



MTSA

THE MIDDLE TEMPLE STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION



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Newcomers' Welcome Booklet 2026-2027

Everything you need to know about being
a student member of Middle Temple

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Visit our Linktree to connect to:

- MTSA WhatsApp Groupchat
- MTSA Instagram
- MTSA LinkedIn
- Mooting & Debating WhatsApp groups





about us

The Middle Temple Students' Association (MTSA) represents the student members of the Inn, by looking after their interests and representing them on various Standing Committees. The MTSA also runs events throughout the year.

Elections for the 2026-27 MTSA Committee take place on 6 October 2026. We encourage you to attend. See details of the roles available on page 14.

To keep up with all of the MTSA events and news during your time as a student member, follow us on Instagram and LinkedIn and join our WhatsApp group.

You have joined a wonderful professional community, who will support you throughout your studies, pupillage and your career. There are many opportunities for career progression, learning, socialising and well-being.

When you first join the Inn, some of norms and conventions may be new to you. We hope this guide will help explain them, so you can make the most out of your experiences at the Inn.

A modern institution with a long and distinguished history, Middle Temple is a place of many parts.

First and foremost, Middle Temple is one of the four Inns of Court which have the exclusive right to Call students to the Bar. The education and training of advocates lie at the heart of the Inn, but we are also a professional society for our membership worldwide.

The Inn provides over £1 million per year in scholarships to support students studying for the Bar. We have a modern Law library and a historic archive.

Several important activities support these core functions - we maintain our heritage estate in central London housing chambers from which barristers practise, in addition to the oversight (with Inner Temple) of the historic Temple Church, and the management of a commercial events business.

All of these activities represent the 21st century Middle Temple, but training and education will always be at its core.



history

MASTER TREASURER

The elected Chair of the Inn for a calendar year

MASTER READER

Elected for six months in office, the Reader is involved with education at the Inn, as well as fulfilling a ceremonial role

MASTERS OF THE BENCH

Also referred to as Benchers. They are elected members who are responsible for governance at the Inn, referred to as "Master >Surname<"

HALL MEMBERS

Post-Call members, represented by the Hall Committee. Those under seven years' Call are also members of the Middle Temple Young Barristers' Association (MTYBA)

STUDENT MEMBERS

Members pre-Call, represented by the Middle Temple Students' Association.

key spaces

Hall - the heart and soul of the Inn.
Events from dinners to mootings, lectures
to Call ceremonies take places here

Bench Apartments - three rooms adjoining Hall – Parliament Chamber, Queen's Room and Prince's Room - used for receptions, lectures and smaller dinners

