

BRIGHT
NETWORK

FESTIVAL

2026

The No.1
student event
to discover
your dream
career



11th September

QEI Centre, London

Platinum
Partners



BANK OF AMERICA

CLYDE & CO



LLOYDS
BANKING GROUP



THE
Coca-Cola
COMPANY

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Agenda overview

Morning registration window

9:30am - 12:30pm

Afternoon registration window

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Morning attendees will need to exit the venue between 1:00pm and 2:00pm

10:00am - 1:00pm | 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Open networking

Banking & Investment Management 3rd floor

Business & Management 3rd floor

Charity & Public Sector 3rd floor

Consulting & Professional Services 3rd floor

Consumer, FMCG & Retail 3rd floor

Engineering & Technology 3rd floor

Financial Services 2nd floor

Further Education 2nd floor

Law 1st floor

Red room 4th floor

Panel sessions

10:45am - 11:30am

Breaking into tech: Trends, challenges & opportunities



11:55am - 12:40pm

Finding success in Commercial Law

A&O SHEARMAN

Kennedys

MAYER BROWN



SLAUGHTER AND MAY

2:45pm - 3:30pm

Exploring careers in consumer goods



L'ORÉAL
UK & IRELAND



4:00pm - 4:45pm

Engineering in the UK: Opportunities and challenges



[Read more about these sessions](#)

Purple room 4th floor

Panel sessions

10:45am - 11:30am

Unlocking opportunities: Pathways into competitive industries



11:55am - 12:40pm

Beyond diversity: Creating belonging at work



2:45pm - 3:30pm

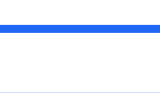
Finding success in Commercial Law

Clifford Chance

CLYDE&CO

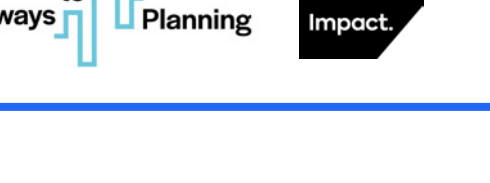


LATHAM&WATKINS



4:00pm - 4:45pm

Unlocking regional opportunities: Why London isn't the only option



[Read more about these sessions](#)

Blue room 4th floor

Panel sessions

10:45am - 11:30am

Traits of successful women leaders



11:55am - 12:40pm

A day in the life of a grad



2:45pm - 3:30pm

Black Heritage voices in the workplace



4:00pm - 4:45pm

Neurodiversity in the workplace



[Read more about these sessions](#)

Green room 4th floor

Sector overviews

10:45am - 11:25am

From curiosity to cyber security leadership: Building your own path



11:55am - 12:35pm

How Investment Banks make money



2:50pm - 3:30pm

Building iconic brands: Our business, brands & careers



4:00pm - 4:40pm

5 (not so secret) secrets to brand & market growth



[Read more about these sessions](#)

Orange room 4th floor

Sector overview

10:45am - 11:25am

Starting out in Commercial Law

[Read more about these sessions](#)

5:00pm

Open networking closes 1st, 2nd & 3rd floors



Welcome to Bright Network FESTIVAL 2026

We're excited you're joining us.

Bright Network is committed to connecting the next generation with the opportunities, insights and advice to succeed as the workforce of tomorrow. Today is all about you. Connect with over **70** of the world's best graduate employers and gain the exclusive insights you need to get ahead.

You'll be able to boost your skills, hear from sector experts and engage during panels. Discover where your degree could take you and how Bright Network can help you get there.



Enjoy FESTIVAL!

Kirsten & the Bright Network Team



Bright Network leadership



Kirsten Barnes (she/her)
CEO
Bright Network

BRIGHT
NETWORK

Kirsten Barnes is Bright Network's CEO, leading the business to create matches between engaged students and leading employers, through our proprietary technology. With over 10 years' experience in early careers, Kirsten's role at Bright Network centres around her passion for DEIB, placing Bright Network's members at the heart of everything we do and advocating that opportunity should be accessible to all, regardless of background.



James Uffindell
Founder & Executive Chair
Bright Network

BRIGHT
NETWORK

James is a technology entrepreneur and the UK's leading expert on empowering Gen Z talent. James started his first business from his student bedroom in 1999 which he sold to a private investor. James founded Bright Network in 2013, a high-growth technology platform that uses 300M+ data points and insights to build the workforce of tomorrow. Bright Network supports over 1,000,000 graduates and works with 300+ of the world's largest employers including Google, Bloomberg, Goldman Sachs, Accenture and PwC. In 2022, James launched Bright Network Technology Academy to train young people from diverse backgrounds in software engineering skills. James is a regular media commentator and has been featured in The Economist, Management Today, The Times, The Independent, The Daily Telegraph as well as live on BBC (radio and TV), Sky News, Channel 4, CNN and on ITV.

In his spare time, James invests in other growth businesses and enjoys travelling, chess and endurance sports.

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Accessibility & inclusivity initiatives

Bright Network strives to host inclusive, accessible events for all members.

Additionally, we are conscious of our environmental footprint and aim to make our events as sustainable as possible.

Below is what we have implemented to make FESTIVAL more inclusive and sustainable.

- There will be designated male and female prayer rooms at the venue located on the 4th floor. These can be found on the venue map or please ask a Bright Network team member and they can direct you to the rooms.
- There is a designated quiet room at the venue. Please take a look at the networking floor plan to find its location or ask any team member on the day of the event and we can direct you.
- If you're feeling anxious or need mental health support on the day, we will have two Bright Network mental health first aiders on site. Please let a Bright Network team member know that you need to speak with the mental health first aider and we will connect you with them.
- All speakers in sessions have been briefed to provide an audio description as well as pronouns during their introduction.
- We have minimised the amount of paper used by Bright Network and our partners, adhering to a digital first mentality through the utilisation of QR codes and digital materials. Additionally, we have provided suggestions to partners on sustainable giveaways for the event.
- We have highlighted public transportation options to both attendees and clients travelling to the venue.
- There are gender neutral toilets on the second floor. Please refer to the second floor map to locate the toilets.

