

*The Honourable Society of*  
**Lincoln's Inn**



**Guide to**  
**Becoming a Barrister**  
**2022-2023**

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## The Route to the Bar

Qualifying Law Degree

Non-Qualifying Law Degree/  
Non-Law Degree  
(apply for a GDL scholarship)

Law Conversion Course  
Graduate Diploma in Law  
1-year full time or 2-years part time

### Make Arrangements for the Bar Course

In order to secure a place on the Bar Course you must apply directly to a provider (See page 22). The cost of the Bar Course varies from provider to provider but scholarships are available from the Inns of Court. Apply for an Inn of Court Scholarship 12-16 months before the start of your course.

### Join an Inn of Court

You must join at least 12 weeks before you commence your Bar Course. You can only apply to join one Inn. If you receive an Inn of Court scholarship you must join that particular Inn in order to receive the funds.

### The Bar Course and Inns of Court Qualifying Sessions

In addition to your Bar Course, you must also complete 10 Qualifying Sessions at your Inn in order to be Called to the Bar. Please see the next page for details on the different ways you can study the Bar Course .

### Call to the Bar

This is like your graduation ceremony. Only your Inn of Court may Call you to the Bar. After Call you must complete 12-18 months in Chambers (Pupillage) or at another Approved Training Organisation.



# Bar Course Options

There are two main pathways to complete your Bar Course; the three-step programme and the four-step programme. Certain providers may offer both the three-step and four-step pathway. For the most up to date information, including pathways, lengths of course and costs, please visit the provider websites, which can be found on page 22 of this booklet.

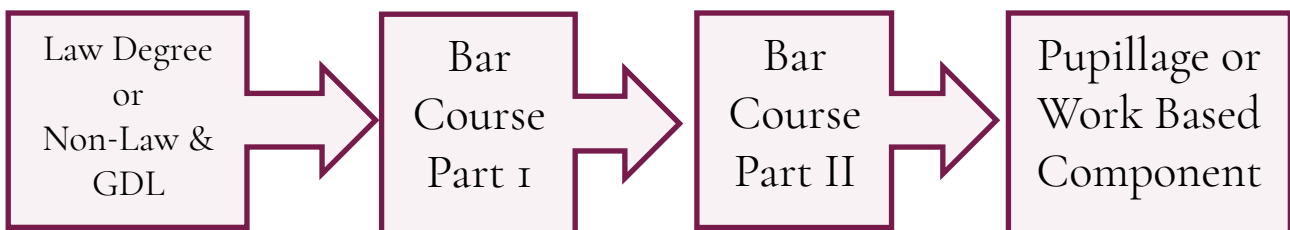
## Three-step pathway

Academic (degree) followed by vocational (Bar Course), followed by pupillage or work-based component.



## Four-step pathway

Academic (degree) component, followed by vocational component (Bar Course) in two parts, followed by pupillage or work-based component. Providers offering this pathway determine the length, cost and style of each Bar Course part.



