

GUIDE TO

BECOMING

A BARRISTER



THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF
THE INNER TEMPLE



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INTRODUCING

THE INNER TEMPLE

WHAT IS AN INN OF COURT?

The first point of contact for those of you considering a career at the Bar is one of the four historic Inns of Court. This has been true for entrants to the Bar for over 600 years.

Anybody who wishes to be Called to the Bar of England and Wales must join one of the four Inns of Court.

The four Inns of Court have distinct histories, coming into being around the middle of the 14th century. The Inns held sole responsibility for legal education and therefore acted as gatekeepers to the profession. While much of this responsibility has been devolved to higher education institutions, the Inns continue to play an essential part in education and training for the Bar.

The Inns of Court also continue to hold exclusive rights of admission to the Bar. This process, known as 'Call to the Bar' or 'Call', occurs after you have successfully completed the academic and professional training components. This includes a programme of professional development activities at your Inn known as 'Qualifying Sessions'.

THE INNER TEMPLE TIMELINE



1160

First recorded history of land called the Temple when it was acquired by the Knights of the Temple of Solomon of Jerusalem (Knights Templar).



1312

The order of Knights Templar abolished and their property seized on the orders of Pope Clement V for alleged malpractice.



1381

First record of lawyers occupying the Temple when Wat Tyler's followers destroyed their lodgings and burned their records.



1505

The earliest surviving register of Inner Temple admissions.

Image credits (Above L–R): A medieval effigy of Knight William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke in the Temple Church / Pope Clement V © public domain / London's mayor, Wat Tyler, killing Wat Tyler © public domain / The Temple Hall © The Inner Temple / King James I of England painted by John de Critz © public domain / The Rt Hon The Baroness GBE PC © Birkbeck / Dr Ivy Williams © Getty Images



However, Call does not entitle you to practise as a barrister as you must first complete a year of pupillage – a form of work based learning – and hold a practising certificate.

Students wishing to train for the Bar may choose which Inn to join, but can only apply to one Inn for scholarships.

The Inns provide a great deal of valuable financial assistance for the various stages of becoming a barrister (see ‘Scholarships and Financial Support’ on p20–21).

Each Inn has three standard groups of members: students, barristers and Masters of the Bench, or ‘Benchers’. Masters of the Bench form the governing body of the Inn and new Benchers are chosen from existing members in addition to honorary members, such as legal academics and usually at least one member of the Royal Family.

The senior Bencher of the Inn is the Treasurer, a position held for one year. The Under or Sub-Treasurer is the acting chief executive of the Inn. The General Council of the Bar (‘Bar Council’) and the Bar Standards Board provide other representation and regulatory functions for the profession.

The Bar Standards Board (BSB) is the regulator of the profession.



1608

James I grants the Temple to the Benchers of the Inner and Middle Temple. The grant is of the whole Temple site, including the Temple Church and other buildings, and is made to the Benchers of each of the two Inns by name.



1919

Membership of the Inns opened to women.

1922

Ivy Williams, the first female barrister, called to the Bar by the Inner Temple.



1988

The Rt Hon Baroness Butler-Sloss, first woman to be appointed to the Court of Appeal. She was also the first female Treasurer of the Inn, in 1998.



2008

400-year anniversary of the Inn’s first Royal Charter.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES AT THE INNER TEMPLE



State of the Art Education and Training Facilities

The Inn's state of the art facilities include the use of a purpose built lecture theatre and eight training rooms, all of which has the technology to offer hybrid events.

Alongside our physical facilities we have invested in a Digital Learning Hub to make the educational experience at the Inn even better through the provision of a central hub for learning resources for our members.

The revitalisation of Inner Temple will secure the long-term future of the Inn, ensuring members and other people who use the Inn have the services and facilities to support a vibrant legal profession.

The Inner Temple Library

The Library has been in existence since the sixteenth century and combines a traditional law library with services required by a 21st century barrister.

The Library is housed on the second floor of the Treasury Building and is open to all members of the Inns of Court.



It is a legal reference Library, staffed by experienced information professionals, which offers users access to a range of print and electronic resources in a comfortable working environment.

The Library supports the Inn's members throughout their careers. Students are offered qualifying sessions on basic and advanced legal research. Pupils receive inductions on Library services and legal research training to assist them during pupillage. A series of database training sessions help practising barristers to keep up to date with developments in online research.

There is a bookable Reading Room for small group discussions or for participation in webinars. A phone booth provides space for users to make phone calls.

The Library offers an inclusive and accessible space with authoritative resources in an environment that is conducive to study and wellbeing. More information on the Library's collections, services and contact details can be viewed at innertemplelibrary.org.uk

Other Facilities at the Inner Temple

The Inner Temple's historic grounds, which include six Grade I listed buildings, are in the heart of the legal district in London, close to the Royal Courts of Justice and St Paul's Cathedral. Our extensive estate is predominantly rented out to barristers' chambers.

The Gardens

The Inn benefits from three acres of beautiful gardens. The Inner Temple Garden is usually open daily between 12.30pm and 3pm throughout the year.

Temple Church

On the north side of our Hall is one of the most historic churches in London. Founded by the legendary Knights Templar, the Church was consecrated in 1185 and has stood throughout the Crusades, the founding of the Anglican Church and the World Wars. In addition to being renowned for church music, it is also a site for contemporary legal debates. During the 400th Anniversary celebrations, an important series on Islam and English Law was held in the church.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING AT THE INNER TEMPLE



Education and Training

A fundamental feature of the Inner Temple is its focus on education and training, from student to established practitioner. The dedicated Education and Training Department is responsible for delivering:

- ▶ Outreach events and schemes for prospective barristers
- ▶ Training for student members of the Inn (alongside the approved education and training organisations that provide the vocational qualification)
- ▶ Advocacy training and practice management support for pupils
- ▶ Advocacy and ethics training for new practitioners
- ▶ Continuing professional development and training for established barristers
- ▶ Scholarships and other financial awards

The rest of this guide will provide more information about the educational programmes and scholarships that the Inn provides.

