

Guidance for Min-Pupillage Grant Scheme Recipients

Clothing Allowance

When picking out an appropriate outfit for your mini-pupillage, a well-fitted suit (jacket and trousers or skirt) in neutral colours like black, navy, or charcoal/grey is best. This is because court dress for barristers is dark colours, and so most people in the chambers or organisation will be dressed this way.

Collared shirts in white or light pastel shades (such as light blue) are standard.

Closed-toe shoes, such as a leather loafer or low heels, are appropriate. Avoid sneakers or overly casual styles, unless you have a medical need for these.

When buying new, some brands will offer the best balance of price and "formal" structure. Brands such: [Marks and Spencer](#), [H&M's Premium Selection](#), [Slater Menswear](#) and [ASOS Design](#) can be good places to look when trying to balance budgets with quality.

When possible, it's also good to consider where you can take advantage of student discounts such as [UNiDAYS](#) or [Student Beans](#).

If you have any questions or concerns about what to wear during a mini-pupillage, reach out directly to the chambers or organisation for more guidance.

Accommodation

When booking accommodation for your mini-pupillage, doing research on the public transport connections ahead of your arrival can be a smart way of keeping costs low and broadening your search area for locations.

You might also want to consider staying outside of central areas (in London this would be Zones 1&2) when booking overnight accommodation. Transportation options into more central areas are usually frequent and relatively quick.

Consider alternatives to hotels like hostels and Bed and Breakfasts as they can often be much cheaper options. Some chains may even offer cheap or free memberships that may also come with discounted rates or offers, such as [Point.a Hotel's A-list scheme](#).

If you book accommodation early it is often much cheaper. If you are unsure of dates or still waiting for confirmation, a lot of accommodation providers will offer free cancellation up to a certain date. This is especially true when booking through providers like Booking.com, however you are likely to get the best deals directly from the accommodation provider. It is worth calling independent providers and asking for a price match based on a comparison site, or a cheaper rate, as they avoid fees with direct bookings.

Travel

To save on travel costs between cities, we recommend booking in advance as far as possible. If you don't already have a [railcard](#), having one can save you up to a 1/3 on rail travel. You might also want to consider buying two singles as opposed to a return ticket or buying individual tickets for different legs of the trip to save on the same journey. Services such as [Trainsplit](#) can help with this.

When travelling in London, using an Oyster card or contactless payments can be an easier and cheaper than buying paper tickets. These methods also have daily and weekly spending caps,

to help keep costs lower. You might also want to consider using the bus instead of the London underground, as the fees are considerably less and, in most instances, the difference in travel time would be minimal. Ride-hailing apps and taxis are relatively high-cost (especially during rush hour), sticking to public transport, will definitely help keep your travel costs lower.

If you have any other questions about clothing or accommodation, please email the outreach team at outreach@lincsinn.org.uk.