

Entering top Finance and Corporate Law Careers

What parents need to know



Harvard
Business
School



Yale University

MIT
MANAGEMENT
SLOAN SCHOOL



THE TIMES OF INDIA

SIDLEY

**Goldman
Sachs**

Purpose of Guide

This guide is for parents supporting a son or daughter into elite law and finance careers or for parents whose children are seeking careers in high finance or elite corporate law firms.

For families who have already invested in private or international schooling, this is a small, structured extension that de-risks the final step from “strong student” to actual offer.

These paths are exceptionally competitive — **typically 1–3% acceptance**, in some cases **lower than admission** to universities such as **Harvard, LSE and Oxford**.

In the pages that follow, we outline why strong students miss, the frameworks we use (VTMR™, PEAL-3™, PEAL-X™, STAR-3™), and the next steps so you can make a clear, informed decision.

Top Grades and Top Universities Are Sadly Not Enough

If pure academics were enough, top corporate law firms and global investment banks would hire almost exclusively from Oxford, LSE and Harvard. They don't.

The recruitment market has moved: employers are hunting for the highest-quality human capital – judgement, resilience, commercial fluency and evidence of impact – wherever it sits.

Many trainees and analysts now come from non-target universities, alternative routes and even BTEC backgrounds, including several of our own past clients at top firms.

Strong grades open the door; high-quality, evidence-led applications are what convert that potential into actual offers.

Note: we are not affiliated with any organisation mentioned in this brochure.



Here is a Client from a Non-Target University On Track to earn £165,000



Client has asked for discretion, but can potentially meet as part of the client admission process. Full evidence of offer on file.



This is a 1–3% global tournament, not a normal job

Parents need to know their child isn't just competing with their own university year, but with the best students worldwide* for roles where acceptance rates can be 1–3% – often lower than Harvard or Oxford entry. These careers also pay exceptionally high. Here is a client who is forecast to £175,000 as a newly qualified lawyer.

That means wasting a cycle with vague strategy is very expensive. The game is: pick the right firms, at the right time, in the right jurisdiction, then execute cleanly.

A targeted programme is a low-risk way to protect your education spend.

**Students from international universities regularly apply for roles in London and New York due to i) the high level and quality of transactions and ii) diverse and generally high human capital*





World class. Worked together for 3 years and landed an investment banking internship. Read case study.

**Karam Kahlon, University of Exeter
Incoming Investment Banking Intern, HSBC**

Why International Students Miss Out (Even with Top Grades)

Around 95% of the students we support come from international backgrounds. Almost all begin with the same belief: “Firms won’t hire or sponsor someone like me”, including this client who landed a top corporate law firm from Singapore.

In reality, for top firms, budget is not the constraint. Some of these organisations have revenues exceeding \$1 billion, run global practices and have dedicated resource to sponsor top international talent every year.

Quite simply, if they want to hire international talent they can and will.

The real issue is that many international students act as if they are already at a disadvantage. They apply late, avoid the most competitive firms, or water down their ambitions because of their passport. In applications and interviews, they often underplay the very things that make them valuable – speaking multiple languages and understanding more than one legal, cultural and commercial environment.

Handled properly, an international background is an asset. It **signals global awareness, adaptability and the ability to work with clients and colleagues across borders** – exactly what the top firms sell to their own clients. Our work is to help students frame this story clearly, align it with the right visa and recruitment timelines, and then express their value through structured, evidence-led answers.

When that happens, being international stops feeling like a hurdle and starts reading as a clear commercial advantage.

One of many messages we receive



**Attending the University of Cambridge is
an excellent achievement, but it sadly
does not equal employability**

Strong students miss for structural reasons, not lack of intelligence

Most rejections happen for structural reasons, not because a student “isn’t good enough”. CVs, cover letters and interview answers often fail to show measurable impact. We use structured systems to fix this, including our VTMR™ / Akram V-T-M-R Formula™ (Verb, Task, Metric, Result), which turns vague descriptions into concrete evidence of value.

Let’s apply this to a single CV line.

