



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

From Prof Albertina Albors-Llorens, Chair of the McMahon Law Studentships Committee

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McMahon Law Studentships 2026

1. Candidates must submit their applications to the Scholarship Administrator, not later than 30 June 2026 on a form obtainable from the College website and 4th Court.

2. A candidate must be a member of the College who *bona fide* intends to prepare for practice in the profession of the law, and intends to commence a course for the Bar or Law Society final examinations or for the Common Professional Examination. A member of the College who has been placed in the first or upper second class (or is judged to have reached that standard) in each Approved Examination taken may be elected to a studentship, but the McMahon Law Studentships Committee may recommend for election a member of the College who has not met that condition if they consider that an exception should be made in his or her case.

Candidates should note that the purpose of the McMahon Fund is to provide default funding in the event that they fail to obtain funding from other sources for the Common Professional Examinations, Legal Practice Course, a course to sit the Solicitor Qualifying Examination or the Bar Professional Training Course. Candidates who intend to qualify for the Bar will generally be expected to have applied for a scholarship from one of the Inns of Court for assistance in the funding of their study for the Common Professional Examinations or the Bar Professional Training Course.

3. A student who at the time of election is neither a member of an Inn of Court nor a member of the Law Society shall either:

- (i) within three months from the date of election apply for admission as a student to an Inn of Court; or
- (ii) enrol as a student with the Law Society within three months, unless already so enrolled; or
- (iii) take suitable steps, similar to (i) or (ii) above, to the satisfaction of the Education Committee in relation to entry to the legal profession of Scotland or Northern Ireland.

4. The Education Committee will terminate a studentship if it is of the opinion that the student has ceased *bona fide* to prepare for or engage in practice as a barrister or solicitor or has been guilty of disgraceful conduct.

5. The period of tenure of a studentship is three years. The annual emoluments of a student shall be determined according to the following rules:

- (i) the emolument for the first year of tenure (corresponding with the academic year) will be defined as the fees payable by the student to a teaching institution and examination fees, together with a maintenance grant determined in accordance with (ii) below; but there shall be deducted therefrom all prospective earnings, private income, grants, scholarships and similar awards;
- (ii) the maintenance grant will equal the sum of the fee support grant received by the student in his or her last undergraduate year, and the means-tested loan entitlement of the student in that year;
- (iii) only in exceptional cases will any emolument be paid after the student has qualified as a barrister or solicitor;
- (iv) the Committee shall have discretion to vary the above rules in any case in which they think it is just and fair to do so.

Candidates should note that the income from the McMahon fund is often not sufficient to make a second substantial award to students in their second year of tenure. For example, current McMahon students who have already received an emolument to cover their fees and maintenance for the Common Professional Examination should understand that the McMahon Fund may not be able to make any substantial grants to meet the costs of taking Legal Practice Course, or of a course to sit the Solicitor Qualifying Examination, or the Bar Professional Training Course.

6. A student shall undertake to notify the McMahon Law Studentships Committee of any material change of circumstance that may occur during the course of any year of tenure, and the emolument in respect of that year will be varied in the light of such change of circumstance. A student receiving an emolument must supply such evidence as may be required by the Committee, and must certify the correctness of the evidence supplied. Evidence supplied by a student shall include (where applicable) evidence of the means assessment of the student in respect of his or her last undergraduate year, evidence from any solicitor employing or to employ the student of any grant, stipend or other sum to be paid to or on behalf of the student during the course of any year of tenure, and evidence from the pupil master of the student of any grant or other sum to be paid to the student.

7. In addition to any entitlement under paragraph 5 above, a student who has been placed in the first class in an approved examination or who is judged to have reached first class standard in an unclassified University or College preliminary examination shall in the first year of tenure receive a prize determined according to the first class results obtained in one of the following categories:

- (a) in two years of the B.A. degree, one of these being the final year,
or in one year of the B.A. degree and in the LL.M.
£1,500

- (b) in the final year of the B.A. degree,
or in both the first and second years of a three-year B.A. degree
£1,000

- (c) in the first year of a two-year B.A. degree,
or in the second year of a three-year B.A. degree,
or in the LL.M.
£750

- (d) in the first year of a three-year B.A. degree
£500

8. These Studentships are advertised for 2026 on the basis that all emoluments may need to be reduced if there is insufficient income from the Fund.

9. In exceptional cases, awards or grants may be made for research or postgraduate work in Law, or to assist members of the College intending to practise outside the United Kingdom. They should apply to the fund in the usual way and complete the relevant parts of the form. Candidates who wish to continue research or postgraduate study in Cambridge should also speak to their Tutor about other sources of funding that may be available to them.

Prof A Albors-Llorens
1 May 2026