

Meet the team

Neha Iqbal

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What do you do at Outset and how do you support our clients?

I am a paralegal in the Corporate and Commercial team where I assist on business transactions. My duties primarily consist of supporting the team in the post completion process, ensuring that post-completion requirements are met for example updating company registers. However, I also assist the team throughout different stages of a transaction to support the progression of projects and ensure that client objectives are met successfully and in a timely manner. These duties range from supporting the due diligence process and project management by updating completion agendas and project trackers and liaising with the team and colleagues in other departments.



Give us a brief timeline of your career so far

In July 2020, I graduated from the University of Kent with a First in Law. During this time, I conducted work experience with Outset which led me to returning back in January 2021 as a paralegal. At the moment, I have nearly completed my post-graduate studies at The University of Law where I am studying the LPC LLM as I aspire to qualify as a solicitor. Due to this ambition, a lot of my previous work experience has been tailored to this path, for example I have worked in a variety of legal roles within courts, law firms, law clinics and even with the police as a Special Constable. Gaining these experiences whilst studying for my law degree is a key reason for my confidence within the legal field as I have been able to practically apply my knowledge of the law as I was learning.

I have also worked in a range of non-legal areas, for example I worked as a Tutor as well as working as a Student Ambassador for the University of Kent. Both these roles have provided me with a range of transferable skills that I apply to my role today as a paralegal with Outset.

What has been your biggest challenge in your role?

The biggest challenge so far has not only been working whilst studying at the same time but doing this during a pandemic. However due to the amazing team I work with I am constantly kept up to date with the transactions that are on-going and the stages we are at with each acquisition. This has really helped me with developing my knowledge and enabled me to pick my duties back up when I return to work after a long week of studying.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I really enjoy working and liaising with the team as well as other departments to ensure that our client's goals are being achieved. Delivering first class client service is at the forefront of my aims when performing my duties therefore as Outset are value focused and encourage innovate methods of achieving client goals it is always enjoyable discussing strategies and playing a part in delivering client objectives.

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What do you think sets Outset apart?

This stems from my previous answer. One thing that sets Outset apart is its inclusivity. Since I started my role here I have been welcomed and encouraged by all colleagues, regardless of position and experience. This has made me feel very comfortable and encouraged me to work even harder. I believe individuals learn best by being trusted with responsibility, being encouraged to ask questions and understanding that mistakes are sometimes made. This professional and informal culture that Outset possesses is unique to traditional professional services which I believe is a key reason for the confidence, in-depth skills and knowledge I have developed so far.

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What do you wish someone had told you when you started out? Or what piece of advice were you given early on that has stuck with you?

During school, one of my favourite teachers had told me to *"reach for the moon and if you don't quite make it then you will land within the stars."* This piece of advice really resonated with me and I make sure I do exactly that even to this day. During my studies I have always ensured I worked extra hard to achieve the grades I wanted even after being told I wouldn't be able to make it. Knowing that I had tried my best in everything I did made me feel successful. This mindset is what has led me to achieving much higher A Levels than I was predicted, a First Class in my Law degree as well as currently averaging a Distinction in my LPC so far. I will ensure I continue to use this mindset throughout my work life and always work above and beyond to achieve my goals as well as my client's goals.

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What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

I am very family oriented so have always enjoyed quality time with them. Also, since moving to Kent from London, I really enjoy being outdoors, going for hikes and enjoying the amazing views and scenery we have here. This is something I always do whenever I need a break from my studies in order to unwind. After I complete my studies, I will have more free time when I am not working so I have made it my mission to use the time to explore new hobbies and travel more.



Who inspires you most and why?

Many people inspire me however if I had to pick I would say my family. My siblings were the first generation in our family to go to university and set the path for me to also go and create a successful future for myself. Both my parents were unable to gain a high level of education due to their circumstances therefore they have always encouraged my siblings and I to study so that we can experience a life that they didn't get to. So as my siblings have always worked hard to achieve their goals, my sister being a nurse and midwife and my brother being a data analyst, it has encouraged me to work hard to achieve my goals of being a solicitor no matter what obstacles I have to overcome.

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What piece of advice would you give someone in business?

Since seeing business struggle in lockdown and some completely closing, I would say two things are essential to today's businesses succeeding. One being investing in technology and the other is the ability to be flexible. Due to having to work from home, I have seen that the businesses that are thriving are the ones that have invested in the technology and have been able to continue their business from home. Also, by being flexible and adapting to the situation we have been handed, some businesses have been able to identify the difficulties, find solutions and use the restrictions in their favour. We never know when we may be in this type of situation again (hopefully not again in our lifetime) but its best to be prepared and enforce flexible strategies.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

From a young age I knew I always wanted to be a lawyer, probably because I am never one to hesitate to prove a point or take part in a debate. I juggled between being a barrister and solicitor for many years however after experiencing a mini-pupillage I was able to decide that a solicitor role is more suited to my goals and attributes and as a solicitor I will still be able to practice my advocacy skills which is what attracted me to being a barrister originally.

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And finally... What is one thing you've learnt during lockdown?

I have learnt how to appreciate the people around me and the blessings I have more. Unfortunately, many people have lost many loved ones to Covid, they have struggled financially, emotionally, psychologically and so much more. So I have learnt to appreciate all that I have, as there is always someone who is struggling more. On a more positive note, I have also learnt how to cook! I used to be terrible in the kitchen but out of boredom my mum taught me how to cook traditional Pakistani cuisine during lockdown and I can finally say I can make some delicious meals.

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Scan the QR code below to save
Neha's contact details

