

## ACCESS TO THE BAR AWARDS GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS

### **Background**

The Middle Temple Access to the Bar Awards are an example of how we aim to reach able students from backgrounds which do not traditionally encourage aspirations for a career at the Bar and help them to make an informed choice about their opportunities.

Funded by the donations of senior members of the Inn, the scheme provides two funded weeks (£350 per week) of work experience every summer for up to thirty undergraduates from disadvantaged backgrounds. One week is spent marshalling (i.e. shadowing a judge in court) and the other week in Chambers with a barrister.

Where possible Chambers and Courts close to the candidate's home are selected for the scheme. However where necessary the Inn will provide accommodation to complete the scheme in London. Candidates will also receive invitations to networking events.

### **Eligibility**

The scheme is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students who;

- Are available to participate in the last week of June and first week of July.
- are in the second, third or fourth year of a qualifying law degree, or taking the Graduate Diploma in Law or an equivalent conversion course. Postgraduates with a qualifying law degree may also apply.
- have little or no family history of higher or professional education.
- completed secondary education in a state school. (In exceptional circumstances, students who attended secondary education in a fee-paying school may be considered.)
- are not a member of the Honourable Society of Inner Temple, The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn or the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn.

Please Note: Recipients of the Inner Temple Pegasus Access and Support Scheme will not be eligible to receive an Access to the Bar Award.

### **Criteria for the making of an award**

The criteria for the making of an award are as follows:

- A profile indicating that the student is likely to be awarded a good upper second or first class degree, or has already been awarded one if the student is a graduate undertaking the conversion course; and

- A good performance in mooting or debating activity at university or at school or other evidence of potential to be a successful advocate; and
- Good references as to their academic and intellectual ability and other relevant qualities such as self-confidence, strong communication skills and motivation and determination for a career at the Bar from two of their university tutors.
- Students who have limited experience of the Bar thus far and meet the previous criteria are preferred.

Students should be aware that an unsuccessful application to Access to the Bar is **not** an indictment of their ability and will not affect their chances of being awarded a Middle Temple BPTC Scholarship - which is awarded on merit alone.

### **The Application Process**

Each university that participates in the scheme will carry out the initial shortlisting and will submit selected applications to the Middle Temple.

Each application must include the following:

1. Application form, completed, signed, and dated.
2. Transcripts of degree examination results to date
3. Two references from university tutors. [It is up to the Department whether referees should be approached by a member of the Faculty or by the student, but either way, they need to be submitted together with the application.]

*(\* please note that where an institution has multiple study centres, one application will be accepted from each region)*

Students should submit their applications to,

**Charlie King**

**Via email – [charlie.king@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:charlie.king@exeter.ac.uk)**

**by 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED.**

### **Shortlisting and Interview**

Applications will be shortlisted by the Inn and a number of applicants will be invited to attend an interview at Middle Temple. Reasonable travel expenses (up to £65) will be reimbursed. If travel is not possible due to coronavirus then the interviews will be conducted online.

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by practicing members of the Middle Temple in February 2024.



## APPLICATION FORM FOR MIDDLE TEMPLE ACCESS TO THE BAR AWARDS 2024

Please **type** in the boxes below using **Arial font size 11 pt.**

**Do not complete by hand, save as PDF for submission**

<b>Title</b> (e.g. Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms//Mx/Dr )			
<b>First Name</b>		<b>Middle Name(s)</b>	
<b>Surname</b>			
<b>Permanent (Home) Address</b>			
<b>Postcode</b>			
<b>Current Address</b> (if different from the address above)			
<b>Postcode</b>			
<b>If applicable, date you will move out of this address upon graduating</b> (month/year)			
<b>Email Address</b>			
<b>University Email Address</b> (where applicable)			
<b>Mobile Phone Number</b>			
<b>Are you a member of Middle Temple<sup>1</sup></b>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES / APPLICATION PENDING <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>If applicable, what is your membership number?</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Please note you are not eligible to apply if you are a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, Gray's Inn, or Inner Temple.

