



THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF
THE INNER TEMPLE

PEGASUS ACCESS AND SUPPORT SCHEME

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Welcome

In 2012 Inner Temple established the Pegasus Access and Support Scheme (PASS), with the intention of ensuring that all students with the capability and determination to pursue a career at the Bar have the opportunity to undertake mini-pupillages, regardless of their background or personal networks. In the last three years we have also offered participants a three day professional skills course, designed to enhance their application, interview and advocacy skills.

The support from you, our partner chambers and volunteers, has been invaluable and we hope the information provided below demonstrates the impact that the scheme has had this year.

2018-2019 PASS ANNUAL REVIEW

Increasing opportunities

PASS continues to go from strength to strength with the 2018/19 academic year yielding over 200 applications; the highest number of applications for PASS we've ever received. We were delighted to be able to increase the number of places awarded to 67, which allowed for an additional 8 extra students to undertake the scheme compared to last year. Upon reflection, over 80% of attendees said the course had changed their perception of the Bar and barristers and they now found it more approachable and achievable. This figure demonstrates how vital it is to support students' aspirations and create accessible routes into the profession. Out of our 67 students, 33 have completed a mini-pupillage with one of our PASS partner chambers and the feedback we have received solidifies how significant PASS is in helping to build professional skills. Participants indicated they now felt more confident they would now be able to pursue a career at the Bar after PASS:

"The opportunity to receive feedback from practicing barristers is an invaluable opportunity I cherish from the course"

"Incredible events. I felt that all of the sessions were meaningful and helpful"



"I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has been part of PASS and has assisted so many people in realising their dream. I hope to be back one day to help support these events!"

"The work you do is so important. I am proud to be a part of this and grateful for your help"



"They clearly put a lot of effort into introducing us to a wide variety of people every evening after court"

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time, and will have fond memories of my placement"

Boosting confidence

Undeterred by a change in location as Project Pegasus gets underway, the students were out in force on the first day to attend a range of panel sessions with practising barristers, pupils and current BPTC students. Participants were invited to ask panellists questions about their journeys to the Bar and were offered helpful tips on applications and interviews as well as honest advice about obstacles an aspiring barrister can expect to face. The second day of the course included advice on mock interviews and CV training. After a discussion on application processes and interview techniques, students experienced mock pupillage interviews with members of the Inner Temple who then provided them with feedback on their interview technique as well as support to help them in real interviews. The mock interviews proved particularly helpful with participants commenting:

"The mock interviews really boosted my confidence in myself. I learnt lots over the whole programme"

"The advice from barristers regarding interviews was really helpful and I made a huge improvement when I did my mock interview"

"Being told that your previous skills and experience are relevant to a career in the Bar boosted my confidence"

Highlights from PASS



Volunteer Master Hooper in a mock interview session with a PASS student

The final day of the skills course proceeded with a talk on ethics at the Bar, followed by a comprehensive session on wellbeing and learning how to 'survive and thrive'. In the afternoon participants were divided into small groups so they could have the opportunity to practise advocacy; a first for many of the students. They then received feedback and tips from practitioners as well as expert advice and were encouraged to go through the case again taking on board the guidance they had received. These advocacy sessions were especially well-received, with the students saying:

"The mock advocacy exercise was an invaluable experience and a great opportunity"

"The advocacy practice session enabled us to 'have a go' and receive feedback, an opportunity I would not have anywhere else"

"The advocacy exercise was so useful because it was run by experienced professionals"

To round off the residential skills course and celebrate the students' achievements over the three days, the scheme ended with a joint reception with Middle Temple and COMBAR.

Reviewing feedback from the students, we were thrilled that 100% of attendees said attending the course was helpful and has now made them want to definitely pursue a career at the Bar. PASS has succeeded in providing an insight into the profession and instilling confidence in the students in their own abilities.



Students preparing for the advocacy session



Students networking during breaks



Participating in a wellness lecture



Case Study

We asked Douglas Wotherspoon, who participated in PASS 2017/18, to write about his experience of the scheme and how it supported him. Since the PASS course, Douglas has successfully secured pupillage and a BPTC scholarship from the Inn.

