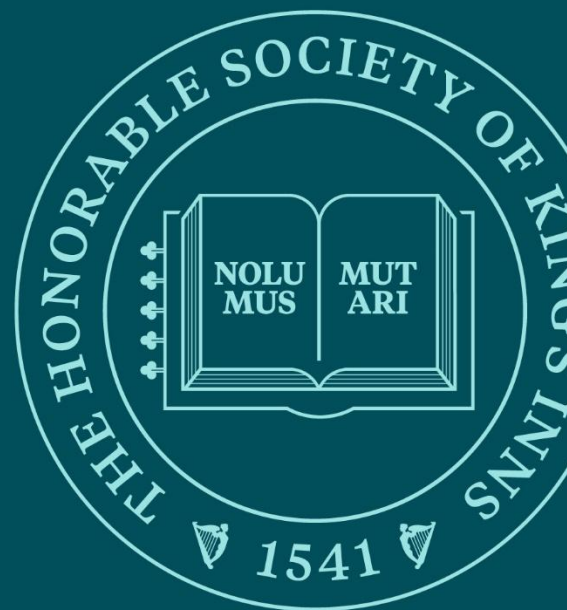


The Honorable Society of King's Inns

# EDUCATION RULES

EDITION OF July 2026

**KINGS**  
**INNS**<sup>15</sup><sub>41</sub>



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# PART I - INTRODUCTION

## 1. The Honorable Society of King's Inns

The Honorable Society of King's Inns is the body which governs entry to the profession of barrister-at-law. The Society provides courses of education and training for students, conducts assessments, and confers the Diploma in Legal Studies and the Degree of Barrister-at-Law. Only holders of this degree may be called to the Bar of Ireland by the Chief Justice and admitted to practise in the courts of Ireland as members of the Bar of Ireland.

The Society also provides specialist courses of education and training leading to the award of Diploma and Advanced Diploma.

# PART II: THE SOCIETY'S DIPLOMA IN LEGAL STUDIES

## 2. Educational qualifications for admission to the Diploma Course

- a. Every person who seeks a place on the Diploma in Legal Studies course shall:
  - (i) Hold a degree at Level 8 on the National Framework (or equivalent) from a third level institution (as defined in Rule 4(b) other than an approved degree (as defined in Rule 4(c)), or
  - (ii) be at least twenty-three years of age on the **1 of May** in the year in which he presents himself for examination in Part I of the diploma examination. Consideration will be had to the factors set out in the Recognition of Prior Learning Policy, which may include academic and professional qualifications, occupation and work experience and other relevant certified or experiential learning.
- b. Every person who seeks a place in the diploma course must complete their application on the King's Inns application platform not later than 30 June in the year in which he seeks a place. In the case of an applicant who is in the process of acquiring the necessary educational qualifications to be eligible for a place in the diploma course, the application may be made on a provisional basis not later than 30 June and shall be treated as conditional upon such educational qualifications being acquired not later than 1 August in the year in which he seeks a place. Late applications may be accepted up to a date determined by King's Inns. Fees must be paid in accordance with the directions that are laid down by the Society.
- c. An applicant who has been allocated a place on the Diploma in Legal Studies course shall be notified via the King's Inns application platform. A successful applicant shall signify acceptance of such place by paying the fee required by King's Inns by the prescribed deadline.

### 3. The Society's Diploma in Legal Studies

- a. The Society's diploma examination shall be an examination of equivalent standard as that of the approved degrees in law for the purposes of eligibility to sit the entrance examination.

Before being conferred with the Diploma in Legal Studies, a student must successfully complete the Society's Diploma in Legal Studies programme.

Assessment Regulations concerning the successful completion of the Diploma course shall be adopted by the Education Committee and may be amended by it from time to time.

The Rules below apply to students who are due to take their final examinations in part 2 of the programme in 2026 and shall continue to apply to those students until they successfully complete the programme or until they fail the programme.

- b. The Society's diploma examination shall be an examination in the following subjects:

#### Part 1

- Introduction to the Legal System
- Irish Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law
- Land Law (including Law of Succession)
- Law of Contracts
- Law of Torts
- Family Law

#### Part 2

- Human Rights Law
- Administrative Law
- Company Law
- Equity and the Law of Trusts
- Law of the European Union
- Law of Evidence
- Jurisprudence

(Note: The Education Committee shall be entitled to vary, from time to time, the contents of the course)

- c. Each student of the diploma course must complete the course of education provided in each of the two years of the course by attending at lectures & Tutorials in accordance with regulations made from time to time by the Education Committee.

- d. Each student must submit coursework for each subject on the dates & times determined by the Education Committee.
- e. The annual examination in the subjects of the diploma course shall be taken on such dates as shall, from time to time, be determined by the Education Committee. Such examinations shall be held at King's Inns or such other place or places as the Education Committee may appoint.
- f. Each student must present himself for his first attempt at the annual examinations in the academic year for which he has registered as a student on the programme. Each student is allowed two attempts only at Part 1 and two attempts only at Part 2.
- g. Supplemental examinations may be held before the beginning of Michaelmas term. Only those students who have (a) taken the annual examination in the same year and failed to obtain a pass or (b) been granted permission by the Education Committee to defer their assessments to the supplemental sitting in that year shall be eligible to take the supplemental examination. Notification of intention to take the supplemental examination shall be given on or before the 1 July preceding the examination and the appropriate fee must be paid.