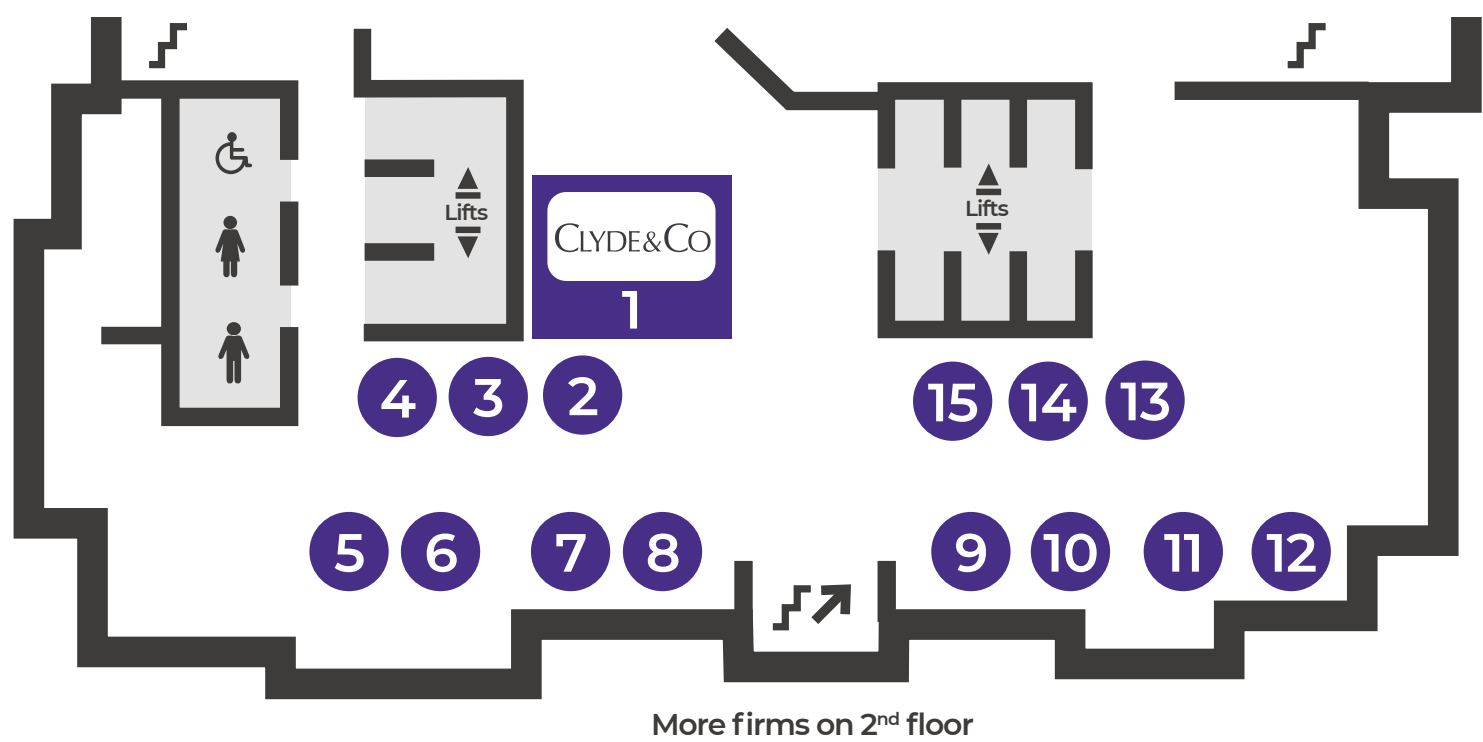
[View our full accessibility & inclusivity initiatives webpage](#)

The following pages include a floorplan where you can see what the venue space will be like.

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1st floor: Networking



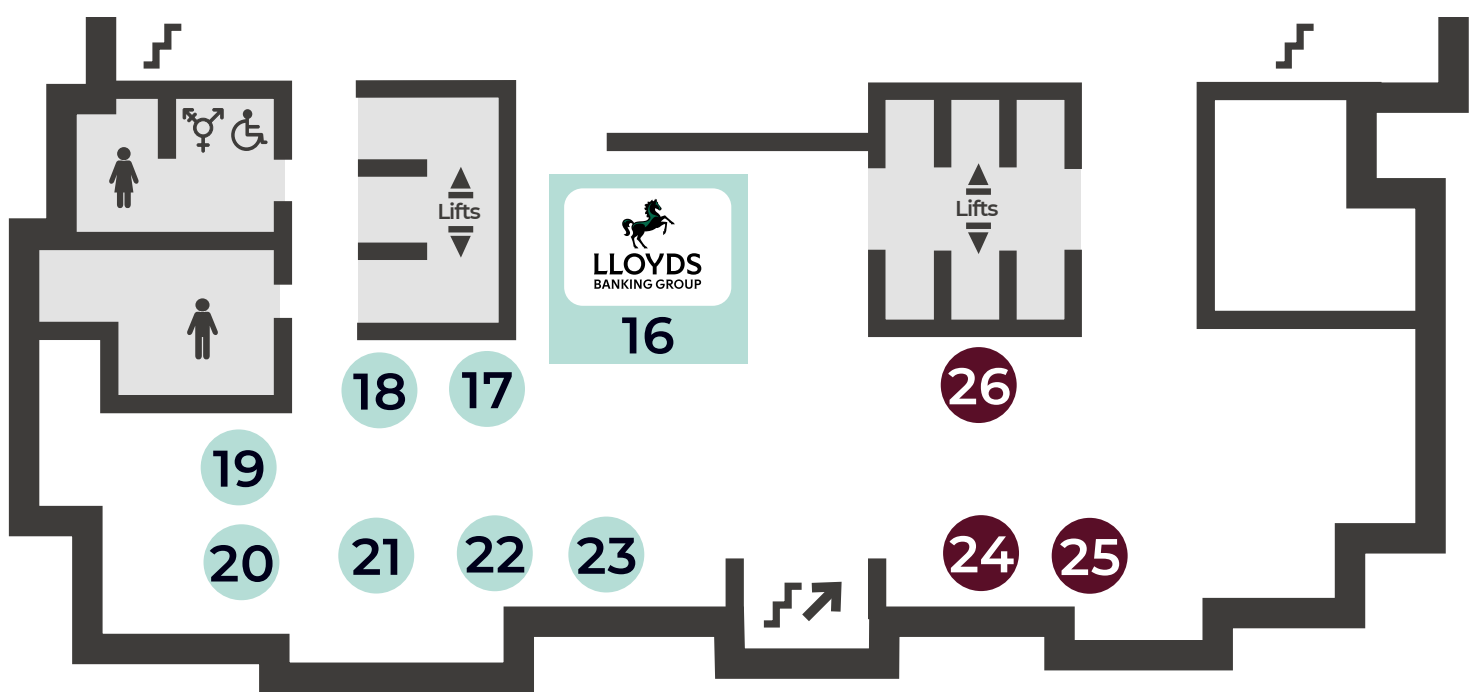
Click the firm names below to find out more about each company attending.

Law

1 Clyde & Co	9 Latham & Watkins
2 A&O Shearman	10 Macfarlanes
3 Bird & Bird	11 Mayer Brown
4 Clifford Chance	12 Osborne Clarke
5 Dechert	13 Reed Smith
6 Goodwin	14 RPC
7 Jones Day	15 Slaughter and May
8 Kennedys	

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2nd floor: Networking



Click the firm names below to find out more about each company attending.

Financial Services

- | | |
|---|---|
| <div>16</div> <div>Lloyds Banking Group</div> | <div>20</div> <div>Citi</div> |
| <div>17</div> <div>Allianz</div> | <div>21</div> <div>Dare</div> |
| <div>18</div> <div>Capital One</div> | <div>22</div> <div>ICAS</div> |
| <div>19</div> <div>CFC</div> | <div>23</div> <div>Moore Kingston Smith</div> |

Further Education

- | |
|---|
| <div>24</div> <div>Bayes Business School</div> |
| <div>25</div> <div>London Business School</div> |
| <div>26</div> <div>The University of Law</div> |

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3rd floor: Networking



Click the firm names below to find out more about each company attending.