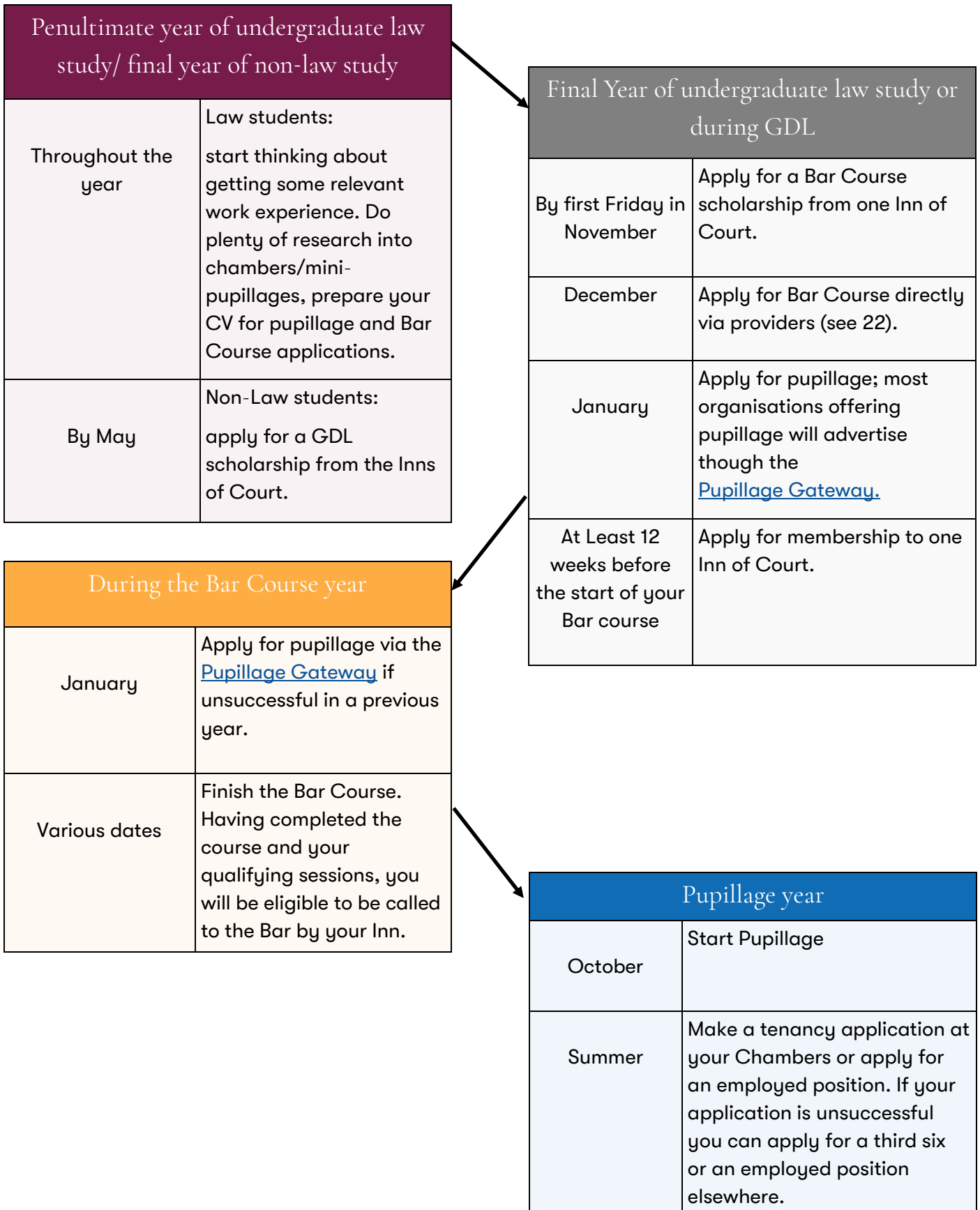
## Integrated Degree and Bar Course pathway

Combined academic (degree) and vocational (Bar Course) components followed by pupillage or work-based component.

*Please note: A possible further pathway (Apprenticeship Pathway) may come into place in future years.*



## Timeline to the Bar



## Becoming a Barrister

We hold regular events to help you figure out whether a career at the Bar is for you, and whether you'd like Lincoln's Inn to be your future Inn of Court. All four Inns provide similar services and we advise students to visit each Inn and research what they have to offer before making their decision. Lincoln's Inn is always keen to help those seeking to establish whether a career at the Bar is right for them. We are also happy to assist those who advise students making this important decision. In this section you can find out more about how to visit the Inn and our outreach events.

## InnSight Days

Lincoln's Inn holds Open Days for prospective Bar Course and GDL students which include a presentation about the Inn and a talk from a barrister about their career. We have two a year, normally one in October and one in March/April.