A student who is unable to take his second attempt at the supplemental examinations must apply for permission to take his second attempt at the annual examination in the following year. The application must be made to the Education Committee before 15 July in the year that he failed. If the application is granted, notification of intention to present for the second attempt shall be given on or before 15 February preceding the examination and the appropriate fee shall be paid.

- h. A student who takes the diploma examination (Part 1 or Part 2 as the case may be) and who fails to pass in any one or more subjects of such examination after two attempts at such examination shall not be allowed to present himself for examination again.
- i. To be awarded a pass in Part 1 or Part 2, a student must receive marks of at least 40% in each component of the assessment (coursework and examination) for each subject.
  - (i) A student who fails one component of the assessment (either the examination or the coursework) must re-sit only the failed component of the assessment provided he has attained 40% or more in the element passed.



- (ii) A student may compensate whereby he has failed one component of the assessment in one subject only provided that the fail mark is 36% or over and that the aggregate mark for that subject is 40% or over. A student who fails more than one assessment may not compensate.
  - (iii) A student who obtains an overall pass in a subject (i.e. both coursework and examination) will be exempted from further examination in that subject.
  - (iv) A student will not be awarded a mark of more than 40% in a re-sit.
- j. **All assessments, examinations and resits must be completed sequentially save in exceptional circumstances and in any event within five years of the commencement date of the course.**
  - k. In a single academic year, a student who obtains aggregate marks of 70% or over shall be awarded first class honours in that Part. A student who obtains aggregate marks of 60% or over shall be awarded second class honours in that Part.
  - l. No student will be allowed to proceed to Part 2 of the diploma course unless he shall have successfully passed the examination for all subjects in Part 1.
  - m. A diploma in legal studies shall be awarded to all candidates who pass the Society's diploma examination in all subjects. The award shall be designated second class honours where the candidate shall have been awarded aggregate marks in the examinations (Part 1 and Part 2) of 60% or more but below 70% and first class honours for aggregate marks of 70% or more.

# PART III - THE BARRISTER-AT-LAW DEGREE COURSE

## 4. Definitions

- a. 'annual entrance examination' means the annual entrance examination leading to the admission to the Barrister-at-Law degree course.
- b. 'third level institution' means:
  - (i) an Irish third level educational institution which is a university or technological university with degree-awarding powers under law; or
  - (ii) a provider of higher education and training in Ireland whose quality assurance procedures have been approved by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and whose programmes are validated by QQI, or which has been granted delegated authority to make awards under the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012 (as amended) or
  - (iii) a university or third level institution in another jurisdiction with degree awarding powers as recognised by the relevant body in that jurisdiction.
- c. 'approved degree' means:
  - (i) a degree, conferred by a third level institution as defined in rule 4(b), in the law of Ireland or in the law of Northern Ireland is a principal or dominant element approved by the Accreditation Board and conferred on a student who has been examined in and who has passed each of the required core subjects;
- d. 'A post graduate diploma in law' shall mean a diploma, degree or other award which is conferred by a third level institution following the successful completion of a course which:
  - (i) is primarily open to persons holding primary degrees (the availability of a limited number of places for non-graduate mature students shall not exclude a course coming within this definition); and

- (ii) is considered by the Accreditation Board to be of equivalent standard to a course leading to an approved degree in the law of the State or Northern Ireland having regard to teaching methods (including availability of tutorials); library and research facilities and range of subject choices.
- e. “An approved post graduate diploma” means:
  - (i) the Diploma in Legal Studies from the Honorable Society of King’s Inns; and
  - (ii) such other post graduate diplomas in the Law of Ireland or of Northern Ireland approved by the Accreditation Board for the purposes of these Rules and conferred on a student who has been examined and passed each of the core subjects.
- f. A list of approved degrees and approved post-graduate diplomas shall be published by the Education Committee from time to time.
- g. ‘core subjects’ means Land Law (including Law of Succession), Company Law, Equity and the Law of Trusts, Law of the European Union, Jurisprudence, Administrative Law. Each core subject must be completed and examined (a) in the module(s) approved by the Accreditation Board of King’s Inns as part of the application for approved qualification status by the educational institution awarding the qualification and (b) in the ECTS credit volume specified by the Accreditation Board.
- h. ‘the Council’ means the Council of the Society.

## **5. Accreditation Board**

- a. There shall be nominated in January of each year an Accreditation Board (as set out below)
  - to consider applications from third level institutions for recognition of a particular degree as an approved degree for the purpose of these rules,
  - to consider applications from third level educational institutions for recognition of a post-graduate diploma in law as an approved post-graduate diploma for the purposes of these Rules.
- b. The Accreditation Board shall comprise the following members:
  - (i) One member nominated by the Council of King’s Inns,
  - (ii) Two members of the Education Committee nominated by the chairman,

- (iii) The Dean,
- (iv) The Registrar,
- (v) A person of academic standing nominated by the Chairman of the Council of King's Inns.

The Accreditation Board shall elect its own chairman.