Bright Network

27 Bright Network

Consulting & Professional Services

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 28 Aon | 34 LCP Lane Clark & Peacock |
| 29 Baringa | 35 Menzies LLP |
| 30 BDO | 36 Rentokil Initial |
| 31 Capgemini | 37 RSM |
| 32 Grant Thornton | 38 S&W |
| 33 ICAEW | |

Banking & Investment Management

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 39 Bank of America | 43 SMBC Group |
| 40 Greenhill | 44 Société Générale |
| 41 Mizuho | 45 Standard Chartered |
| 42 MUFG | |

Business & Management

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 46 AbbVie | 49 HP |
| 47 AlphaSights | 50 Publicis Groupe |
| 48 Gartner | |

Consumer, FMCG & Retail

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 51 P&G | 57 L'Oréal |
| 52 The Coca-Cola Company | 58 Lidl |
| 53 Budweiser Brewing Group UK&I | 59 Nestlé |
| 54 Carlsberg Britvic | 60 Penguin Random House |
| 55 DHL | 61 TJX Europe |
| 56 Enterprise Mobility | 62 Unilever |

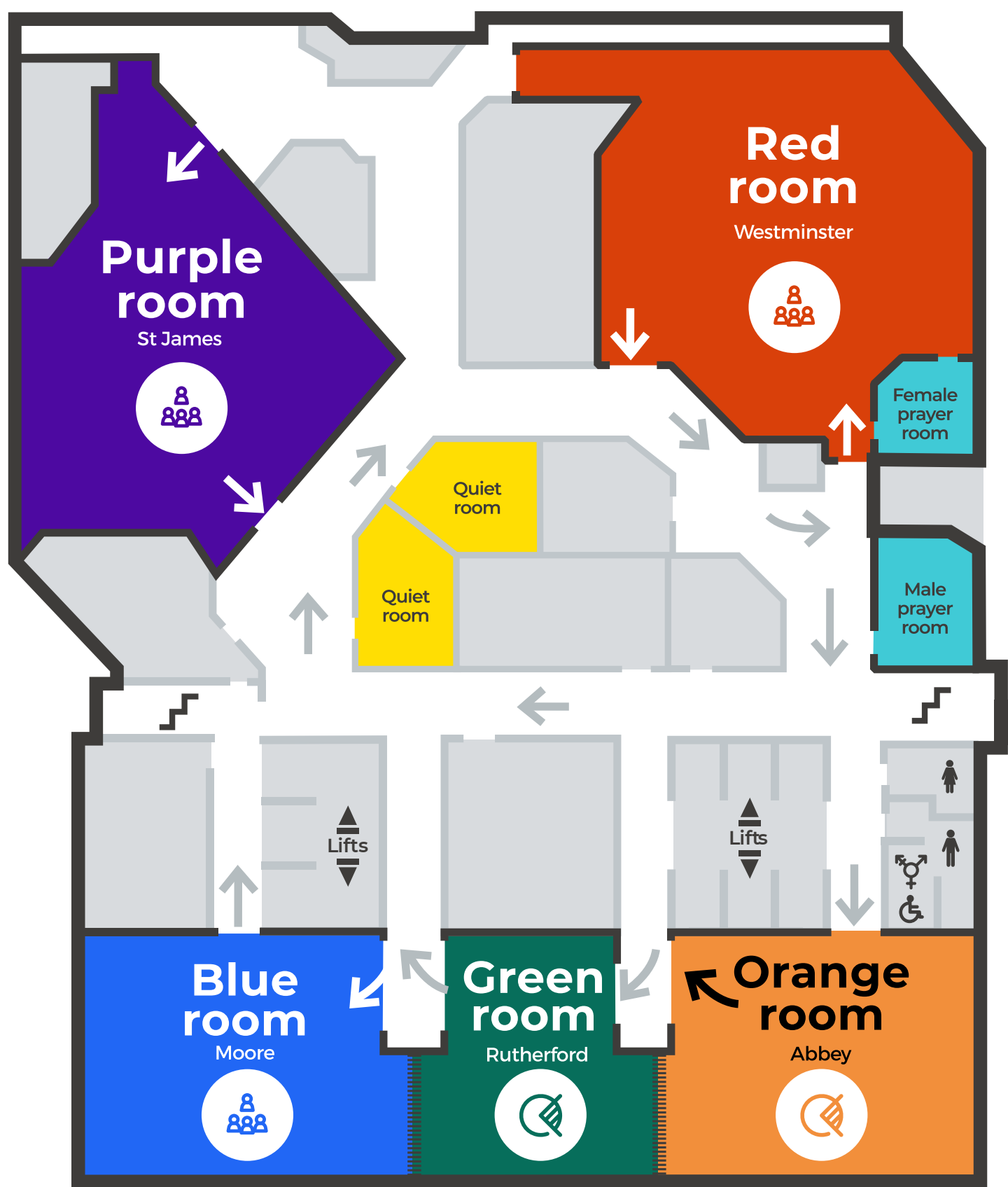
Engineering & Technology

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 63 Arcadis | 67 MBDA |
| 64 AtkinsRéalis | 68 Vodafone |
| 65 British Airways | 69 WSP |
| 66 Helios Towers | |

Charity & Public Sector

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 70 British Army | 73 National Audit Office (NAO) |
| 71 Get into Teaching | 74 Pathways to Planning and Impact |
| 72 Great Western Railway | |

4th floor: Sessions



Blue room Moore

 Panel sessions

Purple room St James

 Panel sessions

Red room Westminster

 Panel sessions

Green room Rutherford

 Sector overviews

Orange room Abbey

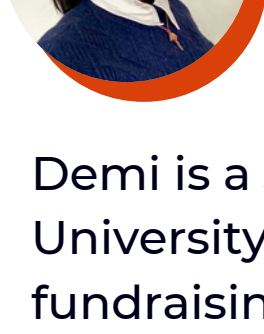
 Sector overviews

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Meet our Student Leadership Board!

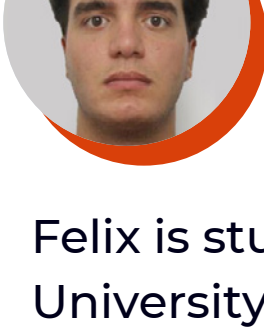
Our Student Leadership Board have been hand-picked by the Bright Network team based on their passion for Bright Network and leadership skills. They have taken an elevated role in the run-up to the event through marketing the event to their network, planning and delivering a networking ice-breaker and will act as ambassadors during the event.



Demi Olusina Daniel

Psychology
University of Birmingham

Demi is a 3rd-year Psychology undergraduate at the University of Birmingham. She has contributed to fundraising initiatives for Pathways to Birmingham, served as a college and brand ambassador, and gained professional experience through internships in healthcare services and organisational consulting. She also previously served as President of the African Caribbean Society. Demi aspires to become a People Consultant, working with organisations to lead restructuring, optimise workforce strategy, and provide strategic advisory. She is passionate about creating people-centred solutions that drive sustainable organisational change.



Felix Petheu

Chemistry
Durham University

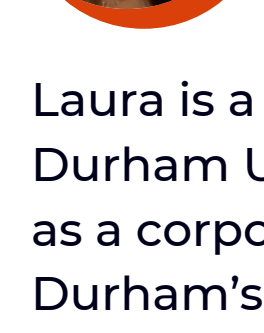
Felix is studying a masters in Chemistry at Durham University with a Year in Industry where he is about to go into second year. Once Felix finishes his degree, he intends to become a Patent Attorney or work in a Pharamcological firm. Felix attended the Bright Network Festival last year and found it extremely helpful in helping define his career aspirations. Felix wanted to join the Student Leadership Board to guide and support this year's attendees so that it can be as helpful to everyone here as it was to him last year.



