

In our own words

quality

We had teams in London, New York
and Hong Kong all working on the deal.

be actively involved
major deals from


Graduate careers in law
kirkland.com/ukgraduate

KIRKLAND & ELLIS INTERNATIONAL LLP

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Welcome



“We have established a formidable reputation for practising English, US and international law on a global stage”.

“We are great believers in the power of words at Kirkland & Ellis. But words mean little if they are not put into practice. That’s why we give our trainee lawyers early opportunities to turn words into actions, learning by doing rather than simply by watching.

From our offices in the City’s famous Gherkin building, we have established a formidable reputation for practising English, US and international law on a global stage.

As a trainee, you will join us at an exciting time. Kirkland is ranked in the top 10 of the Global 100 (Legal Business 2014). As the European hub of Kirkland & Ellis’s international operations, our London office continues to expand and is set to continue to spearhead the Firm’s future development.

You will be actively involved in major deals almost from day one, taking on increasing responsibility as you progress. Since we are a close-knit and friendly Firm, you will have all the one-to-one help you need from some of the best minds in the business.

We will train you diligently, and thanks to our entrepreneurial spirit, we will give you the freedom to define your own career pathway, enabling you to become the best lawyer you can be.

Our practice areas cover private equity, debt finance, capital markets, fund formation, restructurings, taxation, international arbitration and litigation, regulatory, intellectual property, and EU competition law. Whichever practice area you ultimately decide to focus on, the top-tier global clients we attract, and the quality of the engagements we undertake, ensures that your training will be of the highest quality.

To thrive in our meritocratic culture you will need to demonstrate initiative, drive and commitment. For the right people, Kirkland & Ellis offers real opportunities and real rewards. If you are ready for the challenge, we look forward to meeting you”.



Rajinder Bassi
Training Principal



The exposure to
high-quality work
is second to none.

Seirian Thomas

Role: Second year trainee

University: Oxford

Law school: BPP, London

View Seirian's video at
kirkland.com/ukgraduate

Quality

We believe that if you give people responsibility, they will rise to the challenge. That's why, unlike many larger City law Firms, we allow our trainees to demonstrate their ability by challenging them with real work – and clients – from the start.

The size of our London team means no one gets swamped or overlooked. In fact, with our open door policy, our partners are extremely accessible. You will often find yourself working in small teams, shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the Firm's top people.

Private equity is the key focus of our London office. We have advised financial sponsors and investors in some of Europe's largest leveraged buyouts. From acquisition finance to debt restructuring, capital markets to high yield issuance, clients respond to our proven track record for excellence. But private equity is only one element of our expertise.

We act on all stages of financial restructurings, often on cross-border cases spanning several jurisdictions. Our tax team support the corporate and finance teams dealing on complex domestic and international transactions which include mergers and acquisitions, regulatory and fund formation matters as well as intellectual property and competition issues. In litigation and arbitration, we represent multinational corporations and governments in global disputes.

Our clients choose us because of our reputation for thoroughness and our innovative approach to business. This means that as a trainee, you are likely to be working with high-calibre clients – giving you an early opportunity to stand out.



Case study Acquisition of Nets

A Kirkland & Ellis team represented Bain Capital, Advent International and ATP in the acquisition of Nordic card-payment company, Nets Holding AS, one of Europe's largest payment solutions providers for 17 billion Danish Kroner (US\$3.14 billion) from a group of Scandinavian banks. The acquisition was funded by senior and PIK loans denominated in euros and the local currency in excess of €1 billion (US\$1.4 billion).

"This was one of the largest buy-out financings in 2014 and was a ground breaking transaction for Advent and Bain Capital involving a large team of Kirkland debt lawyers across both English law and New York law practices".

Neel Sachdev
Partner

Firm clients include:

Avis Budget Group

Bain Capital

Blackberry

DIRECTV

Facebook

General Motors

IBM

KKR

Oaktree Capital Management

Samsung

Sun Capital Partners

Towerbrook Capital

UBS

Vista Equity Partners



Seirian Thomas

"The interview was a very positive experience. It was more a series of one-to-one conversations than the standard panel grilling. I felt they really were interested in getting to know me personally."

You work closely with senior lawyers and are treated very much as an individual. It's made clear that you're expected to make a contribution from day one, and aren't just there to make up the numbers. Everyone knows who you are and wants to get you involved.

