

SOCIETY OF CONSERVATIVE LAWYERS

THE LYELL SCHOLARSHIP 2024

The Society of Conservative Lawyers is offering a scholarship in the sum of £5,000 (known as the Lyell Scholarship) to reward the successful candidate for assistance given to the Society in its research activities during a six-month period between 1 February 2024 and 31 July 2024.

The Scholarship is named after the Rt Hon Lord Lyell QC, the UK's longest serving law officer and former Chairman of the Society. It is funded by a legacy to the Society from Pamela Thomas.

Beyond the financial award the Scholarship represents an excellent opportunity for a person interested in law and politics to engage with contemporary issues at a senior level and work with lawyers with expertise in a range of fields. The Scholar will be closely involved with the work of the Society at a time of huge challenges in both government and the legal profession.

Scholarship conditions

The Lyell scholar will be asked to undertake research of a high quality involving the preparation of draft research papers and collating relevant materials from internet and library sources.

An average commitment of 12 hours a week will be expected; but past experience is that the time spent has varied from week to week, depending both on the scholar's other commitments and fluctuation in requests for research.

The Society pays the scholarship of £5,000 by instalments, usually monthly, reflecting the progress of work undertaken. The Society retains the right to withdraw the Scholarship at any time if the conditions are not being met.

The research will cover contemporary legal, constitutional, law reform and political issues

The location and hours are flexible.

The Lyell scholar will be reimbursed for all reasonable expenses incurred during the course of his/her research for the Society. A comprehensive record will need to be maintained and receipts produced.

The Lyell scholar will need to have access to his/her own computer, internet and electronic library facilities.

Requirements

1. As a general rule a minimum 2:1 degree in any discipline is expected although we will consider other applicants' exceptional circumstances who can demonstrate the ability to handle the work required.
2. A successful applicant must have some familiarity with law in an academic context. This could be from a first degree in law or from completion of the Graduate Diploma in Law. A postgraduate degree in law, or a professional legal qualification, or legal practice experience, would be an advantage. Experience of, or a developed interest in, EU law, public international law, and/or international trade law and practice, would be welcomed.

3. Exceptional research and analytical skills; ability to meet deadlines; strong attention to detail; and ability to work independently with minimum supervision and on occasions, under pressure.
4. Excellent written communication skills, with the ability to write clearly and succinctly.
5. Strong IT skills using Word, PowerPoint, Excel programmes, and the ability to use internet search engines and legal resource platforms such as Lexis / Westlaw / Lawtel / BAILII to maximum effect.
6. Hard working, enthusiastic and dedicated to a career in the legal profession at the highest level.
7. Able to exercise good judgment, sensitivity and tact with regard to needs and situations.
8. The Lyell scholar must be sympathetic to the principles which the Conservative Party has traditionally supported, and to the aims the Society which include the upholding of principles of justice and democracy and of the individual freedom and liberty of the subject. Membership of the Conservative Party or past involvement in a university Conservative Association would be an advantage but is not a necessity.
9. The Lyell scholar will have to sign an agreement which includes a confidentiality term.

Award process

The Lyell scholarship will be advertised during November 2023 on the Society's website and free websites operated by careers services departments at London University (Imperial College London, Kings College, LSE, QMW and UCL), City University London, the College of Law and BPP. Notices will also be posted on the noticeboards of the four Inns of Court and the Law Society. The scholarship may be advertised elsewhere.

Applications will be made by email to Lord Sandhurst QC at administrator@conservativelawyers.com attaching a curriculum vitae and a covering letter and clearly marked Lyell 2024 explaining why you would make a good candidate and what areas of research you are interested in pursuing. Applicants should include details of any research experience.

Please include information on how you were made aware of the Lyell Scholarship in your covering letter.

The deadline is 11:59pm on Friday 1st December 2023.

A short list will be compiled and interviews held. It is envisaged that applicants who are invited to interview will be notified by e-mail by Monday 11th December 2023. Please note that we cannot offer feedback to unsuccessful candidates. It is envisaged that the interviews will occur in early 2024 in London. Reimbursement of travel expenses could be available on request for candidates invited to the interview.

If there is more than one outstanding applicant, there may be other research awards.