JOINING THE INNER TEMPLE



When do I have to join an Inn?

You can join an Inn of Court if:

- ▶ You are studying or have completed a qualifying law degree
- ▶ You are currently studying or have been accepted onto a law conversion course
- ▶ You have been exempted from or have successfully completed the academic stage of training

Depending on the pathway to qualification you are following, you will have a specific point at which you need to join an Inn of Court. This is a requirement of the Bar Standards Board.

Please note that you can only apply to join one Inn. The admission fees vary across the Inns. For more information on the Inner Temple's membership fee please visit the website listed at the end of this section.

How?

You can make your application to the Inn via our online portal, accessed via innertemple.org.uk/join

The Treasury Office is happy to give prospective students advice on completing their application.

A photograph of a man and a woman, likely barristers, in profile. The man is on the left, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt, looking towards the right. The woman is on the right, wearing a white hijab and a dark suit, also looking towards the right. They are both wearing name tags. The background is blurred, showing other people in similar attire.

HOW YOU
BECOME
A BARRISTER

UNIVERSITY AND WORK EXPERIENCE

There are many experiences, in addition to your education, which will help you on your journey to the Bar. Any experience, whether a part-time job, previous career, voluntary role, observing in your local court, or mini-pupillage, can be valuable as long as you can articulate what you have learned and gained from the experience.



Undergraduate education

Overleaf you will see the different educational qualifications required to become a barrister; in all cases this requires an undergraduate degree.

Whilst an undergraduate law degree remains the leading entry qualification into the Bar, there is no evidence that holding a law degree offers any advantage over a non-law degree and law conversion course. A report published by the Bar Council showed that 46% of those securing pupillage in 2023/24 completed a non-law degree, followed by the conversion course, despite making up 32% of the overall application pool.

High academic merit remains the leading factor in progression to pupillage with all of those obtaining pupillage in 2023/24 doing so with a 2:1 or above. Obtaining a First will increase your chances of obtaining pupillage.

It is important to be confident that you will have a realistic prospect of obtaining pupillage before starting the Bar Course. More and more people are taking some time between finishing their law degree and the Bar Course to gain valuable life and work experience. ►





Mini-pupillages

Before committing yourself to a career at the Bar, it is helpful to get an idea of what the profession entails on a day-to-day basis. One of the ways of doing this is by undertaking work experience in chambers. Formal placements are known as 'mini-pupillages'. These are short placements, normally between two and five days in duration, that will allow you to shadow one or more barristers. Activities might range from reading and discussing case papers to attending conferences or court proceedings.

Undertaking a range of mini-pupillages in various sets of chambers will also expose you to different practice areas, helping you to decide which areas you might want to specialise in. It is recommended that you see a variety of chambers – this can be in your local area in the first instance, but you may also want to try to get a taste of chambers which are further afield, though this isn't essential. You should seriously consider undertaking at least three mini-pupillages before beginning the pupillage application process. Be sure to take notes during and after the experience, so that when it comes to writing applications for scholarships or pupillage you can refer to these experiences and demonstrate how these experiences have prepared you for a life at the Bar.

Some chambers require applicants to undertake a mini-pupillage at their set of chambers in order to be eligible to apply to them for pupillage. If this is the case, be mindful of deadlines so that you do not miss out on doing a mini-pupillage at that particular set of chambers.

Visit the mini-pupillage hub at chambersstudent.co.uk/the-bar/mini-pupillage-vacancies to find out which chambers offer mini-pupillages. From there, you will be able to visit the websites of the chambers which interest you to find out their application process.





Other legal experience

Aside from mini-pupillages, there are many other types of work experience (paid or unpaid) that can be valuable. Work experience in solicitors' firms can give you a wider view of the legal profession as a whole. Other useful forms of legal experience include volunteering with Citizens Advice or at a law centre, marshalling (shadowing a judge), or taking on cases via organisations like the Free Representation Unit and Advocate. If you decide to take a year out to strengthen your CV, you may be able to work as a paralegal, a judicial assistant or a research assistant.

Non-legal work experience

Casual or part-time work, or a previous job/career, should also be mentioned on applications as it can show development of relevant skills which are highly valued by selection panels. Volunteering and positions of responsibility can be relevant to your future career as a barrister.



THE STAGES OF BECOMING A BARRISTER

What do the pathways cover?

All the pathways cover the three components of education and training for the Bar.

The three components are:

- ▶ academic component (degree);
- ▶ vocational component (formerly the Bar Professional Training Course);
- ▶ pupillage/work-based learning.

THE THREE DIFFERENT PATHWAYS

To become a barrister, you will have to follow one of three different pathways:

1

Three-Step pathway:

Academic component, followed by vocational component, followed by pupillage/work-based learning.

- ▶ Students complete an academic degree which could be either a law degree or a non-law degree. Students on a non-law degree will need to complete a Graduate Diploma in Law.
- ▶ After the academic component is completed, students must join an Inn of Court and meet the English Language Requirements.
- ▶ Once you have completed these requirements, you can start a vocational component course which is normally 9 months long. This vocational component will include BSB centralised assessments on subjects such as Civil Litigation, Criminal Litigation, Evidence and Sentencing. It will also include skills training on subjects including Advocacy, Opinion Writing and Legal Research and Professional Ethics.
- ▶ You will be assessed on these skills subjects by the organisation running the vocational component.
- ▶ You must also complete Qualifying Sessions with your Inn.
- ▶ A number of organisations can offer the vocational component combined with an LLM.

