specialist departments within all of our practice groups and return to a preferred department for their final seat, enabling up to eight months pre-qualification experience in their chosen field. DWF trainees enjoy an appropriate level of responsibility from an early stage. DWF sponsors the Scottish Diploma. Apply online for traineeship / vacation scheme opportunities – <http://www.dwf.co.uk/join-us/>.

Faculty of Advocates

The legal profession in Scotland is divided into two branches – advocates and solicitors. Advocates are specialists in the art of advocacy, which is the expert presentation of a case in court and also involves advising clients on every aspect of litigation. The work of an advocate is, however, not confined to court cases. Advocates are often asked to provide opinions on a wide range of legal problems which do not involve a court dispute. Advocates are sole practitioners who all work independently of each other.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

As a leading international law firm, Freshfields advises some of the world's most well-known businesses, financial institutions and governments. Our lawyers provide clients with a global service from our network of 27 offices across Europe, the US, the Middle East and Asia. The firm has seven practice areas (the largest being corporate, finance and dispute resolution) and many of these have specialist groups.

We pursue premium, cross-border work on a range of complex matters. For graduates keen to pursue a career in commercial law, we offer challenging work that demands a strong intellect and a desire to help ambitious clients achieve long-term success.

We will recruit 80 trainees into the London office in 2017 (with intakes commencing in February and August). Graduates who accept a training contract with us have the flexibility to experience up to eight areas of law - twice the number offered by most law firms. The training is largely provided from our London office but many trainees will also spend time on secondment to a client or to one of our US, European, Middle Eastern or Asian offices.

Government Legal Service for Scotland (GLSS)

The Government Legal Service for Scotland (GLSS) is a professional community of lawyers in Scotland. Lawyers working with the GLSS and its related offices are engaged on a wide variety of interesting and intellectually challenging work, involving almost all aspects of government, ranging from development and implementation of new law, high profile litigation and dealing with novel devolution or other constitutional problems. European Union, human rights and devolution law form a constant background to government legal work. The GLSS currently offers traineeships.

HBJ Gateley

HBJ Gateley is a top 50 full service, national UK law firm with 145 partners and over 400 fee earners. It operates from offices in Aberdeen, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, London, Manchester, Nottingham and Dubai. It has specialist teams covering all aspects of legal services, including corporate, banking, real estate and development, technology and renewables, social housing, construction, employment, pensions, dispute resolution, shipping & transport as well as private client and financial services. The Firm offers Summer Placements and Traineeships.

Law Society of Scotland

The Law Society of Scotland is the professional body for over 10,000 solicitors in Scotland. It has a dual responsibility in promoting both the interests of the solicitors' profession in Scotland and the interests of the public in relation to the profession. The Society has a duty to ensure that those entering the profession are "fit and proper" to do so and therefore oversees the education and training of solicitors. The Society is also a point of reference for future solicitors during the qualification process, and has had a *New Lawyers' Engagement Strategy* since 2007.

www.lawscot.org.uk/education-and-careers/information-for-new-solicitors

Ledingham Chalmers LLP

We are a full service legal firm covering Corporate, Commercial Property, Litigation and Private Client. With our beginnings in Aberdeen as early as the 1800s, we have a long history in the legal market place. We work hard to retain the values and experience that have shaped us while appealing to the needs of modern clients and lawyers. This is supported by a friendly and inclusive workplace and offices in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Inverness and Stirling, where we can offer opportunity to work in several locations.

As part of the Trainee application process, our summer internship will give you the opportunity to apply the skills you have developed at university in a practical working environment and gain valuable insight into the day to day workings of a full service law firm. The Internship/Traineeship programme is an integral part of our trainee recruitment process and we are again inviting applications for three week summer internships commencing 15 June or 6 July 2015 in our Aberdeen office.

You will be assigned to one of our teams (private client/rural, commercial property, litigation and corporate) during your internship. You will be allocated a trainee mentor and have contact with partners and staff throughout the firm during your internship. At the end of your internship you will participate in an assessment session which will form the basis for our selection of trainees for traineeships commencing in August 2017. We are looking for individuals who are passionate about pursuing a career in law and can demonstrate that commitment through their studies and other interests. The application process will be publicised on our website – www.leadinghamchalmers.com

MacKinnons

We are one of the leading Scottish firms in relation to Shipping and Marine law. We also have an award-winning private client department which won two national awards in 2013. We are significantly involved with the offshore, shipping and commercial sectors. The majority of our partners spend most of their time engaged in maritime work.

