



Law Society of Ireland

Law Society Access Scholarship Programme

Background

The Law Society Access Scholarship Programme has been operating successfully since September 2001. The aim of the programme is to assist students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain access to professional legal education. The Programme contributes to the creation of a broader spectrum of solicitors, which is vital in promoting a legal profession that reflects the diversity of the society it serves. It offers reduced/waived exam and course fees and can include maintenance funding, from the Final Entrance Examination - Part One stage through to the completion of the Professional Practice courses.

Eligibility/Application Process

All applicants are required to complete a detailed application form.

All applicants are interviewed by a Student Development Advisor of the Law Society of Ireland.

Final decision regarding eligibility is determined by an Access Scholarship Programme sub-committee.

Places are allocated according to budget and a waiting list may apply.

Applications are considered from:

1. Candidates who have completed degree programmes, with the support of an Access Programme, in one of the following higher education institutes:

University of Limerick
Dublin City University
Institutes of Technology
National University of Ireland, University College Cork
National University of Ireland, Galway
National University of Ireland, Maynooth
University of Dublin, Trinity College
University College Dublin

2. Candidates who can demonstrate that they meet equivalent socio-economic criteria but did not participate in a third level access programme.

The Law Society Access Scholarship Application form is available from:

The Law Society's web-site (<http://www.lawsociety.ie>) or from the Student Development Service, Law School, Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, D. 7. Tel. (01) 6724802.

Applications are accepted at any time of the year.



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Terms and Conditions

Assistance with Fees/Maintenance

1. Final Examination Final Examination - First Part Exams (FE1)

Depending on their individual circumstances, Access scholarship students **may** be exempted from FE1 examination fees.

2. Professional Practice Course (PPCI & PPCII) fees and maintenance

The Access Scholarship Programme usually covers the portion of fees not met by Local Authority grant funding.

All applicants are **required** to apply directly to the appropriate Local Authority for assistance with PPCI & PPCII fees and maintenance. Non-application may result in your becoming liable for full fees. Access candidates are required to submit a copy of their application to the relevant Local Authority, as well as the original acknowledgement of this correspondence to: **Student Development Service, Law School, Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.**

All applicants are reminded to declare their Access status at the point of PPCI registration. Evidence is also required at registration that an application has been made to the appropriate Local Authority for grant aid. A copy of the relevant Local Authority acknowledgement letter will be sufficient for this purpose.

Limited maintenance funding **may** be made available - the extent of this depends on applicants' individual circumstances and on budget allocations. Should a student receive funding/fee waivers and not sit Final Entrance Part One exams, the Law Society may request to be reimbursed.

FE1 Books

FE1 book lists are available on-line from:

<http://www.lawsociety.ie/Documents/education>.

Access students may borrow books from the FE1 Syllabus reading lists for each subject from the Law Society Library. Long-term loans of books from the recommended reading lists - which are the core texts - will be confined to one text per subject. Short-term loans of core texts and of books on the supplemental reading lists can be arranged with library staff. Contact the library directly to borrow books.

FE1 Examination Papers/Examiners Reports

FE1 Exam papers and Examiners' Reports extending back over a period of five years are available free of charge to Access students, from the Information Centre of the Law School. If additional Exam Papers/Reports are required they may be purchased.