

JESSICA ELEMENT

TTS STUDENT: 1997-1999

Current role: Lawyer for the Independent Police Complaints Commission

Career pathway:

Following a law degree at Cambridge University, I trained at Linklaters law firm in London and worked in London, Paris and Hong Kong. I then went on to work at Berwin Leighton Paisner law firm in London (Commercial Real Estate) and the Crown Prosecution service as a Senior Crown Prosecutor. Later, I moved to New Law Solicitors in Cardiff to work as a Claimant personal injury lawyer. I currently live in Cardiff with my partner and our crazy dog Jim.

Advice for students:

Choose the firm and type of law carefully. London firms offer a great salary great travel opportunities but if you're ultimately looking for quality of life (or a work/life balance), you may want to look at more regional firms or organisations. In-house work often offers the best of both worlds.

Plans for the future:

I am in the process of setting up a start-up online organic, vegan cosmetics company. I would love to use all the business experience I have gained as a lawyer, work for myself and focus on something which I am passionate about i.e. promoting animal rights and encouraging the use of ethical, organic products.

Best memory of your time at Thomas Telford?

The French exchange. We had such a brilliant time!

