



Major Scholarships: GDL 2025-26

INFORMATION FOR NON-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).

In allocating a scholarship, the interviewing panel will look for the attributes which make a good barrister. It would assist them if your reference could broadly follow the criteria which the Inn has in mind when awarding scholarships to prospective students. They are:

- a) **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;
- b) **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;
- c) **Potential as an advocate,**
both in oral and written skills;
- d) **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.

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 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