

MIDDLE TEMPLE VIS MOOT TEAM

2021/2022

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

WHAT IS IT?

The prestigious Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot is being held online between Saturday 9 April and Thursday 14 April 2022. The competition, which took place annually in Vienna until the pandemic, attracts nearly 400 teams from around the globe.

As part of the Middle Temple team, you will be competing against international teams of law students and trainee lawyers and arguing your own case before some of the world's leading arbitrators.

You will receive regular coaching sessions from October 2021 to April 2022 and help to prepare two written memoranda. You will also participate in at least two London-based pre-moots and gain invaluable experience of online hearings. The final moot competition in April is intense, stimulating and great fun. Although the moot itself will be fully online in 2022, the organisers are hoping to set up "Social Bubbles" which may permit travel to Vienna to meet other teams socially, depending on the course of the pandemic and the rules for social gatherings.

Every year the moot problem involves two sale of goods issues and two arbitration issues, but no specialist expertise is required, and the teams are marked on their advocacy, not on getting the "right answer". You don't need to be aiming for a commercial law practice either: previous team members have gone on to practise in crime, family, Chancery, construction and other areas.

The biggest benefit from taking part will be the confidence boost to your advocacy skills. Many former team members have said how it helped them with pupillage interviews, as well as winning them CV points for actual advocacy experience.

A former team member has commented:

The opportunities to excel your advocacy and drafting skills are immeasurable...If you find yourself only able to commit to one extracurricular during the Bar Course, I strongly recommend the Vis Moot, for the rewards, both professional and personal, are aplenty.

Further details, including dates, can be found at:

<https://vismoot.pace.edu/>

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The Middle Temple has a history of success. Previous teams have reached the final rounds in Vienna and have won the London pre-moots, with individual mooters also receiving winning scores.

Applicants must be student members of Middle Temple. We are looking for individuals who are hungry to learn, and a team which is committed to working hard and to winning. In particular, we will be looking for evidence of:

- Team working skills;

- Strong organisational and time management skills;
- Academic ability;
- Drive and determination.

Experience of debating, mooting or other public speaking is desirable but not essential.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Under the tuition of Zoe O'Sullivan QC (Serle Court), Zara McGlone (4 Stone Buildings) and former Vis mootee Dr Alfie Lewis, you will:

- Receive advocacy training from leading experts in arbitration
- Develop an astute understanding of international commercial law
- Learn which arguments work and which don't
- Learn to draft professional memoranda
- Learn to manage your time effectively; and
- Begin to understand the realities of case management.

We are flexible about the place, format and time of the coaching sessions. All sessions were held online last year, but we can offer face to face sessions if requested by the team.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Please prepare an email statement of:

- A maximum 80 words on why you want to be part of the Middle Temple Vis team; and
- A maximum 200 words, setting out how you meet the criteria described in 'What are we looking for?'

Send this with a copy of your CV (maximum 2 pages), and your Middle Temple membership number, to: z.mcglone@4stonebuildings.com by **Friday 1 October 2021 at 7pm**.

There are up to 6 places on the team. 10-12 shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. Interviews will be conducted by the coaches, and will be held online on Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 October 2021 – applicants should ensure that they are available on those dates. Successful applicants will be informed of the exact date and time by email. Please note that it will not be possible to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.