## Student Tours

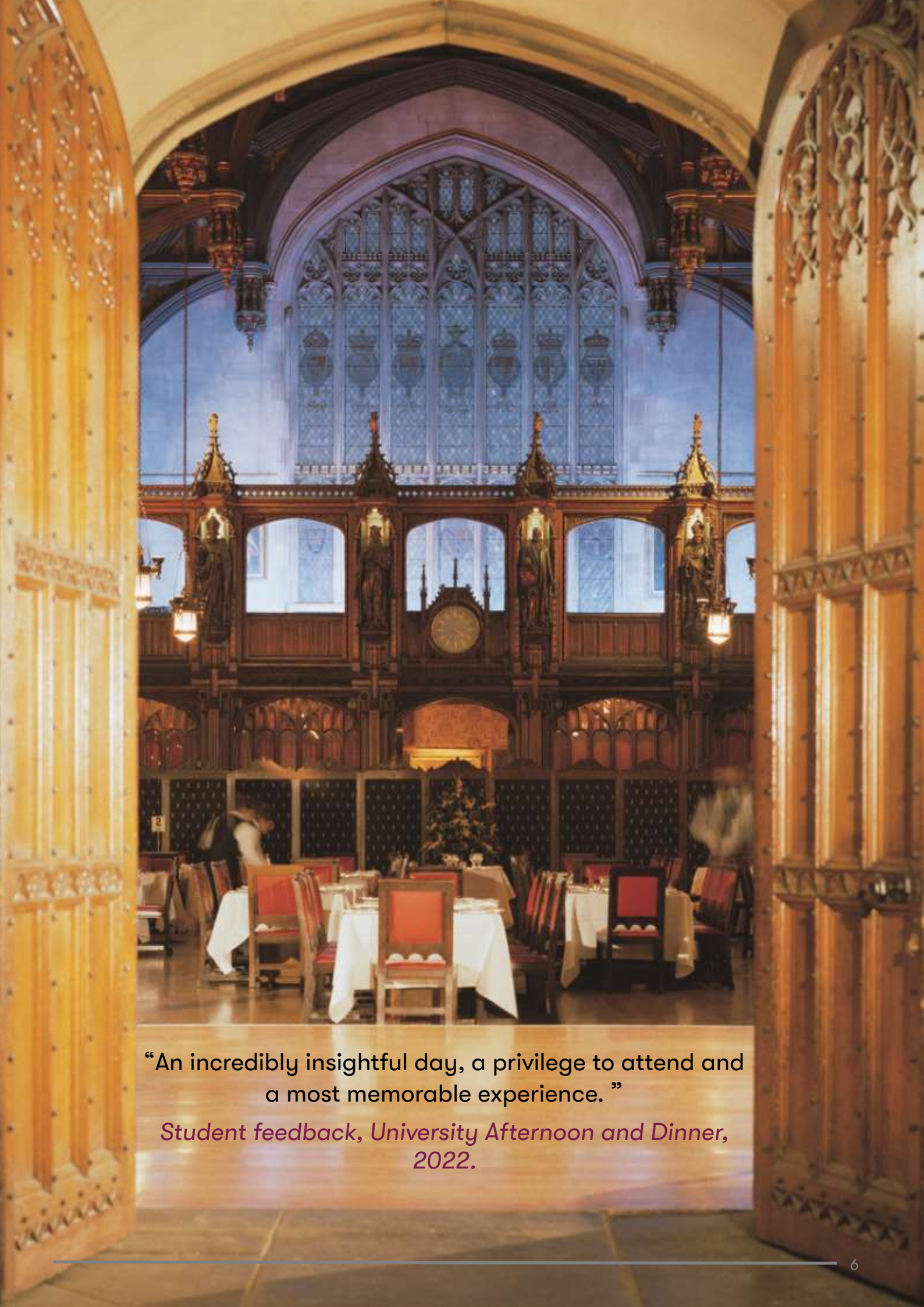
We offer tours of the Inn for prospective members at set times on Thursdays during the legal year. We can only accommodate small groups, up to five people maximum. You can book onto a tour [via this link](#).

## University Visits

Bar and Law societies are welcome to contact us to arrange a presentation at your university or a group visit to the Inn, subject to availability. We can offer advice and guidance on funding your Bar Course and arrange for members of the Inn to come and talk about their experience training and working as Barristers.

## University Afternoon and Dinners

The Inn invites students from all universities to visit, hear a range of talks from practising barristers and then dine in the Great Hall. This is a great way to learn more about the life of a barrister, and to get a glimpse into the more traditional, sociable side of an Inn of Court. Places are limited, and invitations are sent to each university, who will select those who can attend.



“An incredibly insightful day, a privilege to attend and a most memorable experience. ”

*Student feedback, University Afternoon and Dinner, 2022.*



## Mini –Pupillage Grant Scheme

The mini-pupillage grant scheme offers financial support to students wishing to undertake a mini-pupillage, who would otherwise not be able to do so. Grants are intended to assist with the costs of travel and accommodation as well as a clothing allowance if needed.

