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First ever "new model" trainee begins contract

The first trainee to come through a new solicitor training contract model, which secondments trainees to practices, has begun their legal career with Accutrainee.

Under Accutrainee's new model, using Solicitors Regulation Authority approved training contracts, trainees are taken on by Accutrainee but are seconded to law firms [and in-house legal departments], usually more than one, during their training contract. Trainees have an opportunity to work with these firms and demonstrate their skills in order to secure newly qualified positions once their training contracts have come to an end.

Flora Hussey is the first Accutrainee candidate and began her contract this summer. She will be completing her training contract, spending most of her time at New Quadrant Partners, a boutique private client legal practice and advisory service based in London which provides for the needs of wealthy UK and international families and individuals.

Flora will also be spending three months focusing on contentious work at a top 20 City law firm which will complement other experience she will gain throughout her training contract. Susan Cooper, CEO of Accutrainee, said: "After launching last year, this represents a real milestone not just for Accutrainee, but also the legal profession as a whole. This training contract model gives the lawyers of the future a chance to experience different types of work in different legal environments, helping to shape them for the legal sector of tomorrow."

"We will focus on monitoring each of our trainee's progress and development throughout their training contracts to ensure they are on track, giving them the support they need along the way".

"We have other graduates at different stages of the process who will be starting their training contracts at different times - as we are not restricted by set intake timetables each year because our trainees start in line with the business needs of our clients."

Joan Major, Partner at New Quadrant Partners, said: "Accutrainee provides us with the perfect solution to meet our trainee needs, allowing us to grow our team and ensuring trainees can also develop knowledge in the areas we do not cover ourselves."

Traditionally, trainees are taken on 'in-house' by law firms, completing their entire two year contract with one firm. Under Accutrainee's model, trainees are employed by Accutrainee rather than the firms, but are seconded out to legal practices seeking trainees.

Under the model, trainees could remain at one firm for the duration of their Accutrainee contract or rotate amongst different firms, depending on each firm's trainee requirements and the trainee's needs.

Ends

Accutrainee launched in September 2011 providing a novel, flexible and efficient way to source and train trainee solicitors. Accutrainee delivers specially selected trainees to clients (law firms and in-house legal departments) in line with their business needs whilst removing the risk and administrative, regulatory and financial burdens of taking on trainees. Accutrainee is authorised by the Solicitors Regulatory Authority ("SRA") as a training establishment allowing it to enter into training contracts recognised by the SRA.