Before – typical CV line (duties only)

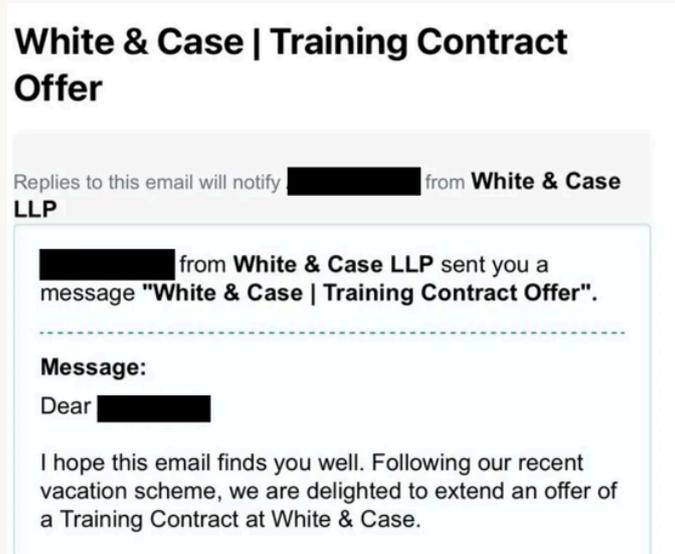
- *Assisted on client matters, conducting research and drafting documents as required.*

After – VTMR™ (impact and numbers)

- *Drafted first-cut research notes on 12+ client matters, streamlining precedents and cutting partner review time by c.20%, enabling faster turnaround on urgent cases.*



Our 1-1 offer-engineering approach with clients resolves these problems



This client is forecasted to earn
£175,000 as a newly qualified
corporate lawyer

Students land offers from watching Hassan's Tiktok lives alone

Kian (UCL) – used STAR-3™ + PEAL-3™ guides to secure a White & Case Spring Insight in London.

Yusuf (state-school, £0) – used frameworks to win a place on Clifford Chance's Early-Talent Development Programme in ~6 weeks.

Daniel (Warwick) – used VTMR™, PEAL-3™ and PEAL-X™ to secure a Perkins Coie London Vacation Scheme.

Our structured approach enables outcomes



Matei (Queen Mary) – watched our Tiktok live videos to secure programmes and interviews at top corporate law firm. [Read case study.](#)

Where Our Frameworks Have Already Worked – From Free Content to Full Campaigns

FROM ECS CONTENT

CITADEL
First-year Spring Scheme

"Landed a hedge fund spring week from a non-target."

Historical outcomes; candidate statements used with permission. Third-party names and marks are for context only—no affiliation or endorsement. Results vary; no guarantee.

Deutsche Bank

Investment Banking Interview

"I follow you on TikTok. The outcomes speak for themselves."

Historical outcomes; candidate statements used with permission. Third-party names and marks are for context only—no affiliation or endorsement. Results vary; no guarantee.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge Law to US firm TC (from free content)

"My £50k degree didn't land me a TC... your tiktok videos did. I secured [top US corporate law firm]."

Historical outcomes; candidate statements used with permission. Third-party names and marks are for context only—no affiliation or endorsement. Results vary; no guarantee.

Corporate Law – FROM 1-TO-1 ADVISORY

WHITE & CASE

Training Contract Offer

"Results speak for themselves. Exceptional."

Historical outcomes; candidate statements used with permission. Third-party names and marks are for context only—no affiliation or endorsement. Results vary; no guarantee.

ROPES & GRAY

Selective Corporate Law Open Day

"The frameworks landed me the open day. Exceptional."

Historical outcomes; candidate statements used with permission. Third-party names and marks are for context only—no affiliation or endorsement. Results vary; no guarantee.

SIDLEY

Training Contract Offer

"Worth every pound."

Historical outcomes; candidate statements used with permission. Third-party names and marks are for context only—no affiliation or endorsement. Results vary; no guarantee.

Markets / IB / PE – FREE / MIXED & ADVISORY

Jefferies

Investment Banking Internship Offer

"Expert help at every stage."

Historical outcomes; candidate statements used with permission. Third-party names and marks are for context only—no affiliation or endorsement. Results vary; no guarantee.

Morgan Stanley

Sales & Trading Placement Year

"If free content can achieve this, imagine what the paid programmes can do."

Historical outcomes; candidate statements used with permission. Third-party names and marks are for context only—no affiliation or endorsement. Results vary; no guarantee.