Lodgings -
rooms
available to
book for
overnight stays

Ashley Building

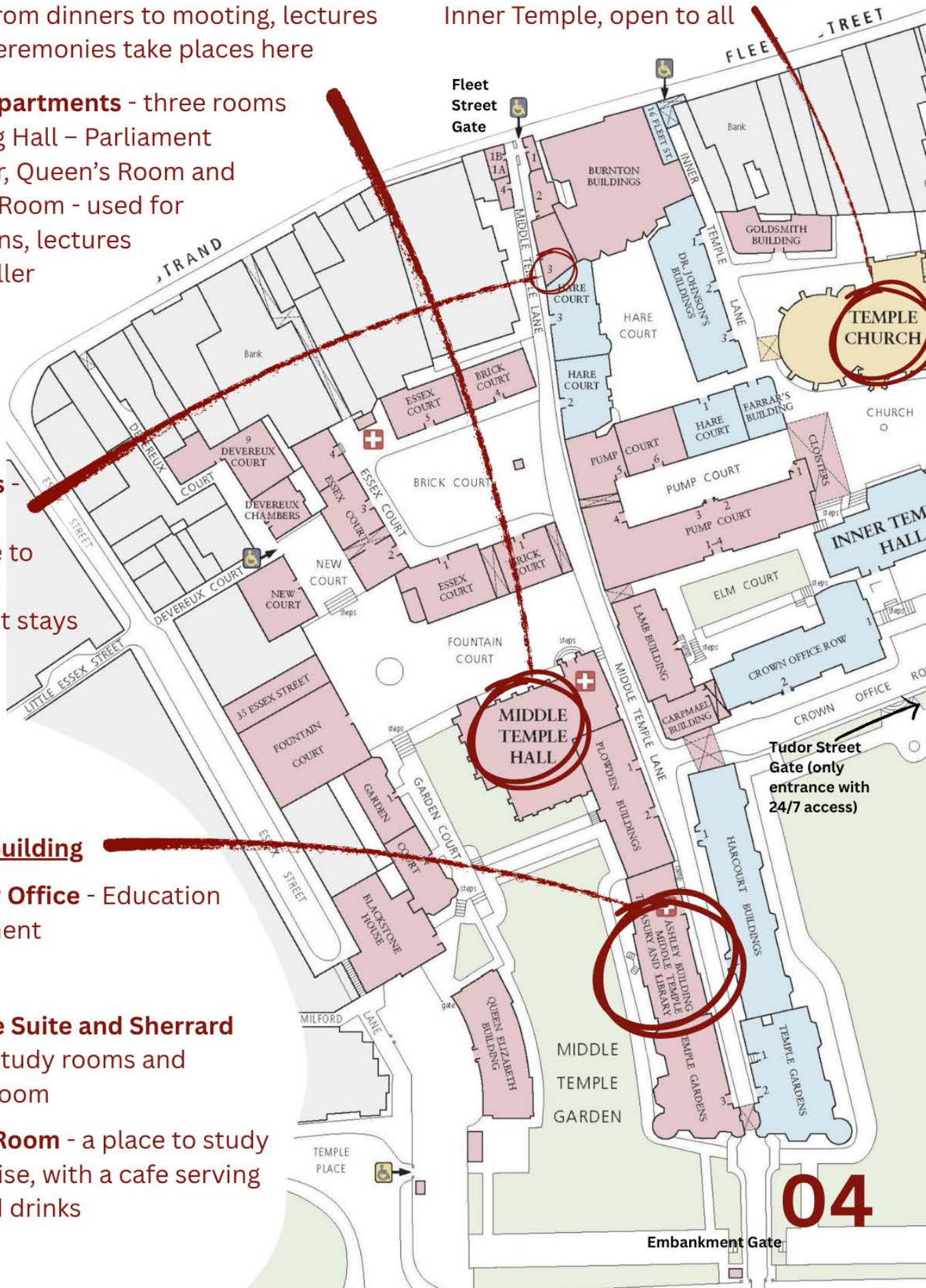
Treasury Office - Education
Department

Library

Rutledge Suite and Sherrard Room - study rooms and lecture room

Garden Room - a place to study or socialise, with a cafe serving food and drinks

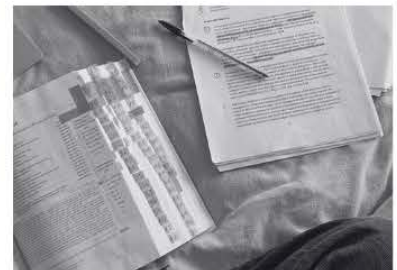
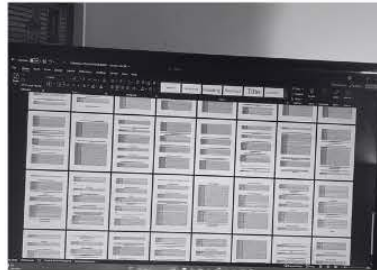
Temple Church - shared with Inner Temple, open to all



studying the bar course

STUDY

Studying for the Bar Course can be very overwhelming when you first start the course. The best starting point is to download and/or print out the syllabus from the BSB (make sure you have the right year) and have a look at exactly what you will need to know. You can then start to mark up your Whitebook with the syllabus reference points, as there is an open-book exam. The best advice is to keep up with the reading as much as possible. There is a lot of content to learn, so keeping up with your classes will enable you to ask questions as you go along.



EXAMS

Exam season can be very intense, so it is important to be organised. Make sure you know exactly when and where your exams are going to be and allow plenty of time to get there. For the Civil open-book exam, make sure you have your WhiteBooks and they are tabbed and you know how to navigate them quickly. For the other exams that are closed-book, you can prepare by doing timed mock papers. But most importantly, look after yourself! Get good rest and eat good food to make sure you are fuelled and can perform to your best.

The Inn subsidises the cost of student members' tickets in order to keep the cost as low as possible. They typically range from **£13/£16** for lectures/talks to **£27 - £60+** for dinners in Hall.

Specific events are free for students studying the Bar Course outside of London (OOL) - check the website for more information.



qualifying sessions

Certain events run by the Inn (or its societies/forums) are accredited with Qualifying Session (QS) points. These events provide opportunities for professional and ethical development which complement and build on the academic and vocational training for the Bar.