The exposure to high quality work is second to none. You're given as much responsibility as you show you can handle, coupled with a lot of support.

A lot of my work involves global clients, doing deals all over the world. As a trainee you're expected to be up to speed".

"I'm off to the New York office for my next seat, which I'm really excited about!"



We had teams in London,
New York and Hong Kong
all working on the deal.

Fatema Orjela

Role: Associate, 6 years PQE

University: Oxford

Law school: Oxford

Practice area: Corporate

View Fatema's video at
kirkland.com/ukgraduate



Culture

Kirkland & Ellis provides a fair and friendly environment for you to make your mark in a leading international law firm.

From the outset, you will find yourself communicating with major clients and participating in key meetings.

How high you climb depends on the skills you display, your eagerness to learn and how hard you wish to work. There are no pre-defined roles for our trainees. We will give you the type of work we think you can handle, regardless of your level of seniority.

We aim to challenge new starters, always under supervision, but with enough independence to prove their readiness for even bigger tasks. When the work is complete, there will be plenty of opportunity to mix with colleagues and relax through our friendly and busy social calendar.

We are committed to providing free legal support to disadvantaged groups and organisations, with the goals of improving lives, bettering communities and deepening our professional experience. We run an active pro bono and CSR programme, with initiatives ranging from a reading scheme with a local primary school to our involvement with Global H2O, a charity bringing safe drinking water to people in developing nations. All our lawyers receive hour-for-hour credit for pro bono projects and up to 25 hours of CSR work a year.

Case Study Acquisition of Burton's Biscuits

Kirkland & Ellis advised Ontario Teachers' Pension on the acquisition of Burton's Biscuits, a major player in the UK biscuit market. Burton's management maintain a significant minority stake in the company. The acquisition of Burton's from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and funds managed by affiliates of Apollo Global Management, LLC resulted from a competitive bidding process and was led by Teachers' private equity investment division, Teachers' Private Capital.

"One of the many interesting aspects of Private Equity is getting to really understand in detail how widely differing businesses work. It is easier to relate to businesses where you understand the product and everyone likes Jammie Dodgers"...

Gavin Gordon
Partner





Fatema Orjela

"The vast majority of my deals have had an international aspect, often in Europe. They usually involve working with local counsel, with Kirkland & Ellis acting as corporate advisor and main legal coordinators.

I recently spent three months on secondment with a new private equity house. It was hugely stimulating, being there in the early stages of a new fund and having an influence on the processes, systems and procedures that will help it achieve its objectives. Whether it was fund infrastructure, staffing, regulatory or tax, if it had a legal element then it came through me. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me develop as a lawyer".

"Working for a firm that does such a large amount of international work, you're learning all the time".





You will be actively involved
on major deals from day one.
That's responsibility.

Sean Adams

Role: Associate 1 year PQE

University: Cambridge

Law school: BPP, London

Practice area: Litigation
and arbitration

View Sean's video at
kirkland.com/ukgraduate

Training

At Kirkland & Ellis we launch careers, develop skills and provide hands-on experience of major client casework. It is no surprise places are highly-prized. For 2017, we are offering approximately ten new training contracts.

Your training begins with a fortnight-long induction, including the Professional Skills Course (PSC). For the two years of the training contract, you rotate between four, six-month placements. To help you define your own career paths, as well as the mandatory corporate law seat, there will be seats in litigation/arbitration, restructuring, debt finance, funds, IP, regulatory, antitrust and competition, or tax.

As a trainee you receive valuable one-to-one guidance from senior associates and partners. With our commitment to personal development and career progress, we will ensure your quality training continues right through to qualification and beyond.

You will benefit from an extensive seminar programme that covers five primary practice areas in detail, building on skills learned on the LPC and introducing new topics. The programme also includes an essential corporate skills module, giving you the practical skills needed to become an effective corporate lawyer in the broadest sense.