'I am a third year Law LLB (Hons) student at the University of Manchester. I am the recipient of an Inner Temple Major Scholarship and the Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Scholarship and will be studying the BPTC in September 2019 before commencing pupillage at 9 Bedford Row in 2020.

I was recommended the Pegasus Access and Support Scheme ('PASS') by a fellow student at the University of Manchester. He had completed the programme the year before and was overwhelmingly positive about PASS and his experience. Notably, he was particularly complimentary towards Inner Temple's approach to diversity and inclusion. I came to the law from two concurrent unconventional careers, an unconventional background, and later in life than some. What immediately struck me about Inner Temple was a genuine effort to encourage and support everyone, regardless of background, to achieve their potential. I recognised immediately that Inner Temple would be inclusive and welcoming as a professional home and applied to PASS.

Following my successful application, I was placed on a mini-pupillage at Ely Place Chambers. I was fortunate enough to see a wide range of chambers work from sitting with a third six pupil in Shoreditch County Court to shadowing a 27 years call senior junior at Maidstone Combined Court Centre. Notably, I attended the High Court for an injunction hearing which was reported nationally the following day. The take-away moment for me was a piece of advice imparted outside Watford Employment Tribunal which helped shape not only my undergraduate module selection, but the type of set I applied to for pupillage and ultimately my future area of practice.

In addition to a mini-pupillage, another opportunity provided by PASS was the residential weekend. The weekend provided valuable tutelage on pupillage and scholarship applications, mock interviews, networking sessions, and opportunities to socialise with other Scholars, Members, and Benchers of Inner Temple. Each experience highlighted the collegiate and supportive environment of the Inn. The highlight of the weekend for me was submitting a plea in mitigation to Her Honour Judge Sarah Munro QC and the feedback which followed. I would not have had any of the above experiences if it was not for Inner Temple and PASS.

I applied for scholarship during my final year at university. The application process involved a written application and an interview, with the interview taking place at Inner Temple. The questions were centred on my application, the case which I had just read, and my motivations for becoming a barrister. There also was a short advocacy exercise.

Every applicant for a scholarship at Inner Temple is granted an interview. This affords everyone an equal opportunity to show their determination, ability, and character regardless of the strength or weakness of their written application. This is an advantage for anyone who has prepared by reading cases, is abreast of current legal issues, and knows their written application back to front.

Without the support of Inner Temple, it would have been very unlikely that I would have been able to fund the BPTC. The experiences and the

insight provided by PASS me helped to secure a Major Scholarship and a Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Scholarship allowing me to undertake the BPTC full time - immediately after my LLB. I am now looking forward to starting a new chapter on my journey and becoming more involved with Inner Temple during my BPTC year.

I applied for pupillage during my final year at university and was similarly successful. Again, I was able to draw upon my experiences during PASS whilst drafting my written applications and preparing for interviews and advocacy exercises. If you are eligible to apply for PASS I would encourage you to do so; it has provided me with confidence, insight, and experiences which I would not have had otherwise and gave me a link with Inner Temple which will remain throughout my career.'

Thank You

As PASS 2019 comes to an end, we reflect on how grateful we are for the involvement of all the members who volunteered their time in order to allow us to run such wonderful and comprehensive skills days. We also thank those of you who offered mini-pupillages to the PASS students as it has been integral to the success of the scheme and provides important first-hand experience for participants. Overall, we are pleased with the positive feedback from students and continue to take their suggestions on board to ensure we can create the best version of PASS. Going forward, we hope to offer more skills days in order to enable all successful applicants to attend them, and that the number of mini-pupillages offered by partner chambers increases so that more students can be admitted on to the scheme.

Daisy Mortimer & Struan Campbell
Outreach Coordinator & Outreach Manager
Inner Temple

"This is an amazing and insightful programme which opened my mind to life at the bar"

"PASS was so helpful – it is very difficult to overstate the importance of having approachable people to ask candid questions to"

"I am really grateful for this experience. This event has motivated me to pursue a career at the Bar and has provided me with so much information to improve personally and professionally"



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Treasury Building
London EC4Y 7HL
020 7797 8250

www.innertemple.org.uk