

MINI PUPILLAGE APPLICATIONS GUIDE

Spire Barristers recognise the importance of mini pupillages, these are often the best way for students to learn more about different practice areas and gain a valuable insight into the day to day life of being a barrister and the variety of tasks we undertake.

We also recognise that applicants for mini pupillages come from all walks of life, are of different ages and are at different stages of their legal careers. We have put together some tips to help you get the most out of your applications.

Research

Research the practice areas of chambers and structure your application to ensure that you address why you are interested in these areas of practice. Spire is a specialist family and public law chambers, if you are really interested in a career at the criminal bar we are not going to be the right chambers for you to develop your knowledge and understanding of criminal law.

Timetable

We invite applications during a particular window of time and addressed to a dedicated e mail address, please make sure you follow this to ensure we get to see the application you have worked so hard upon.

Be Creative

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to see the work of barristers or courts, if you have not had any other mini pupillages or marshalling opportunities then be creative about what experience you do have. Think about the skills barristers need and think about the issues their clients might have, what are the things you have done in your life or experiences you have had which would give you skills to manage those tasks and situations.

Presentation

Think about the layout of your application, there are lots of tools for writing CV's, in many areas of work these may be appropriate. They are not necessary for mini pupillage applications, colours and stylistic layout may not be easy to read and may be distracting. Simple is effective; lists and headings are the most effective way to set out your information. Chambers deal with lots of applications and having a simple and easy to read layout, in a clear font really is best.

Personalise

We understand that applicants make applications to many chambers, please ensure that you personalise your applications to the chambers you are applying for, we want to know why you want to come to us for a mini pupillage and what you would gain from mini pupillage with us. Make sure you send it to the right chambers, having spent all the time and effort in writing your application for X Chambers please make sure it isn't addressed to Y Chambers!

Spelling and Grammar

Check your spelling, read your application out loud, and ask someone else to check this to pick up on spelling and grammatical errors. Make sure you have spelt the name of chambers

Be Succinct

One of the skills barristers need is to pick out relevant information and to present this in a succinct and persuasive way, think about how you can demonstrate this in your application.

Connection

If you read our newsletters, attended a seminar by us, or met someone from Chambers at a pupillage fair, event at the Inns of Court or at your university, do include this and what you learned from this.

Stand out

It is really hard to stand out in applications, especially brief applications for mini pupillages, make the most of the covering letter, tell us why Spire Barristers, why our areas of work and what you hope to learn from a mini pupillage.