Once you have completed the vocational component course, the Qualifying Sessions and undergone the necessary criminal record checks, you will be eligible to be Called to the Bar. You will also have to have completed pupillage/work-based learning before being able to be authorised as a practising barrister.

2

Four-step pathway:

Academic component, followed by vocational component in two parts, followed by pupillage/work-based components.

- ▶ Students complete an academic degree which could be either a law degree or a non-law degree. Students on a non-law degree will need to complete a Graduate Diploma in Law.
- ▶ After the academic component is completed, you'll need to meet the English Language Requirements.
- ▶ Once you have completed these requirements, you can start a vocational component course which under this pathway will be in two parts.
- ▶ Part 1 would consist of the knowledge-based parts of the course – civil and criminal litigation and evidence, which are centrally examined by the BSB. Candidates would be able to prepare for Part 1 either independently or on a formal course.
- ▶ Only those who pass Part 1 would then be able to proceed to Part 2 which will consist of the remaining skills-based elements. You must then join an Inn of Court before starting Part 2.

Once you have completed Part 2, completed the Qualifying Sessions and undergone the necessary criminal record checks, you will be eligible to be Called to the Bar. You will also have to complete pupillage/work-based learning before being authorised as a practising barrister.

Students must be admitted to one of the Inns of Court which continue to be responsible for the fitness to practise test and for Calling students to the Bar. Students will be required to complete Qualifying Sessions at their Inn of Court before being Called to the Bar.

They are also required to undergo a Criminal Record Check and, if necessary, the equivalent international checks in advance of the ceremony.

3

Integrated academic and vocational pathway

Combined academic and vocational components followed by pupillage/work-based component.

Under this pathway you will be able to combine the academic and vocational components together normally as part of a degree or a degree followed by a Masters year.

- ▶ You will need to join an Inn of Court before you start the vocational component and so it is worth checking with the organisations running the course when this will be.
- ▶ You will still need to complete Qualifying Sessions and meet the English Language requirement. You will have to complete assessments run by the organisations and the BSB centralised assessments.

Once you have completed this integrated part of the pathway and undergone the necessary criminal record checks, you will be eligible to be called to the Bar. You will also have to complete pupillage/work-based learning before being authorised as a practising barrister.



CALL TO THE BAR

Call to the Bar is not only your 'graduation' upon completion of the academic and professional qualification components, it is also an important stepping stone to your career. The Legal Services Act 2007 defines a barrister as "an individual who (a) has been called to the Bar by an Inn of Court, and (b) is not disbarred by order of an Inn of Court". Call is the conferral of the 'Degree of the Utter Bar' and the title 'Barrister'. The degree is conferred on those who have completed the required academic, vocational and Inn's qualifying session stages of qualification, and who have satisfied the Inn that they are fit and proper to be called to the Bar.

Inner Temple hold four Call ceremonies each year:

- Hilary (March)
- Trinity (July)
- Deferred Trinity (October)
- Michaelmas (November)

The ceremony itself is normally held in the historic setting of the Temple Church, built in the 12th Century by the Knights Templar. While the organ plays, students process down the aisle shortly followed by the Masters of the Bench. During the ceremony, students are called to the Bar by one of the Masters of the Bench with the Treasurer awarding students their certificates in front of guests. Afterwards, there is a drinks reception and a chance for students and their guests to celebrate. The Hilary Call has a similar structure, however the ceremony is conducted in the Hall.



"We always aim for Call to the Bar to be a joyous occasion for students, and their families and friends, to set them off properly on their journey to becoming a barrister."



Pupillage

While being Called gives you the title 'barrister', you cannot practise as a barrister until you have obtained pupillage. Pupillage typically lasts one year and is divided into two parts – a non-practising period and a practising period – usually of six months each. You receive money for undertaking pupillage, and this is called a pupillage award. The minimum award for 2024 is £23,078 per annum for pupillages in London and £21,060 per annum for pupillages outside London. Many pupillage awards are at a higher level than the minimum.

Obtaining pupillage is one of the most competitive parts of becoming a barrister. All pupillages are now advertised centrally on the Pupillage Gateway and are regulated by the Bar Standards Board. Except in exceptional cases, you have five years after completing the Bar Course to start pupillage. Many will not obtain pupillage on their first attempt, which is why it is important to be resilient when attempting to obtain pupillage and gain additional experience wherever possible.

More in-depth information about pupillage can be found by searching for The Bar Qualification Manual, produced and kept up to date by the Bar Standards Board.



THE EMPLOYED AND SELF-EMPLOYED BAR

There are two main contexts in which barristers practise: the self-employed Bar, where barristers are based in chambers, and the employed Bar, where barristers work as part of an organisation. The former is more well-known and makes up a large percentage of barristers, while the latter is steadily growing.

Approximately 80% of barristers are self-employed, taking control of all aspects of their work, such as the areas in which they practise and their working hours. For example, you may finish in court early, choose to take the afternoon off to run errands, and then continue working in the evening. However, this level of freedom may not be best suited to those who prefer a more structured approach and one of the key skills of a self-employed barrister is time management. Being a self-employed barrister means you are paid for the cases and work you take on, which also means that if you are not doing the work, you will not get paid. The culture of chambers and the ability to tap into the knowledge, experience, and expertise of senior members of chambers is another benefit of self-employment.

