

ADMISSION OF STUDENTS

1. (1) Application for admission as a student of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland must be made upon a form obtainable from the Under Treasurer, Bar Council Office, Bar Library, 91 Chichester Street, Belfast, BT1 3JQ.
- (2) An applicant who is not seeking admission as a practising member of the Bar of England and Wales or of the Bar of Ireland (rule 15 and 16) must before admission duly complete and sign a Memorial and Undertaking in the form set out in the First Schedule, which must be lodged in the Under Treasurer's Office on or before the 31st day of August or such other date as the Treasurer or, in his absence, the Lord Chief Justice may direct. Such Memorial and Undertaking shall be on the printed form to be obtained from the Under Treasurer's Office.

CERTIFICATE OF CHARACTER

2. (1) An applicant for admission as a student shall also lodge with the Memorial and Undertaking two certificates of good character complying with the following requirements:-
 - (a) a certificate from a responsible person resident in the United Kingdom who has known him/her personally for at least three years and has had opportunities of judging his/her character; and
 - (b) a further certificate which, if the applicant has received his/her general education in the United Kingdom or in the Republic of Ireland, shall be from the head of his/her school or college, or his tutor; and in all other cases shall be from a Judge, Magistrate or other person holding a similar official position, or a head of a school or college, in the place or distinct in which the applicant resides.
 - (2) A certificate of character shall be in the form set out in the Second Schedule or to the like effect.
3. Every person applying to be admitted as a student shall pay to the Under Treasurer the sum of £250, being the fee for admission to the Inn as a student, or such other fee for admission as may from time to time be prescribed by the Inn.

DISQUALIFICATION

4. No person shall be admitted as a student or to the degree of Barrister-at-Law if:-
 - (a) he/she is an undischarged bankrupt
 - (b) he/she has been convicted of a criminal offence of such a nature as in the opinion of the Inn makes his/her admission undesirable; or

- (c) he/she is for any other reason considered by the Inn unsuitable for admission.
5. No solicitor or law agent in any part of the United Kingdom or in the Republic of Ireland, Writer to the Signet, notary public, parliamentary agent or patent agent or apprentice, clerk, assistant or employee of any such person and no person engaged in any other occupation which in the opinion of the Benchers is incompatible with the position of a person seeking call to the Bar of Northern Ireland shall be admitted as a student or to the degree of Barrister-at-Law until he/she shall have entirely ceased to act or practice in any of the above capacities or occupations or to be financially interested in any profession or business connected therewith and, if on the rolls of any court or on a register of solicitors, shall at his/her own request have had his/her name removed from such rolls or register and, in any case, shall have made a declaration to that effect and have produced such evidence thereof as the Benchers may require.
6. If a student while a student:-
- (a) is adjudicated bankrupt; or
 - (b) is convicted of a criminal offence
- He/she shall forthwith inform the Under Treasurer in writing and abide by and carry out any order of the Inn arising out of such notification.
7. If before Call to the Bar a student wishes to engage in any occupation other than that of a student of the Inn he shall apply to the Inn through the Under Treasurer for permission to do so.
8. Every student of the Inn shall attend the vocational course at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies, Queen's University, Belfast, conducted by the Council of Legal Education (Northern Ireland) or such other course of study as may be prescribed by the Executive Council of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION AS A STUDENT AND CALL TO THE BAR

9. (1) In this rule "degree" means a degree conferred by a university in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, or by the Council for National Academic Awards, being a degree and university (where the degree was conferred by a university) which have been recognised by the Council of Legal Education for Northern Ireland or by the Education Committee of the Executive Council.
- (2) Subject to paragraph (3) and rules 15 and 16 (Call of practising barristers of the Bar of England and Wales and of the Bar of Ireland) and rules 20 to 26 (Call to the Bar of Northern Ireland by virtue of EC Directive) a person shall not be admitted as a student of the Inn or called to the Bar unless he/she holds a degree with Second Class honours or better.
- (3) The Education Committee shall have power (in exceptional cases) to admit as a student or to approve for Call to the Bar a graduate who has not obtained a Second Class honours degree.

- (4) If, as his/her qualifications under this rule, an applicant for admission as a student of the Inn relies on a degree in law, he/she must also before admission satisfy the Education Committee that he/she has passed an examination of degree standard in each of the following subjects (in this rule referred to as "the core subjects"):-

Constitutional Law
Law of tort
Law of contract
Criminal Law
Equity
Land Law
Law of evidence
European Law

"Provided that -

- (i) if, at the date of his application for admission as a student, such a person has not passed an examination of degree standard in any one or more of the core subjects he may at the discretion of the Committee be admitted as a student upon his/her satisfying the Committee in such manner as they may determine that he/she has otherwise acquired a satisfactory knowledge of that subject or those subjects; [and]
- (ii) if a person began his/her law degree before 1 September 1996 he/she may substitute Company Law [in place of] [for] European Law as a core subject".
- (5) If, as his/her qualification under this rule, an applicant for admission as a student of the Inn relies on a degree other than a degree in law, he/she must also before admission undertake to the Committee:-
- (i) to pursue such course of study not exceeding two academic years in length, in the core subjects; and
- (ii) to submit himself/herself to such examinations in those subjects
- as the Committee may determine. Such a person shall not be called to the Bar unless he/she has passed an examination of degree standard in each of the core subjects.

10. The Under Treasurer shall issue to every student on admission to the Inn a certificate of registration as a Bar student.

11. Every student who has complied with the foregoing rules and who has obtained a Certificate of Professional Legal Studies or such other qualification as may be prescribed by the Inn in relation to a course of study under rule 8, and, being of the age of 21 years at least, desires to be admitted to the degree of Barrister-at-Law, shall present at the Under Treasurer's Office a Memorial and Undertaking in the form set out in the Third Schedule. Such Memorial shall be signed by the student; the certificate annexed thereto shall be signed by a practising member of the Bar of Northern Ireland of at least 10 years' standing; and the Statement of Intention to

propose the Memorialist for admission to the degree of Barrister-at-Law shall be signed by a Bencher.

12. Every student so applying for admission to the degree of Barrister-at-Law shall, prior to presenting such Memorial, pay to the Under Treasurer the sum of £250 being the fee payable to the Inn for admission to the degree or such fee for admission to the degree as may from time to time be prescribed by the Inn.
13. When presenting the Memorial and Declaration for admission to the degree of Barrister-at-Law the student shall lodge the certificate required by rule 11 or such evidence of his/her other qualifications under that rule as may be required by the Inn, and a certificate of having obtained a degree as required by rule 9.

PUPILLAGE

14. (1) A person intending to practise at the Bar of Northern Ireland shall, unless exempted therefrom by the Education Committee of the Executive Council, after Call to the Bar enter into pupillage with a barrister in independent practice of not less than 7 years standing or other barrister nominated by the Education Committee for a period of 12 months or such other period as the Executive Council may prescribe.
- (2) Subject to paragraph (3), a person who has entered into pupillage may not accept instruction as a barrister in Northern Ireland or conduct any case or part of a case in any court or tribunal until he/she has completed to the satisfaction of the Education Committee 6 months' pupillage or such other period of pupillage as the Council may prescribe.
- (3) A pupil barrister who has completed to the satisfaction of the Education Committee not less than 3 months' pupillage may conduct on behalf of or at the request of his master a case or part of a case before a Master of the Supreme Court.