- a. Any application for recognition as an approved degree or as an approved post-graduate diploma shall be made not later than the 1 March (or such later date as may be agreed by the Accreditation Board) in any given calendar year. The Accreditation Board shall be entitled to request from the third level institution such information and assistance as it deems necessary.
- d. The decision of the Accreditation Board shall be final. In the absence of agreement the decision shall be made by simple majority and the chairman shall have a casting vote.

## **6. Entrance Examination**

There shall be an annual entrance examination for admission to the Barrister-at-Law degree course. The entrance examination shall be held once annually in the month of August or September.

It shall comprise the following subjects:

- Law of Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Irish Constitutional Law
- Law of Evidence
- Law of Torts

No person shall be admitted as a student member of the Society (subject to the provisions of rule 12) for the course of education leading to the Barrister-at-Law degree course unless he has passed the annual entrance examination in all subjects.

## **7. Mode of delivery of Barrister-at-law degree.**

- a. The Barrister-at-Law degree will be delivered in two modes:
  - (i) one-year full time course to be offered and provided on an annual basis, unless it is not considered viable to do so for a particular year by the Council of King's Inns, and
  - (ii) two-year modular course to be offered and provided each year, unless it is not considered viable to do so for a particular year by the Council of King's Inns.
- b. In the event that either the full-time or the modular course is not provided in a particular year because it is not considered viable to do so, that course will be offered the following year and will be provided that following year so long as it is considered viable to do so.

## **8. Eligibility to sit the Annual Entrance Examination**

- a. In order to be eligible to sit the entrance examination a candidate shall be required to hold either:
  - (i) an approved degree, or
  - (ii) an approved post-graduate diploma.
- b. A candidate seeking to take the entrance examination must lodge the appropriate application form not later than the 31 May in the year in which he seeks to undertake the examination. An applicant who is in the process of acquiring the necessary educational qualifications may apply on a provisional basis not later than the 31 May and the application shall be treated as conditional upon such qualifications being acquired not later than the 1 July in the year in which he seeks to undertake the examination. Applications are also accepted on payment of a late fee up to 1 July in the year which he seeks to undertake the examination. Fees must be paid in accordance with the directions that are laid down by the Society.
- c. A candidate shall pay the prescribed fee with the application.
- d. All candidates will be required to indicate when applying for the entrance examination whether they wish to attend the one-year full-time course or the two-year modular course.
- e. Eligible candidates who wish to undertake the full-time or modular course shall be permitted to sit the entrance examination whether or not that course is being offered that year. If successful they shall be permitted to defer (subject to the provisions in rule 12 below).

## **9. Disqualifications**

No person shall be eligible to be a candidate for the annual entrance examination if

- (i) he is for any stated reasonable cause considered by the benchers to be unsuitable for admission.

## **10. Marks and Standards**

- a. To be awarded a pass in the entrance examination a candidate must achieve marks of at least 50% in each subject. A Candidate who fails more than one subject shall not be permitted to pass the examination. A candidate who fails one subject shall be permitted to pass provided that the failure in that one subject does not fall below 45% and the candidate has an aggregate mark of 50% or more.
- b. A candidate who attains aggregate marks of 70% or over shall be awarded first class honours. Candidates who receive aggregate marks of 60% or over shall be awarded second class honours.

## **11. Exemptions**

A candidate who takes the annual entrance examination shall pass all subjects in one sitting subject to (a) the above provision concerning compensation and (b) an exemption permitted pursuant to the following paragraph where a candidate fails in one subject only.

A candidate who passes all subjects save for one subject at a single sitting and who is not eligible to obtain a pass with compensation, shall be permitted one further attempt in the failed subject at the next sitting at which a pass mark of at least 50% must be obtained and is granted exemptions in the four subjects that have been passed. A candidate can benefit from this rule on one occasion only.

Where, pursuant to the foregoing paragraph, a candidate has registered to re-sit the failed subject at the next sitting but is prevented by exceptional circumstances which are beyond the candidate's control from sitting the examination in the failed subject at the appointed time, the Examination Board may, on application of the candidate made as soon as reasonably practicable after the exceptional circumstances have arisen, permit the candidate to defer the further attempt in the failed subject to the following sitting only.

## **12. Eligibility to re-sit the Annual Entrance Examination**

- a. Candidates who sit and fail the entrance examination in more than one subject shall be permitted two further attempts only to re-sit the entrance examination in all subjects, i.e. all candidates are entitled to three attempts in total to sit the entrance examination in all subjects. Where a candidate has, pursuant to Rule 10, attempted one subject only, that attempt at one subject only shall not count towards their total of three attempts at the entrance examination and the candidate shall retain the number of attempts remaining to them (if any).

In order to re-sit the entrance examination, the candidate must submit a new application.

- b. Candidates who sit and pass the entrance examination and who have declined to take up their place [except candidates who are permitted to defer in accordance with rule 13(g)] shall be required to re-sit the entrance examination and shall be deemed to have used one of the permitted attempts set out in rule 12(a). In order to re-sit the entrance examination, the candidate must submit a new application.

## **13. Allocation of Places in the Barrister-at-Law Degree Course**

- a. All candidates for the full-time or modular course who pass the entrance examination will be offered a place on that course in the year in which they pass the examination, save in the exceptional

circumstance that the number of those passing exceeds the available capacity or where the course is not considered to be viable.

