

Examples of Non Legal Work Experience

If you cannot find direct legal experience then look at finding work in areas related to the practice area that you wish to pursue. You will need to consider:

- The quality of the work experience
- Will it attract employers
- Will it prove significant in developing a network of useful contacts
- Are there any entry requirements and skills/knowledge
- Is there additional training required and do you really want to do more at this stage?
- Dates for in-house training programmes eg. CAB
- Deadlines for applications

To get your foot in the door you could consider contacting a temping agency who specialises in one of the following areas. You could also ring an organization that you wish to work in eg. a trade union or large bank and ask them which temping agency they use and sign on with that agency.

Suggested sectors/places to find work:

Banking/Corporate Finance

- Accountancy firms
- Banks
- Building societies;
- Cash offices
- Tax offices;
- Insurance companies;
- Finance houses;
- Investment companies
- Office of Fair Trading
- Internships

Commercial Property/Construction and Engineering

- Estate agents;
- Conveyancing agents
- Facility management agents;
- Property developers;
- Construction companies
- Civil engineering companies;
- Engineering companies
- Architects firms
- Surveyors
- Environmental agencies
- Local government planning office
- Land Registry
- Mortgage department of lending institution

Commercial Litigation:

- In house legal department
- Citizen's Advice Bureau;
- Crown Prosecution Service;
- Consumer associations
- Specialist – construction, media, shipping

Crime:

- Police;
- Law courts;
- Citizen's Advice Bureau;
- Crown Prosecution Service;
- Victim support groups
- Local community rights organisations
- Youth offender support agencies
- Rehabilitation agencies
- Outdoor clerking
- Government/Civil Service bodies
 - Serious Fraud Office
 - Customs and Immigration
 - HM Revenue and Customs
- Criminal Cases Review Commission
- Prison Service
- Probation Service
- Internships

Employment:

- Union Head Office or regional offices;
- Personnel departments;
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Citizen's Advice Bureau
- Law Centres
- Free Representation Unit
- Relevant charities eg. related to racial discrimination or equal opportunities

Environmental:

- Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
- Waste disposal companies;
- Utility organisations
- Property developers;
- Local authorities
 - Planning
 - Health and safety
 - Waste management
- Environmental/conservation charities
- Internships

Family:

- Citizen's Advice Bureau
- Law Centres
- Charities eg. Family Rights Group, child support groups
- Child Support Agency
- Social services
- Mediation organisations
- Family refuges

Intellectual Property:

- Legal departments of media/broadcasting companies;
- IT companies;
- Publishing houses;
- Legal publishing
- UK Patent Office;
- Patent agents
- Patent and Trade Mark attorneys
- Marketing departments – branding issues
- Biotech companies
- Pharmaceutical companies

Media and Entertainment

- Advertising firms
- Marketing departments
- Advertising Standards Authority
- National Lottery
- Ofcom
- Newspapers
- Publishing companies
- Film companies
- Broadcasting companies
- Music industry
- Media Houses
- Theatre and opera companies
- Campaigning charities in areas such as:
 - Freedom of speech
 - Right to privacy

Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence:

- Healthcare authorities/trusts;
- Medical insurance companies;
- NHS legal department
- NHS Litigation Authority
- General Medical Council
- Medical Defence Union
- Medical related charities eg. Scope

Private Client

- High street law firms;

- Citizen's Advice Bureau;
- Charities
- Law Centres
- Trust:
 - National charities
 - Local private charitable trusts
 - Charity Commission

Public Interest

Civil Liberties/Human Rights

- Voluntary organisations egs
 - Law Centres
 - Howard League for Penal Reform
 - Liberty
 - Justice
- Internships egs
 - Amicus
 - Foundation for Human Rights Initiative
 - Interights

Community Care

- Voluntary Organisations eg. Age Concern, Help the Aged, Mind, Scope, Mencap, National Schizophrenia Fellowship
- Health Authority or Local Council day centres

Education:

- Local Authority Education Dept.
- Staff/student liaison work
- Volunteering organisations eg. local groups working with children with special needs
- School governors

Immigration

- Refugee Legal Centres
- Immigration Advisory Service
- UK Immigration Service (part of Home Office's Immigration and Nationality Directorate)
- Voluntary Organisations egs
 - Joint Council for Welfare of Immigrants
 - Amnesty
 - Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture
- Internships

Mental Health

- Voluntary Organisations eg. Mind or Mencap
- Local or community support groups
- Local Authority Social Services
- Local Health Authority

Welfare

- Legal Advice Centres
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Voluntary Organisations eg. Mary Ward Legal Centre, National Debtline, Consumer Credit Counselling Service

- Local support groups/community initiatives
- Benefits Agency
- Utilities sector debt collection department eg. electricity

Shipping

(In addition to London, look at larger port cities)

- Shipping Agents
- Ship Building Companies
- Shipowners
- Customs and Excise
- Freight Companies
- Marine Insurers (Protection and Indemnity Clubs)

Sports

- Governing bodies eg
 - RFU
 - MCC
 - FA
- Legal departments of media organizations (negotiating rights)

Tax

- Tax dept of large corporation
- Tax dept of financial institution
- Accountancy firms
- Government bodies
 - Inland Revenue
 - Customs and Immigration

TMT (technology, media and telecoms)

- IT companies
- Telecoms companies
- IT dept of any large company
- Oftel
- Ofcom
- British Approvals Board of Telecommunications

Inspired by AGCAS Legal Toolkit (Katherine Hankins, Kingston University Careers Service) and Working for Justice: Legal aid; a great opportunity (College of Law/LAGP/LSC)