



YOUNG BARRISTERS' COMMITTEE

What is the International Legal and Professional Development Grant Programme?

The aim of the International Legal and Professional Grant Programme (the Programme) is to encourage young Barristers – up to 7 years in practice – to explore international legal opportunities, and further their chances of competing and working in an increasingly globalised legal market.

How much does it cost?

The total cost of the trip is split between the applicant, their Specialist Bar Association (SBA) and the Bar Scholarships Trust (BST), with a maximum total of £2,500.

How many people applied in 2017?

In 2017, the Young Barristers' Committee received 28 applications and the Programme awarded 17 grants to young Barristers. The Programme is increasingly competitive, and each year, the Trustees are astounded by the calibre of applications.

Successful applicants took part in the 7th World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights (Dublin), shadowed in an International licensing firm (New York), and conducted an Amity visit with a session on human rights, privilege, privacy and comparative law in courts (Washington D.C.). Grants in 2017 allowed young barristers to participate in key international events and programmes in jurisdictions such as Hong Kong, Brazil, Switzerland, Qatar, Australia, and the US.

How does the application process work?

Applicants fill in an application form, equality and diversity monitoring form, and a projected budget for the trip. They must apply both to their SBA, and to the Bar Council, who will liaise with the BCST. After returning, the applicant will submit an updated actual budget, and the related receipts. The Bar Council asks the successful

applicants to submit a blog post detailing their experiences, to promote the Programme

What happens if I spend less than the amount in my initial budget?

If you underspend on your trip, you will be reimbursed your actual spend, and not the figure you estimated at the outset.

What happens if I spend more than the amount in my initial budget?

If you overspend on your trip, you will be refunded for the amount you specified in your initial application.

Does it matter if I wish to embark on an exchange, rather than attend a Conference?

No, not at all. There is no set requirement, and the opportunity you apply for the Programme to fund is completely at your discretion.

Is there a time limit on the amount of time I can be out of practice?

No, not at all. As long as you have agreed to take this time off with your Chambers or Employer, there should be no issue. However, do bear in mind that the expenses incurred during your time away cannot amount to a figure greater than £2,500.

If you have any further questions about the Programme or the application process, please contact the Young Barristers' Committee via email at YBC@BarCouncil.org.uk.