Maclay Murray & Spens LLP

Maclay Murray & Spens LLP is a full service, independent, commercial legal firm offering legal solutions and advice to clients throughout the UK and beyond. The firm has offices in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and London and our objective is to provide a consistently excellent quality of service across our entire service range and from every UK office.

The closing date for our Scottish Training Contract Applications is 12 October. Early applications are encouraged as we will be interviewing candidates from week commencing 29 September. We also offer a Summer Placement Programme each year, further information on this will be released in December. Further details can be found on our website <http://www.mms.co.uk/Careers/Traineeship/TrainingContracts.aspx>

MacRoberts LLP

MacRoberts LLP offer a wide range of commercial law services throughout the UK. We specialise in commercial and corporate law but our highly qualified lawyers offer advice on a wide range of legal areas.

It is important to get a good start to your career in the law and, with this in mind, our in-house Trainee programme has been designed to enable you to get the most from a combination of on-the-job training, courses and seminars.

We aim to attract high-calibre Trainees who will contribute to the success of our business. Academic achievement is, of course, important: however, we pay a lot of attention to your personal characteristics. We are looking for excellent communication skills, sound planning and organisational skills and the ability to work as part of a team.

While training is mostly "on the job" there are plenty of opportunities to attend seminars and broaden your knowledge. Trainees generally rotate through four different seats during their traineeship. Some practice groups you may spend time in include: Corporate Finance and Banking, IP Technology and Commercial, Employment, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Real Estate Commercial Property and Energy, Private Client, Construction – Contentious and Non Contentious.

McClure Naismith

McClure Naismith LLP is a UK law firm with a wide and varied client base across a number of industries in the private and public sector. We provide a full range of commercial legal services but we also have more specialist practice areas such as Litigation and Information Management and cross disciplinary teams delivering services to particular industry sectors. We can offer a comprehensive international legal service to clients with overseas interests through our membership of the World Law Group and International Bar Association.

As an employer, we are keen to ensure that our staff work in a welcoming and nurturing environment and encourage all employees, regardless of role, to develop their professional skills.

Working at McClure Naismith is not only about hard work. We want our staff to work hard and show commitment, but it is also important that they enjoy their working environment and feel proud to be part of the team.

Pinsent Masons

Pinsent Masons is a top 15 UK law firm and top 100 law firm internationally, that focuses on delivering practical business solutions to an impressive portfolio of clients. Joining us means becoming part of a remarkable team - creative, independent, commercial minds who understand their clients' businesses and who use legal expertise and entrepreneurial vision to help them resolve business challenges. The firm offers depth, scope and opportunity for it's trainees in a culture of early responsibility and high quality work.

Trainees sit in four seats of six months across the practice areas with supervision from partners and associates. There are also opportunities for trainees to be seconded to clients. There is a supportive team culture which derives from the firms values of; respect & co-operation, ambition & excellence and open & approachable. For more information on the opportunities we offer please visit www.pinsentmasons.com/graduate

Scottish Legal Aid Board

The Scottish Legal Aid Board was set up in 1987 to manage legal aid in Scotland. We are a non-departmental public body responsible to the Scottish Government. Legal Aid for civil and criminal matters is offered by many private firms, specialist law centres and solicitors employed by the Scottish Legal Aid Board. Find out how you can contribute to access for justice for all in your legal traineeship and career.

Shepherd & Wedderburn LLP

Shepherd and Wedderburn is one of the UK's leading law firms with offices in Edinburgh, Glasgow, London and Aberdeen. We offer our clients a comprehensive range of expert, tailored legal advice including property, corporate finance, pensions, employment, tax and trusts, and commercial dispute resolution. Our clients are drawn from all areas of industry but we have a particularly strong client base in real estate and construction, energy, financial services and public sector.

We have trainee seats in the Edinburgh, Glasgow and London office. Covering a two year period, divided into four six-month modules, your training will usually cover a minimum of three separate legal disciplines.