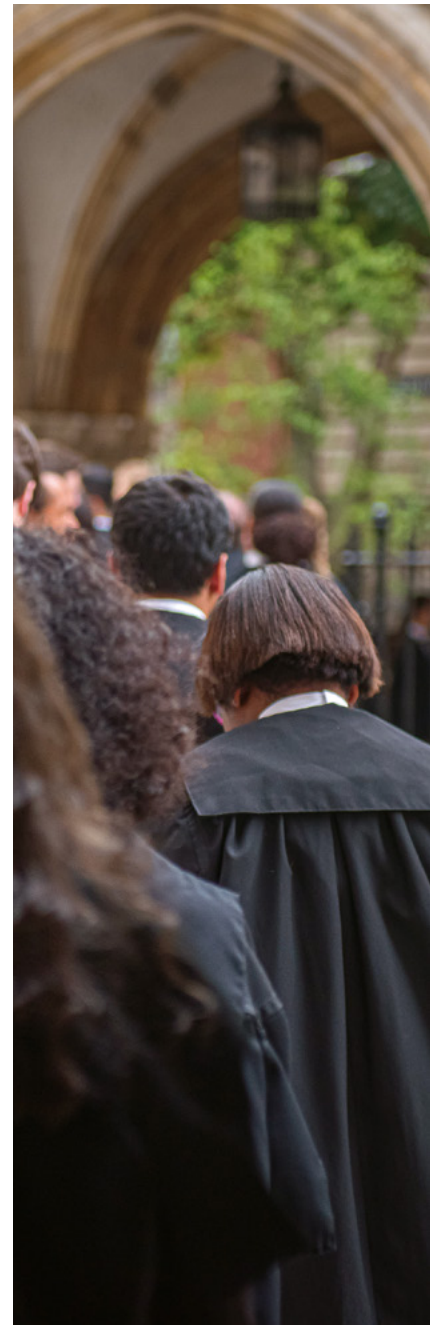
Changes to legal aid in recent years mean that some of those practising in the areas most affected have been attracted to the relative certainty of life at the employed Bar. The comfort of a guaranteed salary is an undeniable attraction for many.

For those who opt to go to the employed Bar, there are a range of opportunities to practise within a larger organisation. Some places where you may find employed barristers are:

- ▶ **Government Legal Service**
- ▶ **Crown Prosecution Service**
- ▶ **Armed Forces**
- ▶ **Law firms**
- ▶ **Large, usually multi-national, businesses**
- ▶ **Regulatory bodies**

Many at the employed Bar talk of the more beneficial work-life balance they can have, because they are unlikely to be given work at the last minute for a hearing taking place the next day. Additional features such as parental leave, sick pay, annual leave and pensions have also drawn people to the employed Bar, although chambers do also have regulatory obligations in relation to parental leave. As there are likely to be fewer other barristers around you in these organisations, the ability to draw on expertise from more senior practitioners is not as simple as in chambers.

While most barristers are self-employed, this doesn't mean that there is a better or worse way of working: your preferred environment will depend very much on your working style and, crucially, this may change over time. Many people may start off at the self-employed Bar and move to the employed Bar, and vice versa.



A woman in a black barrister's gown stands in a garden, surrounded by people taking photos. The scene is set outdoors with a large brick building in the background. The woman is standing on a paved path, gesturing towards a large bush of white roses. Several people are visible in the foreground, holding up smartphones and cameras to capture the moment. The overall atmosphere is one of a formal event or a public appearance.

SUPPORT ON YOUR
JOURNEY
TO BECOMING A BARRISTER

OUR OUTREACH SUPPORT

Discovery Days for Schools

The Inn has a long-standing tradition of inviting state schools to bring Year 12 and Year 13 students to the Inn for a taste of a career at the Bar. We are very proud to be working in partnership with the Sutton Trust Pathways to Law Programme, offering each participant on the programme the opportunity to attend a Discovery Day. This two-year programme aims to offer information and guidance to young people considering a career in law, in addition to helping them develop the skills and confidence necessary to pursue it.

On a Discovery Day, students receive advice and guidance about pursuing a career at the Bar and participants are given the chance to hear from a panel of barristers and to take part in a plea in mitigation and legal exercise workshop. The activities are designed to help young people gain an understanding of what being a barrister involves, the types of skills involved and importantly, whether it might be a suitable career for themselves.

For more information about the Pathways to Law programme, and how to apply please visit suttontrust.com/our-programmes/pathways-to-law

In 2021, the Inn was delighted to launch a new suite of digital resources for school students aged between 14-16, their parents/carers and their teachers in partnership with the Open University. These resources are interactive, enabling students to learn about what a barrister does on a day-to-day basis, different practice areas at the Bar, the role of the Inns of Court and the academic requirements of the role. You can find out more and access these resources by following these links:

Learning about barristers:

<https://bit.ly/3G04Aqj>

Support an aspiring barrister:

<https://bit.ly/31dtm7K>

Insight Events: Becoming a Barrister

The Inner Temple hosts a series of events around England and Wales that aim to give an insight into the profession. Hear from practising barristers and judges about their path to the bar and join us for a networking reception afterwards, where you can interact with barristers, judges and staff from the Education and Training department.

Insight Events are an opportunity for university students, graduates and career changers to ask questions and learn more about their prospective careers.

View upcoming Insight events and book here: innertemple.org.uk/insight

Tours of the Inn

If you are an aspiring barrister, we would encourage you to arrange a tour of Inner Temple. The most suitable point to do this is when you are considering which Inn to apply to for a scholarship or which Inn to join, so usually in the second year of your LLB or before starting the law conversion course. A member of our outreach team will show you round our lovely building and talk through any questions you might have about the process of becoming a barrister.

If you would like to arrange a tour, please visit innertemple.org.uk/tours for guidance on how to do this.



PEGASUS ACCESS AND SUPPORT SCHEME (PASS)



PASS is a leading programme designed to support aspiring barristers who have not yet started the Bar Course.

PASS was established in 2012 by the Inner Temple and 62 different partner chambers across a range of practice areas. Our aim is to improve access to the profession and to support high achieving students 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). Participants who have already secured two mini-pupillages at the point of application will 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.

