



CITY SOLICITORS' **EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

30 April 2008

## **CSET SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENT APPLICATION LEVELS SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEED EXPECTATIONS**

The number of university students applying for a place on the first City Solicitors' Educational Trust ("CSET") Summer School – to be held in July 2008 - has significantly exceeded expectations. Applications closed on 25 April 2008 at an impressive 923 applications from 94 universities around the UK. This represents over four times the anticipated level of student applications.

The CSET Summer School was launched in November 2007 when a group of the City's leading law firms announced that they had joined together to launch this unique initiative designed to identify and encourage university students from a diverse range of backgrounds to consider a career in the law.

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.

In the initial planning for the CSET Summer School, Group GTI, the managers of the selection process and Summer School, planned for applications in the region of 200-250 students based on its previous experience of such programmes. The CSET Summer School has therefore received over four times the level of anticipated applications. This achievement confirms that the concept and programme have struck a real chord with students, careers advisers and lecturers.

Out of the 923 applicants, 100 successful candidates will be invited to attend an intensive one-week residential course at Imperial College, London in the week commencing 28 July 2008. This sets the CSET Summer School selection team with the welcome challenge of selecting from a very large pool of high potential candidates. Successful applicants will be notified shortly and will be invited to take part in a structured telephone interview during May (allowing for exams) with offers made shortly thereafter. Each place will be fully expense-paid and in addition, successful candidates will receive £100 for attending the programme.

As well as attracting high levels of interest from the student population, the CSET Summer School initiative has been successful in attracting widespread backing from City law firms, many of whom have collaborated historically through the City Solicitors' Educational Trust, a charity established in 1989 to provide financial assistance to university law faculties. In addition, CSET is delighted that nine new sponsor firms have pledged their support since the initiative was launched in November. The new sponsors are CMS Cameron McKenna, Kirkland & Ellis, Mayer Brown, Nabarro, Norton Rose, Olswang, Simmons and Simmons, Stephenson Harwood and Weil Gotshal & Manges. They join Allen & Overy, Ashurst, Clifford Chance, Faegre & Benson, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Hammonds, Herbert Smith, Lovells, Macfarlanes, Penningtons, Slaughter and May and Watson Farley and Williams in supporting the CSET Summer School. This level of support means that the CSET Summer School programme will be well supported in 2009 and 2010 as well as this year.

Howard Jacobs, Chair of CSET, commented: "Given that this is the first year of the CSET Summer School, we had not expected anything like this number of applications. Bearing in mind that each applicant has had to complete an online application as well as an online psychometric test taking 30 minutes, this level of interest is truly outstanding and is unprecedented for a programme in its first year. It underlines the fact that the CSET Summer School is unique in targeting unrecognised potential and as such, it has attracted considerable interest both from the university community and from leading City law firms."

**For further media information, please contact:**

Rachel Hirst, Partner  
Hogarth Partnership (PR adviser to CSET)

020 7357 9477

**Notes to Editors**

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

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 and 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.

The CSET Summer School recruitment process has avoided 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 it believes 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. Selecting the CSET Summer School candidates has involved an individual assessment designed to identify students with natural analytical, numerical and communications skills and has employed very different criteria from those adopted for conventional recruiting based on academic achievement.