- b. In the event that the number of candidates for the full-time or modular course passing the entrance examination exceeds the available teaching capacity for that course, the available places will be allocated to successful candidates in order of merit determined by the aggregate marks obtained at a specific sitting. Where it is not possible to accommodate all candidates seeking to attend the course on either a modular or a full-time basis, as the case may be, the additional candidates will be offered a place on the other format of the course (i.e. modular or full-time, as the case may be), if the other format of the course is viable in that particular year and if there is capacity to accommodate the candidates.
- c. Where either the full-time or the modular course is not run in a particular year, or where candidates are not offered a place on their preferred model of the course candidates for that course who pass the entrance examination will be offered the choice of:
  - (i) attending the other format of the course, i.e. the modular or the full-time course that year; or
  - (ii) deferring their place on the course for a year (on the understanding that there will be no guarantee that the candidate's preferred model of the course will be provided in the following year).
- d. Where a candidate has deferred his place on the full-time or the modular course pursuant to subsection (d)(ii) above and where the full-time or modular course is not provided the following year the candidate will again be offered the choice of:
  - (i) attending the other model of the course that year; or
  - (ii) deferring his place on the full-time or modular course for one further year (on the understanding that there will be no guarantee that the candidate's preferred model of the course will be provided in the following year), subject to the provision that no candidate will be permitted to defer for more than two years in total. If the candidate's preferred model of the course is still not available after two years, the candidate must either undertake the available model of the course or refuse their offer of a place.
- e. A candidate who has been offered a place on the Barrister-at-Law degree course shall not be allowed to defer the offer to any subsequent year save with the consent of the Examination Board.
- f. The Examination Board shall only permit a candidate to defer an offer of a place on the Barrister-at-Law degree course to a subsequent year,

other than pursuant to subsections (e)(ii) or (f)(ii) of this rule, upon one of the following exceptional grounds:

- (i) exceptional personal circumstances which could not have been foreseen at the date of application to sit the entrance examination, and which preclude the candidate from taking up the place on the Barrister-at-Law degree course in the relevant year; or
  - (ii) an exceptional professional, academic or employment opportunity which, in the opinion of the Examination Board, would significantly contribute to the candidate's future practice at the Bar.
- g. An application to defer may be made prior to the allocation of a place and conditional upon the allocation and must be made within ten days from the date upon which notice of the offer of the place on the Barrister-at-Law degree course is given.
- h. Any consent of the Examination Board to a candidate to defer a place shall be for a maximum of two years.

#### **14. Annual Entrance Examination Fee**

- a. Each candidate shall pay the annual entrance examination application fee at the time of submission of the application. The fee shall from time to time be prescribed by the Council of the Honorable Society of King's Inns.

#### **15. Entrance Exam Board**

- a. There shall be nominated in January of each year an Examination Board comprising the following members:
  - (i) a judge of the Superior Courts nominated by the Chief Justice,
  - (ii) a member of the Bar nominated by the Council of King's Inns,
  - (iii) a member of the Bar nominated by the Bar Council of Ireland,
  - (iv) three members of the Education Committee nominated by the Chairman of that Committee,
  - (v) the Registrar, *ex officio*,
  - (vi) the Dean, *ex officio*.

The Examination Board shall elect its own chairman.

- b. All decisions concerning the entrance examination shall be taken by the Examination Board the decisions of which shall be final. In the event of a lack of agreement, decision shall be by simple majority, and the chairman shall have a casting vote.
- c. The functions of the Examination Board shall include:
  - (i) appointing examiners and external examiners for the entrance examination,



- (ii) reviewing the results of the entrance examination,
  - (iii) publishing the results relating to the entrance examinations.
- d. The Examination Board shall meet from time to time as it deems necessary.  
The quorum of the Examination Board shall be not less than three for all meetings.
- e. Not more than one person involved in teaching or examining in either the diploma or the degree course shall be eligible to be appointed as an examiner or as an external examiner in the entrance examination or be a member of the Examination Board.

## **16. Completion of the Barrister-at-Law degree course**

Before being admitted to the degree of Barrister-at-Law a student must successfully complete the Society's Barrister-at-Law degree course. Regulations concerning the successful completion of the degree course shall be made by the Education Committee and may be amended by it from time to time.

The Society shall make available to barristers and students an optional advanced advocacy and legal drafting course through the medium of Irish.

## **17. Commons**

- a. Students on the full-time Barrister-at-Law degree course are required to dine in the hall on 10 occasions during the academic year. Details are available from the Under Treasurer.
- b. Students on the modular Barrister-at-Law degree course are required to dine in the hall on five occasions during the first academic year of the course and five occasions during the second academic year of the course. Details are available from the Under Treasurer.

## **18. Admission to the Degree of Barrister-at-Law**

Every student who has complied with these rules and who wishes to be admitted to the degree of Barrister-at-Law must lodge at the Under Treasurer's office a completed declaration for admission to the degree of Barrister-at-Law. The certificate which is included in the declaration must be signed by a practising barrister who has been practising at the Bar of Ireland for ten years at least and the proposal which is included in the memorial must be signed by a bencher of the Society.