To be eligible for PASS you must:

- ▶ Have attended state school for the majority of your secondary education and the majority of your 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 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 at the time of university study

- ▶ 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
- OR**
- You are in receipt of income or housing benefits (eg. job seeker's allowance, PIP. Student finance is not included in this)

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

Applications for PASS usually open late Spring. Find out more at:

innertemple.org.uk/pass

OUTREACH OVERVIEW

Service	▼ Before 16	▼ 16 to 18	▼ University students and graduates	▼ Gatekeepers (e.g. teachers, careers advisors)
► Careers guide	X	X	X	X
► Website	X	X	X	X
► Online learning resource	X	X	X	X
► Discovery Days for school students		X		
► Insight Events			X	
► Inner Temple Tours		X*	X	
► Dinner to the Universities			X	
► We'll visit you: Next Steps Sessions online or on campus			X	X
► Funding for Bar Societies			X	
► Pegasus Access and Support Scheme			X	
► Introduction to De-mystifying the Barrister Profession. An introduction for teachers, personal tutors and careers advisors				X

*Please note that under 18s attending tours must be accompanied by an adult.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PEGASUS ACCESS AND SUPPORT SCHEME

The below are testimonials and comments from a range of previous PASS scholars.



▼

“The skills and connections I have made throughout my time as a PASS Scholar have been invaluable. Having a mini-pupillage funded and arranged by Inner Temple was by far the greatest experience. I would not have been able to gain the incredible insight into the profession without it.”

Simran

I was told about the PASS programme by a friend who was preparing for the Bar Course, and she shared how the programme not only honed her skills but also solidified her decision to apply for a Bar Course Scholarship at Inner Temple. Inspired by her positive feedback, I applied to be part of the 2023/2024 intake and was delighted to be selected from around 200 applicants as one of the 60 participants.

From my very first visit to Inner Temple, I felt an immediate sense of belonging. This institution is not just about tradition; it's actively dedicated to fostering diversity and inclusivity within the bar. My journey to the Bar has been unconventional—I transitioned into law post-pandemic, coming from a very different career, which is far from the 'typical' Bar candidate profile. Inner Temple's supportive environment has made this transition smoother and more welcoming, showing me that my aspirations of becoming a barrister are not just dreams, but achievable goals.

The PASS sessions have been incredibly enriching, enhancing my advocacy skills and providing valuable networking opportunities at events like Dinner to the Universities. These experiences are crucial in a profession where connections and skill go hand in hand.

Additionally, receiving the COMBAR Scholarship through the PASS programme has been transformative. It granted me access to mentorship from a barrister at a leading commercial chambers and a mini pupillage with a commercial set that is both competitive and highly rewarding.



“To anyone contemplating a future at the Bar, I wholeheartedly recommend applying for the PASS programme. The combination of workshops, mentorship, and real-world experience it offers can truly enhance your prospects of securing a pupillage and successfully entering the legal profession.”

These opportunities have significantly strengthened my future applications and deepened my understanding of a career at the bar.

I am also grateful that the PASS programme helped me to obtain a Bar Course Scholarship with Inner Temple and I can now start my Bar studies in September 2024.

To anyone contemplating a future at the Bar, I wholeheartedly recommend applying for the PASS programme. The combination of workshops, mentorship, and real-world experience it offers can truly enhance your prospects of securing a pupillage and successfully entering the legal profession.



“Having the opportunity to talk to current barristers, KCs and judges was HUGELY helpful. I don’t think I would have gotten the opportunity otherwise. PASS will definitely be an experience that I consistently refer to as I continue to pursue my legal journey. I have been able to access being inside rooms and talking to individuals that I would never have imagined. I am so immensely grateful for the PASS programme.”



“PASS gave me the confidence, knowledge and skills to commence my GDL, enabling me to embark on a new career. Thank you PASS for all the opportunities and support, it really does make a huge difference.”



“Inspired a newfound confidence in me to pursue a career at the Bar, and helped me understand that people that look like me, and which come from similar backgrounds, can be successful as an advocate.”



“PASS is a true display of Inner Temple’s commitment to breaking down barriers to the Bar, representing a truly supportive and encouraging Inn.”



SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Inner Temple is proud to be able to offer financial support to our student members as they embark on a career at the Bar. We are fortunate to be able to do this through the income generated by the Inn and from funds provided by the generosity of our members, past and present, and benefactors.

For 2026 the Inner Temple intends to offer over £2,000,000 in awards across the different scholarships programmes.



“Becoming a barrister was once an aspiration that felt unattainable, but with the Inn’s support it is now possible. I do not come from a background where pursuing a career at the Bar is commonplace; I feel privileged to have this opportunity. Receiving this award has given me confidence and courage.”

Mali Pink, 2025 Bar Course Scholar

The Inner Temple has a variety of scholarships available during the different stages of your journey to the Bar:



GDL Scholarships

Available to those who are completing a law conversion course.



Bar Training Course Scholarships

Available to those who are going on to start the Vocational Component of their Bar Course Training.



Disability Awards

Available to members with a disability who are completing a Bar Course.



Internship Awards

Available to members undertaking the Bar Course and those in practice.



Pupillage Awards

Available to members who are on minimally funded pupillages to help top up Chambers’ pupillage grants.



Pegasus Scholarship Trust Award

Overseas placement available to members of all four Inns in their first seven years of practice.

Scholarship Type	Open for applications	Deadline	When should you apply?	How do I apply?
 GDL Scholarship Award	March	May	The Spring before your law conversion course starts	Online application form
 Bar Course Scholarship Award	September	November	The academic year before you start the Bar Course	Online application form
 Disability Award	Throughout the year	No deadline	After you have received a decision from DSA	Online application form
 Internship Awards	March	June	From the Spring of starting your Bar Course	Online application form
 Pupillage Awards	March	April	From the April before your pupillage starts or during your pupillage	Online application form
 Pegasus Scholarship Trust Awards	November	December	Within the first seven years after completing pupillage	Online application form

We advise you to check the Inner Temple website for the exact application dates for each programme.

