



European Lawyers' Programme 2017 **Candidate Information**

This document provides basic practical information about the ELP. Details specific to the forthcoming year's Programme are to be found in Annexes A and B to this document. The information in this document and the ELP is subject to changes and cancellation.

1. Objectives of the Programme and Introduction

The European Lawyers Programme (**ELP** or **Programme**) aims to give 10 qualified lawyers from across Europe a unique opportunity to experience at first hand how law is practised in Scotland.

The emphasis throughout the three months' Programme, which runs from 18 April 2017 until 30 June 2017, is on legal practice as an Advocate in an adversarial system. The programme includes an introduction to Scots law and the operation of the Scottish legal system. It aims to contribute to continuing professional development by giving participants an understanding of one of the United Kingdom's legal systems, in respect of criminal, public and private law. In addition to providing a professional and intellectual stimulus, the Programme will enable participants to meet with lawyers in Scotland and to network with other European lawyers on the Programme. The Programme has its own alumni association, - the European Lawyers Association (see below) which allows participants to maintain and develop these networks.

The ELP comprises:

- an introductory course of 9 days; and
- placements with practising Advocates, Queen's Counsel and Court of Session/High Court Judges

As far as possible the placements are chosen to fit in with each participant's interests and/or specialism as demonstrated in their application form and CV.

The European Lawyers Association (ELA) is the alumni association of the European Young Lawyers Scheme (the predecessor of the ELP) and was set up in 1985 with a view to maintaining the professional and social contacts established during the Programme, and to provide a forum for participants to develop these links with other participants and practitioners in the UK. It has around 700 members from 28 countries. ELA is registered in Belgium as an International Non-Profit Association ('*association internationale sans but lucratif*'/'*internationale vereniging zonder winstoogmerk*'). Further information can be found at www.european-lawyers.org. Participants who complete the Programme automatically receive an invitation to join the ELA.

2. The Programme



The Programme is organised jointly by the ELA and the Faculty of Advocates (www.advocates.org.uk), i.e. the Scottish Bar. Up to 10 European lawyers take part in this Programme.

Part 1: Induction Course - Faculty of Advocates Training Facility (9 days)

Tuesday 18 April 2017 – until Friday 28 April 2017

The course provides all participants with an introduction to the legal system of Scotland, to give context to what they will soon experience during their placements with Advocates, QCs and Judges. The course includes: an overview of the legal system and its history, including a description of the court structure and other institutions; an outline of civil and criminal procedure (including judicial review of administrative actions); the basics of various areas of “black letter” law such as contract, delict, succession, property and constitutional law. The induction course also includes practical training in written and oral advocacy in an adversarial legal system. Practical matters are addressed, such as a tour of the Advocates Library (generally regarded as the finest working law library in the United Kingdom and where most practising Advocates work day-to-day, and where all participants will also be allocated space); and obtaining access to the Faculty’s electronic resources.

Part 2: Advocates, QCs and Judges’ placement (9 weeks)

Monday 1 May 2017 – until Friday 30 June 2017

Participants are assigned to two practising members of the Faculty of Advocates (the Scottish Bar) in Edinburgh – a Queen's Counsel (Senior Counsel) and a Junior Counsel – as well as to a Senator of the College of Justice (a judge of the High Court/Court of Session). There are opportunities to study the cases with which the Advocates are concerned; to attend consultations with Solicitors and clients; and to observe Advocates as they appear before courts and tribunals. Advocates may ask those assigned to them to do research and to assist in the preparation of legal opinions and other legal documents. In recent years there has also been an opportunity for participants to accompany Advocates to London for cases being heard before the UK Supreme Court.



3. Recruitment profile

Candidates for the ELP should normally:

- have successfully completed the academic stage of training (certification must be provided as part of each candidate's application);
- have completed any period of associate or partial practice necessary for full practising status and have a minimum of two years work experience as a lawyer;
- be ordinarily resident in the EU, EEA or EFTA or currently working within the EU, EEA or EFTA;
- have attained a standard of English language competence broadly equivalent to band scores 7.00 on IELTS or 100 on TOEFL; and
- show a commitment to professional and social interaction with those participating in the Programme and with lawyers in Scotland.