The declaration for admission to the degree of Barrister-at-Law shall include an undertaking by the applicant that, if admitted to practise at the Bar of Ireland, he will comply with the General Rules of the Society and any applicable professional codes in force from time to time.

Any person seeking to be called to the Bar must meet the requirements of the Legal Practitioners (Irish Language) Act 2008, unless exempt, and must undertake, in full, the course provided by King's Inns in order to fulfil the requirements of that Act.

## **19. Precedence for Honours at Call to the Bar**

At each call to the Bar those students who have obtained the John Brooke Memorial Prize, the Society's Exhibition Prize, and the James Murnaghan Memorial Prize shall take rank and seniority over all other students who shall be called on the same day and those who have these prizes shall take rank and seniority among themselves according to their respective merits.

## **20. Prizes**

### **a. *The Arthur Browne Prize***

The Arthur Brown Prize is awarded to the student who takes first place in the entrance examination.

### **b. *The John Brooke Scholarship***

The John Brooke Scholarship is awarded to the student who obtains the highest aggregate marks in the annual examinations conducted by the Society including marks awarded for assessments through the year. The scholarship shall be payable only to a student who proceeds to practise at the Bar. A student who qualifies for the scholarship must take his call to the Bar within six months of publication of the results of the annual examinations, but the benchers may, for special reasons, permit him to postpone his practice for not more than 18 months from such call.

### **c. *The Society's Exhibition***

The Society's Exhibition is awarded to the student who obtains the second highest aggregate marks in the annual examinations conducted by the Society including marks awarded for assessments throughout the year. The conditions for the award of the Exhibition shall be the same as those for the award of the John Brooke Scholarship.

### **d. *The James Murnaghan Memorial Prize***

The James Murnaghan Memorial Prize is awarded to the student who obtains the third highest aggregate marks in the annual examinations conducted by the Society including marks awarded for assessments throughout the year. The conditions for the award of the Prize shall be the same as for those for the award of the John Brooke Scholarship.

### **e. *Scoláireacht an Phiarsaigh***

King's Inns is able to confer Scoláireacht an Phiarsaigh (The Pearse Scholarship) on one barrister in their first year of practice in the Law Library each year, which scholarship will cover the costs of the Advanced Diploma in Legal Practice through Irish course.

Scoláireacht an Phiarsaigh is named for the King's Inns' alumnus, barrister, teacher and educationalist, writer, poet, scholar and

President of the Provisional Government during the Easter Rising 1916, PH Pearse, who fought two Irish language rights cases in the old High Court under British rule as a barrister.

Scoláireacht an Phiarsaigh will be awarded to the student from the Barrister-at-Law degree who received the highest mark in the Advanced Course in the Legal Practice Through Irish Specialist Option in the annual examination. The scholarship must be taken up during this person's first year of practice in the Law Library.

- f. With the exception of the Arthur Browne Memorial Prize (awarded to the student who takes first place in the entrance examination), prizes are only awarded during the admission ceremony to the degree of Barrister-at-Law in Trinity term even if a first attempt student in the supplemental examinations obtains a higher mark than the recipient of a prize in the annual examinations.

# **PART IV - RULES APPLICABLE TO SPECIALLY QUALIFIED APPLICANTS**

## **21. Northern Ireland Barristers**

- a. A member of the Bar of Northern Ireland who has been in practice for at least three years immediately preceding his application may, at the discretion of the benchers of the Society, be admitted to the Society and to the degree of Barrister-at-Law without submitting to any examination and without keeping terms provided he complies with the requirements set out in paragraph (b).
- b. Every such applicant shall:
  - 1) Produce a certificate of his call to the Bar of Northern Ireland and a certificate from the Lord Chief Justice stating that he is a fit a proper person to be called to the Bar of Ireland and a certificate from the proper officer stating that he has been practising for at least three years immediately preceding his application,
  - 2) Lodge at the Under Treasurer's office a completed declaration for admission to the Society and to the degree of Barrister-at-Law (the certificate part of the declaration must be signed by a practising barrister who has been practising at the Bar of Ireland for ten years at least and the proposal part must be signed by a Bencher of the Society), and
  - 3) Pay the degree fee set out in the schedule of fees.
  - 4) Keep two terms commons (3 dinners each term) after call during the first two years of practice

## **22. Barristers of Reciprocating Countries**

- a. In this rule 'reciprocating country' means any country, state, or province where separate rolls are kept of members of the legal profession of such country, state or province who practise as solicitors and barristers respectively and which in the opinion of the Council of King's Inns affords corresponding advantages to members of the Bar of Ireland. 'Member of the Bar' means a person having the general right of audience before the superior courts.
- b. A member of the Bar of a reciprocating country who has been in practice for at least three years immediately preceding his application may, on the recommendation of the Council of King's Inns and at the

discretion of the benchers of the Society, be admitted to the Society and the degree of Barrister-at-Law without submitting to any examination and without keeping terms provided he complies with the requirements set out in paragraph (c).

c. Every such applicant shall:

- 1) Produce a certificate of his admission to practise as a member of the Bar and a certificate from the attorney general or senior law officer of the reciprocating country stating that he is a fit and proper person to be called to the Bar of Ireland and a certificate from the proper officer stating that he has been practising as a member of the Bar for at least three years immediately preceding his application,
- 2) Lodge at the Under Treasurer's office a completed memorial for admission as a barrister (the certificate part of the memorial must be signed by a practising barrister who has been practising at the Bar of Ireland for ten years at least and the proposal part must be signed by a Bencher of the Society), and
- 3) Pay the appropriate fee for admission to the degree of Barrister-at-Law.

d. If the law of the reciprocating country is not based on common law and a member of the Bar of Ireland before becoming eligible to practise at the Bar of such country is required to pass an examination in the local law, this rule shall apply subject to the qualification that such applicant may, before call to the Bar of Ireland, be required to pass an examination in such subjects as may be prescribed from time to time by the Education Committee.