John Drury

Geography
King's College London

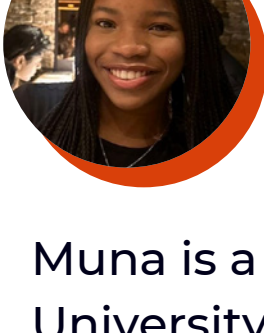
A highly motivated Geography BA student at King's College London with an expansive background in field research, photojournalism, and dynamic customer-facing environments. Adept at analytical, spatial, and editorial skills developed as a sports editor and photographer at Roar News, with hands-on human and physical geography fieldwork across the UK, India, Thailand, and Singapore. Experienced in conducting both qualitative and quantitative research, environmental data collection, and report writing. A well-rounded individual with athletic teamwork, and creative photographic ability, eager to apply versatile experience to a research-driven and analytical opportunity.



Laura Yeo

History
Durham University

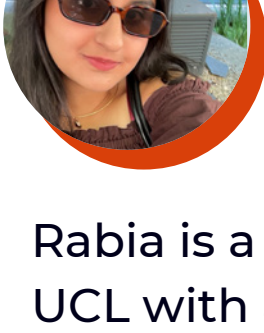
Laura is a second-year History undergraduate at Durham University working towards qualification as a corporate and financial solicitor. She chairs Durham's Non-Law into Law Society, serves as DEI Officer for Durham Law Society, and is President of the University's K-pop Society, roles through which she opens commercial and legal careers to students who assume those routes are closed to them. Laura has completed placements at Addleshaw Goddard, Methods and the Civil Services, and writes for LexMarkets reports. Outside her academic work she is a Pilates regular, avid reader, and trilingual in English, Mandarin and Cantonese.



Muna Oguine

French and Law
University of Warwick

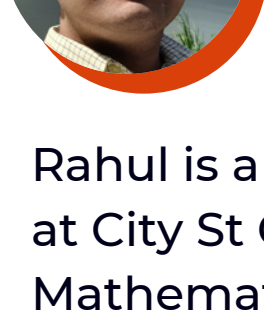
Muna is a Law with French Law student at the University of Warwick with a keen interest in commercial law, particularly the opportunities for lawyers to work across different industries, including media and entertainment. Muna is also passionate about the evolving relationship between law and technology, and believes AI should be approached as a tool that future lawyers can learn to understand and harness. Muna is naturally curious and enjoys exploring new ideas, meeting people and hearing different perspectives. As a member of the Student Leadership Board, Muna hopes to bring this enthusiasm and open-mindedness to the committee, while helping to represent the student voice and contribute to an engaging and supportive university community.



Rabia Hassan

Psychology
University College London

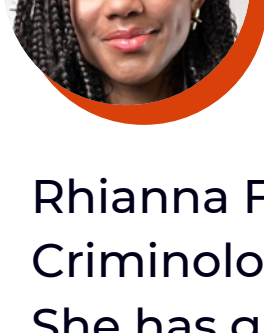
Rabia is a final-year BSc Psychology student at UCL with an interest in management and strategy consulting. Alongside their degree, Rabia is an Access and Widening Participation Officer at UCL, where they encourage students from underrepresented backgrounds to consider higher education. Rabia has taken part in insight programmes and workshops with leading consulting firms, which have strengthened their interest in the industry.



Rahul Saddi

Finance and Mathematics
City University London

Rahul is a student who just finished their first year at City St Georges University of London studying Mathematics and Finance. Throughout their first year, Rahul developed both academically and personally, whilst gaining a stronger understanding of their interest and goals. One thing that Rahul really enjoys is networking because they believe meeting new people and building professional relationships can result in key opportunities. Rahul is very interested in the financial world, and is determined to expand their knowledge of the financial world and build experience within the industry.



Rhianna Fellows

Criminology and Sociology
University of Warwick

Rhianna Fellows is a final-year Sociology and Criminology student at the University of Warwick. She has gained commercial law experience through a programme with Addleshaw Goddard, with a particular interest in corporate and M&A work. Rhianna previously served as Careers & Sponsorship Officer for the Caribbean Culture Society, leading corporate outreach and sponsor relationships, and completed a six-month leadership programme with The Advocacy Academy, designing a campaign addressing gender bias in education. Balancing academics, leadership roles and part-time work has strengthened her time management and resilience. She regularly reads The Lawyer and is passionate about improving access and representation in the legal profession.

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Red room

Panel sessions



10:45am - 11:30am

Breaking into tech: Trends, challenges & opportunities



Kaj Bansal (she/her)
Software Engineering Manager
Capital One

Kaj is a Software Engineering Manager at Capital One, where she has built a 19+ year career since graduating in 2006 with a degree in Business Management with Marketing. A secondment as a Business Systems Analyst ignited her passion for technology, eventually leading to a permanent move into tech leadership.

Today, Kaj works with engineering teams to drive key projects while championing diversity and inclusion across the organization. She co-leads the Race, Equality and Cultural Heritage ERG, heads the UK Menopause support group, and actively mentors women and non-binary individuals both internally and externally through the Women in Tech network.



Lizzy Skells (she/her)
Consultant
Lane, Clarke & Peacock

Lizzy is a consultant in LCP's energy department, having joined as a graduate in 2022 following an internship with LCP in 2021. Since then, she has progressed to managing a team of nine developers who build and maintain LCP's in-house long-term power market models.

Her work focuses on developing and adapting LCP's modelling capabilities to support a wide range of analysis across the energy sector. These models are used for applications ranging from battery revenue forecasting for private investors to government analysis of proposed changes to energy policy.

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11:55am - 12:40pm

Finding success in Commercial Law

A&O SHEARMAN



Andy Cork (he/him)

Partner
A&O Shearman

Over the last fifteen years, Andy has advised the trustees of some of the largest UK pension funds on strategic and technical matters including risk reduction, scheme funding and regulatory compliance.

He is highly valued for his ability to translate technical pensions law into practical strategic advice for both trustees and companies.

Kennedys



Amber Jenner (she/her)

Legal Director
Kennedys

Amber is a Legal Director in Kennedys' London liability team. After completing a training contract with Kennedys, she qualified as a solicitor in 2017. Amber advises on a broad range of catastrophic and serious injury claims with injuries including brain injuries, amputations, chronic pain and functional neurological disorders. Amber is known for specialties in fundamental dishonesty, policy coverage, innovative case handling, cases involving procedural complexities and cases which require incredible attention to detail. She is often instructed on high profile claims. Amber takes a keen interest in junior development at the firm and is involved in co-ordinating the firm's charitable efforts.

MAYER | BROWN



Rebecca Bothamley (she/her)

Partner: Corporate & Securities /
Partner: Graduate Recruitment & Development
Mayer Brown

Rebecca Bothamley focuses on cross-border M&A and equity capital markets transactions. As part of the Public Companies & Capital Markets team, Beccy has particular experience acting for public and private companies and their boards across various industry sectors including insurance, industrials, mining and TMT & Entertainment. Beccy is the 'go to' trusted advisor to a number of companies on their day to day corporate, corporate finance, commercial and other matters as well as leading on their M&A, joint ventures and transformative transactions, particularly complex cross-border and transatlantic deals.



