



SFA Alumni Profile

Katy Love – Solicitor

What do you do in your job?

I am a solicitor within a corporate law firm. I am currently based within the Housing, Development & Regeneration team, carrying out the legal work required for clients to acquire land and houses, to be delivered to the public in new housing schemes, primarily with an affordable housing delivery. My work is very varied as my clients also have a number of different real estate issues that need legal solutions, such as granting leases and acting as a landlord, selling parcels of land they no longer need, granting rights over land to utility companies and councils etc. The work is always interesting.

How did you get to where you are?

I qualified as a solicitor through an apprenticeship – all of my training was funded by my employer and I am now a qualified solicitor without student debt, having earned whilst I learnt for 8 years.

I started as a paralegal apprentice straight from sixth form, joining Gowling at 18 years old. The solicitor apprenticeship didn't exist at that point, so when I completed my paralegal apprenticeship, I was offered the chance to carry on with the new solicitor apprenticeship option, to try and qualify as a solicitor. The exams to qualify weren't even written yet, so it was a leap of faith – and it paid off! I qualified as a solicitor in November 2023, graduating with a first class honours law degree with the University of Law in November 2022.

What has been your proudest achievement or what do you enjoy most about your job?

My proudest achievement to date has been qualification as a solicitor – it was the moment I have worked for since starting my apprenticeship, and to have all the hard work pay-off is an amazing feeling.

I enjoy the variety of my work and I love to be busy! I find my work very rewarding as a lot of my work is with a registered charity, so I like to know that I am doing work recognised for its charitable purposes.

I am a huge apprenticeship advocate and spend a lot of time outside of work sharing my experiences with others, so that they can also consider an apprenticeship. I was a finalist in 2022 for Apprentice of the Year with the Birmingham Law Society, and I represent my firm on the Solicitor Apprenticeship Strategy Sounding Board, in partnership with the City of London Law Society.

What school subjects do you think are most useful to the job you do?

You need to have great communication skills as a solicitor, both verbal & written – so your English studies are really important. My A Level studies of law and business at St Francis also put me in a great position for understanding my clients from an early stage in my career. My biggest love at school was geography, which led me to starting in a real estate role.

What advice would you give to our students to help them in their career journey?

If you're not entirely sure University is for you, consider a higher-level apprenticeship. I was capable of university but I couldn't decide what I wanted to do, and I am so grateful I took a chance with starting an apprenticeship. Weigh up your options and really ask yourself, what do I want to achieve in the next 5 years? If you want a head start in a career, with no debt, on the job training may be the way for you too!