

Summer Law Programme

2026 / 27

About

The Programme

Overview

At Anthony Harper, our Summer Law Programme is designed to give students meaningful insight into life in commercial legal practice.

Over two rotations, students are integrated into their teams and contribute to real client matters. From day one, they are supported through a structured induction, a dedicated buddy system, and a comprehensive tutorial series covering key areas of legal practice and professional development.

The experience is about learning by doing, asking questions, contributing to matters, receiving feedback, and building confidence within a supportive team environment.

As part of our broader commitment to developing our people, the Summer Law Programme reflects the structured and supportive approach we take to growth at every stage of a legal career.

This pack offers a closer look at what your summer with us will involve, from your rotations and tutorials to the support and learning opportunities available throughout the programme.



“My summer clerkship at Anthony Harper was an invaluable experience personally and professionally. Working on actual legal tasks expanded my legal knowledge and improved my ability to work in a team.”
2023/24 summer law programme

The Programme

Induction and Support

Overview

The programme begins with a structured two-day induction designed to set students up for success and ease the transition from university to practice.

Students are welcomed by our People & Culture team and senior leaders, including an introduction to Anthony Harper's history, vision and values. The induction includes practical sessions on research tools, legal resources, risk awareness, and key professional skills, alongside introductions to our practice areas and business support teams.

Interactive sessions including an "Ask Me Anything" panel with our lawyers give students the opportunity to ask candid questions and gain insight into day-to-day life at the firm. The induction concludes with a welcome event, providing an opportunity to connect with colleagues in a relaxed and social setting.

Each student is supported throughout the programme by:

- A dedicated buddy (junior lawyer)
- A supervising partner and/or senior lawyer
- Regular check-ins and ongoing feedback
- The People & Culture team

At Anthony Harper, there is no such thing as a closed door. Our partners and senior lawyers are approachable and accessible, and students are encouraged to ask questions, seek guidance and integrate into their teams from day one.



What did you enjoy most about your 2 day induction at Anthony Harper?

"All the connections and people I got to meet, it was really nice going into such a friendly and supportive environment. It really helped ease my nerves and made the transition into starting work in my team a lot smoother"

2025/26 Summer law programme

The Programme

Work that matters

Overview

Students are trusted with genuine responsibility and exposure across two practice rotations. Rather than observing from the sidelines, summer clerks are integrated into their teams and contribute to active matters from early on.

Depending on the team, work may include:

- Conducting legal research to support advice and ongoing matters
- Drafting opinions, agreements, correspondence and file notes
- Assisting with due diligence and transaction preparation
- Supporting litigation processes and reviewing discovery material
- Attending client meetings, negotiations or court appearances
- Contributing to time-sensitive work and meeting client-imposed deadlines



Work varies between rotations, providing insight into how different practice areas operate and how teams collaborate across matters.

Students work closely with supervising partners and lawyers, receive feedback on their drafting and research, and are encouraged to ask questions and contribute to discussions. The goal is not only to develop technical skills, but to build professional confidence and an understanding of how legal work is delivered in practice

“The people and friendly team culture at AH was the highlight of my experience. AH has such a supportive and inclusive environment, and that was something that could be felt throughout every stage of the programme. I also really enjoyed my research tasks, and knowing that my work was going towards solving real client issues was incredibly fulfilling.”

2025 / 26 Summer law programme

The Detail

Tutorials

Overview

Throughout the programme, students take part in a structured tutorial series delivered by lawyers and specialists from across the firm.

These sessions are designed to introduce students to the breadth of practice at Anthony Harper and provide insight into the types of work undertaken in each team. Students gain a clearer understanding of how different practice areas operate, the matters they work on, and the legal and commercial issues they navigate.



- Introduction to Corporate & Commercial
- Banking and Financial Services
- Property
- Litigation processes
- Employment law
- Trust and Asset Planning
- Intellectual Property
- Retirement Villages

Students also attend skills-based sessions covering:

- The fundamentals of drafting and legal writing
- Electronic transactions
- Legal research and library resources
- Time recording and trust account processes
- Business development and networking
- Anti-Money Laundering and risk awareness

“I appreciate AH’s investment in their people’s growth, and it’s evident in the LinkedIn Tutorials and more, where they really encourage us to think about personal/professional branding and more.”

2025 / 26 Summer law programme

“I really enjoyed the tutorials, since they gave us an overview of firm work in practice areas we weren’t rotating in. I really appreciated being part of a cohort of clerks and getting to meet everyone. The mentorship I received from my buddies and supervising partners, as well as all staff generally, was also outstanding.”