The Inn aims to cover a wide range of topics related to a broader understanding of the law and the way it operates in society. We hope they will allow students to enhance their understanding of the role of barristers in the wider justice system and the rule of law. In addition, they offer the opportunity to meet peers on the Bar Course and to network with a variety of members of the Inn.

Qualifying Sessions for the academic year 2026-2027 are open for booking on the Events page of the website.

SMART CASUAL

When the event says the dress code is smart casual, you can wear your usual clothes, as long as they are modest and remain smart. No jeans or trainers. For example, trousers/skirt with a smart top, a dress, or trousers with a button-down shirt and jacket.



BUSINESS ATTIRE

Most of the events you attend at the Inn will require business attire, and the general rule is that if you are unsure or it's not stated, go for business. This needs to be something you could wear in court, like a dark coloured suit, or a suit-dress that is below the knee.



BLACK TIE

While some formal dinners are business attire, some will be black tie. This means that you will need to wear a full tuxedo suit in black, or a cocktail dress (knee-length or longer, with shoulders covered).



GOWNS

If the dress code says all members will also wear gowns, student members should borrow an academic gown from the Inn for the evening. These can be collected from the Hall cloakroom on arrival.

formal dinners

ORDER OF EVENTS

- (1) When dinner is announced, Student and Hall members will go into the Hall and take a seat (usually unassigned).
- (2) You will stand again when indicated by the porter striking a ceremonial staff on the floor. The Benchers will then process into Hall and take their places.
- (3) Everyone remains standing while the most senior Bencher present reads the First Grace ('Grace before Meat').
- (4) Everyone sits down for the meal. Napkins are placed in laps.
- (5) Members and guests are not permitted to leave their seats (save for exceptional circumstances) between the First and Second Grace. Suit jackets need to be kept on for the duration of dinner.
- (6) The meal usually consists of three courses served by waiters. Wine is provided and you can request non-alcoholic alternatives.



(7) After the meal coffee may be served and, depending on the event, a carafe of port may be available on each table. If so, use the port glass (the smallest). It is customary to pass the carafe along the table to your left.

(8) After Second Grace ('Grace after Meat') there are often toasts.

At Middle Temple we toast to "the King", "Domus" (Latin for the home, i.e. Middle Temple), and "absent members".

For each toast, first the Master Treasurer addresses the most Junior Benchers, who then reply to the Master Treasurer and finally everyone else repeats the toast and raises their glasses.

(9) If there is a speech or performance after dinner there will be a short comfort break after the Second Grace.

Late Policy: Members and guests must arrive in good time before the doors to Hall close. It is at the discretion of the Event Manager as to whether latecomers are admitted.

GENERAL TIPS FOR ALL EVENTS

- Put phones away! Phones and photography are strictly prohibited during events.
- Events can be attended alone – you will meet people there. You can also bring guests to some events.
- When speaking to barristers don't just ask for mini-pupillages. It is better to ask for general advice.
- Almost everyone you come across at Middle Temple will be welcoming and friendly, but if you should experience inappropriate behaviour at any time, the Inn will be able to provide advice and support. The Inns of Court Anti-Harassment Policy can be found on the Middle Temple website.

mtsa activities



The MTSA has a mooting officer and a debating officer. In the past, they have created groups and workshops to provide students with opportunities to learn new skills and develop their pre-existing skills with sessions run by students and barristers at the Inn. We also run competitions, either against fellow Middle students or against students from other Inns.



We host a range of social events aiming to build a strong community, e.g. a party after the pupillage application gateway closes.

We may also put on events throughout the year to celebrate and promote inclusivity at the Bar. For example, we hosted an International Women's Day Brunch.

If you are interested and want to keep informed, scan the QR code to follow us on Instagram @mt.students.



opportunities

LINK SCHEME

Aims to connect student members with practitioners to provide them with an initial link to the profession and the Inn.

ADVOCACY WEEKENDS

This is an enjoyable residential weekend, where you can work on your advocacy skills, make friends and earn 4 QS points.

MARSHALLING

The opportunity to marshal with a judge (sit with them on the bench in court), usually for between one to three days, occasionally longer.

MOOTING

The Inn runs the Rosamund Smith Competition – open to Bar Course and GDL student members. Even attending to watch a moot is a great learning experience. There are also sometimes opportunities to be a moot timekeeper.

