



The 29th Bar Council China Training Scheme

Information for participants





“

The experience I gained during this period has had a lasting influence on my life.

Kong Wei - Young Chinese Lawyers Training Scheme 1997-1998

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background	04
Programme aims	06
Programme summary	07
Selection criteria	10
Finance	11
Immigration	11
Health and Insurance	12
How to apply	13

Background

The Bar Council training scheme (BCTS) for Chinese lawyers offers a unique opportunity to Chinese lawyers to experience practice at the English commercial Bar. The scheme includes a pre-training course in Beijing provided by the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), a short bespoke academic programme provided by BPP University, a series of legal seminars and vocational training sessions and, for a large part of the programme, a placement in barristers' chambers. There are also visits to key legal institutions including courts, and a social and networking programme.

Participants experience first-hand international commercial dispute resolution in practice (both litigation and arbitration). The Bar Council is confident that the programme will enhance participating lawyers' legal skills and knowledge. In addition, the lawyer's law firm can expect to gain valuable international contacts and an insight into the international legal market.

The scheme aims at continuing and developing the relations between the Chinese legal profession and the English Bar once the Chinese lawyers return to China. There is an active alumni network that all participants are invited to join.

Background continued...

The scheme is aimed principally at Chinese lawyers with a dispute resolution practice and the focus of the training and the placements will be on international arbitration and litigation.



History

The scheme, developed in 2011, builds on the success of the Lord Chancellor's Training Scheme (LCTS) which ran from 1989 to 2011 and has many successful Chinese lawyers in its alumni network.

When the LCTS ended, the Bar Council was determined to ensure the continuation of a training scheme available to junior Chinese lawyers who wished to come to England so that lawyers from both countries could learn from each other about their respective legal systems and forms of practice. This led to the updated and more focused Bar Council Training Scheme (BCTS).

In total, 374 young Chinese lawyers have trained in the UK through the different versions of the training schemes since 1989. Graduates have returned to China to develop leading legal practices or careers in government or industry whilst retaining their close links to the UK and to the alumni network.

Programme aims

1.1. Increase Chinese lawyers' understanding of:

- How the English Legal System operates
- English law with a focus on international commercial areas and dispute resolution
- What barristers do, and how to work with them

1.2. Provide Chinese lawyers with an insight into the management and organisation of barristers' chambers.

1.3. Enable English barristers to better understand the Chinese legal system

1.4. Facilitate professional networking between barristers and Chinese lawyers



The most valuable benefit of this scheme for me was to establish life-long friendships with all my mentors and their families.

Xie Rong – Young Chinese Lawyers Training Scheme 1992-1993

Programme Summary

The programme will take place over 7 weeks from **Monday 3rd June to Friday 19th July 2019** and includes the following activities:

14 January 2019
1 week

PRE-TRAINING COURSE BY CIETAC

The course will include lectures on international commercial arbitration, investment arbitration and evidentiary rules. Some candidates will be invited to an interview during this course.

3 June 2019
1 week

ENGLISH LAW COURSE BY BPP

BPP University will provide an academic course at the beginning of the programme. The course will include lectures on commercial international law including dispute resolution and some sessions on legal skills. The course has been specially designed for the Bar Council Training Scheme.

17 June 2019
6 weeks

BARRISTERS CHAMBERS PLACEMENTS

The chambers' practice areas will be commercial with an international dimension to their work and will be located in London. 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.

Programme Summary Continued...

Through your chambers placement 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



Programme Summary Continued...

Seminar programme delivered by practitioners

Each week there will be one seminar on a legal topic of an international commercial nature, legal skills such as advocacy and negotiation or a business skill such as chambers management and marketing. These will be delivered by barristers and chambers managers.

Legal visits

There will also be a programme of visits to key legal institutions such as the Supreme Court and the Commercial Court.

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

The programme can accommodate roughly ten lawyers. Programme participants are selected on a competitive basis, based on their application and an interview and must meet the following criteria:

- a. Be Chinese nationals
- b. Be graduates of law who have passed the national lawyers' examination in China and have practiced law for between 2 and 10 years on the date of application
- c. Have excellent written and oral English demonstrated by a qualification such as an IELTS test or a degree undertaken in English.
- d. Be currently working for a Chinese law firm, and be supported by their law firm to participate in the programme
- e. Have strong personal motivation and ability to adapt to different environments
- f. Have experience in commercial law, in particular in international work
- g. Have a practice that principally focuses on dispute resolution (arbitration and/or litigation), in particular international dispute resolution
- h. Have excellent communication skills
- i. Demonstrate continuing commitment to participation in development of the Chinese legal system

Finance

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 £700 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 £250. 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.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/countries/china/?langname=UK%20English>

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 favorably 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.



How to apply

To apply for the programme please email as one scanned document or one electronic document copies of the following documents to IntlEvents@BarCouncil.org.uk by **Tuesday 1st January 2019**.

1. Completed and signed application form
2. Reference from senior partner in law firm, signed and dated (in English and Chinese)
3. Practising certificate/lawyers license
4. English language test certificate (IELTS or degree in English)
5. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
6. Main page of passport

A wider selection of candidates will be offered the opportunity to attend the pre-training course delivered by CIETAC. Some candidates will be invited to a face-to-face interview. This will be a chance for us to learn more about your experience and motivations and for you to ask us any questions you have about the programme.

The final selection will take place after the CIETAC pre-training course. Only the candidates selected at this stage will be invited to the London programme. 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 the face-to-face interview in Beijing.

Contact Details

If you have any queries relating to the programme please contact Jessica Crofts-Lawrence, International Policy Analyst at the Bar Council at JCrofts-Lawrence@BarCouncil.org.uk or on 0044 207 611 1357.