## Funding for Bar and Law Societies

Lincoln's Inn offers sponsorship for student bar and law societies. You must complete an application form informing us why you are applying and how you intend to use the funding. We offer amounts of up to £250, and student societies should note that they will only be able to apply for sponsorship from the Inn once per academic year.

## The Neuberger Prize

Students in the penultimate year of study at non-Russell Group universities can apply for a Neuberger Prize. The prize aims to identify students who are of proven excellence and give them the opportunity to engage with the Inn during the final year of their qualifying law degree.



Neuberger prize winners, 2022, (Left to Right) Kathryn Der Gregorian, James Leech, Freja Clacy, Mehwish Farhan, Phoebe-Jean Grainger, Deborah Speight, (not pictured) Oliver Marjanovik, Jenson Woodhouse.



“Winning the Neuberger Prize has allowed me to expand my network and meet numerous members of the Inn. Several members that I met as a direct result of winning the Neuberger Prize, gave me invaluable advice on writing pupillage applications which has shaped every application I have written since. I can say with confidence that I believe I will remain in touch with these members, on both a professional and a personal level.



Since winning the Neuberger Prize, I have graduated from University and was the highest achieving student in my year (out of a cohort of over 200 students). I am now part way through the Bar Course and was awarded the Lord Denning Scholarship from Lincoln's Inn and an Advocacy Scholarship from my provider to assist me in funding the course. Further to this, I was chosen to be the Bar Course Representative for Lincoln's Inn for my provider and I hope to continue a close relationship with the Inn in the future.”

*Alexander Bailey, Neuberger Prize winner.*

# Scholarships

The Inn gives away over £1.8 million each year through a variety of scholarships and prizes. The majority of this funding goes to Bar Course and GDL students. Award values are means tested based on the students submitted financial information. Applications can be submitted online via the scholarships application portal [on our website](#).



## Key Information

Scholarship	Deadline	Budget	No. Applied*	No. offered*
Bar Course	1st Friday in November (year before commencing course)	£1,545,000	279	115
GDL	1st Friday in May (year of commencing course)	£178,200	78	32

## Additional scholar benefits

- Free admission.
- Reduced rates for 10 Qualifying Sessions.
- Free Call to the Bar.

## Application Criteria

### Intellect

The level of intellect evidenced by an assessment of the candidate's potential for analytical and critical thinking, judgment, perceptiveness and problem-solving, as well as their academic results (including a realistic assessment of degree level in the case of candidates still studying for one).

### Motivation

The degree of motivation for a career at the Bar evidenced by the candidate's investigation of the profession and development of associated skills and experience, leading to a realistic ambition towards practice at the Bar and any identified areas of practice.

### Personal characteristics

Personal characteristics such as reliability in all its forms, including independence of mind and honesty; leadership; teamwork; and (if appropriate) the ability to overcome adversity.

### Communication

Oral and written persuasiveness, including listening skills, reaction to an audience, and attention to detail.

\*Statistics reflect scholarships awarded for the academic year 2021/22.



## General Information:

- Applicants can only apply to one Inn of court for a scholarship.
- You **do not** need to be a member of an Inn to apply but will need to join that particular Inn to receive your scholarship.
- You will need to supply at least two references with your application. At least one of the two references should be academic.
- Part-time students can apply for either year of their course but can only receive one scholarship.
- International students are eligible to apply however they will need to intend to practise at the Bar of England and Wales.
- GDL Scholars are not guaranteed a Bar Course scholarship at Lincoln's Inn.

## Student Accommodation

Lincoln's Inn has 14 student rooms available for our Bar Course scholars. Rent for these rooms is taken directly from the student's scholarship. Students can apply for accommodation on their scholarship application

## Prizes

As well as our scholarships we offer additional awards and prizes annually for student competitions. See page 15 for more information.