## **23. Solicitors**

a. A solicitor on application made by him in writing to the Society who in the period expiring at any time within six calendar months prior to the date of receipt of application has been in continuous practice in the State for three years or more and has held a practising certificate from the Law Society of Ireland for the entire of that period (or is exempted by statute from any requirement to hold such certificate) may, at the discretion of the benchers of the Society, be admitted into the Society and called to the Bar without undertaking the Society's course of education and without keeping terms provided he complies with the requirements set out in paragraph (b) hereof.

b. Every such applicant shall:

- 1) Following acceptance by the Society of such application satisfactorily complete the next available course of study (if any) as may be provided by the Society and as may be determined from time to time by the Education Committee

- 2) Cause himself to be removed from the Roll of Solicitors and cease to practice as a solicitor prior to admission to the degree of Barrister-at-Law.
  - 3) Lodge at the Under Treasurer's office at least 10 days prior to admission to the degree:
    - (i) a letter from the Law Society of Ireland certifying his removal from the Roll of Solicitors;
    - (ii) where applicable, letters from the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Law Society of any other Jurisdiction in which the person has practiced as a solicitor certifying his removal from the Roll of solicitors
    - (iii) a statutory declaration that he has ceased to have any financial interest in any solicitor's business or practice;
    - (iv) a certificate of good standing or a certificate of standing, as defined in the Solicitors Acts 1954 to 2008 (Sixth Schedule) Regulations 2011, to be issued by the Law Society of Ireland;
    - (v) a completed declaration for admission to the Society and to the degree of Barrister-at-Law (the certificate which is included in the declaration must be signed by a practising barrister who has been practising at the Bar of Ireland for ten years at least and the proposal therein must be signed by a bencher of the Society); and
    - (vi) an undertaking in writing to keep two terms of commons in accordance with paragraph (b)(5) of this Rule,
  - 4) at least 10 days prior to admission to the degree pay the degree fee as set out in the Schedule of Fees, and
  - 5) keep two terms of commons (3 dinners each term) after call during the first two years of practice at the Bar of Ireland.
- c. Notwithstanding paragraph (b)(1) an applicant will be entitled (on payment of the appropriate fee in respect of such course) to take such course of study, if any, as may be determined by the Education Committee pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this Rule once he has been in practice as a solicitor in the State and has held a practising certificate (unless exempted by statute from any requirement to hold such certificate) for a period of not less than two years immediately preceding the commencement of the said course of study. On satisfactory completion of the said course of study the solicitor shall be deemed to have complied with the requirement of paragraph (b)(1) of this Rule provided such course of study is completed within twelve calendar months of application being made under Rule (a) above.
- d. If an applicant fails:

- (i) to undertake and complete satisfactorily the next available course of study in accordance with paragraph (b)(1) of this Rule; or
- (ii) to cause himself to be admitted to the Society and called to the Bar of Ireland at the first available opportunity following satisfactory completion of the said course

the application made by the applicant shall be deemed to be withdrawn.

## **24. Qualified Lawyers from other EU Member States**

- a. A person who is entitled to seek to practise the profession of barrister in Ireland pursuant to Directive 2005/36 of the European Parliament and Council on the recognition of professional qualifications (OJ L 255 p. 22) ('the Directive') and the regulations implementing same in Ireland (hereinafter called 'the migrant') may apply to be admitted to the Society and to the degree of Barrister-at-Law in accordance with this rule. Only holders of the degree may be called to the Bar of Ireland by the Chief Justice and admitted to practise in the Courts of Ireland as members of the Bar of Ireland.
- b. The Council of King's Inns ('The Council') is the designated and the competent authority for the profession of Barrister in Ireland for the purpose of applying the Directive and shall make all necessary decisions on an application under this rule.
- c. A migrant shall apply to be admitted to the Society and the degree of Barrister-at-Law in such form as may be specified by the Council. Such application shall include or be accompanied by:
  - (i) particulars of the diploma, attestation of competence issued by a competent authority in the home Member State or other evidence of training and qualifications relied upon by the migrant as entitling him to practise as a barrister in Ireland under the terms of the Directive,
  - (ii) the original or a duly authenticated copy of every such diploma, certificate or other document relied upon by the migrant,
  - (iii) such evidence as is relied upon by the migrant to establish:
    - 1) that he is of good character and repute; and
    - 2) that he has not been declared or adjudged bankrupt or had a similar order made against him or in relation to his estate where such bankruptcy or similar order remains undischarged or in force; and
    - 3) that he has not on the ground of professional misconduct, or the commission of a criminal offence been prohibited from practising in any member state in which he formerly qualified or practised and is not currently suspended from so practising,

