



CITY SOLICITORS' **EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

11 January 2008

CSET SUMMER SCHOOL: STUDENT APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Background on the CSET Summer School

In November 2007, a group of the City's leading law firms announced that they had joined together to launch the CSET Summer School, a unique initiative designed to identify and encourage university students from a diverse range of backgrounds to consider a career in the law. The initiative has attracted widespread backing from City law firms, many of whom have collaborated historically through the City Solicitors' Educational Trust ("CSET"), a charity established in 1989 to provide financial assistance to university law faculties.

The objective of the CSET Summer School is to unlock the potential in students in higher education who might not have excelled at the critical A Level stage in their school careers and/or are not studying at one of the top UK universities. Students find themselves in this position for a myriad of reasons such as lack of guidance at school, a lack of family support in developing career aspirations, late development or ill health to name a few. Many such students may consequently believe that they fall short of the requirements for a professional career.

It is CSET's contention that many such students have potential that can be unlocked through a carefully designed skills programme. This has led to CSET creating the CSET Summer School which will run in July of this year in London.

The Programme

The CSET Summer School is an intensive one week skills programme which will use commercial law as its context to build participating students' knowledge, skills and confidence to complete their studies and pursue their future careers to the highest level. This will be achieved through a structured programme covering the following areas:

1. The law and its commercial context – a series of exercises which will explain and inform students about the modern commercial legal world and the wider economy in which legal practice takes place.
2. Academic rigour – class room and interactive exercises aimed at showing the need for rigour in the law, why academic rigour is important and showing students that they have this potential.

3. Application and networking skills – confidence and knowledge in how to present and promote oneself to potential employers is the most frequent reason for failure in the job application process. CSET's partner in the design of the CSET Summer School, GTI, has extensive experience in the design and running of intensive and interactive skills activities in this area which are proven to work for students.
4. Competition and teamwork – students will work in teams on a significant competitive activity designed to deploy their new-found knowledge and skills in the analysis, preparation and delivery of a competitive legal scenario.

There will be 100 places available at the first CSET Summer School. Each place will be fully expense-paid and in addition, successful candidates will receive £100 for attending the programme. After the CSET Summer School, every student attending will have access to individual guidance and mentoring for the remainder of their time at university.

Eligibility

The programme will be open to students studying at university who will typically be:

- Law undergraduates in their first year
- Non-law undergraduates in their second year
- UK national students

Particular attention will be paid to students who are studying at non-Russell Group universities and who have no immediate family history of university attendance by their parents or guardians.

Applications and selection

The CSET Summer School recruitment process will avoid the use of UCAS points and other academic achievement measures such as A Level results. This is not because CSET wishes to belittle A Levels as a qualification, but simply that we believe that there is a great deal of potential that is locked away across each year group in the wider higher educational pool that is not being tapped.

CSET, working with GTI, has commissioned a leading assessment consultancy, Cubiks, to design, test and deliver a unique online assessment to help identify those who have the potential to build a successful career in the law. In designing the test, Cubiks has been careful to tap into the skills and competencies of successful legal trainees and practising lawyers from both CSET member firms and a wider range of legal practice. The test will not disadvantage those who underperformed at A Level or who are not studying at a top university and has been subject to an extensive development process involving the participation of over 400 students and lawyers. The test will now form the basis of the CSET Summer School application process and CSET believes it represents a major development in the wider area of graduate recruitment.

All student applications are to be made online through the CSET website, www.cset.org.uk/summerschool. Applications will be open from 1 February 2008 and will close on 25 April 2008. Students are encouraged to apply early.

The application process is straightforward and will take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete. Applicants will be asked to provide simple biographical information; they will then be taken to the online test which will take around 20 minutes to complete. The online test has been designed to examine an individual's ability to comprehend written information and to understand and analyse the logic of written answers. Once complete, each applicant will be required to answer three simple qualifying questions exploring their motivations for applying and their career aspirations.

Successful applicants will be notified in April and will be invited to take part in a structured telephone interview which will take place in May 2008 (allowing for exams) with offers made shortly thereafter.

This year's CSET Summer School will take place in the week commencing 28 July 2008 and will be held at Imperial College, London.

ENDS

For further media information, please contact:

Rachel Hirst
Partner
Hogarth Partnership (PR adviser to CSET)

020 7357 9477