

## **Bhatt Murphy Bursary Scheme**

### **1. Introduction**

Candidates applying for training contacts with Bhatt Murphy are invited to apply for a bursary to assist with the costs of completing the Legal Practice Course (LPC) or the Solicitors Qualifying Exam. The firm will pay the successful applicant(s) a bursary up to a maximum of £5,000. The amount available to each candidate will be determined by the number of successful applicants to the scheme.

### **2. Scope of the scheme**

The scheme is only open to candidates who are planning to undertake the Legal Practice Course (LPC) or the Solicitors Qualifying Exam (SQE) assessments and SQE preparation courses.

Funding provided through the bursary scheme is available exclusively for the costs of the LPC and the SQE assessments and preparation courses.

### **3. Application criteria**

To be eligible for the Bhatt Murphy bursary scheme applicants must fulfil the criteria in a) and b) below:

- a) Applicants will be required to confirm the following statements:
  - i) They do not have access to familial loans, financial gifts or other bursaries awarded towards the costs of the LPC/SQE;
  - ii) They have made reasonable efforts to apply for other bursaries to which they may be entitled;
  - iii) They do not have more than £10,000 in their savings account, current account, ISA or held elsewhere.
  
- b) Applicants will be required to confirm two or more of the following statements:
  - i) They attended a non-fee paying school
  - ii) They are part of the first generation of their family to attend higher education
  - iii) They were eligible for free school meals whilst at school.

We will also consider applications from candidates who do not meet the criteria above who have faced or will face exceptional circumstances to pursue their studies because of their: Cultural background, Health problems, Disability, Sex, Gender identity, Sexuality, Race, Religion, or other challenging personal circumstances. Examples of how these criteria operate are at annex 1.

### **4. Conditions of support**

You do not need to have a confirmed place on the LPC at the time of your application to the scheme, but any award made will be subject to confirmation that you have been accepted on to an LPC course. Similarly, if you are planning to qualify by the SQE route, you will need to provide proof of acceptance to an SQE preparation course or assessment before any bursary is paid to you.

Bursaries will only be paid to applicants who have accepted in writing an offer of employment as a trainee solicitor with Bhatt Murphy, commencing in October 2026 or October 2027. Please do not apply for the bursary scheme unless you are applying for a position with the firm.

## **5. Proof of eligibility**

Before making an award, we may ask you to provide evidence of your financial position including the following:

- Your last three monthly bank statements
- Proof of benefit entitlement (if you receive state benefits)
- Loan rejection or acceptances if applicable
- Acceptance or rejection for other applicable bursary schemes

## **6. Application process**

Please complete the relevant application form which you can download from our website. Please submit it with your application for a training contract position.

## **7. Decision making process**

Bursaries will only be awarded to candidates who have been offered a training contract with the firm. We will not discuss your application as part of the recruitment process, but we may ask you questions about your bursary application if you are offered a position with the firm. The bursary fund of £5,000 will be divided equally between candidates who meet the eligibility criteria and who are offered employment with the firm. When we make an offer of employment, we will tell you the amount we are able to offer you.

## **8. FAQs**

### **Will I need to complete the LPC/SQE before I start my training contract?**

No. We offer generous study leave in addition to annual leave to support trainees who are studying for the LPC/SQE while working for the firm.

### **Will you pay my fees if I start the LPC/SQE before I join the firm?**

Yes, but if you decide not to take up employment with the firm we will ask you to pay back any funds we have already paid to you.

### **Do I have to complete the LPC/SQE with a particular provider?**

No, we leave that decision up to you.

### **Can I apply for a bursary if I have already completed the LPC or part of the SQE?**

The bursary is generally only available to candidates who have not yet started the LPC or SQE, however, we may consider awarding a bursary to candidates who are able to demonstrate that they would face significant financial hardship if they are offered a position with the firm. There is scope in the application form to address this issue.

### **If I fail to complete the LPC/SQE will I have to pay back my bursary?**

This would depend on the circumstances, and we would consider this on a case-by-case basis. For example, if you were unable to complete the course due to ill health we would not expect you to repay the bursary, but we may expect you to pay it back if there were no adverse circumstances affecting your ability to complete your studies.

### **What will you do with my data?**

We will keep any data you provide us in your application confidential and it will only be reviewed by the recruitment panel and the firm's Practice Manager.

### **Anything else?**

If there is anything we have not addressed in this document, please do not hesitate to contact our Practice Manager, Diane Fisher.

## Annex 1

### **Exceptional circumstances**

1. If you do not fulfill the criteria described at point 3 of this document, you may still be eligible for a bursary if you have or will face exceptional circumstances to pursue your legal studies with the ambition of working as a lawyer in a publicly funded firm.
2. Exceptional obstacles might be based on an applicant's culture, race, religion, disability, health, sex, gender identity or sexuality or other social disadvantage including exceptional personal or family circumstances that create significant barriers to you qualifying as a solicitor.
3. You will need to explain in your application how your circumstances represent exceptional obstacles or challenges. Examples of circumstances that could be considered exceptional are set out below.
4. Please note that regardless of exceptional circumstances, candidates who have access to familial loans, financial gifts or other bursaries towards the costs of the LPC/SQE, such as Law Society DAS funding, will not be eligible to apply for the scheme.

### **Examples of circumstances that we might accept as exceptional:**

- Coming from a family where women were not encouraged/allowed to pursue their education or career.
- Travelling from a warzone or oppressive regime to the UK as an asylum seeker
- Being disabled or caring for a disabled person
- Having grown up in a house where domestic violence was a regular occurrence and having had to move home and schools and suffer educational and personal disruption as a result
- Family estrangement