



## **European Lawyers' Programme 2019** **Candidate Information**

*This document provides basic practical information about the ELP. Details specific to the forthcoming year's Programme is found in Annexes A to this document. The information in this document and the ELP is subject to changes and cancellation.*

### **1. Objectives of the Programme and Introduction**

The European Lawyers Programme (**ELP** or **Programme**) is a two and a half month programme for European qualified lawyers at the Faculty of Advocates (Scottish Bar) providing an unrivalled opportunity for successful applicants to shadow advocates and a judge of the Court of Session (the highest civil court in Scotland) and the High Court of Justiciary (the highest criminal court in Scotland).

The Scottish legal profession is divided into solicitors and advocates (split bar system). The ELP provides placements with advocates. Advocates (like English barristers) are part of an independent referral bar of specialised court pleaders, immediately recognisable by their wig and gown when appearing in court. The ELP provides a superb opportunity for 12 European lawyers to gain first-hand experience of an adversarial English-speaking legal system.

The Programme, which runs from 15 April 2019 until 28 June 2019, includes an introduction to Scots law and the operation of the Scottish legal system. It aims to contribute to continuing professional development by giving participants an understanding of one of the United Kingdom's legal systems, in respect of criminal, public and private law. The Scottish legal system should also be of considerable interest for lawyers from continental Europe, as it is a "mixed" system - it is primarily a common law/adversarial system, but also contains some uncodified civil law concepts and principles. In addition to providing a professional and intellectual stimulus, the Programme will enable participants to meet with lawyers in Scotland and to network with other European lawyers on the Programme. The Programme has its own alumni association, - the European Lawyers Association (see below) which allows participants to maintain and develop these networks.

The ELP comprises:

- an introductory course of 9 days; and
- placements with practising Advocates, Queen's Counsel and Court of Session/High Court Judges

As far as possible the placements are chosen to fit in with each participant's interests and/or specialism as demonstrated in their application form and CV.



**The European Lawyers Association (ELA)** is the alumni association of the European Young Lawyers Scheme (the predecessor of the ELP) and was set up in 1985 with a view to maintaining the professional and social contacts established during the Programme, and to provide a forum for participants to develop these links with other participants and practitioners in the UK. It has around 700 members from 28 countries. ELA is registered in Belgium as an International Non-Profit Association (*'association internationale sans but lucratif'*/*'internationale vereniging zonder winstoogmerk'*). Further information can be found at [www.european-lawyers.org](http://www.european-lawyers.org). Participants who complete the Programme automatically receive an invitation to join the ELA.

## 2. The Programme

The Programme is organised jointly by the ELA and the Faculty of Advocates ([www.advocates.org.uk](http://www.advocates.org.uk)), i.e. the Scottish Bar. Up to 12 European lawyers take part in this Programme.

### Part 1: Induction Course - Faculty of Advocates Training Facility (9 days)

Monday, 15 April 2019 – until Friday, 26 April 2019

The course provides all participants with an introduction to the legal system of Scotland, to give context to what they will soon experience during their placements with Advocates, QCs and Judges. The course includes: an overview of the legal system and its history, including a description of the court structure and other institutions; an outline of civil and criminal procedure (including judicial review of administrative actions); the basics of various areas of “black letter” law such as contract, delict, property and constitutional law. The induction course also includes practical training in written and oral advocacy in an adversarial legal system. Practical matters are addressed, such as a tour of the Faculty of Advocates Library (generally regarded as the finest working law library in the UK and where most practising Advocates work day-to-day, and where all participants will also be allocated space); and obtaining access to the Faculty of Advocate’s electronic resources.

### Part 2: Advocates, QCs and Judges’ placement (9 weeks)

Monday, 29 April 2019 – until Friday, 28 June 2019

Participants are assigned to two practising members of the Faculty of Advocates (the Scottish Bar) in Edinburgh – a Queen's Counsel (Senior Counsel) and a Junior Counsel – as well as to a Senator of the College of Justice (a judge of the High Court/Court of Session). There are opportunities to study the cases with which the Advocates are concerned; to attend consultations with Solicitors and clients; and to observe Advocates as they appear before courts and tribunals. Advocates may ask those assigned to them to do research and to assist in the preparation of legal opinions and other legal documents. In recent years there has also been an opportunity for participants to accompany Advocates to London for cases being heard before the UK Supreme Court.

