

Davis Polk

Careers

London

Excellence across the board

Other recognition

**Ranked as leading practices for
Capital Markets (Debt and Equity),
Corporate/M&A and Bank Lending/
Acquisition Finance**

– *Chambers UK, IFLR1000 and
Legal 500 UK*

M&A Law Firm of the Year

– *IFLR Europe Awards, 2019*

M&A Deal of the Year

– *IFLR Europe Awards, 2019*

Finance Team of the Year

– *Legal Business Awards, 2019*

Private Equity Team of the Year

– British Legal Awards, 2023

EMEA Leveraged Loan of the Year

– *IFR Awards, 2022*

Our firm



A perfect introduction to an outstanding firm

“The bedrock of our culture is the people. We hire the most talented law students and help them develop to their highest and best abilities.”

– Neil Barr, Managing Partner



Our vacation scheme offers a perfect introduction to a career in law and to Davis Polk:

- Two groups of eight to 10 law students
- Spend a week with the firm, in either June or July
- Paired with a partner mentor and associate liaison
- Real work experience on international transactions for some of our major clients
- Learn about our practice, culture and distinctive approach to client care
- Memorable cultural and social events
- Payment of £750 to cover expenses

[**Our 2024 Vacation Scheme**](#)



Our London-based team consists of over 60 English- and US-qualified lawyers and trainee solicitors.

Working across industries, we advise on capital markets, M&A, finance and restructuring transactions for corporate, private equity and investment banking clients. We also advise on tax, executive compensation, financial regulatory, and antitrust and competition matters, both in the context of corporate finance transactions and on a standalone advisory basis.

Our two-year London training programme provides you with a wealth of experiences to ensure a successful start to your career as an English-law-qualified lawyer. We will recruit our 2026 trainee intake from our summer 2024 vacation scheme participants.

Our training programme includes:

- Up to four rotations of six months to experience our corporate and finance practices, a specialist area of law (tax, financial regulatory, executive compensation or antitrust and competition), and our New York or Brussels office
- Trainee first-year starting salary of £60,000, second year £65,000 and £170,000 upon qualification
- 25 days' holiday and full benefits package including SQE sponsorship
- Training to help you through the first and second stages of the SQE
- Bespoke corporate finance training course
- Sharing an office with a senior lawyer and extensive access to our partners
- Comprehensive legal and skills training and mentor programme

Cutting-edge work and real responsibility

We advise on the matters that matter:

- Sophisticated global M&A deals
- Groundbreaking securities offerings
- High-profile leveraged lending transactions
- Complex compliance issues
- Corporate governance on critical matters for C-suites and boards
- Strategic tax transactional advice
- Cutting-edge financial regulatory and antitrust developments

“From the beginning of your career at Davis Polk you will be involved in cutting-edge work and be given real responsibility. Each team member is an integral part of the working group and is able to take charge of their workstream. This provides an invaluable opportunity for juniors to develop their skills working on complex cross-border transactions while learning from the best in the field. The collaborative and friendly culture of the office will encourage you to take on bigger challenges, push yourself through your perceived limits and strive towards excellence. The experience at Davis Polk truly is an investment in yourself and your career, and one of the best decisions that I have ever made.”

— Sophie Vacikar Bessisso, Associate



[Our client updates](#)

Top-tier clients around the world

Our more than 1,000 lawyers work seamlessly across our global offices to serve clients including:



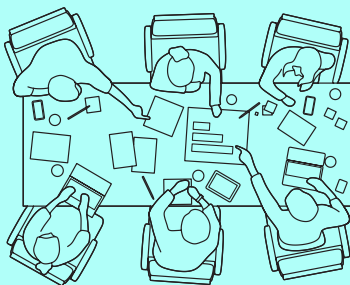
Our global offices

New York
Northern California
Washington DC
São Paulo
London
Brussels
Madrid
Hong Kong
Beijing
Tokyo

[Our recent work](#)

A close-knit, collaborative culture

A deep bench of exceptional talent supporting every relationship



“I’ve had a great couple of years at Davis Polk, having learnt a lot, worked on many interesting deals and had fun in the process. The firm stayed in touch with us after we accepted our training contract offers and invited us to various social events. This meant we already knew most of the lawyers before starting, making the transition from studying to working much smoother.”