Mafrudha Mia (she/her)

Senior Associate, Media
RPC

Maf is an expert in the tech and media sector, and her clients include news publishers, broadcasters, NGOs, tech and digital platforms, and insurers. Her work helps media organisations tell important stories and enables tech platforms to operate safely and effectively. She specialises in content disputes including defamation, privacy, breach of confidence, contempt, harassment, intermediary liability and data disputes, pre-publication advice, and content regulation.

SLAUGHTER AND MAY



Charlotte Burgess (she/her)

Associate
Slaughter and May

Charlotte Burgess is an associate in Slaughter and May's financing team. After studying Law at Durham University, Charlotte joined the firm in 2022 and qualified in 2024. Charlotte advises clients on a broad range of financing matters, including debt capital markets transactions, loan financing, and treasury-related work. Alongside client work, Charlotte serves as co-chair of the firm's Social Mobility network, helping to drive initiatives that broaden access to the legal profession and support the next generation of talent.

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 [clydecoearlycareers](#)  [careers.clydeco.com](#)



2:45pm - 3:30pm

Exploring careers in consumer goods



Anastasia Volkovaa (she/her)

People Director
Budweiser Brewing Group UK&I

Anastasia Volkova is the People Director for BU UK&I, where she leads People strategy across the UK and Ireland. With 13 years of HR experience spanning Russia, Belgium, the Czech Republic, and the UK, she brings an international perspective to driving engagement, talent development, and organisational transformation. Passionate about developing the next generation of leaders, Anastasia is a strong advocate for building high-trust cultures where people and businesses grow together. At the Bright Network Festival, she will share insights from her cross-border career and practical advice for those starting out on their own career journey.



Alberta Mason (she/her)

Head of Early Careers Transformation
L'Oréal

Alberta Mason is Head of Early Careers Transformation for L'Oréal UK and Ireland, bringing over 20 years of expertise in graduate and entry-level recruitment. An innovative and passionate industry expert, she has supported hundreds of graduates in transitioning from students to career professionals through sharing honest and actionable guidance. Alberta's extensive background spans coordinating global assessment days for major brands to recruiting trainees for international businesses. Currently, Alberta manages the L'Oréal For Youth programme, a global initiative dedicated to providing comprehensive employability support for the next generation.



Georgie Crotty (she/her)

Global Employer Branding
P&G

Georgie is a dynamic leader within the FMCG industry and has spent the last decade of her career working in the UK early careers space. She is currently the Global Employer Branding leader for Entry Level at P&G. In this role, she leads P&G's effort to engage with and attract top talent across the world including Asia, Europe and the US. Georgie is dedicated to promoting equality and inclusion, implementing initiatives to create a diverse workforce where all candidates feel valued.



Elaine McTaggart (she/her)

Talent Acquisition Leader
The Coca-Cola Company

Elaine McTaggart is a global Talent Acquisition leader with extensive experience hiring talent across Europe and international markets. As a lead recruiter for Europe at The Coca-Cola Company, she partners with leaders across functions and markets to bring exceptional talent into the business.

With deep expertise in recruitment and candidate experience, Elaine brings an insider perspective on what top employers look for, how to stand out, and the skills needed to succeed in today's competitive job market.

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DAY 1

Make an Impact from Day 1

To learn more about careers
at P&G visit pgcareers.com



P&G



4:00pm - 4:45pm

Engineering in the UK: Opportunities & challenges



Zahra Aleshaiker (she/her)

Assistant Design Manager
Arcadis

Representing a new generation of infrastructure professionals, Zahra Aleshaiker is a Civil Engineer at Arcadis specialising in the renewal and modernisation of critical transport assets. She has contributed to major projects including the Croydon Flyover refurbishment, Brent Cross Interchange assessments, and strategic infrastructure programmes across London and the Southeast. Currently serving as Assistant Design Manager on TfL's Bakerloo Line Depot Upgrade, Zahra is helping evaluate and develop solutions to transform depot facilities for the next generation of rolling stock. Her work combines technical rigour, collaborative leadership, and a strong commitment to sustainable engineering innovation.



Hora Behnejad

Graduate Specialist Civil Engineer
WSP

Hora Behnejad is a Graduate Airfield Engineer at WSP, working on aviation infrastructure projects across the UK and internationally. She graduated from University College London in 2025 with an MEng in Civil Engineering.

Throughout university, Hora was awarded the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) QUEST Scholarship (sponsored by WSP), the Royal Academy of Engineering Engineering Leaders Scholarship, and the Institution of Structural Engineers Pai Lin Li Travel Grant. These opportunities enabled her to complete three summer placements with WSP and undertake international research into sustainable construction materials across four different continents. She is also an ICE President's Future Leader for 2025/26 and is passionate about STEM outreach, sustainability, and supporting aspiring engineers.

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Purple room

Panel sessions



10:45am - 11:30am | 4th floor

Unlocking opportunities: Pathways into competitive industries



Vimal Raval

Managing Director; Global Markets
Bank of America



Cara Neale (she/her)

Early Careers Lead
Baringa

Cara has spent over seven years in Early Careers, always within consulting, and has worked across every aspect of the team from attraction and recruitment through to onboarding, development, and strategic growth. She now leads Baringa's international Early Careers programme, supporting junior talent across the UK, US, Australia. Passionate about widening access and building fair, inclusive pathways into competitive industries, Cara loves seeing early talent grow into their strengths and ambitions. She's looking forward to sharing her insights at this year's fair.



Jack Smith (he/him)

Early Careers Development Manager
ICAEW

Jack joined RSM as a graduate, becoming ICAEW qualified whilst working as an auditor. After qualifying, Jack worked within RSMs technical audit training team, delivering audit, financial reporting and professional development training to students. His current role sees Jack manage RSMs professional qualifications and apprenticeships, supporting students throughout their studies through to qualification.



Tom Barneby (he/him)

Executive Director, Relationship Manager
Standard Chartered

Tom has worked for Standard Chartered since 2007, starting out as an Analyst in the Commodity Traders and Agribusiness team. He moved to the Energy team before becoming the Chief of Staff to the Head of Banking for Europe in 2012. After rejoining coverage in 2017 as the Global Account Manager for Oil and Gas clients, he transferred to the Professional Services coverage team in 2023. Tom manages a team of nine Assistant Relationship Managers, as well as three Apprentices.

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11:55am - 12:40pm | 4th floor

Beyond diversity: Creating belonging at work



Fiona Condron (she/her)

Business Assurance Gatwick – Partner

BDO

Fiona is an Audit Partner and National Head of Charities. She is passionate about providing high-quality external audit to many of the leading charities and social enterprises in the UK. Her experience of the third sector extends over more than 20 years.

Fiona spent the first decade of her career with a Big Four firm, which gave her a fantastic grounding across a wide range of skills and experience. She has presented at internal and external technical seminars, published numerous articles and co-authored books on charity accounting and governance.

That combination of sector depth and technical expertise means she can help charity boards and leadership teams navigate complex reporting and governance requirements with confidence.

Ask Fiona about charity audit, social enterprise assurance, charity accounting, SORP, governance advisory and not-for-profit reporting.



Vijay Chohan (he/him)

Inclusion and Diversity Manager

British Airways

As Inclusion & Diversity Manager at British Airways, Vijay leads the I&D strategy, influencing key decisions and processes to ensure every colleague is leading with inclusion, building a culture of empathy and understanding. Prior to this, Vijay implemented a DEI strategy in a global marketing agency, championing diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the colleague lifecycle. Vijay had a previous career as a lawyer spanning 7 years, working both in-house, in digital marketing, and in private practice across infrastructure and construction.