Application Form

In order to apply for a scholarship, you will be required to submit an online application form, which you can access via the Inner Temple website when the application portal is open. The application form is broken down into 6 sections:

- 1 Contact information
- 2 Educational details
- 3 Legal and non-legal work experience
- 4 Supporting information
- 5 References
- 6 Equality monitoring
- 7 Contextual recruitment information

The 'supporting information' section includes professional statement/essay style questions, which are specific to the scholarship you are applying for. Please note that if you submit an application, you will be asked to provide details on your financial circumstances in the January after you submitted your form, via a separate form within the scholarships portal.

References

Applicants are required to arrange for two references to be included in support of a scholarship application, which can be either academic or professional references. All referees should have known the applicant for at least 6 months, and references should be as detailed as possible. Please note that family members cannot provide references. As part of the application form, applicants will be required to provide the names and contact details for their referees. An automatic email, with guidelines, will then be sent to the referees, asking them to submit their reference to us via an online form.



“My experience of the application process was overwhelmingly positive. The underlying thread throughout the process was the genuine support that the Inn offers. From the initial application, to the interview Q&A session and the interview itself, there was clear and consistent support.”

Sunya Qureshi, 2025 Bar Course Scholar

Criteria for Inner Temple Awards

Whilst the Inn aims to interview as many people as possible an initial paper sift will take place prior to interview. Please refer to the website for more details.

Candidates' application form and interview performance is assessed against the below scholarship criteria, which is used for all Inner Temple Awards. The Inner Temple awards its funds based on merit: that is, the Scholarship Committee's assessment of the evidence put before them, regarding the applicant's potential to succeed at the Bar of England and Wales.

The criteria are listed below. For more information about how each is assessed please visit our website.

- 1 Academic Achievement
- 2 Advocacy Potential
- 3 Legal Analysis and Reasoning (Bar Course Scholarships only)
- 4 Interpersonal Skills
- 5 Motivation & Resilience

Financial Need Assessment

Apart from the Named Top Awards (see page 24), all other scholarship awards consider the financial need of candidates when determining the sum to be awarded. This is determined by assessing the resources available, the needs that each candidate is likely to have during the specific period of their professional journey, and to see where each candidate fits in the spectrum of candidates.

The criteria for financial need are:

- 1 Capital/debt (existing and prospective)
- 2 Income (existing and prospective, from all sources – including any other likely award or provision, e.g. from a public body, prospective pupillage chambers, charity or parents)
- 3 Personal expenditure (existing and prospective, including fees)
- 4 Exceptional considerations (e.g. dependants, or special liabilities)

We recommend that all applicants complete the financial statement. While it is not compulsory, if it is not completed, any award received (other than the named awards mentioned above) would be made at the minimum level.



“Being awarded a Major Scholarship from the Inner Temple has been transformative. It has made my progression to the Bar possible. Beyond the substantial financial support, the Inn’s endorsement has bolstered my confidence in my abilities and propensity to become a successful advocate. I am both grateful and privileged to be part of a community that looks beyond barriers and is truly representative and dedicated to fervently championing aspiring barristers from all backgrounds.”

Vian Saggo, 2025 Bar Course Scholar

In 2026 the Inner Temple will have over £2,000,000 available to award for the Bar Course and GDL.
For more information as to how this is broken down please see our website: innertemple.org.uk/scholarships.



GDL Scholarships

Scholarships available:

GDL Scholarships – breakdown of awards:		
Award	Number of Awards Available	Award Type
Princess Royal Scholarship	2	These are awarded to candidates who receive the highest scores on their GDL scholarship application and are a fixed amount. For more information on amounts please visit our website.
Major Scholarship	4	These are the second-tier awards and the amount awarded are means-tested.
Exhibition Scholarships	Approximately 30	These awards are means-tested



Bar Course Scholarships

Scholarships available:

Bar Course Scholarships – breakdown of awards:		
Award Name	Number of Awards Available	Award Type
Top awards (Peter Taylor Scholarship, Stephen Chapman Scholarship, Princess Royal Scholarships)	7	These are awarded to the candidates who receive the highest scores on their Bar Course Scholarship application and are a fixed amount. For more information on amounts please visit our website.
Major Scholarship	20	These are the second-tier awards and the amount are means-tested.
Exhibition Scholarships	Approximately 93	These awards are means-tested
Benefactors' Scholarships and Prizes	18	These are awarded in conduction with the exhibition awards and do not affect the final means-tested amount awarded.
Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Scholarships	50	These cover admission and Call fees.



Scholarship Application Statistics

Inner Temple GDL Statistics				Inner Temple Bar Course Scholarship Statistics			
	▼ 2023	▼ 2024	▼ 2025		▼ 2023	▼ 2024	▼ 2025
► Applicants	81	100	142	► Applicants	387	489	510
► Interviewed applicants (minus withdrawals)	80	94	134	► Interviewed applicants (minus withdrawals)	337	435	463
► Total Awards	30	33	30	► Total Awards	120	116	119



Disability Awards

Up to £15,000 is available annually to assist student members of Inner Temple who have a disability and are not eligible for DSA support. The scheme aims to support a parity of educational experience for members who have disabilities, by covering some of the associated additional costs they may have. Please note that Inner Temple Disability Awards will not be able to cover costs which any other student/pupil may have, or costs which are not associated with your course/pupillage.

For more information about the Disability Award, including eligibility criteria please visit www.innertemple.org.uk/becoming-a-barrister/scholarships/disability-awards



Pupillage Awards

Inner Temple offer a small number of scholarships for those with a minimally funded pupillage, called Benefactors' Scholarships. The Marshall Hall Trust will also provide an additional amount to be divided between successful applicants in the form of Marshall Hall Trust Pupillage Awards.



