



## Middle Temple Students' Association - Guide For Newcomers

### Welcome to Middle Temple.

You have joined a wonderful professional community, who will support you throughout your studies, gaining pupillage and your career. There are so many opportunities for career progression, learning, socialising and well-being. When you first join, some of the Inn's 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.

### Key Spaces

- **Hall** - The heart and soul of the Inn. Events from dinners to mooting to Call ceremonies take place here
- **Bench Apartments** - three rooms adjoining Hall. Receptions and Lectures also take place here
- **Temple Church** - a historic church shared with Inner Temple
- **Library** - within the Ashley Building
- **Rutledge Suite and Sherrard Room** - within the Ashley Building
- **Garden Room** - a social place to eat, drink and work
- **Lodgings** - as a member you can book the rooms available for overnight stays



### Dress Code & Tie Policy

Events in Hall are formal occasions conducted in a professional community. If you bring guests, please remember to make them aware of the dress code.

Most events require **Business Attire** - a dark suit, with collar and tie or a blouse, or a dark dress which should cover the shoulders and be of appropriate length for the occasion. A good rule of thumb would be to aim for the kind of clothes you would wear in court.

There are sometimes other dress codes in place, for example **Black Tie**. For full details, please see the **Middle Temple website**.

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

Middle Temple's dress code is Gender Neutral.

### Constitution of the Inn

**Master Treasurer** - Head of the Inn, referred to as 'Master Treasurer'

**The Bench** - elected members who are responsible for governance at the Inn, referred to as 'Master X'

**Hall** - Members post-call, includes Hall Committee and MTYBA

**Students** - Members pre-call, includes MTSA

### Middle Temple Students' Association

The MTSA represent the students of the Middle Temple, by looking after their interests, and representing them on various Standing Committees.

The MTSA also run events throughout the year, from pupillage evenings to socials to networking events.

Follow the Middle Temple Students' Association social media pages for updates on upcoming events.

### Order of events in Hall during dinners

- Students and Hall walk in and take a seat (usually unassigned). You will stand before Benchers walk in.
- Benchers will walk into Hall, following the porter striking his staff ('Procession of the Bench').
- Everyone remains standing until the most senior Benchers present will say the First Grace ('Grace before Meat'). Everyone sits down for the meal. Napkins are placed in laps.
- Once seated, 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.
- The meal will usually consist of three courses served by waiters. See also diagram of a place setting below.
- After the courses, a carafe of port will be available to each table. If you take some, pass the carafe to the left.
- At Second Grace ('Grace after Meat') there are three toasts: "the King", "Domus" (Latin for the home, i.e. Middle Temple), and "absent members". Members repeat the words of each toast after the Master Treasurer has addressed the Junior Benchers.
- If there is a speech or performance after dinner there will be a short comfort break after second grace.

**Late Policy:** Members and guests must arrive in good time before the doors to Hall close. If late to the pre-dinner lecture, it may be permitted to listen from the gallery. If late to dinner, it is up to the discretion of the Event Manager as to whether latecomers can enter.



### Opportunities to look out for

- 'Education & Training' - the team are brilliant, make sure you reach out to them during your time at the Inn. Check out their section of the Middle Temple website for further details.
- Residential Advocacy weekends - this is an enjoyable weekend, where you learn advocacy, make friends and earn 4 QS points. You can attend even if you haven't started the advocacy training portion of your Bar course.
- Mooting competitions - e.g. Rosamund Smith. Even attending is a great learning experience. There are also sometimes opportunities to be a moot timekeeper.
- 'Training the trainers' - you can be a 'guinea pig' student whilst a practitioner is being trained in training you. Many students feed back on this being fun and helpful to them.
- Library - Students are able to use all four of the Inns' libraries, and King's College London libraries on weekends

### Things to remember...

- Put phones away! Phones and photography are strictly prohibited during events. This is really frowned upon, so as the MTSA we strongly advise you to keep your phones out of sight.
- Rule of Three - When attending the Inn, try and talk to three people not known to you previously. This is especially encouraged on Lecture Evenings.
- All Benchers are referred to as 'Master X' in the Inn. If you meet them outside of the Inn, use their relevant title e.g. Judge X.
- Events can be attended alone. You can also bring a guest to many of the events, which is useful if you're nervous.
- When networking or speaking to barristers at the Inn, don't just ask for mini-pupillages. It is better to ask for general advice.

### Requirements for Call to the Bar (full details on website)

- Completion of the Bar Course
- 10 Qualifying Sessions
- Standard DBS Checks and International Checks (if applicable)
- £125 Call Fee
- Gowns and wigs can be rented for Call
- Some Inns require students to have a sponsor for Call - we do not at Middle Temple