

Calling all university undergraduates and graduates seeking to pursue a legal career in social welfare

What?

In 1988 Skadden established The Skadden Fellowship Program in the U.S. which has been extremely successful over the last 30 years. The Fellowship Program, described by commentators as a "legal Peace Corps" and a "public interest law firm without walls," provides two-year Fellowships to talented lawyers to pursue the practice of social welfare and poverty law. Currently, there are approximately 800 former Skadden Fellows, 90% of whom remain in public service, with almost all of them continuing to work on the same issues they addressed during their Fellowship projects.

In 2020, Skadden's London office expanded the concept by setting up the **Justice First Skadden Trainee Programme**, known as the **JUST Programme**. The JUST Programme is administered by The Legal Education Foundation's (TLEF) Justice First Fellowship scheme, which funds training contracts within a not-for-profit organisation that promotes social welfare law. Trainees subsequently qualify as solicitors in the sector.

Under the JUST Programme, Skadden sponsors one trainee selected each year through TLEF's Justice First Fellowship scheme by providing funding to TLEF for the duration of the trainee's two year training contract. The selected trainee will have the opportunity to train alongside Skadden attorneys in relevant areas including immigration, family law and human rights, and receive funding for ancillary training support costs. They will also benefit from networking opportunities with the Skadden London office, the U.S. Skadden Fellowship network, and former and current JUST Programme trainees.

Why?

The JUST Programme not only provides an entry point for the brightest undergraduates who wish to pursue a legal career focused on social justice to train in a sector that desperately needs new advisors, but it also directly assists indigent communities that JUST Programme trainees will serve in the course of their training.

When?

- Applications for the 2025 cycle of the JUST Programme **will close on 28 November 2024**.
- Applicants will be notified of the initial selection in **January 2025**.
- Interviews to follow **between 20 January – 7 February 2025**.
- The successful trainee will commence their training contract in **April 2025**.
- Our former and current JUST Programme trainees are based at **Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (2021)**, **JustRight Scotland (2022)**, **Norfolk Community Law Service (2023)**, and **Law Centre Northern Ireland (2024)**.
- The 2025 host organisation is **Derbyshire Law Centre**. The selected trainee will promote social justice in Derbyshire by contributing to legal services in social welfare law.

How?

Details on the role are available [here](#), and the online application form is available [here](#).

For more information about the JUST Programme, please contact [James Anderson](#) or [Olivia Wilson-Bushell](#).

