

PEGASUS ACCESS AND SUPPORT SCHEME (PASS)

PASS is a leading programme designed to support aspiring barristers who have not yet started the Bar Course. Our aim is to improve access to the profession and to support high achieving aspiring barristers from under-represented backgrounds by providing experiences and developing skills that will support a career at the Bar.

For participants who have been unable to secure many mini-pupillages at the point of application, the PASS programme team will arrange a placement and cover reasonable associated travel costs (and accommodation costs, where needed). *Note that participants who have already secured two mini-pupillages (including those secured via schemes like Bar Placement Week) at the point of accepting their place on PASS will not be eligible for a placement. Those with a confirmed place on Middle Temple's Access to the Bar programme will also not be eligible for a placement.

In addition, PASS supports participants by providing a focused professional and advocacy skills development programme via a mix of in-person and online delivery. We will also cover reasonable costs for PASS participants to attend these in-person sessions.

An additional scholarship is available through our partnership with the Commercial Bar Association ([COMBAR](#)), which successful PASS applicants will have the opportunity to apply for in September.

OUTCOMES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Our desired outcomes for PASS participants are as follows:

- Development of professional and advocacy skills beneficial to pursuing a career at the Bar.
- Increased understanding of the routes to the Bar, including an awareness of how to access funding and support.
- Increased understanding of the Bar and what a career at the Bar involves.

For those who have been unable to obtain mini-pupillage placements at the beginning of the programme:

- Access to a mini-pupillage without financial obstacles.

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for PASS you must:

- Have attended state school for the majority of both your secondary and sixth form education (ages 11-18)
- AND**
- Be on course for (or have achieved) at least a 2:1 in your undergraduate degree or, where a classification lower than a 2:1 was achieved, demonstrated academic ability at a higher level of study or in the workplace.

You must also meet at least one of the following contextual criteria:

- First generation of your family to access higher education.
- Recipient of Free School Meals at any point.
- In the care of the Local Authority at any point in your schooling. This is often referred to as being 'care experienced'.
- [Estranged](#) from all parents/primary caregivers.

- When you were aged 14, the main household earner worked in one of the following professions:
 - technical and craft occupations (eg. motor mechanic, plumber, printer, electrician, gardener, train driver)
 - routine, semi-routine manual and service occupations (e.g. postal worker, machine operative, security guard, caretaker, farm worker, catering assistant, sales assistant, HGV driver, cleaner, porter, packer, labourer, waiter or waitress, bar staff)
- OR
- were long-term unemployed.
- You are on income or housing benefit (eg. Job seeker's allowance, PIP. This does not include student finance or disabled student's allowance).

You must also be residing in the UK for the duration of the programme (October-July). Those studying abroad, therefore, are not eligible.

You cannot be on the Bar Course during PASS and must not have already completed the Bar Course.

We welcome applications from mature applicants and applicants with disabilities. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.

Participation in one of the below partner programmes is also considered as part of the application:

- Inner Temple Schools Project (Discovery Days)
- [Sutton Trust: Pathways to Law](#)

COMPETENCY CRITERIA

In addition to contextual criteria, we assess applications against four key strengths which we ask the candidate to demonstrate in their written application and in a short, recorded video interview. These strength areas are:

Criteria	How is it assessed
Motivation to pursue a career at the Bar and an understanding of how PASS can support you to do this	Application Form
Written and verbal communication skills	Application Form and Interview
Teamwork	Interview
Effective time prioritisation	Interview

To be eligible for the [COMBAR scholarship](#), candidates must also demonstrate an interest in the commercial Bar via an additional short, recorded video interview after finding out if they have been successful in their application for PASS.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Candidates must complete our online application form to be considered. After the closing date you will be informed whether you have been selected to progress onto the next stage of the application process. The following factors will determine this:

- Only candidates meeting the eligibility criteria and who have submitted a complete application will be invited to take part in the interview process.
- In the event of a large numbers of applications, the application form will be scored at this point with scores being considered alongside the number of contextual criteria met to determine who to interview.
- Those being invited to interview will at this point be sent information as to how to complete the interview. Interviews will involve completing a pre-recorded interview via the application portal.

Please ensure you use specific examples of your experience and skills on your application form.

Generative AI (e.g. ChatGPT or similar) use is not permitted at any stage of the application process. Suspected use of AI in the course of the application and interview process will be investigated and a candidate who is found to have used this may be disqualified, as per our [Applications Misconduct Policy](#).

The video interview will involve answering short questions which will be primarily scenario based. You will be given a time limit to respond to each question.

REFERENCES

After the application deadline, we will ask for details of two references. Please ensure your referees know you have put them on this application. References will be tick box based: referees will not have to write feedback but should be able to confirm that you are on track for, or have achieved, at least a 2:1. Your referees should know you in an academic and/or professional setting - e.g. personal tutor, line manager, module supervisor.

The deadline for application forms is 23:55 on Sunday 28th June 2026. All eligible applicants who have progressed to the next stage will be emailed on Monday 13th July notifying you that you need to complete a video interview on the application portal. You will have two weeks – until 23:55 on Sunday 26th July – to complete the video interview. Those who do not complete the video interview will not be considered for the scheme. You will be informed of the outcome of your application via email by 17:00 on Friday 4th September 2026.

KEY DATES FOR PASS 2025/26

Monday 13th April 2026: Applications open

Sunday 28th June 2026 23:55: Applications close

Monday 13th July 2026: Eligible applicants asked to complete video interview

Sunday 26th July 2026 23:55: Deadline for video interviews

Friday 4th September 2026 17:00: Informed of outcome of application via email

Saturday 24th October 2026 10:30-13:30: PASS Welcome Morning at The Inner Temple – open only to successful PASS scholars

Saturday 31st October 2026 14:00-18:00: Inner Temple Insight Afternoon – open to all

November 2025-May 2027 PASS Skills Webinars covering topics such as networking, interview skills, and advocacy

November 2025-July 2027 Mini-pupillage placement for eligible scholars

Saturday 26th June 2027 PASS Skills Day and Celebration at The Inner Temple (NB: this date is subject to change). To include a mock interview and session on legal research skills

PRIVACY NOTICE

Our [outreach privacy notice](#) can be viewed on our website.

If accepted onto PASS, we may share your data with the Commercial Bar Association for the administration of the COMBAR scholarship. Similarly, we may share your details with chambers so that they can make arrangements for mini pupillages or placements with you.

If selected for PASS, we will request information about any reasonable adjustments you may require while on PASS, in line with our [Reasonable Adjustments Policy](#).