All candidates must indicate their commitment to take time out of their career to pursue the Programme, and those assessing them will be looking for evidence of candidates' potential to become leaders in their field and future decision-makers.

4. Procedure for applications

All candidates must submit the following documents to their national ELA representatives as part of their applications. Candidates from countries with no national ELA representative can apply through an alternative application process (further information is available on the ELA homepage under www.european-lawyers.org).

- a completed and signed application form;
- copies of relevant professional certification (university diploma and professional qualification certificate, school leaving examination certificates are not required);
- an up-to-date CV; and
- two supporting references. These should be translated into English where originally written in any other language.



The CV is an important component of an applicant's documentation and is used in a number of ways by the ELA and the Programme Director within the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh:

- to supplement the information requested on the application form;
- to assist in reaching an informed decision on the application; and
- to help provide appropriate placements with Advocates, Queen's Counsel and Judges.

It is therefore important that your CV reflects your areas of specialism and/or interest.

Locally shortlisted candidates are invited to attend a selection interview in their home country. The interview panel consists of local representatives of the ELA and the interview, in whole or in part, will be conducted in English. Where no national representatives are available, The ELA Board will conduct the first interview by conference call.

On the basis of documentation and performance at interview, recommended candidates' papers are forwarded to the ELA Board, who will, in cooperation with Programme Director of the Faculty of Advocates, conduct a second interview with selected candidates. 10 candidates will then be chosen to participate on the ELP. In addition to those selected, a number of reserve participants are identified so that in the event of a first choice candidate having to withdraw from the Programme, the vacant place can be filled.

Please note:

The ELA is committed to promoting equal opportunities in the recruitment of candidates for the ELP. You and any other applicants will receive equal treatment regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

The ELA regards the lawful and fair treatment of personal information as important to the maintenance of confidence between it and those with whom it deals. We will ensure that our members, and those acting on our behalf who process personal information, adhere to the principles of data protection.



5. Practical information

Annexes A and B provide specific information about the forthcoming Programme.

Preliminary arrangements: Selected participants will be in regular contact with the Programme coordinators of the ELA and the Faculty of Advocates throughout the period preceding the Programme to make all the practical arrangements for the Programme (areas outlined below, plus preliminary reading, placements etc.).

Arrival: Participants are expected to arrive in Edinburgh at the latest the weekend before the Programme begins.

Medical clearance Almost all the countries represented on the Programme have Reciprocal Health Agreements with the United Kingdom, but the provisions of these vary from country to country, and all participants are advised to take out comprehensive medical insurance before the beginning of the Programme.

Accommodation Advice may be given to participants selected for the Programme on how to find suitable accommodation. However, this can be a difficult task, and participants are advised to start making enquiries as soon as they can. Contact details are circulated to enable participants, if they so wish, to communicate with one another with a view to exploring opportunities for sharing accommodation.

6. Aptitude Test for EU Qualified Lawyers - Qualification as a Scottish Solicitor and Notary Public

The Aptitude Test for EU-qualified lawyers with the Law Society of Scotland allows lawyers from EU and EFTA countries, who are admitted to practise in their own jurisdictions, to dual qualify to practise in Scotland. The ELP offers a good practical basis for undertaking the Aptitude Test for EU Qualified Lawyers. However, extra self-study time is required to prepare for this test. Additional information on the Aptitude Test for EU Qualified Lawyers may be obtained directly from the Registrar's department of the Law Society of Scotland (registrar@lawscot.or.uk) or contact the ELA's Chairwoman, Sabrina Jenquin (Sabrina.jenquin@ed.ac.uk). Further information is available on the Law Society of Scotland's website at <http://www.lawscot.org.uk/education-and-careers/how-to-become-a-scottish-solicitor/aptitude-test-for-eu-qualified-lawyers/>.



Timetable for the 2017 Programme

The timetable for recruitment and for the Programme itself is subject to changes.