- (iv) such representations or evidence as the migrant may wish to make in support of any application that he be wholly or partially exempted from passing an aptitude test in accordance with paragraph (f) of this rule,
  - (v) any other representations or material upon which the migrant may wish to rely in support of his application, and
  - (vi) the migrant's application fee as set from time to time by the Council.
- d. Any document or certificate presented by the migrant pursuant to subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (c) above must be presented no more than three months after its date of issue.
- e. The Council shall consider the migrant's application as soon as is reasonably practical and shall issue to the migrant a reasoned decision thereon not later than four months after all documents relied upon by the migrant have been lodged. Such decision may be:
- (i) that the migrant be admitted to the Society and degree of Barrister-at-Law by the benchers without being required to pass any part of the aptitude test,
  - (ii) that the migrant be admitted to the Society and degree of Barrister-at-Law by the benchers subject to the migrant passing the whole or any part of the aptitude test, or
  - (iii) that the migrant's application be refused.

In reaching the foregoing decision the Council shall consider the diploma or other qualification of each migrant relied upon in his application and may only require the migrant to pass those parts of the aptitude test which cover matters which differ substantially from those covered by his diploma or other qualification.

- f. The migrant may be required to pass all or part of an aptitude test. The following shall apply in relation to the aptitude test:
- (i) the aptitude test shall be in such form as may be decided **from time to time** by the Education Committee and shall comprise written papers and an oral assessment,
  - (ii) the written papers shall include:
    - 1) A paper on the Irish Legal System and Irish Constitutional Law;
    - 2) A paper on the Laws of Torts, Contracts and Property (including Equity and Trusts);
    - 3) A paper on Evidence and Civil Practice and Procedure of the Superior Courts and the Circuit and District Courts; and



- 4) A paper on Criminal Law and Criminal Practice and Procedure of the Superior Courts and the Circuit and District Courts
- (iii) the oral assessment shall evaluate the migrant's preparation and oral presentation of a case and his knowledge of the rules of ethics and code of conduct for barristers,
  - (iv) the written part of the aptitude test will be held twice a year upon such dates as may be determined by the Education Committee,
  - (v) a migrant shall not be eligible to take the oral assessment until such time as he shall have successfully passed such written parts of the aptitude test as he is required to take,
  - (vi) a migrant who is required to pass the aptitude test must take all parts of the test (or all parts which he is required to pass) at the same occasion on which the test is held,
  - (vii) a migrant who is required to pass the aptitude test must take the test (or the relevant parts of the test) within two years after the date of the issue of the decision referred to in paragraph (e) above.
- g. Every migrant shall keep not less than two terms commons. The Council may permit a migrant to give an undertaking to comply with all or part of this obligation after call to the Bar or may exempt the migrant from all or part of this obligation. Every migrant shall keep two terms commons (3 dinners each term) after call during the first two years of practice at the Bar of Ireland.
  - h. A migrant who has received a decision from the Council in terms of paragraph (e) (i) or (ii) above shall (upon successfully passing all or part of the aptitude test where applicable) and subject to compliance with paragraph (g) above be admitted to the Society and to the degree of Barrister-at-Law by the benchers upon lodging at the Under Treasurer's office:
    - (i) a completed declaration for admission to the Society and to the degree of Barrister-at-Law (the certificate part of the declaration must be signed by a practising barrister who has been practising at the Bar of Ireland for ten years at least and the proposal part must be signed by a bencher of the Society),
    - (ii) if permitted by the Council pursuant to paragraph (g) above to keep terms after call to the Bar, a written undertaking to do so, and
    - (iii) the degree fee as set from time to time by the Council.
  - i. Upon being admitted to the Society and the degree of Barrister-at-Law a migrant is entitled to be called to the Bar of Ireland by the Chief Justice and admitted to practise in the courts of Ireland as a member of the Bar of Ireland.

## 25. Admission of Barristers qualified in England and Wales

- a. A member of the Bar of England and Wales who is fully qualified to practise in that jurisdiction having undertaken a full pupillage as required by the Bar Standards Board of England and Wales and having been in practice in that jurisdiction for at least three years immediately preceding his application may, at the discretion of the Benchers of the Society, be admitted to the Society and to the degree of Barrister-at-Law provided he complies with the requirements set out in paragraphs (b) to (d) of this Rule.
- b. Every such applicant shall be required to pass a written aptitude test on the Irish Legal System and Irish Constitutional Law, unless in the opinion of the Benchers of the Society it is appropriate to exempt the applicant from this requirement.
- c. Every such applicant shall be required to submit the following to the Society:
  - (i) an application in such form as may from time to time be prescribed by the Society;
  - (ii) a certificate of his call to the Bar of England and Wales;
  - (iii) a certificate of good standing from the General Council of the Bar of England and Wales which certifies:
    - 1) that the applicant has completed full pupillage and is entitled to practise at the Bar of England and Wales,
    - 2) that he is not an undischarged bankrupt, and
    - 3) that he has not been prohibited from practising on the grounds of professional misconduct or the commission of a criminal offence;
  - (iv) a practising certificate issued by the Bar Standards Board of England and Wales;
  - (v) such representations and/or evidence (if any) on which the applicant relies in support of an application for an exemption from the aptitude test provided for in paragraph (b);
  - (vi) a completed declaration for admission to the degree of Barrister-at-Law;
  - (vii) an undertaking to keep at least two terms commons (unless excused from doing so by special permission of the Benchers of the Society);
  - (viii) the applicable fee as may from time to time be prescribed by the Society.
- d. The documents required at paragraphs (c)(iii) and (c)(iv) above must be presented no more than three months after their date(s) of issue.