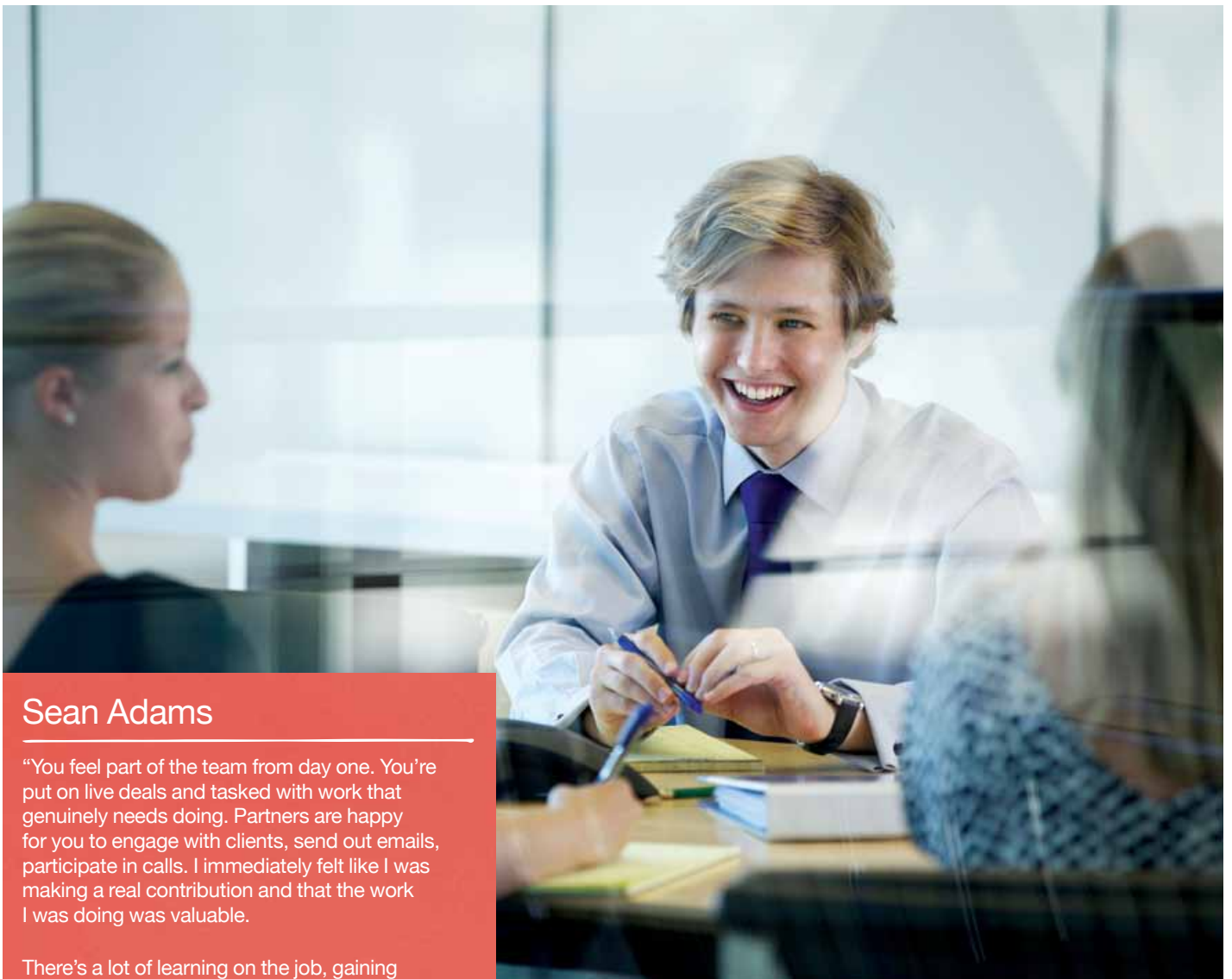
Throughout your training contract, you will benefit from the guidance and support of a mentor. You will also spend a lot of time working shoulder-to-shoulder with partners and associates, learning on the job from leaders in their fields.

Vacation scheme

We are offering approximately 16 vacation placements throughout June and July 2015. Combining real project work with study sessions and mentoring, these two-week placements provide you with the perfect opportunity to gain insights into how our London office operates.

Not only will you gain experience across a range of practice areas, you will also come away with a crucial network of contacts. Plus, as a vacation student, you will enjoy a busy social calendar and £350 a week expenses.





Sean Adams

“You feel part of the team from day one. You’re put on live deals and tasked with work that genuinely needs doing. Partners are happy for you to engage with clients, send out emails, participate in calls. I immediately felt like I was making a real contribution and that the work I was doing was valuable.

