

Pupillage application process

Each year East Anglian Chambers offers up to two funded 12-month pupillages.

On this scheme each pupil receives an award in line with Bar Council recommendations. We would expect applicants to have a commitment to the fields in which members practise. Pupils are allocated to pupil supervisors on the basis of their interests (whether in crime, civil or family work), but pupillages are organised so as to give pupils experience in all areas. We would not normally consider applications from people who have not begun the Bar Professional Training Course, though we may do so in exceptional circumstances.

Chambers employs a three-stage process to determine the award of its 12-month pupillages:

- Stage 1 – application forms and the selection of candidates to form a ‘list’,
- Stage 2 – ‘list’ interviews and the selection of candidates to form a ‘short list’ if in the circumstances it is not possible to select a candidate or candidates for pupillage following the first interview,
- Stage 3 – if a ‘short list’ is formed, submission of written work and ‘short list’ interviews, leading to offers of pupillage.

Stage 1

Applications for 12-month pupillages at East Anglian Chambers must be made on the application form, a copy of which may be downloaded from this website or obtained by contacting the Head of Administration, Yvonne May, at our Ipswich address. Please note that, although we have premises across the region, all applications are considered by our Pupillage Committee centrally and you should therefore submit just the one application.

Candidates are encouraged to submit their completed application in typed form and to use bullet points and/or headings where appropriate.

All application forms will be assessed according to set criteria, a copy of which is available as a download on this website. East Anglian Chambers will offer up to 24 first round interviews to those with the highest scores. Due to the high volume of application received by Chambers we are unable to respond to those not being called for an interview.

Stage 2

Some candidates will be invited to a 'list' interview. The panel will comprise of at least three members of chambers (including the Head of the Pupillage Committee).

Upon arrival, and before the interview itself begins, candidates may be presented with a selection of short, written legal problems. If so, there will then be a period of time in which to select one of those questions and to prepare an answer.

In the interview, which normally lasts 10–15 minutes, candidates may be asked to discuss the legal problem that they have chosen. There will be further questions from the panel.

Stage 3

If a 'short list' is formed, candidates on the 'short list' will be invited to a second interview. The panel will, again, comprise at least three people (including the Head of the Pupillage Committee).

Candidates will be sent 'instructions' (by email) to prepare a written advice or to draft a statement of case in advance of the Stage 3 interviews.

Upon arrival, and before the interview, candidates will be presented with the relevant papers for a short piece of oral advocacy (e.g. a plea in mitigation or application for bail). Candidates will have around 45 minutes to prepare for this exercise.

The interview will begin with the oral advocacy exercise. This will be followed by a discussion of the candidate's written exercise. There will be further questions from the panel.