



FACULTY OF ADVOCATES

Scholarships

Guidance Notes for Applicants

Introduction

The Faculty of Advocates is conscious that lack of means, during pupillage, may constitute an obstacle to those who wish to practice as Advocates. It therefore offers annual scholarships the purpose of which is to afford assistance to Intrants, who intend to practice at the Scottish Bar.

At the time of writing, two scholarships are available: the Lord Reid Scholarship and the Faculty Scholarship. The Lord Reid Scholarship is awarded in honour of the late Lord Reid of Drem, who generously bequeathed sums to the Faculty with the intention that they be used for educational scholarships. One Lord Reid Scholarship is usually awarded annually, to the outstanding applicant. One Faculty Scholarship will usually be awarded each year. Whilst an applicant must demonstrate sufficient ability to merit the award, the Faculty Scholarship is directed more at permitting talented applicants who are in financial need, to pursue a career at the Bar. All decisions on awards are made by the Faculty of Advocates' Scholarship Committee, appointed annually by the Dean of Faculty.

There has very recently been a further initiative designed to promote accessibility to the Faculty. At the time of writing the final shape of this initiative is unclear. However, it is likely to increase the amount of money available for scholarships. There may accordingly, by the time of scholarship award, be more than two scholarships available. However, this cannot be said with certainty at the present time, and applicants will be updated when matters become clearer.

Criteria

The principal consideration will be to encourage and assist persons of talent and ability to enter the profession of advocate. In considering whether to make an award, the Committee will therefore wish to consider the following factors in relation to each individual applicant: academic merit (including strength of law and other degrees), postgraduate qualifications, relevant academic or professional teaching experience, publications (books, articles, or other), professional experience, any areas of special legal interest or experience, and financial resources. As noted above, the most outstanding applicant in any year will usually be awarded the Lord Reid Scholarship, whilst the Faculty Scholarship will be awarded to a meritorious applicant, but having particular consideration to the criterion of financial need. Any additional scholarship(s) will be likely to focus on financial need, in order to increase accessibility to the Faculty, it being understood that perceived merit will always be an important factor.

Scholarships are awarded on the understanding that it is the applicant's intention to pursue a career in active practice at the Scottish Bar on completion of the devilling period. Such an intention must be clearly indicated at the time of making the application. Any scholar who does not complete devilling and enter practice for three years thereafter may be required to repay any scholarship. The Committee will of course take into account personal circumstances in deciding whether to seek recovery.

An offer of a scholarship will be withdrawn if the successful applicant does not commence devilling in the October immediately following the making of the award. The withdrawn award may be offered to another unsuccessful applicant, distributed among the successful applicants, or retained in the scholarship fund, at the discretion of the Committee. If such an applicant later decides to commence devilling in a subsequent year

and again seeks a scholarship, he or she must re apply. Any new application will be considered along with other applications made in that year.

Amount of Awards

The size and number of scholarship awards is entirely at the discretion of the Committee, after consideration of the number and quality of applicants as well as the funds available in any given year. However, at the time of writing it can be said that if the Lord Reid Scholarship is awarded to one applicant, and a Faculty Scholarship is awarded to one applicant, then each of these successful applicants might expect to receive an award in the region of £10,000. The new initiative referred to earlier *may* result in higher awards for these two scholarships, or either of them, or in additional scholarship(s) being awarded.

Procedure

The procedure for awarding scholarships is as follows:

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| April | There is no set application form, although clearly any application should address fully the criteria for the making of an award as noted above. This would normally be in the form of a full curriculum vitae together with a brief note of the applicant's financial position. The names of two referees should be given, being persons qualified to attest to the applicant's suitability for an award having regard to the criteria. |
| May | All written applications are considered by the Committee and a short list will be drawn up.

Written references are then sought from the referees given by the short listed candidates. Unsuccessful candidates are notified. |
| May/June | Short listed candidates are called for interview.

Interviews are conducted by the whole Committee, and usually last 20 - 30 minutes. The interview is not intended as a formal test of academic legal knowledge, but rather to amplify the information already provided on the written application and to enable the applicant to demonstrate his or her suitability for an award. Any short listed candidate who is unable to attend for interview at the appropriate time may request in writing that their application be considered <i>in absentia</i> .

Decisions on awards are made as soon as possible following the interviews and candidates notified accordingly. |
| October | Payment of the first instalment of the scholarship. |
| February | Payment of the second instalment of the scholarship. |

Further information

Further information concerning Scholarships can be obtained from the Secretariat Officer, (catriona.king@advocates.org.uk)

Scholarships for 2018

Please note that applications for scholarships for devils commencing pupillage in 2018 must be submitted by **5.00 pm on Friday 20th April 2018.**

Edinburgh
March 2018