2024 / 25 Summer law programme

The Detail

Your experience

Benefits of completing a Summer Law Programme at AH



Competitive Salary



Legal work that matters



Social Events and Firm Activities



Paid leave over Christmas Closedown



A dedicated Buddy and support from your Supervising Partner People and Culture team



Volunteer Day



Two rotations in different teams



Structured tutorial programme



The Summer Law Programme is designed to provide meaningful experience, structured support and genuine insight into the profession, equipping students with a strong foundation for the next stage of their legal journey.

By the end of the programme, students will have:

- Practical experience across two distinct practice areas
- Strengthened drafting and legal research capability
- Greater confidence working in a professional services environment
- Exposure to real client matters and team collaboration
- A clearer understanding of life in commercial legal practice

We hope this gave you insight into what Anthony Harper has to offer. We look forward to welcoming our next cohort of summer law clerks. For any further questions, please contact the People and Culture Team at hr@ah.co.nz

The Detail

Recruitment Process

Overview

Our Summer Clerk recruitment process is designed to be clear and straightforward. Below is an overview of the stages involved and what to expect throughout the application process.



Eligibility

Our Summer Clerk programme is designed for penultimate year law students. However we still welcome applications from other years, If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact us.

What to submit

Applications should include:

- A detailed CV
- A copy of your academic transcript
- A cover letter
- Anthony Harper application questions

The application questions are an opportunity to show your motivations and interest beyond your CV. We encourage thoughtful and considered responses.

Your application

We recommend including:

- Academic achievements
- Work experience (legal or non-legal)
- Leadership roles or extracurricular involvement
- Community or volunteer contributions
- Examples that show initiative and responsibility

Clarity, authenticity and genuine interest matter more than length.

The Detail

Recruitment Process



What we look for

We value students who demonstrate:

- Strong communication skills
- Curiosity and willingness to learn
- Initiative and accountability
- Commercial awareness
- Alignment with our values

What to expect during the process

The recruitment process may include:

- Application submission
- Shortlisting
- Informal coffee catchups
- Interviews
- Online assessments
- Offers

Interviews typically run for 30–45 minutes and may be held in person or online. They are conversational in style and focus on understanding your motivations, experiences and interest in Anthony Harper. We encourage students to research the firm and come prepared with thoughtful questions.

Online Assessments

As part of the process, shortlisted candidates may be asked to complete online personality assessments (Hogan).

These assessments help us understand your working style, strengths and how you may operate under pressure. There are no “right” or “wrong” answers and no preparation is required.

The assessments take about 30–45 minutes to complete.

The Detail

Tips and Tricks

What makes a strong application?

- We look for evidence of initiative, not just participation.
- Show us impact, not just responsibilities.
- Tailor your cover letter, generic cover letters are easy to spot.
- Be clear and concise.
- Demonstrate commercial awareness (not just legal interest).
- Take the time to provide thoughtful and genuine responses — this is our opportunity to learn more about you beyond your CV.

Common mistakes we see

- Repeating your CV in your cover letter.
- Addressing the firm incorrectly (yes it happens).
- Submitting without proofreading.
- Focusing only on grades and not who you are.
- Not explaining why you want to work at Anthony Harper specifically.



Vefa Demir 2023/24 Summer Law Programme

“One tip I would strongly recommend is that applicants tailor each cover letter to the specific firm, rather than submitting a generic application. I think it makes a difference when a candidate demonstrates that they have taken the time to understand the firm’s practice areas. I would also suggest that applicants indicate which areas of law they are curious about and briefly explain why to help the firm understand where the candidate may be a good fit.”

Harriet Kennelly 2022/23 Summer Law Programme

“When applying for summer law clerkship roles, talk about your passions in your application. It can set you apart from others, and when you reach the interview stages, it will make you feel more at ease to discuss something that you love doing. It also promotes connection with others, who might share similar passions. Always think about why you would like to work at the firm, and do not be afraid to ask questions about the firm and the work they do”.



The Detail

FAQ's

Can I update my application after submitting it?

If you need to provide more information, please contact hr@ah.co.nz.

Can I use AI tools when preparing my application?

You may use tools to help draft or structure your application. However, all responses must be your own and accurately reflect your experience.

What should I wear to my interview?

Professional or business casual attire for a corporate environment.

What if I require adjustments during the recruitment process?

We are committed to providing an inclusive and accessible process. If you require any changes, please contact us so we can support you appropriately.

I wasn't successful this time. Can I apply again?

Yes, you are welcome to apply in future recruitment rounds.

Is there an opportunity to return as a graduate?

High-performing Summer Clerks may be considered for future graduate opportunities.

What should I include in my application to make it stand out?

Have a look at our website, learn about our firm, talk about what has resonated with you or made you want to join our firm, tell us why you are interested in a commercial law firm and be genuine in your cover letter.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

People and Culture Team, hr@ah.co.nz



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