SIMKINS



Training at Simkins

Read below to see first-hand accounts and key pieces of advice from our current trainees on our training contract programme.

Why did you choose to apply to Simkins?

I chose to apply to Simkins because I knew the firm would provide me with well-rounded, thorough and hands-on training that would give me both confidence and independence early in my career. What particularly motivated me was the firm's reputation for advising leading clients across the media and entertainment industry, as well as the opportunity to work closely with and learn directly from leading lawyers within those sectors.
Kitty Giddings, *Trainee*

I chose Simkins as I wanted to train at a firm where you get to work in small teams and get exposure to a wealth of matters. The variety of departments means you are able to gain experience in multiple practice areas during the training period.
Hannah Leathem, *Trainee*

I applied to Simkins because of its unique clients and strength in the media and entertainment sectors. I have always been interested in the commercial and legal issues that arise within these industries and Simkins stood out as a firm where I would be exposed to high quality matters while gaining exposure to sectors that genuinely interest me.
Chloe Hickman, *Trainee*

I applied to Simkins because it offered the combination I was looking for, high-quality and interesting work, particularly in the media and entertainment sectors, but within a firm where trainees are known personally and can become properly involved.
Peter Stanley, *Trainee*

Has your training contract with Simkins lived up to your expectations?

The training contract has exceeded my expectations. You are surrounded by top lawyers and have the opportunity to get involved with fascinating work from day one.
Hannah Leathem, *Trainee*

Yes, absolutely. The work has been varied and I have been given a high level of responsibility and exposure from an early stage. I've had the opportunity to work on a broad range of matters so far which has helped me develop.
Chloe Hickman, *Trainee*

Yes! I had hoped to be given meaningful work and a good level of responsibility, and I have not been disappointed. I have already been involved in court work, financial disclosure, legal research, drafting and projects involving other departments. No two weeks have been quite the same, which is exactly what I wanted from my training contract.
Peter Stanley, *Trainee*

Absolutely.
Kitty Giddings, *Trainee*

What have you enjoyed most during your time as a trainee at Simkins?

One of the things I have enjoyed most is working alongside people who are genuinely passionate and knowledgeable about their practice areas and the industries they work in.
Chloe Hickman, *Trainee*

I have particularly enjoyed being trusted to take ownership of tasks. That might mean preparing a first draft, researching a point of law, putting together a court bundle or helping with a presentation. I like being able to make a start, receive helpful feedback and then take the task through to completion. That has helped me learn quickly and feel that I am making a useful contribution.
Peter Stanley, *Trainee*

Getting to work with a range of lawyers in the team means that every day is different, with so many opportunities to get stuck in with cool, exciting projects.
Kitty Giddings, *Trainee*

The people. You get to work alongside experienced lawyers with a wealth of knowledge you can observe and learn from. Everyone is very open, friendly and generous with their time and advice.
Hannah Leathem, *Trainee*

How would you describe the culture of the firm?

The firm is friendly and supportive without being overly formal. People are generous with their time and trainees can approach colleagues with questions or ask them to look over a first attempt at something. There is also a genuinely collaborative atmosphere, with people willing to help outside their immediate teams when they have capacity.
Peter Stanley, *Trainee*

The culture at Simkins is supportive. People are always willing to make time to answer questions and help trainees develop.
Chloe Hickman, *Trainee*

The firm is very friendly and welcoming - you get to know all the lovely people in the firm very quickly.
Hannah Leathem, *Trainee*

Welcoming, inspiring and inclusive.
Kitty Giddings, *Trainee*

What advice would you give to future applicants?

Be yourself.
Kitty Giddings, *Trainee*

Focus on what makes you different and use it to set yourself apart.
Hannah Leathem, *Trainee*

Take the time to understand what makes Simkins different and think about why its sectors and clients genuinely interest you. During the application process be yourself, demonstrate commercial awareness and show willingness to get involved and learn.
Chloe Hickman, *Trainee*

Do your research, but avoid giving answers that you think the firm wants to hear. It is much better to explain honestly why the work and culture appeal to you. They want you, not just somebody.
Peter Stanley, *Trainee*