



Major Scholarships: GDL 2025-26

INFORMATION FOR ACADEMIC REFEREES

Your reference is to support an application for a scholarship for the GDL (or equivalent course). The applicant in whose support you are writing will in due course be interviewed by a panel of three senior members of the Inn (barristers and judges).

It would assist the panel in assessing the applicant to have your answers to the questions below. Please copy and paste the questions into **a letterheaded document** where possible and type your answer below each question.

1. **How long have you known the applicant?**
2. **How do you know the applicant?**
3. **Which of your courses, seminars, tutorials did the candidate attend? (Please indicate year, topic, total number of hours, etc.)**
4. **Did the candidate write papers, dissertations under your supervision? (If so, please indicate their nature, topics, length, grades, etc.)**
5. **Where would you rank the applicant? Top 5%, top 10%, top 25%, top 50% of the course.**
6. **In the time during which you have known the applicant, in what area has she/he progressed the most?**
7. **In allocating a scholarship, the interviewing panel will look for the attributes which make a good barrister. It would assist them if you could comment on the applicant's abilities in respect to the following 4 criteria.**
 - **Intellectual ability:**
 - The ability to conduct legal research and give written advice, as demonstrated by performance in school and university examinations, the interview and, where appropriate, other experience;
 - **Motivation to succeed at the Bar:**
 - Knowledge of the profession and the Courts, and steps taken to acquire the personal skills required of a Barrister, will be taken into account;
 - **Potential as an advocate:**
 - Both in oral and written skills;
 - **Personal qualities:**
 - Those required by members of the Bar include self-reliance, independence, integrity, reliability, and the capacity to work effectively with clients, colleagues and chambers staff.

- 8. Would you recommend the applicant for this scholarship? Please select “Strongly recommend, recommend, not recommend” and please give reasons for your answer.**

Please note that the interviewing panel may raise at interview any topic of potential relevance contained in your reference. Should this give you any cause for concern, please contact me.

Your reference should ideally be written on your letterhead (professional, where at all possible). If you do not have access to a letterhead, please email the Scholarship Officer directly at scholarshipapplications@middletemple.org.uk confirming this fact. Please also include your professional contact details in your reference so that we can contact you if queries arise later in the application process.

It should be uploaded to a webpage accessible via a link which will be sent to you by the applicant once they have submitted their application. I would be grateful if your reference could reach us by the deadline we stipulated on our website.

Please note that no award will be made unless a candidate supplies two references, of which yours is one.

With thanks for your assistance,

Christa Richmond
Director of Education