

Natalie Fowler



Project(s): Execution of Documents Project and on the Aspects of Family Law project which has focused on civil remedies for domestic abuse.

Previous experience: I began my legal studies at the University of Edinburgh in September 2020, enrolling in the Scots Law (LLB) degree after completing my fifth year of secondary school. In July 2023, during my third year of University, I represented the Law School at the University of Salzburg Summer School on European Private Law. That summer, I also completed a three-week internship with Shepherd and Wedderburn, during which I secured my training contract. In my final year, I served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Edinburgh Student Law Review* (2024–2025). I graduated in 2024.

Future plans: I will begin the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice at the University of Edinburgh in September 2025. Upon completing the Diploma, I will commence a two-year traineeship with Shepherd and Wedderburn in August 2026.

Can you tell us about a recent piece of work?

- I drafted one of the chapters which will form part of the final Execution of Documents Discussion Paper.
- On the Civil Remedies for Domestic Abuse Project, I contributed to the final stages of preparing and publishing the Discussion Paper and also drafted part of the internal Policy Paper for that project.

Why would you recommend being a legal assistant?

Being a legal assistant offers a unique opportunity to contribute meaningfully to law reform in Scotland. Coming directly from an academic background, I had not previously experienced the process for developing law. My time at the Commission has deepened my understanding of how law operates and the practical and policy considerations that shape legal reform.

This role has allowed me to further areas of personal academic interest, such as civil remedies for domestic abuse. My work on the Execution of Documents project has also allowed me to translate my theoretical knowledge of the area into a practical understanding of the operation and reform potential of the current law. These experiences will be instrumental as I transition into private practice.

What's the best thing about being a legal assistant?

The best thing for me has been the opportunity to work closely with some of Scotland's leading legal minds and learn from their experience. This has offered new perspectives on policy development and the law in practice, transforming my understanding of Scots law.