<b>SCHOOL, at which you completed your GCSEs</b>	
Name of school	
City/town/borough	
Was it a selective school?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Was it a fee-paying school?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, did you have a scholarship?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please give details	

<b>UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE</b>	
Name of university	
Degree subject	
What year of your course are you currently in?	2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>GDL or equivalent conversion course (if applicable)</b>	
Name of university	
Are you studying full time or part time?	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input type="checkbox"/>
What year of your course are you currently in?	1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>POSTGRADUATE COURSE (if applicable)</b>	
Name of university	
Degree subject	
Are you studying full time or part time?	Full time <input type="checkbox"/> Part time <input type="checkbox"/>
What year of your course are you currently in?	1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>MINI PUPILLAGES and WORK EXPERIENCE</b>			
Have you applied for mini-pupillages?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	How many?	
If so, have you been successful in any of your applications?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Still pending	<input type="checkbox"/>
List the chambers at which you have completed, or are due to complete, mini pupillages			
Have you arranged/completed any other work experience similar to the Access Awards?			

<b>PERSONAL BACKGROUND</b>	
Have you ever been in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance Payments or an Adult Learning Grant?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you ever been in receipt of Free School Meals?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Is someone in your immediate family currently receiving Income Support, Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance, where the benefit includes an element to meet your needs?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you ever lived under local authority care (e.g. in foster care or a care home)?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Do either of your parents possess an undergraduate degree?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
What is your parents'/ carers' occupation?	

**Please explain why you are applying for an Access to the Bar Award, your interest in law, and what qualities you would bring to the programme if selected. (max. 400 words)**

**If you consider that there is any other information relevant to this application that has not been covered elsewhere on this form, please provide it below. (max. 200 words)**

<b>ACCESS TO THE BAR WORK EXPERIENCE PREFERENCES</b>	
Which area(s) of the law would you be particularly interested to see?	
In which town/city would you <u>ideally</u> like to undertake the work experience in chambers?	
In which town/city would you <u>ideally</u> like to undertake the marshalling with a judge?	

**DECLARATION**

*To be completed after nomination from University.*

*I hereby submit my application for the Access to the Bar Awards. I declare that the above particulars are true in all respects.*

*I confirm that I am not a member of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, or the Honourable Society of Inner Temple.*

*I confirm that I have been selected by my university to apply for the Access to the Bar scheme.*

*I confirm that I am available dates inclusive Monday 24 June 2024 to Friday 5 July 2024.*

**Signature** .....

**Date** .....

*The personal data provided on this form, together with your references, will be used for the purpose of considering your application for an Access to the Bar award. Your personal data will be retained or destroyed in accordance with the Inn's policies, as amended from time to time. The result of your application will be recorded on your Middle Temple record if you are a member at the time of applying or are admitted as a member subsequently. Details of the personal data processing carried out by the Inn and your rights in respect of that processing can be found on the website at [www.middletemple.org.uk](http://www.middletemple.org.uk).*

## Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form

Middle Temple aims to have an inclusive environment for all staff, members, students and service users, by identifying and removing barriers in our practices. Completing this monitoring form will help us achieve this, and also help Middle Temple meet our obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

While it is voluntary to disclose this information, doing so will enable us to better understand the composition of those participating in our Outreach programmes and examine our practices fully.

Your answers will be treated in the strictest confidence, and all data disclosed will comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 and General Data Protection Regulation. Middle Temple's data protection policy can be found via <https://www.middletemple.org.uk/about-us/data-protection>.

**Please answer each question in turn by choosing one option only, unless otherwise indicated. If you do not wish to answer the question, please choose the option 'Prefer not to say' rather than leaving the question blank.**

### 1. What is your ethnic group?

Choose one section from the below the most appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.

Asian / Asian British

Bangladeshi	
Chinese	
Indian	
Pakistani	
Any other Asian background (write in)	

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

African	
Caribbean	
Any other Black / Caribbean / Black British (write in)	

Mixed / multiple ethnic groups

White and Asian	
White and Black African	
White and Black Caribbean	
White and Chinese	
Any other Mixed / multiple ethnic background (write in)	

White

British / English / Welsh / Northern Irish / Scottish	
Irish	
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	
Any other White background (write in)	

Other ethnic group

Arab	
Any other ethnic group (write in)	
Prefer not to say	



**2. What best describes your gender?**

Male	
Female	
If you prefer to use your own term, please provide it here.....	
Prefer not to say	

**3. Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?**

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	

**4. What is your age?**

Under 16 (optional)	
16 - 24	
25 - 34	
35 - 44	
45 - 54	
55 - 64	
65+	
Prefer not to say	

### 5. Disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as having a disability if he or she 'has a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial long-term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Long term means 12 months or more. a) Do you consider yourself to have a disability according to the definition in the Equality Act

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	
If yes, please specify the nature of the disability.	