There’s a lot of learning on the job, gaining practical experience on real deals. This is supported by a structured programme of training sessions throughout your early years. And of course, there’s a huge amount of informal support to call on. I’m as comfortable walking into a partner’s office to ask their advice as I am a fellow associate”.

“It’s real work, where I have to think about the issues and apply my legal knowledge”.



Life with us



“Just because you’re a junior lawyer, it doesn’t mean you won’t get taken seriously or get the chance to shine”.

“This Firm rewards people who are keen to learn; who are prepared to ask for work, rather than waiting for it to land on their desk. It’s a more proactive approach to getting assignments, developing relationships and asking for advice. And it’s one we encourage”.

A career at Kirkland & Ellis is rewarding for all sorts of reasons. A generous pay package, with first year trainees starting on £41,000, rising to £44,000 in the second year, is just one of them.

We pay your GDL and LPC fees, as well as giving you a £8,000 maintenance grant for each course. We also offer private medical, travel and life insurance, pension scheme, employee assistance plan, dental plan and access to a private medical clinic – as well as discounted gym membership and business casual dress every day. There’s also the pride that comes from working in one of the most prestigious buildings – in one of the world’s top commercial, cultural and political centres.

Although you wouldn’t think it given the calibre of clients we act for and the types of work we do, for a truly international firm our office in London is relatively small – around 130 lawyers. Our size makes it easier for trainees to settle in, and our culture is deliberately collaborative and non-hierarchical: partners work with associates and juniors in an atmosphere where debate and teamwork are encouraged.

We try to filter as much work and responsibility down from the partners as possible, as we believe that's the best way for our younger lawyers to learn. It's part of the Kirkland & Ellis culture. We have an open door policy. If you have a question or need some insight into a problem, you can walk through anybody's door and get some answers. It's an ethos we work very hard to maintain.

With more than 1,600 lawyers and 12 offices globally, the Firm's outlook is truly international – and we like our trainees to be the same. The majority of the work we do focuses on private equity, private funds, and capital markets including mergers and acquisitions, debt financing, management incentives and joint ventures. Much of it has an international element with multiple jurisdictions, which is an incredibly rewarding part of the job. As a trainee, your training programme will also include sessions on other areas of law, such as white collar crime and international tax structuring.

You will need to be motivated and ambitious, and above all you must want to learn. The kind of work you will do is not restricted by the year you qualified. If you are capable of doing the work, we let you

get on with it – giving you all the support and training you need along the way. It means there are more opportunities to do interesting work, more opportunities to grow as a lawyer, more opportunity for client contact, and more responsibility for the development of your career.

If you are confident, inquisitive and entrepreneurial, we offer unmatched opportunities in a major City law firm. To succeed, you need the ability and the motivation to become a truly outstanding lawyer. In return, we offer the chance of an exciting career loaded with potential for rapid progression.

Gavin

Gavin Gordan
Graduate Recruitment Partner

David

David Arnold
Graduate Recruitment Partner

View Gavin and David's video at
kirkland.com/ukgraduate

The facts



1600
lawyers



12
international
offices



1
global Firm



Join us

How to apply

The deadline for applying for our 2017 training contracts is 31 July 2015. Interviews will take place from August that year.

The deadline for applying for our 2015 vacation scheme is 16 January 2015. We will invite successful candidates to an assessment day where they can learn more about the Firm, and undergo a formal assessment.

For online application forms for both training contracts and the vacation scheme, visit our website at kirkland.com/ukgraduate

Timeline

Current penultimate-year law student

Apply for summer vacation scheme by **16th January 2015**

Interviews for vacation schemes **February 2015**

Attend vacation schemes in **June/July 2015**

Apply for training contract by **31st July 2015**

Interviews for training contracts **August/September 2015**

Commence final year at university **September/October 2015**

Commence LPC **September 2016**

Commence training contract **September 2017**

Current final-year non-law student

Apply for summer vacation scheme by **16th January 2015**

Interviews for vacation schemes **February 2015**

Attend vacation schemes and graduate in **June/July 2015**

Apply for training contract by **31st July 2015**

Interviews for training contracts **August/September 2015**

Commence GDL **September/October 2015**

Commence LPC **September 2016**

Commence training contract **September 2017**

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Offices

Beijing
Chicago
Hong Kong
Houston
London
Los Angeles
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San Francisco
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