Internship Awards

Inner Temple makes a small number of awards each year to help members undertake internship placements that will widen their experience of the world outside the Bar and enhance the skills they can bring to their practice. Although almost any project can be considered, preference is given to international placements with a legal element which include unpaid/low paid work for the community. A trust set up in memory of Sir Joseph Priestley also makes a generous annual contribution to these awards.



Pegasus Scholarship Trust Award

The Pegasus Scholarship Trust was founded in 1987 by the Rt. Hon Lord Goff of Chievely, as a Charitable Trust supported by all four Inns. The Trust's aim is to make it possible for 'gifted young lawyers – the future leaders of their professions – to learn about the practical working of the common law system in countries other than their own.' The scheme is open to members of all four Inns who are in their first 7 years of practice (after pupillage).

A photograph of three people standing outdoors on a lawn. On the left is a man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a green patterned tie, holding a glass of champagne. In the center is a woman with blonde hair, wearing a black graduation gown over a white high-collared shirt, also holding a glass of champagne. On the right is a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark textured jacket over a white dress with a black geometric pattern, holding a glass of champagne. In the background, there are lush green trees and a large, light-colored building with multiple windows. The text 'EDUCATION AND SUPPORT' is overlaid in white, with 'EDUCATION AND' in a smaller font above 'SUPPORT' which is in a larger font.

EDUCATION AND
SUPPORT

QUALIFYING SESSIONS

Qualifying Sessions

Student Members must complete 10 Qualifying Sessions in order to be Called to the Bar. Students must attend a minimum of 1 session under each of the themes listed below and at least 2 sessions must be interactive and require preparation in advance.

The Inn's Qualifying Sessions are spread across five themes as follows:

- Ethics, Standards and Values
- Advocacy Skills
- Legal Knowledge, Justice and the Rule of Law
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Preparation for Pupillage, Career Development and Wellbeing

Every Inn has a different Qualifying Sessions programme, so that provision may affect your decision as to which Inn is best suited to your needs.

The Inner Temple runs a varied programme. Our sessions take place in person and online depending on the content and are held during evenings and weekends. Unlike other Inns, we have no minimum requirement for the number of Qualifying Sessions you must attend in person, although we do encourage our members to attend some in person events if possible, in order to benefit from the opportunity to network.



QUALIFYING SESSIONS

Introductory Events

The department run Introductory Events at the Inn to allow students some time to get to know the Inn, its members and relevant organisations around the Bar. This includes Specialist Bar Associations, Student Societies, future employers and organisations supporting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the Bar. Separate Introductory Events are run for students based in London and outside of London, to ensure that attendees receive the most useful personalised information.



Panel Discussions and Q&As

These sessions can take place both online and in person and will include students hearing from practitioners at all stages of their legal careers, discussing varied topics including aspects of pupillage, EDI concerns, life at the Bar, wellbeing and more. These sessions are intended to supplement the advocacy, legal research, ethics and legal knowledge training and to give students a more holistic view of life and work in the legal profession.

Legal Research Training

The legal research training is led by librarians from the Inner Temple. It covers the basics of legal research and provides an essential refresher for students starting the Bar course. More advanced training is offered over the course of the year.

Foundational Skills Courses

Taught by external professionals, skilled in public speaking and vocal projection, these sessions give students the opportunity to develop their presentational skills, posture and performance, all as a means of improving their oral advocacy.

Student Advocacy Weekends

The Inn hosts three student advocacy weekends a year, at external conference centres. The weekends offer students the opportunity to hear from high profile speakers and experts in the topic under discussion, as well as the chance to practise their advocacy skills.

Interactive training

Experienced practitioners will take students through advocacy exercises, ethics questions or similar in a supportive and informal environment. Students will be encouraged to engage in small groups or anonymous interactive voting and online discussions. These sessions give students the opportunity to hone their skills and develop their knowledge in a relaxed and unassessed session.



Circuit Education Days

These Qualifying Sessions are tailored to students studying at providers outside of London, at urban centres around the country. In previous years, students have attended sessions on ethics, pupillage applications, EDI and ADR.

Lectures

The Inn contributes to cutting edge legal debates through its Reader's Lecture Night and Social Context of the Law series.



Read more about our Qualifying Sessions at [innertemple.org.uk/education](https://www.innertemple.org.uk/education)

SUPPORT SCHEMES FOR STUDENTS

The following schemes are designed to help our students enhance their experience and learning. These schemes are for Bar Course students or those who have been Called but not yet obtained pupillage.



Mentoring Scheme

This is a scheme that pairs students with experienced practising barristers who can give advice and impartial assistance.



“My mentor was absolutely fantastic and gave me some excellent insight that proved useful in pupillage applications.”



Marshalling Scheme

The Marshalling Scheme affords student members of the Inn the opportunity to spend up to a week sitting with a judge in England or Wales. The experience provides a unique opportunity to observe the workings of the court from an entirely different perspective. The scheme is open to student members who are currently on the Bar Training Course or have completed the course but are yet to obtain pupillage.



“The exposure to real courtroom proceedings and the chance to observe the workings of the judiciary have significantly deepened my understanding of legal practice. This experience will undoubtedly benefit me in my future career in the legal profession.”



Mock Interview Scheme

This scheme aims to help students develop their interview skills in preparation for imminent pupillage interviews. Students are given the opportunity to practise their interview technique and to build up confidence in front of barristers.



“The mock interview was extremely useful and provided very helpful and encouraging feedback.”

STUDENT SOCIETIES

The Inner Temple has four active student societies. They each organise a number of events throughout the year.