## 3. Recruitment profile

Candidates for the ELP should normally:

- be admitted as a practising lawyer in your home jurisdiction and, preferably, have a minimum of two years’ work experience as a lawyer;



- have a good command of English, both in writing and orally (broadly equivalent to band scores 7.00 on IELTS or 100 on TOEFL); and
- show a commitment to professional and social interaction with those participating in the Programme and with lawyers in Scotland.

All candidates must indicate a commitment to spend two and a half months in Edinburgh for the purpose of pursuing the Programme.

## 4. Application and selection procedure

### 4.1 Application stage

To apply for the Programme, all candidates must submit the documents listed below to their national ELA representative. Candidates from countries with no national ELA representative can apply through a central application process. For contact details of your national ELP representative or central contact person, please complete the contact form on the ELP homepage under: [www.european-lawyers.org](http://www.european-lawyers.org).

- a completed and signed application form;
- an up-to-date CV; and
- copies of relevant professional certification (university diploma and professional qualification certificate, school leaving examination certificates are not required).

Please submit all documents in a single pdf file by email.

It is important that your CV and application form reflect your areas of specialism and/or interest. The CV and the application form is used by the Programme Director within the Faculty of Advocates to help provide appropriate placements with Advocates, QC's and Judges.

### 4.2 Interview stage

Locally shortlisted candidates are invited to attend a selection interview in their home country. The interview panel consists of local representatives of the ELA and the interview, in whole or in part, will be conducted in English. Where no national representatives are available, The ELA Board will conduct the interview by conference call.

The recommended candidates' applications are forwarded to the ELA Board who will make the final selection from applications received from local ELA representatives and candidates who have centrally applied. Before the final selection, the ELA Board may conduct a second interview with candidates. The ELA Board will then select up to 12 participants for the ELP 2019. In addition to those selected, a number of reserve participants are identified so that in the event of a first choice candidate having to withdraw from the Programme, the vacant place can be filled.



## **Please note:**

The ELA is committed to promoting equal opportunities in the recruitment of candidates for the ELP. All applicants will receive equal treatment regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

The ELA regards the lawful and fair treatment of personal information as important to the maintenance of confidence between it and those with whom it deals. We will ensure that our members, and those acting on our behalf who process personal information, adhere to the data protection principles. For details how we collect, use, share and transfer personal information please see our privacy policy attached to the application form.

## **5. Practical information**

**Preliminary arrangements:** Selected participants will be in regular contact with the Programme coordinators of the ELA and the Faculty of Advocates throughout the period preceding the Programme to make all the practical arrangements for the Programme (areas outlined below, plus preliminary reading, placements etc.).

**Arrival:** Participants are expected to arrive in Edinburgh at the latest the weekend before the Programme begins.

**Medical clearance:** Almost all the countries represented on the Programme have Reciprocal Health Agreements with the United Kingdom, but the provisions of these vary from country to country, and all participants are advised to take out comprehensive medical insurance before the beginning of the Programme.

**Accommodation:** Advice may be given to participants selected for the Programme on how to find suitable accommodation. However, this can be a difficult task, and participants are advised to start making enquiries as soon as they can. Contact details are circulated to enable participants, if they so wish, to communicate with one another with a view to exploring opportunities for sharing accommodation.

**Organisation:** The ELA manages the selection of the candidates and the administration of the Programme. The Faculty of Advocates, in consultation with ELA, will organise the induction course and placements with Advocates and Judges.

**Costs:** *Vialegis*, a Belgium based international recruitment firm ([www.vialegis.be](http://www.vialegis.be)) will be providing financial support to the ELA to cover certain organisational expenses.

As the Programme is otherwise unfunded, candidates will be required to have the requisite financial means to cover all living and accommodation expenses during their stay in Scotland. The candidates are encouraged to seek financial support (sponsorship) for their accommodation costs and living expenses from their employer or other interested parties.

The estimated cost for shared accommodation in Edinburgh amounts to £400-600 per month. Candidates should note that Participants will not be paid a salary/stipend (nor reimbursed any expenses) by the ELA or the Faculty of Advocates.



