

NEWSFLASH

Local Government Diploma – Sponsorship 2021/22

This year the EM Lawshare partner firms will be offering sponsorship of **£1,400 plus VAT** per place, with mentoring during the course, for **2 places** on the Law Society's Local Government Diploma. The course fee is **£1,600 plus VAT** so we are asking the successful candidates to make a contribution of **£200** to their course fee.

The Diploma is a well regarded and widely recognised qualification for those working in the local government world. However it should not be undertaken lightly as it involves a significant time commitment over an academic year; the Law Society estimates seven hours a week.

Both places are being sponsored by the EM Lawshare Partner Law Firms – Anthony Collins Solicitors, Bevan Brittan, Browne Jacobson, Freeths, Geldards, Sharpe Pritchard and Weightmans

Fran Whyley, Legal Services Manager at Gedling Borough Council, completed the course in 2014 and commented:

“The requirements of the course were to prepare 3 projects over the course of the academic year and sit 2 exams at the end of the year. I must confess that working pretty much full time, I found the Course demanding both in terms of its content and the time needed to do it justice, that said, I found my study throughout the year to be very beneficial to my day job as a Local Authority Lawyer. The course gave me a much broader understanding of the workings of a Local Authority and the legal issues dealt with by both Unitary and District Councils. Having trained predominantly in Criminal law, I found the education this course offered was invaluable. My exam technique may have been a little rusty, but pass or fail, this has been a very worthwhile experience and I would recommend anyone who works in the field of Local Government Law to consider going for this diploma.”

The Prospectus and Application form are available on the Law Society's website.

<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/en/career-advice/individual-accreditations/diploma-in-local-government-law-and-practice>

Please read these documents carefully as they include details on:

- Eligibility
- Benefit and relevance
- Syllabus and assessment
- Relevant dates

If you want to be considered for one of the sponsored places you must apply in writing by email to Fiona Pritchard (fiona.pritchard@freeths.co.uk) by 5pm, **Wednesday 30 June 2021**. Your application should include the following:

- Your full name, post title and local authority.
- Your Manager's name, title, email address and confirmation that they agree to you doing the course.
- A summary (no longer than 750 words) detailing why you want to do the course, what value you would add to your service by undertaking the diploma and demonstrating your commitment to a career in Local Government. (Please note we usually receive a high number of applications for just 2 places so this summary is very important in distinguishing applications.)
- The completed enrolment form for the course (this can be found in the Prospectus).
- The completed Pre Requisite form for the course, if applicable (this can be found in the Prospectus).

Late applications will not be considered.

The successful candidates will be selected on the basis of the views of the EM Lawshare Management Panel representatives and representatives of the sponsoring panel firms. They reserve the right to consult with the candidate's line manager and authority colleagues as to the candidate's commitment to the qualification and the benefits to be derived from the diploma both by the candidate and their employer. The criteria to be used will include:

Applicants:

1. Must have at least two years post qualification experience
2. Must have been working in Local Government for at least one year
3. Must meet the eligibility requirements including at 1.4 of the Prospectus
4. Must demonstrate how they will share their learning with their colleagues
5. Must demonstrate a commitment to a career in Local Government
6. Must have the support of their line manager
7. Must demonstrate how it will help in their current and future roles

The selection decision will be final. Applicants *may* be required to attend a meeting with representatives from EM Lawshare and the panel firms later in July.

If you have any questions please email Fiona Pritchard or me (sl.emlawshare@yahoo.com)

Stuart Leslie, EM Lawshare Co-ordinator

2 June 2021