## International and European Scholarships and Awards

The Inn also offers [scholarships](#) for students to undertake internships at several important international courts including the International Criminal Court (ICC), European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), and European Free Trade Association (EFTA);

- Nicholas Bratza: £4,700 to spend 3 months with the Research Division at ECtHR.
- Peter Duffy: £4,700 to spend 3 months with the UK Division at the ECtHR.
- Johan Steyn: £9,500 to spend 6 months at the ICC.
- EFTA: Paid internship (€2,500 a month) at EFTA .
- Overseas Placement Fund: Funding available to assist with human rights internships.
- Paul Heim Education award for short international study.



## Qualifying Sessions & Student Activities

Students are required to complete 10 qualifying sessions before they can be Called to the Bar. They provide opportunities for professional and ethical development which complements and builds on a students academic and vocational education.

In addition to qualifying sessions, the Inn also provides a number of activities and schemes for students to participate in.



## Qualifying sessions

All qualifying sessions provide students with opportunities to learn more about the profession and meet their peers on the Bar Course, as well as more senior members of the Inn.

Qualifying sessions include educational and collegiate activities such as lectures, advocacy & ethics workshops and residential weekends. Many qualifying sessions take place at the Inn but students studying outside of London can complete some qualifying sessions locally and online.

All students must complete at least one session from each of the following themes:

- 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



## Student Activities

### Debating and Mooting Clubs

The Debating and Mooting Clubs give students an opportunity to practise their advocacy skills, as well as the chance to take part in various internal and external competitions.

### Competitions



The Inn organises five annual competitions in public speaking, advocacy, mooting, debating, and writing. Competitions allow students to practise their professional skills. They also make great material for future pupillage applications.

### Pupillage Advice and Mock Interviews

The Inn hosts a pupillage panel event offering advice about applying for pupillage and ways to boost your application form. Students applying for pupillage can have their application form reviewed in a one-to-one session with a practising barrister. Those who secure a pupillage interview can also arrange a mock interview with the Inn.



## Mentoring Scheme

Bar Course students can apply for a mentor for the duration of their studies. Students are matched with a practising barrister based on their preferred area of law and geographical location.\* Barristers can give advice to students on all aspects of a career at the Bar.



## Marshalling Scheme

Marshalling involves a student accompanying a judge in court for up to three days. Students can apply to marshal a judge based on their preferred area of law and geographical location.\*

## European Visits

Every year the Inn organises visits to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Luxembourg and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg. The trips are heavily subsidised by the Inn and applications to attend are welcome from students and junior members with an interest in European and human rights law.

\*Subject to availability.

# Jargon Buster



## Bar Council and Bar Standards Board (BSB)

The Bar Council represents the interests of barristers in England and Wales. The Bar Standards Board (BSB) is the Approved Regulator of the Bar of England and Wales. Together they are also known as the General Council of the Bar. They are separate bodies but share facilities and some central administration.

## Bencher

A senior member of an Inn of Court, also known as a Master of the Bench.

## BPTC / BTC/ Bar Course

Sometimes known as the “Bar Professional Training course” or “Bar Training Course” this is the vocational stage of academic training for the Bar. The way in which the Bar Course is offered will vary, depending on the pathway each provider chooses. Further details can be found on page 2 of this booklet. The course is available at various providers (sometimes referred to as “Bar Schools”) and teaches procedure, advocacy, ethics, research methods and practical skills. This is the final academic stage of training for the Bar.

## Call to the Bar

A formal graduation-style ceremony, where the Treasurer of an Inn of Court officially entitles a graduate of the Bar Course to be called a ‘barrister’ (although the term cannot be used in a professional capacity until pupillage has been completed).

## Circuits

The six geographical areas into which the courts of England and Wales are divided: North Eastern, Northern, Midland, South Eastern, Western, and Wales & Chester Circuits.

## Chambers

The collective name for a group of self-employed barristers (often referred to as a ‘set’) who share premises, a corporate identity, staff and overheads.



## Employed barrister

Most barristers are self-employed and practise from a chambers. The remainder are employed to act as in-house barristers by law firms, companies and the Government, including the Crown Prosecution Service.

## Clerk

Chambers' staff responsible for generating and assigning work and managing barristers' diaries.

## GDL / CPE

The Graduate Diploma in Law or Common Professional Exam are law 'conversion' courses which aspiring barristers who do not have a law degree must undertake before commencing the Bar Course.

