

Applications are now open for the European Lawyers Programme (ELP) 2019 in Edinburgh

3 months' experience in a common law legal system interacting with Scottish advocates and judges

The ELP is a two and a half month programme for European qualified lawyers at the Faculty of Advocates (Scottish Bar) providing an unrivalled opportunity for successful applicants to shadow advocates and a judge of the Court of Session (the highest civil court in Scotland) and the High Court of Justiciary (the highest criminal court in Scotland).

The Scottish legal profession is divided into solicitors and advocates (split bar system). The ELP provides placements with advocates. Advocates (like English barristers) are part of an independent referral bar of specialised court pleaders, immediately recognisable by their wig and gown when appearing in court. The ELP provides a superb opportunity for up to 12 European lawyers to gain first-hand experience of an adversarial English-speaking legal system. Previous participants have developed long-lasting and profitable relationships with Scottish and European lawyers. The Scottish legal system should also be of considerable interest for lawyers from continental Europe, as it is a "mixed" system - it is primarily a common law/adversarial system, but also contains some uncodified civil law concepts and principles.

The programme consists of two parts. The first part is a two-week introductory course on the Scottish legal system. This includes a wide range of legal subjects (including written pleadings and oral advocacy), delivered by judges, advocates and academics. The second, and principal, part of the programme involves placements with a Court of Session/High Court judge, a senior (Queen's Counsel) and a junior advocate.

The ELP is organised by the Faculty of Advocates (www.advocates.org.uk) and the European Lawyers Association (www.european-lawyers.org) and has run successfully for over 40 years. The programme enjoys financial support from Vialegris (www.vialegris.be).

The next ELP takes place between 15 April 2019 and 28 June 2019, If you are a qualified lawyer, with a minimum of two years' work experience, and have good knowledge of English (equivalent to IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 100), we look forward to receiving your application. The ELP is free of charge but participants have to cover their own accommodation and living expenses during their stay in Edinburgh. Please complete the contact form on the ELA homepage and we will direct you to the correct contact person for submitting the application.