The firm holds Investors In People status and we operate a successful mentoring programme to help guide you through your traineeship and our partner mentors are an invaluable source of support and advice.

Discover more at www.shepwedd.co.uk

Shoosmiths

Relationships. People. Results. Shoosmiths is one of Scotland's most focused and progressive legal practices. Created following the merger of Edinburgh's Archibald Campbell and Harley and UK top 40 national law firm Shoosmiths, it brings high standards of business intelligence to clients' affairs.

Our client list speaks volumes for the quality of our lawyers and the experience they provide. From Hewlett-Packard to Krispy Kreme and property developers to some of the UK's largest banks, we work with a growing number of the FTSE 250 and some of the world's most exciting and ambitious growth businesses.

Slaughter and May

Slaughter and May is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious law firms in the world. We advise on high profile and groundbreaking international transactions and have an excellent and varied client list.

The firm is organised into groups which undertake a general spread of work encouraging lawyers to work on an extensive range of corporate, commercial and financing matters as well as developing an expertise in specialist areas. Much of the work spans the globe with transactions involving not only the firm's overseas offices but also leading independent law firms in other jurisdictions. The international nature of our practice means that our trainees and associates have the opportunity to work abroad, either in our overseas offices or on secondment with our "Best Friends".

There are approximately 80 vacancies for trainee solicitors each year. As well as training contracts we also offer work experience placements at Christmas, Easter and during the summer.

Our method of application for training contracts and work experience placements is by way of our online system which can be accessed via our website.

Standard Life

Our in-house lawyers play a key role in advising our business, and provide exceptional legal insight in a commercial setting. With us you'll find a high quality traineeship that lets you apply your legal knowledge in a very practical way across many fields. With a breadth and depth of legal work that sets you up for a legal career, you'll get outstanding experience in our different legal departments. Here our in-house solicitors work across disciplines including pensions, life, commercial, international, dispute resolution and investments. You'll need a strong commercial focus and a commitment to teamwork, as well as an interest in the financial market place to join us on this traineeship.

The closing date for applications is the 24th October 2014.

Stronachs LLP

Stronachs is one of the largest full service law firms owned, managed and operated from the north of Scotland, with offices in Aberdeen, Inverness and London. We provide commercial, corporate and private client legal services to our client base, which ranges from FTSE100 listed companies to private individuals.

Stronachs recruit up to 5 trainees each year. Excellent training and prospects are available to ambitious candidates who are seeking to gain in-depth experience in corporate, energy, commercial property, employment, private client, agriculture and dispute resolution. The closing date for applications for traineeships commencing in September 2016 is Friday 17th October 2014.

We also run a successful summer placement scheme and the closing date for applications for placements for summer 2015 is 30th April 2015.

Application forms are available to download at www.stronachs.com/careers

Target Jobs Law

The best possible start to your career: How to get hired by top law firms and barristers' chambers. Dedicated sector content, advice and specialist experts. The largest choice of training contracts, pupillages and vacation placements.

TARGETjobs Law offers unique content to help you secure a training contract or pupillage. A dedicated law recruitment specialist provides advice on how to break into this highly competitive sector as either a future solicitor or barrister. Employer Insights provide in-depth independent reviews of leading law firms and their recruitment processes. They are the perfect resource to help choose which firms or chambers to apply for and prepping for interviews.

Visit our stand to join us. Receive job alerts containing training contracts, pupillages and vacation placements, pick up copies of our law career publications and discover how TARGETjobs Law can help you to get hired. www.targetjobslaw.co.uk

Tods Murray

As one of Scotland's leading independent law firms, we provide a professional service of the highest calibre, combining technical expertise with commercial awareness.

With over 110 lawyers and paralegals in our Edinburgh and Glasgow offices, we provide a comprehensive legal service in the corporate, commercial and private client sectors. We are organised into 8 departments and 20 interdepartmental teams, bringing together specialist skills in each practice area. Working with other leading practices in the UK, and through Multilaw, we provide clients with a network of associated firms in all the world's major commercial centres.