Inner Temple Students' Association (ITSA)

ITSA is open to all students undertaking the Bar course and those who have completed it in the past 5 years, but still seeking pupillage. The Association promotes collegiality, provides a welcome break from studies, and offers several opportunities to build your CV. An essay competition and pupillage application events are just a few to note.



Inner Temple Racial Equality Society

The Racial Equality Society is open to student members who self-identify as being from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic background. The aim of the society is to facilitate access to the Bar for those from ethnic minority backgrounds and to create a support network for students from backgrounds with the least representation in the profession.



Inner Temple Drama Society

The Society is beneficial to students in many ways: confidence, clarity and projection being just three skills that can help to improve your advocacy.

Annual pantomimes have starred actors and actresses from all walks of legal life, including practising barristers and Senior Benchers. Student members have previously written, directed and performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The Society also take part in an annual competition called The Temple Shakespeare Cup (also known as 'The Shake Off') against neighbouring Inn, Middle Temple.



The Association promotes collegiality between students and provides a welcome break from studies.



Inner Temple Debating Society

Playing an active part in the Inner Temple Debating Society holds numerous benefits. Teams compete regularly across the UK and host countless opportunities for you to practice your skills in person. This includes competitions such as the Rawlinson Cup Debate and Inner Temple Debating Shield. The Society can help you build your confidence and advocacy skills from the comfort of your own home with a series of online training sessions. If you want to get involved as an undergraduate before joining the Inn you can take part in the annual Intervarsity Debating Competition, where they host the top competitors on the debating circuit.



Inner Temple Mooting Society

What is mooting? Moots are legal problems in the form of fictitious cases. Appearing before the Bench are two teams of two counsel – a senior and junior counsel on each. Counsel will routinely be asked several questions by the judge(s) relating to their submissions. Of course, winning the moot is not the same as winning the argument. It really is a case of how you play the game rather than whether you win or lose.

Inner Temple mooters compete in some of the world's most prestigious mooting competitions, for example, the Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Law Moot, Telders International Law Moot Competition, and International Criminal Court Moot, among others. In recent years, the Inner Temple has sent mooters all over the UK and as far as Washington, DC. Mooting provides a fantastic opportunity to see places and meet people from all over the world. The society also hosts an Intervarsity competition.



POST-CALL EDUCATION

The Inner Temple runs an extensive programme of advocacy training for pupils, new practitioners and established practitioners alike. Anyone joining the Inner Temple can look forward to outstanding training from committed trainers. The Inn is fortunate to have a hugely dedicated membership, both barristers and judges, who are willing to give up countless hours in the evenings and over weekends to assist with the training.



Compulsory Training for Pupils

To obtain a practising certificate, pupils must successfully complete an 'Advocacy Training Course' within their non-practising period, which is usually the first six months of pupillage.

The Inn runs two advocacy courses. Course A takes place during October and November, and Course B takes place during January and February.

The Inner Temple's Advocacy Training Course is taught by judges, Masters of the Bench and barristers of all levels, who are accredited advocacy trainers for the Inn.

As part of the Inn's Pupil Training Programme, we also deliver a non-compulsory 'Practice Management Day' which takes place in January each year.

For more information please visit: innertemple.org.uk/education

New Practitioner Programme

After a barrister has completed pupillage and gained tenancy, either in self-employed practice or at the Employed Bar, they will become a 'new practitioner'.

In their first three years of practice, 'new practitioners' are required to complete 45 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) including at least nine hours of advocacy training and three hours of ethics training.

The Inn's New Practitioners' Advocacy Course takes place twice each year in April and June, and provides the highest possible standard of training for barristers in their first three years of tenancy. The course comprises of an intensive training residential weekend and at the core of the weekend is a case allowing 'new practitioners' to gain experience in handling expert witnesses played by accountants and medical doctors.

Our New Practitioners' Ethics Course comprises of self-directed learning, a live specialist session and self-assessment. The course provides 'new practitioners' with the opportunity to discuss a range of ethical questions and issues under the guidance of established practitioners.

Continuing Professional Development

The Inn's programme of educational activities for established practitioners includes a wide range of sessions which can be counted towards the CPD requirement of those over three years' practice. Sessions so far have been held both in person and online, and have included talks, panel discussions and practical workshops on topics such as neurodiversity, the coronial service, dealing with distressing material at the bar, advanced cross-examination, communication skills, careers development, advocacy for the Court of Appeal, and most recently a series of webinars focusing on family law. A conference on Open Source and User-Generated evidence brought together international experts on this new and fast-developing area of technology and examined its impact on the legal world, and more recently we held the first conference of its kind giving advice and guidance specifically to those returning to the bar after a period away, or considering a career break.

There are also training opportunities for those wishing to become pupil supervisors or advocacy trainers for the Inn, and specialist Advocacy and the Vulnerable sessions for members who deal with vulnerable witnesses.

HOW TO CONTACT THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING TEAM

Education and Training Department

Treasury Building, Inner Temple,
London EC4Y 7HL

☎ 020 7797 8208

▶ education@innertemple.org.uk

f /TheInnerTemple

t /TheInnerTemple



Outreach Enquiries

▶ outreach@innertemple.org.uk

☎ 020 7797 8240

Scholarship Enquiries

▶ scholarships@innertemple.org.uk

☎ 020 7797 8211

Pegasus Trust Enquiries

▶ pegasus@innertemple.org.uk

☎ 020 7797 8210

Pupil and New Practitioner Enquiries

▶ pupils-practitioners@innertemple.org.uk

☎ 020 7438 2310

Established Barrister Enquiries

▶ establishedbarristers@innertemple.org.uk

☎ 020 7797 8209

Pre-Pupillage Enquiries

▶ pre-pupillage@innertemple.org.uk

☎ 020 7438 2311

Qualifying Session Enquiries

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☎ 020 7438 2311

Call to the Bar Enquiries

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