Alumni Spotlight: London Law
A Q&A with Elinor Bowman

Dunmore Lang College alumna Elinor (2018–2019) recently made the move to London to pursue her legal career. A former member of the Association of Dunmore Lang Students (ADS), which oversees student committees and College events, Elinor reflects on the pathway to London, the challenges and opportunities of relocating overseas, and the role College played in shaping her journey.

*Fast***Five**

1. *Current city:* **London**
2. *Degree:* **Law**
3. *DLC years:* **2018–2019**
4. *Favourite London activity:* **Jumping on the Eurostar for a weekend away in Europe.**
5. *Advice in one sentence:* **Stay open to opportunities — you never know where they might lead.**



Q&A

When did you start considering a move to London, and what motivated that decision?

The idea of working overseas had been on my radar quite early in my legal career. In Sydney, I worked alongside lawyers who had built careers in places such as London, New York, Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai and even Bermuda. Seeing those opportunities made me realise how valuable an international experience could be, both professionally and personally.

London stood out as a particularly attractive option because of the similarities between the Australian and UK legal systems. The ability to make the move without needing to requalify made it feel like a natural next step.

What did the pathway from Australia to securing a role in London look like?

I spent time speaking with recruiters to better understand the UK legal market, including the timing of hiring cycles and the types of roles best suited to my experience. I also waited until I had reached two years post-admission, which aligned my experience level with that of a newly qualified lawyer in the UK.

Within a week of reaching that milestone, I secured an interview. After several rounds of interviews, I was fortunate to receive an offer.

Were there any particular steps that made the biggest difference in helping you achieve that goal?

One of the most valuable things I did was being open with my colleagues about my goal of moving overseas. They were incredibly supportive throughout the process, connecting me with contacts, helping me prepare for interviews and sharing insights from their own experiences.

Having that support network not only helped me secure a role but also made the transition feel much more positive when the time came to leave.

What has been the most challenging part of transitioning to life and work in London?

Adjusting to my first winter was probably the biggest challenge. I'd heard plenty of warnings about the darkness and the rain, but the reality still took some getting used to.

That said, London in December is incredibly special. The city feels magical at Christmas, and after a long winter, the arrival of summer feels even more rewarding.

What has been your favourite part about living and working in London so far?

As an avid traveller, the Eurostar has easily been my favourite part of living in London. There's something surreal about finishing work, hopping on a train and finding yourself in another country just a few hours later.

The fact that you can sometimes find tickets for as little as £35 makes spontaneous European travel surprisingly accessible.



Elinor with 2019 ADS team.

What advice would you give to current students hoping to work overseas after graduation?

Talk to as many people as possible who have done what you hope to do and learn from their experiences. Career pathways can vary significantly, even within the same profession, so it's important to seek advice from people working in your specific area of interest.

And don't be afraid to reach out to people on LinkedIn. You'd be surprised how willing people are to share their time and offer guidance.

Looking back, how did your time at Dunmore Lang College shape your university experience?

Dunmore Lang College played a significant role in shaping my university experience. It made the transition to university life much smoother, introduced me to lifelong friends and provided leadership opportunities that I still discuss in interviews today.

The network I built through College became especially valuable later in my degree when classes moved online and opportunities to connect with classmates became more limited.

How did living in a college environment influence your personal and professional development?

Living at College made it easy to connect with students from a range of backgrounds and disciplines, including those studying law at different stages of their degree.

Those relationships gave me the opportunity to learn from the experiences of others, seek advice and gain perspectives that I may not have encountered within my own cohort.

If you could give your final-year self one piece of advice, what would it be?

Plans are fluid. Be willing to say yes to opportunities, even when they feel slightly outside your comfort zone. Often, those experiences open doors and create pathways you never expected.