Major Phill Birkett (he/him)

SO2 Wales and West Midlands

British Army

Major Phill Birkett REME has served in the British Army since 2012, commissioning from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 2018 after service as a soldier. Throughout his career he has served with 16 Air Assault Brigade, the UK Commando Force, and in training and theatre-enablement roles, deploying and exercising across Canada, Germany, Poland, France and Australia. He currently serves in Army Recruitment and co-chairs the Recruiting Group LGBTQ+ Network, supporting inclusion and representation across the recruitment community. He believes that visibility matters and that talented people should be judged by their character, professionalism, and contribution, not by who they are.



Phil Hocking (he/him)

Next Generation Talent Consultant

Lloyds Banking Group

Philip Hocking is an award-winning inclusion advocate, data professional and champion of social mobility & belonging. His unconventional career has taken him from professional kitchens and a decade teaching overseas to financial services, where he entered through an apprenticeship route. Alongside his day job, Philip has led and supported initiatives focused on Black heritage, representation, mentoring, community engagement and widening access to opportunity. A committed volunteer and mentor, he's passionate about what happens beyond representation - how organisations turn diversity into genuine inclusion, opportunity and belonging. He brings curiosity, challenge and lived experience to conversations about workplaces where difference is valued.



Tania Allen (she/her)

Senior Talent Director

Publicis Groupe

Tania is a Senior People and Culture leader with over 22 years experience, predominantly within Creative, Media, Publishing and tech sectors. She has worked within large global companies with big talent teams, small independently owned businesses with small people teams as well as, time as a self employed consultant. Tania actively supports and champions neurodiversity due to her own ADHD assessment process. Tania is passionate about developing and coaching people to reach their full potential.

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2:45pm - 3:30pm | 4th floor

Finding success in Commercial Law

Clifford Chance



Ben Purkiss

Senior Associate
Clifford Chance

CLYDE&CO



Louis Wyatt (he/him)

Trainee Solicitor
Clyde & Co

Louis Wyatt is a Trainee Solicitor at Clyde & Co. He joined the firm in 2025 to begin his training contract, having previously participated in both the Bright Futures Scheme and the Vacation Scheme. Louis completed his first seat in Property Litigation and recently completed his second seat in Professional & Commercial Disputes.



Daniel Moore (he/him)

Of Counsel – Global Disputes
Jones Day

For more than a decade, Daniel Moore has assisted clients in resolving complex, international disputes through litigation and alternative dispute mechanisms. The Legal 500 UK describes Daniel as an “experienced litigator” and key lawyer in the Firm’s Tier 1 ranked civil fraud practice. The breadth of Daniel’s experience beyond civil fraud is highlighted by secondments at two of the world’s leading technology companies and successful outcomes across shareholder and contractual disputes over the past 10 years. Daniel also has extensive experience litigating high-value claims brought by liquidators, including obtaining injunctive relief and successful trial judgment. Daniel often advises multinational corporations, private equity firms, and investors across all stages of dispute resolution. Daniel is part of the Recruitment Panel at Jones Day with extensive interview and assessment experience as part of the vacation scheme and training contract recruitment process.

LATHAM&WATKINS



Liz Longster (she/her)

Associate – Data & Technology Transactions
Latham & Watkins

Liz Longster is an associate in the London office of Latham & Watkins and a member of the Data & Technology Transactions Practice.

She focuses on strategic transactions, particularly those with a focus on the acquisition and commercialisation of technology and IP. She has significant experience in large-scale, multi-jurisdictional transactions with a tech focus.

Liz trained in the firm’s London office, gaining experience in acquisition and leveraged finance, and corporate M&A and private equity transactions, in addition to the Data & Technology Transactions Practice.

In addition to Liz’s practice experience, she served as a member of Latham & Watkins’ pro bono committee for three years.



Ali Wylie (he/him)

Senior Lecturer
The University of Law

Ali holds a joint honours LLB degree in Law and Accounting & Finance conferred from the University of Kent, a LLM in Corporate & Commercial Law from UCL, and the LPC at the University of Law. He qualified at a large regional firm & later specialised in Civil and Commercial Litigation at a leading Legal 500 firm. He is an accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator with ADR-ODR International. Ali is also a qualified career professional with a PGDip CEIGHE from the University of Warwick. He has also completed a PGCHE and is a Fellow of Advance HE. Ali predominantly teaches Business Law.

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4:00pm - 4:45pm | 4th floor

Unlocking regional opportunities: Why London isn't the only option



Clare Beynon (she/her)

Talent Acquisition Marketing Manager
Enterprise Mobility

Clare Beynon is the Talent Acquisition Marketing Manager for Enterprise Mobility UK & Ireland. Having started her career as a graduate with Enterprise, she has progressed through management and HR roles to lead graduate attraction and university engagement. Enterprise Mobility hires over 1,000 graduates annually across 450+ locations, offering opportunities for graduates to launch their careers locally. Clare partners with universities across the UK and Ireland and works closely with the Institute of Student Employers and the Graduate Futures Institute to stay at the forefront of graduate recruitment trends and early careers talent attraction.



Emma Farnes (she/her)

H&S Manager
Rentokil Initial

Emma Farnes has over 10 years experience working for Rentokil Initial. She joined Rentokil in 2013, direct from University, as a graduate starting off as a Pest Control Technician and has since been promoted into Sales Surveyor, Key Account Manager and now works as the SHEQ Manager (Health and Safety) for two businesses in the Rentokil Initial group, – Rentokil Specialist Hygiene and Property Services.

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Blue room

Panel sessions



10:45am - 11:30am

4th floor

Traits of successful women leaders

Allianz 



Bethany Thomas (she/her)

Head of Sustainability

Allianz

Bethany Thomas leads sustainability at Allianz UK, shaping environmental strategy and embedding sustainable practices across a multi-brand portfolio spanning Petplan and LV=, with a strong focus on decarbonisation, climate adaptation & resilience, ethical governance and transparent reporting.

Bethany joined Allianz in 2014 via the underwriting graduate scheme, rising to Head of Multinational, before moving to Allianz Group as Executive Assistant to the Global Head of Property & Casualty, supporting sustainability activity across the P&C business. She returned to Allianz UK in 2021 to lead the CEO Office, overseeing governance, reporting and strategy.

Bethany holds a degree in History and French, is ACII qualified and has a Business Sustainability Management qualification from the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

Capgemini 



Lisa Eckersley (she/her)

Chief Architect

Capgemini

Lisa Eckersley is an accomplished Chief Architect with Capgemini, bringing over 29 years of experience. Throughout her career, Lisa has worked across a diverse range of domains and roles, focusing on governance and fostering strong, collaborative relationships across large accounts. Her expertise lies in integrating technical strategy with stakeholder engagement to deliver quality outcomes. Lisa is deeply committed to supporting others and driving positive change across the technology sector. She serves on the steering committees for Women at Capgemini UK and is the UK Women in Delivery global ambassador, championing gender diversity and inclusion. Lisa is passionate about nurturing talent and well-being as both a mentor and mental health champion, and she actively co-delivers architecture training courses to help develop the next generation of technology leaders. Lisa is also the founder of #sparklethursday an initiative dedicated to promoting positivity and engagement within the community.