## **6. Aptitude Test for EU Qualified Lawyers - Qualification as a Scottish Solicitor and Notary Public**

The Aptitude Test for EU-qualified lawyers with the Law Society of Scotland allows lawyers from EU and EFTA countries, who are admitted to practise in their own jurisdictions, to dual qualify as Scottish solicitors. The ELP offers a good practical basis for undertaking the Aptitude Test for EU Qualified Lawyers. However, extra self-study time is required to prepare for this test. Additional information on the Aptitude Test for EU Qualified Lawyers may be obtained directly from the Registrar's department of the Law Society of Scotland (registrar@lawscot.or.uk) or contact the ELA's Chair, Sabrina Jenquin (chair@european-lawyers.org). Further information is available on the Law Society of Scotland's website at <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/qualifying-and-education/qualifying-as-a-scottish-solicitor/requalifying-into-scotland/eu-lawyers/> .



## **Timetable for the ELP 2019**

*The timetable for recruitment and for the Programme itself is subject to changes.*

### **2018/2019**

August 2018	Advertisement of the ELP on <a href="http://www.european-lawyers.org/">http://www.european-lawyers.org/</a> and through local representatives
September/October 2018	Local selection process, including application, shortlisting and interview. The exact timetable for this is determined by the local representatives of the European Lawyers Association. A central selection process will be available through <a href="http://www.european-lawyers.org/">http://www.european-lawyers.org/</a>
10 November 2018	Deadline for applications through the central application process
15 November 2018	Deadline for local ELA representatives to submit shortlisted applications to the ELA Board
15-30 November 2018	Interviews of selected candidates who applied through the central application process. Possible Second interview with the ELA Board of selected candidates by local ELA representatives
First week December 2018	Final selection of participants by the ELA Board and communication of selection to local ELA representatives
Mid December 2018	All candidates notified of the outcome of their applications by the Chairwoman of the ELA and selected participants will be sent a formal acceptance letter
March 2019	Pre-departure communications
15 April 2019	Programme begins
28 June 2019	Programme ends



## **Testimonials**

*"Participation in the ELA Programme in Edinburgh was one of the most valuable (and the most fun) experiences in my legal career. Not only that you learn a lot about Scottish legal system, but you also get an insight into the legal systems of other European countries from other participants. I found that to be very helpful in my everyday work with clients from different countries. Moreover, comparison with other legal systems gave me a wider perspective of Croatian legal solutions and reasoning behind such solutions. Finally, the Programme is a great opportunity for networking with other participants, advocates, judges and later with the ELA members. Through it, I met fascinating legal experts and extraordinary fun people from all over the Europe, and the most importantly I gained some close friendships for life."*

**Franka Baica (Croatia)**

*"Joining the European Lawyers Programme in Edinburgh gave me a unique opportunity to meet and work with other young lawyers from across Europe. Moreover, I learned from very talented advocates and judges in a common-law jurisdiction. Participating in the course also contributed to my international network. Until this day I benefit from my wonderful experience in Edinburgh, both on a personal and professional level!"*

**Stan van Liere (Holland)**

*"I had a great chance to participate to the amazing ELA programme in Edinburgh in 2014. It was a unique opportunity for me to have a greater understanding of the legal system in Scotland and to work side by side with brilliant and very friendly advocates. I was made very welcome and supported by the whole community of lawyers throughout the placement. I worked on very interesting public, corporate and criminal cases. I spent a lot of time in court observing the advocates examining and cross-examining the witnesses. Also I met awesome Euro devils that became very close friends. It is definitely a great intellectual and human experience that I recommend without hesitation!"*

**Ophelie Snoy (Belgium)**

*"The Programme allowed me to learn how a Common Law System works and I got to know the judicial structure in Scotland. Work with two advocates day-to-day and observing a trial with a Judge has allowed me to learn a lot about the differences between both systems. Also, I have met colleagues from different parts of Europe and become a member of the ELA which allows me to give better services to my clients because all members are connected."*

**Rodrigo Royo (Spain)**

*"I participated in the 2014 ELP in Edinburgh and it was such an enriching experience - both from a personal and professional perspective. I had the opportunity to closely observe how the law is practised in Scotland and to learn about the common law, which allowed me to compare the main differences with the Portuguese legal system and to develop my analytical skills. I also had the opportunity to learn so much about practice from other lawyers, judges and the other participants with different cultures and different methods to apply the law. The ELP is also a great networking opportunity, not only during the 3 months of the programme but also after that with the European Lawyers Association members - the alumni association for former participants. The ELP is really a lifetime experience - I took friends, knowledge and beautiful memories for life."*

**Alice Bermejo Silva (Portugal)**

