

Mentee Eligibility for Mentorship Programme 2025 – 2027

Please note that due to capacity/availability of mentors, we do not anticipate that we can match everyone who is eligible. Even if eligible based on the criteria below, there is still a possibility of not being selected for the mentorship programme when applying.

Prospective mentee applicants will be required to complete an online application form within the published Application Period.

To be eligible for a place on the Mentorship Programme, prospective mentees must be:

1. Aged 18 or over on the date of application.
2. Living in the United Kingdom and intending to pursue a legal career in England and Wales. In certain circumstances we may consider applicants who are not currently living within the United Kingdom but who are eligible to and intend to pursue a career in England and Wales
3. Care-experienced. We define ‘care-experienced’ as someone who has been in foster care (including kinship care) or a residential care placement provided by a local authority in the United Kingdom during their childhood. This definition also extends to include those who have been adopted and unaccompanied asylum seekers who were looked after by a local authority.

Eligibility would not extend to anyone who was looked after whilst an age assessment was undertaken, where the outcome of that assessment deemed them to be an adult.

4. Able to provide proof of care experience in the form of a letter from a social worker or other communication from a local authority, or School/College or personal advisor confirming their care experience. For example, a screenshot from a subject access request (SAR).
5. Has successfully completed any of the following courses in England and Wales or is currently enrolled or due to start within the next twelve months:
 - a. Law degree or degree-level qualification; or

- b. Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) or Post-Graduate Diploma in Law (PDGL); or
- c. Bar Course, for example the Bar Training Course, Bar Practice Course, Bar Vocational Course or Bar Vocational Studies; or
- d. Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE); or
- e. CILEX Professional Qualification (CPQ).
- f. Legal Apprenticeship

Alternatively, the applicant must be able to show the commitment and capacity to pursue a legal apprenticeship or another pathway to a career in the legal profession.

- 6. FROM 2026: 100-word statement on why they want to be involved with LWC and what they hope to achieve from the programme.

Approved by: CEO, Chair of the Advisory Board & Chair of the Mentorship Programme Committee, Lawyers Who Care

February 2026