Libby Pelling (she/her)

Planning and Flow Room Manager

DHL

Libby Pelling joined DHL six years ago as a Degree Apprentice, combining hands-on experience with academic study to complete a Supply Chain Management degree. Throughout her career, she has progressed through a range of operational leadership roles, including First Line Manager supporting both M&S and Mars contracts, before moving into an Operations Shift Manager position. Today, Libby is Planning and Flow Room Manager, playing a key role in driving operational efficiency and performance. Passionate about development, Libby's journey highlights the opportunities available through early careers. A true role model, she is now the ambassador for our flagship Women in Supply Chain Apprenticeship Programme, showcasing the exciting opportunities available for women pursuing careers in supply chain.

London Business School



Leila Serrão

Investment Professional at IFC

(World Bank Group)

London Business School

Leila Serrão is an investment professional at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group. She joined IFC via the Young Professionals Program (YPP) and specialises in venture capital and growth-stage impact investments in emerging markets. Leila began her banking career with internships at Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley in London, UK. After converting her internships into full-time offers, she joined Morgan Stanley's Investment Banking Division (IBD) Full-Time Analyst Programme. She later gained her first international experience at Standard Bank in Luanda, Angola. Throughout her career, Leila has had the opportunity to live and work in four countries across three continents.

Born in Angola and raised in the UK, Leila holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Imperial College London and a Master's in Finance from the London Business School. She is the first person in her family to attend university. Before university, Leila completed her GCSEs and A Levels in London state schools and benefited from free school meals.

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11:55am - 12:40pm

4th floor

A day in the life of a grad



Deborah Odumala (she/her)

Client Service Associate

AlphaSights

Deborah is a Client Service Associate at AlphaSights, supporting capital-markets clients with time-sensitive insights and decision-making. She manages projects from end to end, partnering with clients to understand their needs, identifying and engaging relevant industry experts, and coordinating consultations that give clients the insights needed to assess investment opportunities.

She graduated from Aston University with a degree in International Business and Management, including a year abroad at Korea University in Seoul. Bilingual and internationally minded, Deborah is passionate about helping others succeed. Outside work, she supports students preparing for A Levels, GCSEs and SATs, and enjoys travelling, baking and reading.



Tanisha Bhatara (she/her)

Senior Assurance Associate at EY

ICAS

Tanisha studied English Literature BA (Hons) at the University of Warwick and completed an MSc in Management at Warwick Business School before joining EY in 2023. She works in audit, mainly with clients in the Technology, Media & Entertainment, and Telecommunications sector. As of January 2026, Tanisha has successfully completed all her CA exams.



Cameron Klinger (he/him)

Qualified Senior – Corporate Finance

Moore Kingston Smith

Cameron is a Qualified Senior in Corporate Finance (Transaction Services) at Moore Kingston Smith (MKS), advising businesses on transactions, such as buying, selling or investing in companies. After graduating with a degree in Chemistry from the University of Edinburgh in 2022, he pivoted into professional services, joining MKS as an audit trainee in March 2023. Over the next three years, he audited a wide range of businesses while completing the ACA, qualifying in April 2026 before moving into Corporate Finance. Having recently been through the graduate training process, Cameron offers his perspective on starting in audit alongside completing the ACA and subsequently moving into Corporate Finance.



Eloise Anderson (she/her)

Business Development Associate

Pathways to Planning and Impact

Eloise has recently completed Impact: The Local Government Graduate Scheme. After graduating from the University of Leeds with a BSc in Sociology, Social Policy and Quantitative Research Methods and subsequently completing the Impact programme at Sutton Council, she has just begun her new role as a business development associate at the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. During her time as an Impact grad, Eloise completed placements in public health and workforce development and was also active in the graduate networks, chairing the Impact London Graduate Network.



Zayna Khaja

Product Analyst

TK Maxx

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2:45pm - 3:30pm

4th floor

Black Heritage voices in the workplace



Tola Adeleke (she/her)

Senior Vice President, Digital,
Tech & Comms Deputy Head
Citi

Tola Adeleke is a Senior Vice President based in London with over 16 years of banking experience across six Citi locations: Lagos, Johannesburg, Libreville, Nairobi, Dublin, and London. In her current role as Deputy Sector Head for Citi Commercial Bank's Digital, Technology & Communications sector, she helps drive growth and client engagement across the Payments, Foreign Exchange, and Financial Management Infrastructure ecosystems. Tola is a proven leader in digital transformation, known for delivering innovative client solutions, driving complex change initiatives, and building high-performing teams. She also serves as Co-Chair of Citi London's Black Heritage Network, championing inclusion, talent development, and community engagement.



Raisa Béliard

VP Africa Coverage and Blended Finance
MUFG

Raisa Béliard, CFA, is an investment professional with experience in development finance, and blended finance across emerging and frontier markets. She is currently Vice President at Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group in London, where she focuses on sovereign debt, infrastructure, and social development financing in Africa. Prior to joining MUFG, Raisa worked at British International Investment, where she contributed to investments in private equity funds and fund solutions across emerging markets. She previously held roles at FinDev Canada and Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, building experience in development finance, sovereign debt, and institutional investing.

Alongside her professional activities, Raisa remains actively engaged in academia, leadership, and mentorship initiatives. She currently serves as a lecturer at Sciences Po Paris, where she teaches investing in frontier markets within the School of Management and Impact. Her contributions to the investment industry and impact investing have been recognized through several distinctions, including the 40 Under 40 Award from Black Women in Asset Management. Raisa is also committed to mentorship and international community engagement, supporting young professionals and students through organizations such as The King's Trust in the United Kingdom.

Her academic background includes degrees from Sciences Po, Université du Québec à Montréal, and Concordia University, where she specialized in finance, quantitative analysis, and international strategy, providing a strong foundation for her work at the intersection of global finance, sustainable development, and emerging markets investing.



Clive Makombera (he/him)

Partner – Risk Assurance
RSM

Clive is a partner at RSM who specialises in Audit, Tax and Consulting. He sits in the Consulting arm of RSM where he is the sector lead for healthcare at RSM. He advises clients on a broad range of issues such as digital transformation, patient safety and quality, productivity, governance and leadership, operational improvement, and AI and robotic tools to help improve the speed and quality of health care services and enable more time for direct patient care. Clive also works with a number of clients in the education sector where he provides innovative solutions to provide the best value for his clients. He is passionate about equality, diversity and inclusion and he leads a number people development projects across RSM.

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4:00pm - 4:45pm

4th floor

Neurodiversity in the workplace



Liam Ryan (he/him)

Explore Teaching Adviser

Get Into Teaching

Liam Ryan is a Teaching Adviser and experienced education leader with 19 years in secondary schools. Having worked as a Head of Maths, Lead Practitioner and Lead Coach, they have supported neurodiverse pupils and colleagues across a range of settings. Their experience includes adapting teaching, developing staff and promoting inclusive environments. In their current role, Liam supports aspiring teachers as they explore the profession and prepare for training. They bring practical, evidence-informed insight into school life, professional development and neurodiversity in the workplace.