Hg

Private Equity Offer

"World-class from start to finish."

Historical outcomes; candidate statements used with permission. Third-party names and marks are for context only—no affiliation or endorsement. Results vary; no guarantee.

PROGRAMME MENU

Programmes built from what our offer-winners actually did. Everything we do is from **frameworks, precedents, and direct templates of success.**

Foundation-8

For: Strong students who don't yet look shortlistable on paper.

What we build:

- VTMR™ CV / "legal experience" section.
- PEAL-3™ answer bank for "Why commercial law / IB / PE / markets?".

Outcome: a clear pass/fail view on interview-readiness — a small, de-risking step before heavier spend.

We recommend all families start here

Sprint-10

For: Live deadlines this cycle (vac schemes, Spring Weeks, ACs).

What we do:

- Target 3–6 specific firms.
- Refine written work (PEAL-3™/PEAL-X™) for those firms.
- Run 5–7 interview/AC simulations with "Next 3 Fixes" each time.

Outcome: an 8–10 week push to convert into interviews — a time-boxed extension of your education investment.

Diamond-28

For: Families who want a fully engineered campaign.

What we do:

- Provide a full syllabus to enable outcomes
- Build and maintain the full VTMR™ / PEAL-3™ / PEAL-X™ / STAR-3™ / BDC™ asset set.
- Provide structured progress updates and strategy adjustments.

Outcome: engineered campaign — used by families who want a measured, de-risked route to offers.

Flagship (Invite-Only)

For: Single families (often under NDA) where the upside and intent are clear.

What we do:

- Combine exam, application, interview and long-term positioning.
- Limit seats (≈ <5> families active at any one time).
- Operate under strict ethics and, where needed, NDA.

Outcome: a derisked solution to enter tier-1 careers. Often a multi year campaign. (All 4/4 clients have secured corporate law careers from this programme.)

HOW WE WORK

Structured – we run 8, 10 or 28-session sprints with clear aims, not open-ended hourly coaching.

Transparent – If, after two sessions, the structure and intensity are not what you expected, you can stop there and only pay for sessions delivered.

Selective - we work with just 30 families per year. This allows greater focus on clients and generates results. Please see our case studies across multiple sectors in high finance and corporate law.

Note: careers in high finance or tier-1 corporate law firms are academically selective. As such we are unfortunately unlikely to work with any student who has achieved, or is predicted to achieve, **a 2.2 degree classification in the UK or below a 3.6 GPA in the US.**

Ethics

No vendor-test, case-study or cheating support.
No ghost-writing or impersonation.
Independent of firms/universities; third-party names and marks are for context only.

Next step – Parent & Student Decision Call

Next step – Parent & Student Decision Call (≈45 minutes)

On this call we:

- Clarify your child's specific goals and timelines;
- Benchmark their current profile and answers against the firms on Page 3;
- Recommend either Foundation-8, Sprint-10, Diamond-28, or a free-framework plan if 1-to-1 investment does not yet make sense.

If, after the first review, investment isn't sensible yet, we'll say so and point you to a free framework plan until the timing is right.

[Click here to book an introductory call](#)

About Hassan Akram

- British-Pakistani, raised in a working-class family in Derby; UCL History graduate.
- Ex-recruiter on the inside of elite law and finance processes (screening and interviewing for Magic Circle/US law, IB and PE-aligned roles).
- Creator of VTMR™, PEAL-3™, PEAL-X™, STAR-3™ and BDC™ – frameworks used by clients who have gone on to White & Case, Ropes & Gray, Sidley, Baker McKenzie, Perkins Coie, Morgan Stanley, UBS, KKR and other top-tier firms.
- Invited to speak to MBA clubs at Harvard, MIT and Yale; writes on elite careers entry for the Times of India.





Hassan as an exceptional source of strategic guidance for those pursuing elite finance and legal careers.

Hannah Morton-Hedges
Founder, Momentum Careers and Ex
Recruitment Officer KPMG.

The best investment we ever made.

Family of client who secured a role in
corporate law at the prestigious firm,
Ropes & Gray

*A carefully scoped extension to years of school fees — focused on conversion, not
coaching.*



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