The Tods Murray summer law school is a unique opportunity to sample life as a solicitor, whilst studying for your law degree. Our eight week programme enables you to obtain valuable exposure to various transactions, well beyond what can be achieved during shorter placements. Applications open on Monday 15 September and close at 5pm on Friday 31 October 2014. Interviews and assessment for the summer law school will take place in January 2015.

Being a large commercial law firm, we have a comprehensive trainee programme for aspiring lawyers in place. We are fortunate to be able to offer seat allocations in all our departments, and trainees will normally rotate seats every six months during their traineeship in up to four different departments. Other opportunities include secondments to key clients and we support trainees applying for the Law Society of Scotland EU secondment in Brussels.

Turcan Connell Group

The vision for the Turcan Connell Group has always been to offer all the professional advice under one roof that an individual might need during their lifetime. Today, 21 Partners, 1 Principal and a staff of around 300 bring unique combination of skills and expertise advising in areas such as charity law, employment law, family law, land and property, trust and tax, litigation and renewables. This means offering a full range of legal services alongside wealth and investment management and a complete range of tax services. We believe that this joined-up, interdisciplinary approach of combining legal and financial skills and expertise really sets the Turcan Connell Group apart and enables us to provide the very best advice and counsel to our clients.

As a trainee with the firm that is described by Chambers UK Guide as “one of the UK's premier private client firms” and as the “market leader in private client matters” by the Legal 500, you will have the opportunity to work closely with specialised teams in a challenging and rewarding environment.

Exact dates for Summer Internships 2015 have yet to be confirmed, however, the closing date is normally in January. The closing date for 2016 Traineeships is Friday 26th September 2014 at 2pm.

Website: www.turcanconnell.com

Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie LLP

WJM seeks trainees who are interested in helping us to create a truly client-centric business. We want lawyers who aspire to be technically superb – and we'll train you to do that – but your job will also include being able to participate and articulate everything a client might need us to do.

From the start you will be trained to use our unique client centric processes and that along with a comprehensive and enjoyable training programme will help you to focus and develop your career with us.

Once we have established that you think like us and would embrace our culture we will look at your University performance, being guided by your expected achievement of, at least, a 2.1 degree. We place trainees in both our Glasgow and Edinburgh offices. For more information about us and about how your career will develop with WJM visit our website: www.wjm.co.uk.

Asking good questions at the law fair

Ask questions which show you have done some research about the firm already:

Questions which show you know something about their vacancies, the areas of law they are known for, the types of clients they have, the history of the firm etc. will stand out immediately.

Avoid asking an overall question about what the firm does: this is something which firms are asked all day, so asking something which shows you know this already will be a refreshing change.

Speaking to trainees: trainees are usually represented at the stands and will often be graduates from the University of Aberdeen. They will have been through the selection process fairly recently so you could ask all sorts of questions about this such as:

- How did you find the selection process?
- What kinds of experience did you gain prior to applying for traineeships?
- Did you get a work experience placement at the firm? What was it like?
- What would you recommend I do to help me to prepare for the interview?
- How did you decide which firms to apply to, and what made you decide to accept this firm?
- What is your traineeship like? Which seats have you completed so far?
- What has surprised you most about your traineeship?
- If you were a student again, what (if anything) would you do differently having been through the process?

Speaking to HR/Recruitment Managers/Partners: since there will be a variety of representatives from the firm/organisation, it's good to find out who you are talking to first so that you can ask appropriate questions. The following questions will hopefully give you some ideas:

- How many vacancies do you have for traineeships/work experience for [insert year]?
- What makes an application stand out from the crowd?
- How would you recommend I prepare for an interview with your firm?
- Your firm states that it is looking for [insert skill/competency listed as important], what kinds of experience can be good for developing and demonstrating this skill?
- I see the firm is ranked top for [insert practice area(s)], are there any specific skills which are needed to excel in this/these area(s)?
- Your firm has recently merged with [insert firm recently merged with], what effect has this had on the numbers of traineeship and/or work experience opportunities available?
- I am interested in training as a firm where I can build my career, what are your trainee retention figures like?

Some final points: ask questions you genuinely want to find the answer to, smile and try to be yourself and don't just rely on the questions suggested above – these are just to get you thinking! If you are unsure, come and ask the Careers staff for their advice before going around the fair.

Good luck!

Floor plan for Elphinstone Hall