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Bring your authentic self. Even your TikTok drafts

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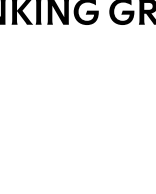


Green room

Sector overviews



10:45am - 11:30am | 4th floor



LLOYDS
BANKING GROUP

From curiosity to cyber security leadership: Building your own path

From fraud investigations to leading cyber security strategy and threat modelling for one of the UK's largest banks, Nathanael Zvakayi shares the lessons, challenges and opportunities that shaped his career journey. This session will explore how curiosity, continuous learning, authenticity and resilience can help you build a successful career in technology, regardless of your starting point. Attendees will gain insight into the realities of working in cyber security and financial services, the importance of building networks and mentors, and practical advice on standing out early in your career while staying true to yourself.



Nathanael Zvakayi (he/him)

Senior Security Engineer

Lloyds Banking Group

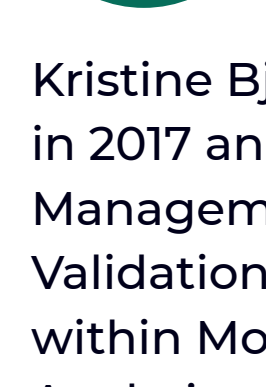
Nathanael Zvakayi is a Senior Security Engineer and cyber security leader at Lloyds Banking Group with over eight years' experience helping organisations identify and manage cyber risk. He specialises in threat modelling, cloud security and detection and response engineering, supporting the protection of critical banking platforms and services. Throughout his career in technology, Nathanael has worked across fraud prevention, incident response, security operations and security strategy, delivering large-scale security improvements and helping teams translate complex technical challenges into practical business outcomes. A passionate advocate for continuous learning and inclusive leadership, he enjoys mentoring others and sharing insights on building a successful career in technology and cyber security.



BANK OF AMERICA

How Investment Banks make money

Join Kristine Bjarnum Rasmussen, a Director in Bank of America's Global Payment Solutions sector as she breaks down the different divisions and teams within an Investment Bank that work together.



Kristine Bjarnum-Green (she/her)

Director; Global Risk Management

Bank of America

Kristine Bjarnum Rasmussen joined Bank of America in 2017 and has held several roles across Global Risk Management, including Model Validator, Model Validation Lead, and Strategy & Operations positions within Model Risk Management and Global Risk Analytics. Prior to joining Bank of America, she worked in quantitative risk roles at Barclays, Bank of New York, and Royal Bank of Canada, focusing on operational and credit risk modelling.

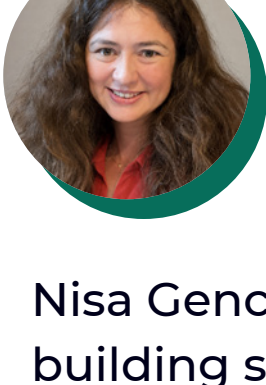
Kristine holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics from the University of Copenhagen, a Master's degree in Operational Research from LSE, and a Master's degree in Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology from UCL. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Mathematical Modelling of Liver Cirrhosis at the University of Nottingham.



COMPANY

Building iconic brands: Our business, brands & careers

Join Nisa Genc, Global Senior Marketing Director at The Coca-Cola Company, and discover what it takes to build iconic brands at the world's leading beverage company. Explore our business, our people, and how we bring our purpose to life – to refresh the world and make a difference.



Nisa Genc (she/her)

Global Senior Marketing Director

Coca-Cola Trademark Strategy & Innovation

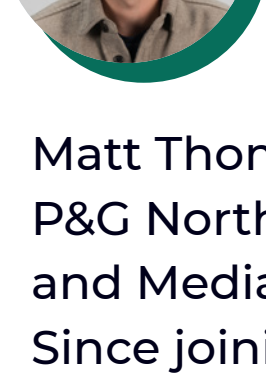
Nisa Genc is a global marketing leader with experience building some of the world's most iconic consumer brands in the FMCG industry. She began her career at P&G before joining The Coca-Cola Company, where her journey has spanned Turkey, Caucasus & Central Asia and Europe, including leading Fanta across Europe.

Today, Nisa leads global strategy and innovation for the Coca-Cola Trademark, with responsibility for Diet Coke and Coca-Cola Zero Zero. She brings a powerful combination of consumer-centric thinking, creative brand building and commercial leadership, with a passion for turning global strategy into meaningful impact in markets around the world.

5 (not so secret) secrets to brand and market growth



This session will explore how deep understanding of our consumers can lead to brand and market growth. We will deep dive into some of the "secrets" to how brands are able to grow users, meet unmet consumer needs and build for long term sustainable growth.



Matt Thomas (he/him)

Senior Director, Brand & Media

P&G Northern Europe

Matt Thomas is Senior Director, Brand & Media for P&G Northern Europe, leading the Brand Function and Media Operations across its portfolio of brands. Since joining P&G in 2011, he has held leadership roles across multiple categories, developing brand-building strategies that drive growth and improve advertising effectiveness. Matt leads a team of over 150 spanning Brand Marketing, Martech, Analytics, Insights and Purchasing. He is a passionate advocate for accessible advertising, championing the belief that advertising should be both a Force for Growth and a Force for Good. Outside work, Matt is a dad to two girls and is an avid skier and ultra-marathon enthusiast.

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Meet our Coca-Cola Team!



Catch Our Coca-Cola Showcase

Discover Coca-Cola's business, iconic brands and culture with Nisa Genc, Global Sr. Marketing Director, at our company showcase from 2:50-3:30 PM.



Don't Miss the FMCG Careers Panel

Join Elaine McTaggart, Europe Talent Acquisition Leader, from 2:45-3:30 PM as she shares career insights to help you build your future in FMCG.



Meet Our Early Talent Cohort

Drop by our Coca-Cola booth to meet our Blaze Graduates & Ignite Interns, hear their journeys, and discover life at Coca-Cola.

Scan to Sign Up

Create your Coca-Cola Careers profile & stay updated on future opportunities.





Orange room

Sector overview



10:45am - 11:30am

4th floor

CLYDE&CO

Starting out in Commercial Law

Joaquín is a Senior Associate in the London Global Projects & Construction team focusing on the resolution of complex multi-jurisdictional disputes across the infrastructure, construction and energy sectors, and on project advisory and risk avoidance. He has worked on arbitrations in different jurisdictions, as well as matters before the High Court in London and the Court of Session in Scotland and he regularly advises Spanish-speaking international contractors in different jurisdictions around the world.



Joaquín Gotor (he/him)

Senior Associate
Clyde & Co

Join Joaquín as provides his top tips for starting out on a career in law. Learn how to set yourself up for success and hear first hand advice from a Senior Associate at Clyde & Co.

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Upcoming 2026 events

BRIGHT
NETWORK

**Assure Your
Future**

7th October

Virtual event



Deloitte.

KPMG

RSM

S&W

BRIGHT
NETWORK

**Diverse Legal
Leaders**

16th October

Central London



**HERBERT
SMITH
FREEHILLS**

RPC

Bristows

**WATSON FARLEY
&
WILLIAMS**

Cooley

Arnold & Porter

COVINGTON

SLAUGHTER AND MAY

**MORRISON
FOERSTER**

Mishcon de Reya

CLYDE & CO

irwinmitchell

HFW

**HILL
DICKINSON**

BRIGHT
NETWORK

**Social Mobility
Matters**

21st October

Virtual event



**PUBLICIS
GROUPE**

BDO

RSM

Cc

**Civil Service
Fast Stream**

HALOON

**MBDA
MISSILE SYSTEMS**

BARCLAYS

**Legal &
General**

[See upcoming events](#)

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