

After completing my undergraduate degree in English Literature, I knew that I wanted to explore a career at the Bar, but it was a rather daunting step to try and understand a world that I had never been exposed to before. I was incredibly lucky to have been offered a place on the mentoring scheme for underrepresented groups at the Bar, gaining a truly valuable insight into what the Bar as a career looks like and what I would need to do to navigate the path to becoming a Barrister.

Thanks to the mentoring scheme, one-to-one sessions with a practising barrister were made available to me, which made this whole process feel less overwhelming. My mentor has been fantastic, his advice and guidance throughout has been incredible. Together we explored ways to build and expand my legal knowledge, deepen my skills, and expand my experience by engaging in various wider opportunities open to me such as mini-marshalling, partaking in essay competitions and getting involved in pro bono work. My mentor further supported with tips to enhance various applications and one of the most valuable parts of this journey has been the advice which I received in regard to tackling mini-pupillage and pupillage applications. His guidance gave me the confidence to apply for mini-pupillages, and with his support I managed to secure two, providing me with experiences that have truly inspired me to follow my dream and pursue a career at the Bar.

In addition to the support from my mentor, this experience on the mentoring scheme has provided me with the opportunity to connect with other like-minded students and people interested in a career at the Bar through the various events made available during the term of the scheme. I believe that this has been extremely important for my own personal self-development, as meeting people who are in similar positions to myself, or those people that have progressed further along in their educational career and being able to hear their stories and journeys so far, has instilled in me a level of self-assurance that a career at the Bar is absolutely a possibility for me to continue to explore.

As the first person in my family to attend university, with no connections to the Bar or the wider legal sector, being given this inside knowledge and growing under this mentorship scheme has been an incredible and motivating experience, one that I am very grateful for. Had I not been involved in this scheme, I don't believe that I would have developed the knowledge and experiences that I have gained in the past 6 months. Thank you, it has been a really wonderful experience.