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, more than 12 months?

Yes, limited a lot	
Yes, limited a little	
No	
Prefer not to say	

### 6. What is your sexual orientation?

Bisexual	
Gay man	
Gay woman/lesbian	
Heterosexual/straight	
If you prefer to use your own term, please provide it here...	
Prefer not to say	

### 7. Please indicate your religion or belief:

No religion or belief	
Buddhist	

Christian (all denominations)	
Hindu	
Jewish	
Muslim	
Sikh	
Any religion or belief not listed, please state here	
Prefer not to say	

**8. Are you married or in a civil partnership?**

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	

**9. Caring responsibilities**

(a) Are you a primary carer for a child or children under 18?

Yes	
No	
Prefer not to say	

(b) Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbors or others because of either:

- Long-term physical or mental ill-health / disability
- Problems related to old age?

(Do not count anything you do as part of your paid employment)

No	
Yes, 1 - 19 hours a week	
Yes, 20 - 49 hours a week	
Yes, 50 or more hours a week	
Prefer not to say	

**10. Which type of school did you attend for the most time between the ages of 11 - 18?**

A Non-selective state-run or state-funded school	
A state-run or state-funded school that is selective on academic, faith or other ground	
Independent or fee-paying school	
Independent or fee-paying school supported by a means tested scholarship	
Attended school outside the UK	
I don't know	
Prefer not to say	

**11. What is the highest level of qualification achieved by either of your parent(s) or guardian(s) by the time you were 18?**

Degree level or Degree equivalent or above (for example first or higher degrees, postgraduate diplomas, NVQ/SVQ Level 4 or 5 etc.)	
Qualifications below degree level (for example an A-Level, SCE Higher, GCSE, O-Level, SCE Standard/Ordinary, NVQ/SVQ, BTEC etc.)	
No qualifications	
I don't know	
Prefer not to say	
Not applicable	

**12. Please tell us about the occupation of your main household earner when you were aged 18. If this question does not apply to you (because, for example, you were in care at this time), you can indicate this below.**

Please tick one box to show which best describes the sort of work your primary household earner undertook at this time. Modern professional occupations

<b>Modern professional occupations</b> such as: teacher, nurse, physiotherapist, social worker, musician, police officer (sergeant or above), software designer.	
<b>Clerical and intermediate occupations</b> such as: secretary, personal assistant, clerical worker, call centre agent, nursery nurse.	

<b>Senior managers or administrators</b> (usually responsible for planning, organising and co-ordinating work, and for finance) manager, chief executive.	
<b>Technical and craft occupations</b> such as: motor mechanic, plumber, printer, electrician, gardener, train driver.	
<b>Semi-routine manual and service</b> occupations such as: postal worker, machine operative, security guard, caretaker, farm worker, catering assistant, sales assistant.	
<b>Routine manual and service occupations</b> such as: HGV driver, cleaner, porter, packer, labourer, waiter/waitress, bar staff.	
<b>Middle or junior managers</b> such as: office manager, retail manager, bank manager, restaurant manager, warehouse manager.	
<b>Traditional professional occupations</b> such as: accountant, medical practitioner, scientist, civil / mechanical engineer.	
<b>Legal Profession</b> Barrister, solicitor, Judge	
<b>Long term unemployed</b> (claimed Jobseeker's Allowance or earlier unemployment benefit for more than a year)	
Retired	
This question does not apply to me	
I don't know	
Prefer not to say	
Not applicable	

**13. What is your nationality?**

**14. At age 18, did the main household earner in your house work as an employee or were they self-employed?**

A, Employee	
B. Self-employed with employees	
C. Self-employed/freelance without employees (go to the end of the survey)	
D. Not working	
E. I don't know	
F. Prefer not to answer questions about parental occupation (skip remaining questions)	
G. Not applicable	

**15. Where 14a is employee: How many people worked for your main household earner's employer at this time? Where 14b is self-employed with employees: How many people did your main household earner employ at this time? Move to question 16 when you have completed this question.**

1 to 24	
25+	
I don't know	

**16. Did they supervise employees?**

Yes	
No	
I don't know	

If you have any other questions regarding how your data will be used please contact [dataprotection@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:dataprotection@middletemple.org.uk)  
 Or visit our website <http://www.middletemple.org.uk/about-us/data-protection>