LIBRARY

Students are able to use all four of the Inns' libraries, and King's College London libraries on weekends.

TRAINING THE TRAINERS

You can volunteer to be a 'guinea pig' student whilst practitioners are learning how to be advocacy trainers. Many students tell us that this was helpful to them as well as being enjoyable.

call to the bar

To be Called, you must submit an application for Call - you will not be automatically assigned. Read all the guidance on the website, including helpful FAQs, plus application deadlines.

BAR COURSE RESULTS

Before you can be Called to the Bar, you need to have completed the Bar Course. This means you need to make sure that you apply for the correct Call date, because your Bar Course provider needs to send your grades to the Inn at least 3 weeks before Call. If you are doing the Bar Course with the LLM, you do not need to have completed the LLM part, only the Bar Course modules.

QUALIFYING SESSIONS

You need to have completed the QS requirements in order to be Called to the Bar. Go back and have a look at our information on QS's to make sure you meet them before Call.

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

You will need to obtain a Standard DBS check and equivalent international checks (if applicable) - the Inn will refer you for these (you cannot obtain them externally).

WIG AND GOWNS

At Middle, we wear full court dress, including a barrister's wig, for the Call to the Bar ceremony.

It is up to you if you rent or purchase a wig and gown prior to Call (most people rent them). The Inn will email you details once you're eligible for Call, so keep an eye out for that.

During the Bar Course year, there are likely to be some expenses that you need to incur that you might not be aware of.

Having been students in this position, we wanted to give you a list of things to think about, so that you can plan for the potential expenses that might arise during the coming year.

We have not quantified these items as the price will differ from person to person, but these are some expenses to think about.

finances

- Cost of Qualifying Session tickets
- Travel to Qualifying Sessions and accommodation if you need to stay over
- Purchasing Business Attire
- Study Materials:
 - Printing materials
 - Pens, highlighters, tabs, flashcards etc.
 - Paper/Notebooks
- Travel for Mini Pupillages and Marshalling
- Call to the Bar
 - Call application fee
 - Criminal record check costs
 - Travel and accommodation
 - Wig and gown hire
 - Purchasing other items of court attire
 - Photography (optional)

MTSA ELECTIONS

By joining the Inn to undertake the Bar Course you are automatically a member of the Middle Temple Students' Association

Elections for the new committee are open to all members of MTSA

PRESIDENT

Overall, the President's role is to lead the committee and to represent the student body. You will represent the MTSA on the Inn's Executive Committee, Hall Committee and Education & Training Committee. The Inn may consult you when it has issues/ comments about students.

VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President supports the President and team, oversees events and budgets, liaises with Inn departments, assists students, and represents them on the Membership and International Committees.

MOOTING OFFICER

The Mooting Officer promotes mooting, helps students develop courtroom skills, organises competition teams and opportunities, answers enquiries, and supports wider student events.

DEBATING OFFICER

The Debating Officer develops debating teams, organises competitions and workshops, and recruits students for inter-Inn debates.

Come along even if you don't plan to run for a position

Meet your fellow Middle Temple student members

Elect your student representatives in the Inn

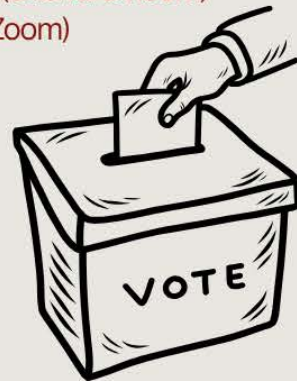


Tuesday 6 October 2026

18:00 - 20:00

Attend in person at the Inn (Sherrard Room) or virtually (via Zoom)

- nominate yourself for one or more positions
- give a 2 minute speech outlining why you are best for the role
- submit written pitch



SOCIAL SECRETARY

The Socials Officer organises social events, supports committee activities, and helps welcome and engage new students.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The Communications Officer manages MTSA's social media, responds to messages, promotes events through graphics and newsletters, and shares event photos and videos.

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL MOBILITY OFFICER

The Diversity and Inclusion Officer organises events and projects for underrepresented students and represents the student body on the Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

PRE-PUPILLAGE OFFICER

The Pre-Pupillage Officer organises events and guidance to help students with applications, interviews, and relevant work experience.

OUT OF LONDON OFFICERS X2

The Out of London Officers represent students across their regions (1: Wales, Midlands and Western & 2: North and North Eastern) and work with the Education Department to organise/assist with local events and Qualifying Sessions.