- e. A member of the Bar of England and Wales who is a national of an EU Member State may be eligible to be admitted to the Society and to the Degree of Barrister-at-Law in accordance with EU Law / *Morgenbesser* principles.

# PART V - SPECIALIST DIPLOMAS

## 26. Specialist Diplomas

- a. The Society may establish specialist courses of training and education leading to the award by the Society of a Diploma or Advanced Diploma or such other qualification that may be established by the Society.
- b. Regulations concerning admission to and the successful completion of each such course shall be made and promulgated by the Dean, with the prior approval of the Education Committee, and may be amended from time to time in like manner. In relation to all other matters the rules in Parts VI, VII and VIII shall apply.
- c. The Education Committee shall consider programme proposals in respect of new specialist courses of training in line with the Programme Development and Approval Policy and the procedures set out thereunder.

# **PART VI - FELLOWSHIPS, BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

## **27. Fellowships, Bursaries and Scholarships:**

The Society offers the following fellowships, bursaries and scholarships:

The Gaffney Scholarship;

The Denham Fellowship (in conjunction with the Bar of Ireland);

The McCarthy Bursary.

The eligibility requirements for these awards shall be set by the Council of King's Inns, or, in the case of the Denham Fellowship, by the Denham Fellowship Committee, on which King's Inns has two representatives.

The Council of King's Inns reserves the power to establish such further of other fellowships, bursaries and scholarships as may be established by the Council subject to the requisite finance being available to the Council as determined by the Standing Committee

# **PART VII - DISCIPLINE AND PLAGIARISM**

## **28. Discipline**

Save as provided for herein, alleged or suspected breaches of discipline will be dealt with under the Student Code of Conduct. Alleged or suspected breaches of academic integrity, including plagiarism, shall be dealt with under Rule 29 hereof.

## **29. Breaches of Academic Integrity, including Plagiarism**

It shall be a function of the Education Committee to develop regulations concerning Academic Integrity at the Society (such regulations to be known as the Academic Integrity Regulations) and such regulations shall be in the form as prescribed from time to time by the Education Committee.

# PART VIII - QUALITY ASSURANCE

## 30. Education Committee Roles Under Quality Assurance Policies

The Education Committee shall discharge all roles and responsibilities assigned to it under the King's Inns Quality Assurance Policies.

This includes considering and deciding on recommendations from the Faculty Board, ensuring that all decisions are informed by appropriate evidence.

## 31. Implementation of Quality Assurance Policies

The Education Committee shall have oversight responsibility for the implementation of the Society's Quality Assurance (QA) policies within its remit.

In this role, the Committee shall:

- ensure that QA policies are implemented consistently and effectively across all programmes and activities;
- monitor compliance with internal QA procedures and external regulatory requirements, including those of QQI;
- review relevant reports, data and evidence to assure itself of the effectiveness of QA systems and the maintenance of academic standards;
- identify and oversee the management of risks to quality and standards, and escalate material matters to the Council of King's Inns as appropriate; and
- ensure that appropriate review and enhancement processes are in place to support continuous improvement.

Responsibility for the operational implementation of QA processes shall rest with the executive, subject to the oversight of the Education Committee.





# **PART IX - MISCELLANEOUS**

## **32. Relaxation of Rules**

In addition to any powers exercisable by the Benchers or the Council of King's Inns under these rules, the Education Committee may in any particular case, either unconditionally or subject to conditions

(a) modify or relax or dispense with any requirement or provision of these rules,

or

(b) excuse any breach of or non-compliance with any such requirement or provision.

## **33. Variation of Rules**

All students shall be bound by such alterations and variations (whether of a fundamental character or not) as may from time to time be made in these rules.

## **34. Forms of Memorials**

All memorials referred to in these rules shall be in such form as the Education Committee may from time to time prescribe.

## **35. Admission to the Society's Courses of Education**

The numbers to be admitted to the Society's courses leading to the award of all qualifications may be determined from time to time by the Council of King's Inns.

## **36. Amendment of Rules**

These rules may be amended from time to time by resolution of the Council of King's Inns at a meeting of which not less than seven days notice is given and the notice of any such meeting shall give details of any changes proposed in the rules. Notice of any amendments to the rules shall be published by displaying a notice in a prominent position in the Hall of the King's Inns and by incorporating a note of any changes in copies of the rules to be issued after such change has been agreed upon by the Council.

## **37. Appeals**

(a) There shall be a right of appeal from such decisions of the Education Committee concerning the education of students, and the further education

of barristers, as maybe specified in such rules to the Education Appeals Board.

(b) There shall be no right of appeal, or other review, from any decision of the Education Appeals Board to the Council, or to the benchers, or otherwise.

### **38. Gender**

References in these rules to a person of any particular gender are equally applicable to persons of all genders.