

Applications are now open for the European Lawyers' Programme (ELP) at the Scottish Bar in Edinburgh

The ELP is a unique opportunity for young European lawyers to gain practical experience at the bar of a European common law jurisdiction and build relationships with lawyers across Europe.

The ELP in short

- The ELP is a three months legal placement at the Faculty of Advocates (Scottish bar) in Edinburgh. The next ELP will take place from 6 April to 26 June 2020.
- During a two weeks' induction course, participants are introduced to the basics of the Scottish legal system and receive practical advocacy training.
- During the rest of the programme, each candidate shadows a Senior Counsel (Queen's Counsel) as well as one or two Junior Counsel. Shadowing, or "devilling", means being involved in the daily work of the Advocates (Barristers), including accompanying them to court hearings and consultations as well as doing written work, studying papers and carrying out legal research.
- In addition, each participant has the privilege to spend time with a Senator of the College of Justice, *i.e.* a Judge of the Court of Session or the High Court of Justiciary, the highest Scottish civil and criminal courts.
- The participants will be working in the beautiful Advocates' Library, where most Advocates work and which is not open to the public.
- Participants will gain experience in both criminal and civil proceedings before courts and tribunals, including administrative law and commercial law cases.
- The ELP may include a group trip to a hearing of the UK Supreme Court in London.
- Besides being a valuable professional experience, the ELP allows participants to discover Scotland and its people, as well as spend time with a small group of European colleagues.
- After the programme, participants may join the European Lawyers' Association (ELA), the ELP's alumni association. The ELA is a network of around 700 lawyers from 28 European countries. ELA board and annual general meetings take place in destinations across Europe and are great occasions to network in a relaxed atmosphere.
- Some candidates combine the ELP with an LL.M and/or the Aptitude Test with the Law Society of Scotland to qualify as Scottish solicitors.

Logistics

- The ELP is offered every year to a group of up to 10 European lawyers, with a maximum of two participants per country.
- The ELP is a full-time programme, participants are expected to stay in Edinburgh during the duration of the programme and should not have other work commitments.
- The ELP is free of charge, thanks to the generous support of the Faculty of Advocates (www.advocates.org.uk), the ELA (www.european-lawyers.org) and the sponsor Vialegis (www.vialegis.be).
- Participants have to cover their own living, travel, insurance and accommodation expenses.

Application requirements

- Admitted to a European bar.
- Work experience as a lawyer of at least 2 years.
- Good English language skills, both written and orally.
- Good qualifications and references.
- Commitment to participate in the programme on a full-time basis.
- Eagerness to learn about different legal cultures.
- Commitment to professional and social interaction with those participating in the ELP and with lawyers in Scotland.

Application process

- Applications are to be submitted to the ELA National Representative of the applicant's jurisdiction. Contact details can be found on the ELA homepage.
- Deadline for applying is 5 November 2019. Promising candidates will be interviewed in November by the respective ELA national representative and will be informed of the outcome of the application process in December.
- You can find further information about the application process and contact details on the ELA website (www.european-lawyers.org).

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