



We want you to succeed.

#PupillageTips

During March and May 2016, Devereux ran a twitter campaign for aspiring barristers using the hashtag #PupillageTips, sharing 140 characters of useful pointers, which applicants can put into practice during all stages of the process, regardless for which set they apply. For those who missed it, or are not active on twitter, the summary below will be useful.

March

This round coincided with Pupillage Gateway activating their website on 7th March 2016. The tips focused on the early stages of the process.



Applicants can browse Pupillage Gateway (PG) for sets recruiting pupils via PG, incl. Devereux. <http://applications.pupillagegateway.com/vacancies/view/704>

Use the time from 7 March-4 April wisely: focus on researching the sets you would like to apply to and decide on shortlist.

Through PG you can apply to up to 12 different sets for pupillage. Key is to choose wisely and do your homework now.

You have a firm idea which areas of law to practise? Consult legal directories Chambers UK, Legal 500 to identify top sets.

Most sets specify what they look for in pupils on their pupillage webpage. These qualities need to shine in your form.

Pupillage at Devereux? Let us explain our programme and what we look for in candidates. bit.ly/1MxTAO8

Enough about us. If you need more general info, the #PupillageGateway can help: pupillagegateway.com/about-pupillag...

From 4 April-4 May is Pupillage Gateway's submission window. A good time to prepare your applications in finer detail.

You can already download a sample application form if you would like to start thought process.

Start process on time and identify the sets which list an additional question. This may need extra research and preparation.

Regarding multi-specialist sets: there's no need to practise in all areas but you should have an interest in at least two.

There are several useful websites offering extra info on Pupillage. No endorsement but examples are @LawCareersNetUK, @thebarcouncil and @legalcheek.

More practical #PupillageTips from @MarianneTutin on "How I secured pupillage". bit.ly/1NljBnV

Re application form. Our committee says: spelling, punctuation and grammar. Read, proof-read and read again. File away and read with fresh eyes.

Don't leave everything till the last minute. That's when mistakes occur. Completing forms takes longer than you think.

We appreciate that there will be some copy/pasting in your forms but cross check chambers' names and core areas of law.

Don't use 100 words when 50 will do. Your ability to convey your strengths succinctly = 1st written advocacy exercise.

Confidence is good, arrogance not. Highlight achievements but in a humble way. They speak for themselves.

Sets are likely to mark your written application against a set of objective criteria in a matrix. Make sure you cover all.

For example: we mark academic as well as advocacy ability, standard of written English, legal experience ...

...interpersonal skills and interest in our practice areas. Don't just focus on advocacy.

What it is like to be a pupil and #pupillage at Devereux.

One of our newest tenants @MattSellwood describes his life as a pupil in this practical note. bit.ly/1NkGsvB

At Devereux the first 9 months is split in 3 assessed seats. Pupil can express preference for 3 practice areas.

1 unassessed seat in final 3 months: choice of a 4th area or deeper knowledge in one of the assessed subjects.

There's simply no substitute for working alongside professionals...and receiving their feedback on how to improve.

Bayo Randle and Ishaani Shrivastava describe 'My first year as a Devereux tenant'. bit.ly/1TzFhRd

A mini-pupillage is an excellent way to find out more about life at the Bar and which practice areas are 'you'.

Interested in a mini-pupillage at Devereux? You can download a form from the 'Join us' website page.



May

The second round of tips focused on the actual interview.



Let's start at the beginning, before you even attend the interview: the need for preparation.

Chambers' websites offer a wealth of detail. We don't say you need to quote content; but avoid obvious errors.

Start with your application form and read it again. Be prepared to expand on what you wrote.

Answers need to be evidenced by examples. It is not enough to say you're good at x. Offer proof and back it up with examples.

Think of questions which may come your way and prepare replies. Re-read your prep repeatedly and some of it will stick.

Power of positive thinking: you are sitting in the interview room = you are good enough. Don't forget that.

Let's consider 'body language' and 'posture'. Be aware of the non-verbal impact. This may take some practice.

While waiting in Reception: breathe deeply and focus on bringing oxygen to your brain which calms you. It really works!

Avoid the rabbit in the headlights look. Pull the imaginary string on your head and sit tall. Don't forget to smile.

When asked difficult questions, try to avoid the 'defence position': crossed arms, frown on forehead, louder voice.

During the interview, take time to pause and reflect before you answer. It is not a sign of weakness.

Silences always seem longer on your side. Don't get (too) panicked about that.

If one person asks a question, remember to have eye contact with all panel members when you reply.

Let's talk 'legal problem'. Some sets make this part of the selection process.

When solving a problem, knowledge of contract and tort law and how to read statutes may be useful. Refresh your memory.

Expect intervention during the discussion. It is not a personal attack but a test on how you think on your feet. #advocacy

If an interview goes badly (i.e. wrong legal answer) it doesn't mean it was a bad interview. Try not to panic.

We are less interested in the right/wrong but more in your thought process and how you recover.

You've done your prep, kept composed, worked out a legal problem and answered questions. The end of the interview is near.

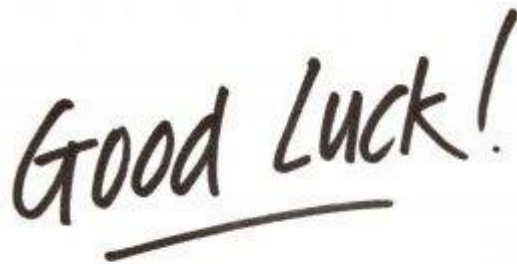
Some sets, not all, may discuss general legal matters e.g. current legal affairs, procedural or ethical issues.

Be familiar with our areas of law and how they tie in with your own interests and skills.

Don't feel you 'have to' ask a question, but if you do, make it a genuine one.

Look at the pupillage page on our website which offers a lot of answers to possible questions. Best to avoid those.

This ends our #PupillageTips. Please share this overview, as it may help others!



Good Luck!

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For more information on our practice areas, barristers and pupillage information, please visit www.devereuxchambers.co.uk.