

2025 SMILE Programme FAQs

Am I eligible to apply for SMILE 2025?

If you attend one of our partner schools you fulfil the PRIME criteria. You can only apply if you attend one of these settings and we recommend you speak to your careers lead about SMILE.

What are the key dates for SMILE 2025?

Applications open – December 2024

Applications Close – 31st January 2025

Interviews – W/C 17th February

SMILE Programme – 7th – 11th April

Do I have to be interested in Law to apply?

Whilst you will get to experience the firm as a whole (encompassing our business services teams) SMILE is predominantly designed for students with an interest in pursuing a career in Law.

Do I have to be studying A-Levels to apply for SMILE?

We invite anyone who is studying A-Levels or equivalent (this can include b-tech courses) to apply for SMILE.

What happens if my application is unsuccessful?

You will receive feedback on your application and your interview. We will also invite all those who interviewed to an online workshop about application/CV and interview skills. If you are unsure about how to complete the application form, you can look at our application tips.

Will SMILE impact my studies?

Applications are open before the Christmas holidays; interviews are during February half term and the SMILE week itself is during the Easter Holidays to minimise you missing out on teaching time at school or college.

Which offices will you be running SMILE in?

Cambridge, Chelmsford, Ipswich, London, Norwich and Sevenoaks.

Which office should I apply to?

You should apply to the office that is closest to your school or college. If you are unsure, please refer to our Partner School List.

Will I get paid?

We will grant a bursary of £200 for the week.

How have you selected your partner schools?

We have initially selected settings used the PRIME criteria to establish which settings in our office localities would be invited to take part in our SMILE programme. Specifically, schools who:

1. <62% of students going to further education

OR

2. <58% of students going to degree level education

OR

3. <32.89 at a-level point score

2025 will be the second year we are running SMILE, and the first year we have run it across six offices, so we have invited 3 schools who fit the above criteria in each of our office locations, where appropriate, based on the vicinity to our office.

+44 808 169 4320

birketts.co.uk

Birketts LLP is a limited liability partnership authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and registered in England & Wales with registered number OC317545.

A list of members may be inspected at any of our offices.

The term 'Partner' is used to refer to a member of Birketts LLP.

©Birketts 2023



IS 700564