– Will Urukalo, Associate



Our lawyers

Our lawyers share what makes Davis Polk so special

Exceptional individuals, working together



Davis Polk is one of the world's most admired firms, with top-tier clients, an unparalleled reputation and a warm, inclusive culture. If you thrive in an environment of collaboration and excellence, come build your future with us.



[View this short video](#)

Setting the standard

Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion

SEO/LONDON

SPONSORS FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Sponsorship of SEO London:

Delivering educational, training and mentoring support to young people from underrepresented and underserved backgrounds in the UK.

“Davis Polk is invested in diversity and understands that the firm can best serve its clients by having a diverse group of lawyers, as it brings to bear a wider range of experiences and ideas. Clients are also focused on diversity and like to know that the firm they are hiring to handle their most important and complex legal matters is a place where all lawyers can thrive.”

– William Tong, Counsel



[Our commitment to DEI](#)



40%

U.S. lawyers who
are racially/ethnically
diverse and/or
LGBTQ+

70%

Firmwide committees
that are chaired or
co-chaired by a
diverse partner

54%

2023 summer
associates who are
women

52%

Partners promoted over
the past five years who
are women, racially/
ethnically diverse and/or
LGBTQ+

Data as of July 2023

Mentorship and training

“From the moment you accept an offer to join our training programme in London you are part of the Davis Polk team. Alongside the on-the-job training and daily experience you will gain from working on transactions and advisory matters with more senior lawyers, including your supervisors, we ensure that your ongoing development as a lawyer is supported by a wide range of training. As the training partner, I’m here to support you throughout your journey to qualifying as a solicitor with us.”

– Dan Hirschovits, Partner and Training Partner



[Our practices](#)

Professional development at Davis Polk includes:

- Regular practice area training sessions for all lawyers in Europe
- Deal basics training for trainees and junior associates
- Multiday intensive seminars for third- and fifth-year associates held in New York
- Networking events
- Formal mentor programme and ongoing informal mentoring
- Dynamic affinity groups



Support for our lawyers

Our programmes and benefits include:

- Health club subsidy / fitness reimbursement
- Biannual workshops on financial and mindfulness topics
- Subscription to the Calm app
- Charitable platform for matching donations
- Corporate Social Responsibility and volunteer opportunities

“Davis Polk is genuinely invested in helping you make your career a success. Everyone’s career journey is different and I found that Davis Polk supported me in each stage of my career, from summer associate to partner. I’ve been offered helpful guidance along the way, including as my own personal circumstances changed. Having a collegial and supportive culture makes all the difference and is crucial to career development.”

– Connie I. Milonakis, Partner



[Follow us on LinkedIn](#)



The breadth and energy of our pro bono programme



Corporate partner to East London Business Alliance:

Bringing the time, skills and resources of the private sector, to help build the capacity of local organisations, support young people in education and place people into employment in London.

“The firm has a commitment to pro bono work and you can be involved in local or global projects for a range of causes. We strongly encourage our people to get involved in pro bono work. It’s a chance for lawyers to get a wider variety of experience early in their careers – and it’s the right thing to do.”

– Nick Benham, Partner





**Our global
pro bono
work in 2022
included:**

86

Nonprofits advised
on corporate or
transactional matters

43

Small business and
entrepreneur clinic
consultations

100

Systemic racial justice
initiative matters

60

Civil and criminal
matters on behalf of
domestic violence and/
or trafficking survivors

134

Humanitarian
immigration matters

Our pro bono program

A great place to launch your career

“Whether through our partner-led mentoring, the exchange of ideas and discussion of legal issues at our regular practice meetings or, as you become more senior, participation in our firm-wide professional and personal development courses in New York, our focus is on supporting your career development. Throughout, you have unparalleled access to me and my fellow partners: we are all invested in helping you to succeed and grow as a lawyer, wherever your career may take you.”

– Will Pearce, Partner and Head of Europe





Ready to apply?

Learn more about our **2024 Vacation Scheme**

Apply for the 2024 Vacation Scheme by emailing
londonrecruiting@davispolk.com



Davis Polk

davispolk.com

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