2016/2017

August 2016	Advertisement of the ELP on http://www.european-lawyers.org/ and through local representatives
15 October 2016	Application deadline
15 Oct – 15 Nov 2016	Selection process, including shortlisting and interview.
Mid November 2016	Second interview of selected candidates with the Board of the ELA in collaboration with the Faculty of Advocates
End November 2016	Final selection of participants by the Board of the ELA
First week December 2016	Local ELA representatives advised of the outcomes by the Board of the ELA
Mid December 2016	All candidates notified of the outcome of their applications by the Chairwoman of the ELA and sent formal acceptance letter
March 2017	Pre-departure communications
18 April 2017	Programme begins
30 June 2017	Programme ends



Organisation and Costs

The ELA manages the selection of the candidates and the administration of the Programme. The Faculty of Advocates, in consultation with ELA, will organise the induction course and placements with Advocates and Judges.

Vialegis, a Belgium based international recruitment firm (www.vialegis.be) will be providing financial support to the ELA to cover certain organisational expenses.

As the Programme is otherwise unfunded, candidates will be required to have the requisite financial means to cover all living and accommodation expenses during their stay in Scotland. The candidates are strongly encouraged to seek financial support (sponsorship) for their accommodation costs and living expenses from their employer or other interested parties.

The estimated cost of living in Edinburgh amounts to £700-800 per month.

Candidates should note that:

- The above figures can be used as a guide to the minimum costs of living in Edinburgh; and
- Participants will not be paid a salary/stipend (nor reimbursed any expenses) by the ELA or the Faculty of Advocates.



Testimonials

"Participation in the ELA Programme in Edinburgh was one of the most valuable (and the most fun) experiences in my legal career. Not only that you learn a lot about Scottish legal system, but you also get an insight into the legal systems of other European countries from other participants.

I found that to be very helpful in my everyday work with clients from different countries.

Moreover, comparison with other legal systems gave me a wider perspective of Croatian legal solutions and reasoning behind such solutions.

Finally, the Programme is a great opportunity for networking with other participants, advocates, judges and later with the ELA members. Through it, I met fascinating legal experts and extraordinary fun people from all over the Europe, and the most importantly I gained some close friendships for life."

Franka Baica (Croatia)

"Joining the European Lawyers Programme in Edinburgh gave me a unique opportunity to meet and work with other young lawyers from across Europe. Moreover, I learned from very talented advocates and judges in a common-law jurisdiction.

Participating in the course also contributed to my international network. Until this day I benefit from my wonderful experience in Edinburgh, both on a personal and professional level!"

Stan van Liere (Holland)

"I had a great chance to participate to the amazing ELA programme in Edinburgh in 2014. It was a unique opportunity for me to have a greater understanding of the legal system in Scotland and to work side by side with brilliant and very friendly advocates. I was very welcomed and supported by the whole community of lawyers throughout the placement. I worked on very interesting public, corporate and criminal cases. I spent a lot of time in court admiring the barristers examining and cross-examining the witnesses. Also I met awesome Euro devils that became very close friends. It is definitely a great intellectual and human experience that I recommend without hesitation!"

Ophelie Snoy (Belgium)

"The Programme allowed me to learn how a Common Law System works and I got to know the judicial structure in Scotland. Work with two advocates day to day and observing a trial with a Judge has allowed me to learn a lot about the differences of both Systems.

Also, I have met colleagues from different part of Europe and become a member of ELA which allows me to give better services to my clients because all members are connected."

Rodrigo Royo (Spain)



"Participating in the European Lawyers Programme (ELP) is an experience of a kind. I participated in the 2014 ELP in Edinburgh and it was such an enriching experience - both from a personal and professional perspective.

I had the opportunity to closely observe how the law is practiced in Scotland and to learn about the common law, which allowed me to compare the main differences with the Portuguese legal system and to develop my analytical skills. I also had the opportunity to learn so much about practice from other lawyers, judges and the other participants with different cultures and different methods to apply the law.

The ELP is also a great networking opportunity, not only during the 3 months of the programme but also after that with the European Lawyers Association members - the alumni association for former participants. The ELP is really a lifetime experience - I took friends, knowledge and beautiful memories for life."

Alice Bermejo Silva (Portugal)

