**Russian & Ukrainian Young Lawyers’ Training Scheme**

# Information for applicants

# Background

This exchange programme offers a unique opportunity for Russian and Ukrainian lawyers to experience and practice at the Bar of England and Wales. The scheme includes a short bespoke academic programme provided by BPP Law School, an opportunity to attend the annual bilateral event Russian Law Week, a series of legal seminars and vocational training sessions and, for a large part of the programme, placement in barristers’ chambers. There will also be visits to key legal institutions including courts, and a social and networking programme.

The Bar Council is confident that the programme will enhance participating lawyers’ legal skills and knowledge, enable them to develop valuable contacts and assist them in building a successful international legal practice. In addition the lawyer’s law firm can expect to gain valuable international contacts and an insight into the international legal market.

# Programme aims

1. Increase Russian and Ukrainian lawyers’ understanding of the English legal system, and what barrister do and how to work with them.
2. Provide Russian and Ukrainian lawyers with an insight into the management and organisation of barristers' chambers.
3. Enable English barristers to better understand the Russian and Ukrainian legal systems
4. To strengthen relations between practitioners in the respective jurisdictions.

# Programme Summary

The programme will take place over 3 weeks from 14 November to 2 December and includes the following activities:

* 1. **Induction**

The programme will begin with a day-long introduction to the programme, the Bar Council and the work of barristers.

* 1. **English law course at BPP Law School**

BPP Law School will provide a short academic course at the beginning of the programme. This course has been specially designed for the exchange programme.

* 1. **Barristers chambers placements**

The BPP academic course will be followed by two weeks in a barrister’s chambers. A barrister from that chambers will act as mentor and will assist with coordinating the placement and ensuring a wide variety of activities is undertaken with different members of chambers. With the daily support of the mentor there will be opportunity to follow cases, be involved in client meetings, attend court and arbitrations, learn about different areas of English law, witness advocacy and see how chambers is managed and marketed. Through these activities there will be opportunity to learn about:

* + - * The role of barristers and the nature of their work
      * Case management
      * Court procedures
      * The common law system
      * Alternative dispute resolution, including international arbitration
      * What constitutes effective advocacy
      * Cross-examination of witnesses
      * The code of conduct, ethics of the bar and regulation of the profession
      * Chambers management

And enhance the following skills:

* + - * + Communication
        + Research
        + Analysis
        + Drafting legal documents
        + Negotiation
  1. **Russian Law Week 2016**

Participants will attend (free of charge) the fourth Russian Law Week 2016 from 14 – 16 November 2016. The three-day conference, hosted jointly with the Law Society of England and Wales, will bring together Russian, CIS and UK legal practitioners and business representatives to promote legal links and business between the two countries. It will be a fantastic opportunity to meet Russian, UK and CIS lawyers, judges and academics to discuss current trends in legal services in Russia and England and Wales. The theme of this year’s conference is ‘Establishing Bridges in Challenging Times’.

* 1. **Seminar programme delivered by practitioners**

Each week there will be a seminar on substantive law, legal skills and practise. These will be delivered by barristers and chambers managers.

* 1. **Legal visits**

There will also be visits t key courts and legal institutions.

* 1. **Social programme**

The social programme will include a welcome reception, lunch in the Inns of Court and chambers drinks. This will enable networking with English barristers and other legal professionals in informal surroundings

# Selection criteria

* 1. The programme can accommodate between six and ten lawyers. Programme participants are selected on a competitive basis, based on their application and an interview and must meet the following criteria:
  2. Be Russian or Ukrainian nationals
  3. Be graduates of law who have passed the national lawyers’ examination in Russia or Ukraine
  4. 2-10 years post-qualification experience
  5. Have excellent written and oral English demonstrated by an overall score of 6.5 or over in the IELTS test
  6. Be currently working in a Russian or Ukrainian law firm or in an in-house legal department and be supported by their law firm to participate in the programme
  7. Some experience in one or more areas of significance in Anglo-CIS legal relations, such as international dispute resolution, international white-collar crime, international financial services law, etc.
  8. Excellent communication skills, team-oriented attitude, flexibility, highly motivated to learn and work hard
  9. Have strong personal motivation and ability to adapt to different environments
  10. Demonstrate continuing commitment to participation in development of the Russian or Ukrainian legal system.

# Finance

* 1. The programme, including the academic course, chambers placements and other educational and social components will be offered free of charge to participating lawyers.

Participants are responsible for all other costs, including visas, travel to London and living expenses whilst in London (accommodation is around £600 to £1,000 per month). It is hoped that participants’ law firms will give some financial support to their lawyers. Some guidance will be given on accommodation options.

# Immigration

The Bar Council is licensed by the UK Border Agency as a Government Approved Sponsor under Tier 5 (Government Approved Exchange). This means it is able to issue programme participants with certificates of sponsorship for a fee of £190. A certificate of sponsorship is a unique 11 digit reference number which enables application to the UK Border Agency for leave to enter under Tier 5 (Government Approved Exchange).

It is the individual’s responsibility to apply and pay for the visa from the UK Border Agency.

Please also note, the fact that a certificate of sponsorship has been issued does not guarantee that the migrant will be successful in obtaining entry clearance or leave to remain. This decision is made by the UK Border Agency.

For more information on how to apply for a visa under Tier 5 please see the UK Border Agency’s website: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/countries/russian-federation/?langname=UK%20English>

# How to apply to the programme

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact Jessica Crofts-Lawrence at [JCrofts-Lawrence@BarCouncil.org.uk](mailto:JCrofts-Lawrence@BarCouncil.org.uk) or on +44 (0) 207 611 1357.

Selection of participants will be made by the Bar Council according to the selection criteria and will be based on the application form and supporting documents, and a telephone interview. Short listing will take place after the application deadline, based on the applications received. Only the candidates short listed at this stage will be invited to interview.

# Health and Insurance

Please note that the Bar Council does not take any responsibility for your health, safety, security or welfare whilst you are in the UK.  We strongly recommend that successful applicants take out adequate insurance or are otherwise independently covered for any health issues or other emergency which might befall them during their time in the UK.  You should not assume that you will be able to obtain free medical care whilst here.  We cannot advise you in relation to medical services available to you in the UK.  If you are or may be pregnant at the time of making the application or, if accepted, by the time of coming to the UK, we would encourage and consider favourably any request to postpone your visit.  We are not in a position to assist you to obtain visas for entry to the UK for any of your family members, and you should not apply unless you are able to come to the UK alone for the period of the scheme.

# Contact details

If you have any queries relating to the programme please contact Jessica Crofts-Lawrence on [JCrofts-Lawrence@BarCouncil.org.uk](mailto:JCrofts-Lawrence@BarCouncil.org.uk) or on +44 (0)207 611 1357.