

****GDL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION WILL BE TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE
DUE TO SYSTEM UPDATE****

The Middle Temple website will be down from 22 April to 28 April 2025 for significant system updates. During this time it will not be possible to apply for a GDL scholarship.

Any applications saved as a draft must be submitted before 22 April, or you will need to start a new application after 28 April.

If you will not be ready to submit your application before 22 April, it is recommended that you draft and save your answers offline on your own device so that you can copy and paste them into the application form after 28 April. Below is a copy of the information and questions included in the application form so that you can prepare your answers.

The closing date will remain 16:00 PM on 2nd May 2025, as this deadline is observed by all four Inns.

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS INCLUDED ON THE ONLINE
APPLICATION FORM:**

Information for Applicants

Please read the following information carefully before you complete the application form. At the end of the application form you will be asked to confirm that you have read and understood the below information.

General

The Middle Temple interviews every applicant for a scholarship who has applied for a place on the Bar course and satisfies the criteria for applications. Both the written application form and the interview will be marked.

The name of the school you attended will be redacted. If you consider that it is relevant to indicate the type of school you attended, there is an 'Additional Information Box' at the end of the application form where you will be able to provide such information. Elsewhere on the application form you will be able to indicate any school achievements that you wish to refer to.

Decisions on who receives a scholarship are made on merit as outlined by these criteria:

- **Intellectual ability:** the ability to conduct legal research and give written advice, as demonstrated by performance in school and university examinations, the application form, the interview and, where appropriate, other experience.
- **Motivation to succeed at the Bar in England and Wales:** demonstrated by knowledge of the profession and the Courts in England and Wales, and steps taken to acquire the personal skills required of a Barrister. This can include but is not limited to court visits (in person or online), mini pupillages, mooting, etc. We recognise that opportunities to demonstrate motivation will be different for different

people and so it is important that you should include any information which you consider demonstrates your motivation (this could include overcoming personal, family, educational and/or financial difficulties in your journey to the Bar to date).

- **Potential as an advocate:** the ability to make and respond to arguments effectively, both orally and in writing.
- **Potential to succeed in a career as a barrister:** self-reliance, the ability to work independently where required and as part of a team; the capacity to work effectively with clients, colleagues, and staff.

Finances

In determining the size of individual awards, interviewing panels take applicants' individual financial circumstances into account, although it is highly unlikely that the scholarship will cover the full cost of your year attending the Bar course. The size of individual awards will not be published.

Please note the following:

1. You can only apply to one Inn. You do not need to be a member of the Inn at the time of application, but you will need to join before being paid any scholarship which you may be awarded.
2. Full-time students must apply in the Sept-Nov of the year before they start their course. Part-time students can apply for a scholarship in the Sept-Nov of the year before they start the first year or before they start the second year. If an award is made before the start of the part-time course, half of the award will be paid in each year. Applications cannot be made once the full-time course or the second year of the part-time course has begun.
3. You must complete the whole of the form (unless a section is clearly optional). If any mandatory sections are left blank, your form will not be considered by an interview panel, and you will not be invited for an interview.
4. Middle Temple scholarships are awarded on merit. Scholarships are only available for those who intend to undertake pupillage at the Bar in England and Wales and who intend to practise at the Bar in England and Wales.
5. You will be asked to make certain declarations at the end of the application form. Misrepresentation of information in the application form and/or false declarations are viewed seriously by Middle Temple and may lead to consequences.

Overview of Relevant Dates

If you do not receive one of the emails detailed below it is your responsibility to contact us. If you change your email address, please make sure you let us know.

16:00, Friday 02 May 2025	Closing date for submission of application form.
16:00, Friday 16 May 2025	Closing date for submission of references.

mid-late May 2025	You will be emailed and asked to confirm that you still wish to proceed with the application. The form will also have space for you to update us on any reasonable adjustments. If we do not receive a response from you, you will not be allocated an interview.
From Tuesday 20 May 2025	You will be asked to fill out a finance form. The deadline to submit will often be 2 weeks from this date.
From Tuesday 27 May 2025	Notification of interview date and time will be sent by email.
Thursday 26 and Friday 27 June 2025	Interviews – you must be available to attend an interview on at least one of these dates either remotely or in person. You will be given a choice and your interviewing panel will either sit entirely remotely or in person, so that you are only assessed against other applicants who are being interviewed via the same mode as you.
By 25 July 2025, 4 weeks after the last interview	Notification of the outcome of your interview will be sent by email.

The Application

To make your application, please complete the form on our website, when it is available.

Please follow the instructions on the application form carefully. **Do not** submit a CV, certificates, or any other documents with your application – they will not be passed on to the interview panel. **Do not** send or include any links in your application form. These will not be accessed by the interview panel. **Please do not** send applications by post or email - applications sent in this format will automatically be rejected.

The Financial Means Form

Prior to your interview you will be asked to complete a financial means form. You will be required to submit this up to six weeks prior to interview. Even if you do not have a shortfall and are not seeking any funds, you need to submit a blank form and inform the scholarships officer that this is the case.