## Inn of Court

The four historic institutions with the exclusive right to Call barristers to the Bar. They are Lincoln's Inn, Middle Temple, Inner Temple, and Gray's Inn. In addition to the provision of scholarships for training for the Bar, the fundamental role of the Inns of Court is the education and training of students and barristers. As membership organisations, they retain strong relationships with their members throughout their careers.

## Marshalling

Work experience shadowing a judge, usually for 1-3 days.

## Mentoring

All the Inns offer mentoring schemes which match student barristers with practising barristers who can offer them support and guidance during their Bar Course.

## Mini-pupil

The name given to someone undertaking work experience in a set of chambers. Some chambers may expect potential pupils to have completed a mini-pupillage at that set.

## Moot

A legal debate in which participants conduct a case in a mock appeal court.

## Pupillage

One year of apprenticeship in a chambers or another approved organisation. In chambers, for the first six months, the pupil will not be practising and will shadow their pupil supervisor. In the second six months they will continue to shadow a pupil supervisor, but may also undertake their own cases, with supervision; this is sometimes known as being 'on your feet'.

## Pupillage Gateway

The Bar Council's online application system for pupillages, which most chambers advertise their pupillage vacancies.

## KC/King's Counsel

A senior barrister who has been appointed by the King as 'one of His Majesty's Counsel Learned in the Law' following a rigorous and transparent process, operated by the KC Selection Panel. KCs are senior members of the Bar, and the appointment is a mark of excellence. They appear in the most serious and important cases. Informally referred to as a "Silk" because they are entitled to wear a silk gown in Court.

## Qualifying Sessions

To qualify to be Called to the Bar, prospective barristers must pass the Bar Course and attend 10 Qualifying Sessions at their Inn of Court.

## Tenancy

Towards the end of their pupillage, an individual may be offered a tenancy, which is the entitlement to continue to practise from a set of chambers as a self-employed barrister.

# Bar Course Providers



## Bar Course Providers

To view the up-to-date Bar Course options and details of the providers, please refer to the websites of the institutions within the table below.

Provider	Location(s)	Website
BPP	Birmingham, Bristol, London, Leeds, Manchester	<a href="http://www.bpp.com">www.bpp.com</a>
Cardiff University	Cardiff	<a href="http://www.cardiff.ac.uk">www.cardiff.ac.uk</a>
City, University of London	London	<a href="http://www.city.ac.uk">www.city.ac.uk</a>
Inns of Court College of Advocacy (ICCA)	London	<a href="http://www.icca.ac.uk">www.icca.ac.uk</a>
The University of Law	Birmingham, Bristol, London, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham	<a href="http://www.law.ac.uk">www.law.ac.uk</a>
Manchester Metropolitan University	Manchester	<a href="http://www.mmu.ac.uk">www.mmu.ac.uk</a>
Nottingham Trent University	Nottingham	<a href="http://www.ntu.ac.uk">www.ntu.ac.uk</a>
Northumbria	Newcastle	<a href="http://www.northumbria.ac.uk">www.northumbria.ac.uk</a>
University of Hertfordshire	Hatfield	<a href="http://www.herts.ac.uk">www.herts.ac.uk</a>
University of the West of England (UWE)	Bristol	<a href="http://www.uwe.ac.uk">www.uwe.ac.uk</a>

[The Bar Standard's Board key statistics](#) may be helpful to you when choosing which to bar course provider to study with.





## Visit Lincoln's Inn

We recommend visiting the Inns of Court before making your decision of which Inn to join. If you would like to visit Lincoln's Inn, please [follow the link for more information.](#)

The Treasury Office  
Lincoln's Inn  
London WC2A 3TL

Tel: 020 7405 1393  
General email: [mail@lincolnsinn.org.uk](mailto:mail@lincolnsinn.org.uk)

## Key Lincoln's Inn Contacts

Outreach: [outreach@lincolnsinn.org.uk](mailto:outreach@lincolnsinn.org.uk)  
Scholarships: [scholarships@lincolnsinn.org.uk](mailto:scholarships@lincolnsinn.org.uk)  
Student Activities: [education@lincolnsinn.org.uk](mailto:education@lincolnsinn.org.uk)

[www.lincolnsinn.org.uk](http://www.lincolnsinn.org.uk)

[Click here for opportunities outside the Inn and resources for additional research.](#)



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