The References

Two references are preferable to support your application, one of which should be from an academic referee. If you left higher education some time ago, a reference from e.g. an employer will be accepted in lieu of an academic reference. Your second reference can be provided by any referee of your choice (other than from a member of your family), it can be a second academic reference if you choose. If you have difficulties obtaining an academic reference before the closing date, please contact the Scholarships Officer.

You can download an information sheet to send to your referee(s): [Academic referee](#) / [Non-academic referee](#). The link contains information for your referee to upload their reference. Academic referees should write your reference in accordance with the information sheet. References from employers should address the criteria on which scholarships are awarded.

Once you submit your application you will be sent a link via email within one week which you must then send to your referee(s). The link contains instructions.

No award will be paid out unless at least one academic (or equivalent) reference has been received. It is your responsibility to ensure that your reference(s) are provided – we do not contact referees on your behalf.

The Interview

All candidates who satisfy the application criteria and have applied for a place on the Bar course will be interviewed. You will be asked to provide proof that you have applied for a place on the Bar Course prior to interview. If you have received an offer of a place on the course, you do not need to accept it in order to be interviewed. If you have not applied for the Bar course, you will not be interviewed.

During the interview, please do not provide additional documents or links to documents (with the exception of an updated finance form) as the panel cannot consider additional material. You are permitted to bring in your own notes to the interview for your own reference.

Interviews will be held during the above dates and **on those dates only**.

Equal opportunities statement

Middle Temple is an inclusive organisation and actively promotes equal opportunities for all. Middle Temple is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for students throughout the Scholarship Application process, in line with our Statement of Values. We aim to ensure that all applicants are treated fairly, irrespective of sex, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or civil partnership status, age, disability, and social background. We welcome applications from all candidates, and selection for scholarships are based on scholarship requirements and merit alone.

Reasonable Adjustments

Middle Temple endeavours to make the Inn and its services as accessible and inclusive as possible and is committed to making sure that its selection methods are fair to everyone.

Reasonable adjustments may be made. It should be noted that the need of any one person for reasonable adjustments to be made may vary over time; it is therefore important for those requiring adjustments to communicate with the Inn as the need arises, and for the Inn to respond promptly and appropriately.

Applicants can ask for reasonable adjustments for any part of the process. The Inn will formally request notification of any reasonable adjustments after the application form has been submitted. This will be your opportunity for you to inform the Inn of any adjustments you may need because of a disability or long-term condition.

Travel expenses

In case of in-person interviews: The Inn is prepared to reimburse reasonable travel expenses for candidates travelling from outside the M25 to attend the interview, up to a maximum of £75 per candidate. Further details are available on the Middle Temple website. Expense claim forms will be available in the interview waiting room. Tickets/receipts must be provided.

WHAT YOU WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE ON THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM:

1. DETAILS OF YOUR QUALIFICATIONS:

- Details of the GDL or equivalent course that you plan to study
- Details of your GCSEs or equivalent
- Details of your A-Levels or equivalent
- Details of your undergraduate and, if applicable, postgraduate study
- Details of all modules/examinations to date for your law degree (or most recent degree if you have not studied law) e.g. Land Law 72% Trusts and Equity 52%

2. DETAILS OF YOUR EXPERIENCE:

- Achievements, Interests and Activities **(Max 250 words)**
- Any Other Occupation, Employment or Training Experience, with dates **(Max 250 words)**
- Mini-Pupillages, Court Visits, Mooting/Debating etc. **(Max 250 words)** *[N.B. you should make clear if your experience of courts, mini-pupillages, marshalling has been in England and Wales or elsewhere in the world]*

3. OTHER QUESTIONS:

The following questions are designed to assist those interviewing you in identifying areas upon which they may focus.

- What one question not already asked on the form would you most like the Panel to ask you? **(Max 100 words)**
- If you were able to introduce or repeal any law, what would it be and why? **(Max 400 words)**
- If you were to select three qualities/skills that would make you an effective barrister, what would these be and why? **(Max 300 words)** *[N.B. there is no right or wrong answer to this question]*
- Additional Information Box: Is there any other information you would like to provide in support of your application not covered elsewhere on this form? **(Max 250 words)** *[This could be to explain e.g., unusual/unexpected exam results; gaps in your education; type of school you attended; personal/ family and/or financial difficulties, or other adversities that you have had to overcome in your journey to the Bar, etc.]*

4. DECLARATIONS YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE BEFORE SUBMITTING THE ONLINEN FORM:

Scholarship Application Declarations

Please tick each box to confirm you have read and understood each statement.

- I declare that the above particulars are true in all respects
- I confirm that it is my intention to undertake pupillage at the Bar of England and Wales
- I confirm that it is my intention to practice at the Bar of England and Wales
- I declare that I have read and understood the information at the beginning of this form (the information is also available to download from the website)
- I confirm that I am not a member, nor have I submitted an application for membership, of another Inn of Court
- I confirm that I have not applied, nor do I intend to apply, to another Inn of Court for a GDL scholarship.