



MTSA

THE MIDDLE TEMPLE STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Guide For Newcomers

Welcome to Middle Temple

You have joined a wonderful professional community, who will support you throughout your studies, pupillage and your career. There are many opportunities for career progression, learning, socialising and well-being.

When you first join some of the Inn's norms and conventions may be new to you. We hope this guide will help explain them, so you can make the most out of your experiences at the Inn.

Middle Temple Students' Association

The MTSA represent the students of the Middle Temple, by looking after their interests and representing them on various Standing Committees. The MTSA also run events throughout the year.

Follow the Middle Temple Students' Association on social media for updates on upcoming events.

Composition of the Inn

- **Masters of the Bench (Benchers)** - elected members who are responsible for governance at the Inn, referred to as 'Master *[surname]*'
- **Master Treasurer** - Head of the Inn for a calendar year
- **Master Reader** – elected for six months in office, as well as fulfilling a ceremonial role, the Reader is involved with education at the Inn
- **Hall Members** - Post-Call, includes Hall Committee and MTYBA
- **Student Members** - Members pre-Call, includes MTSA

Key Spaces at the Inn

- **Hall** - The heart and soul of the Inn. Events from dinners to mooting, lectures to Call ceremonies take place here
- **Bench Apartments** - three rooms adjoining Hall. Receptions, lectures

and smaller dinners take place here

- **Library** - within the Ashley Building
- **Rutledge Suite and Sherrard Room** – study rooms and lecture room within the Ashley Building
- **Garden Room** - a social place to eat, drink and work
- **Lodgings** - as a member you can book the rooms available for overnight stays
- **Temple Church** - shared with Inner Temple, open to all

Opportunities to look out for

- **Residential Advocacy weekends** - this is an enjoyable weekend, where you learn advocacy, make friends and earn 4 QS points.
- **Mooting competitions** - e.g. Rosamund Smith. Even attending to watch a moot is a great learning experience. There are also sometimes opportunities to be a moot timekeeper.
- **'Training the trainers'** - you can be a 'guinea pig' student whilst a practitioner is being trained in training you. Many students feed back on this being fun and helpful to them.
- **Library** - Students are able to use all four of the Inns' libraries, and King's College London libraries on weekends

'Education & Training' - the team are brilliant, make sure you reach out to them during your time at the Inn. Check out their section of the Middle Temple website for further details.

Useful things to remember

- Put phones away! Phones and photography are strictly prohibited during events. This is really frowned upon, so as the MTSA we strongly advise you to keep your phones out of sight.
- Rule of Three - When attending the Inn, try and talk to three people not known to you previously. This is especially encouraged on Lecture Evenings.
- All Benchers are referred to as 'Master [*surname*]' in the Inn. If you meet them outside of the Inn, use their relevant title e.g. Judge X.
- Events can be attended alone – you will meet people there. You can also bring a guest to some events, which is useful if you're nervous.
- When networking or speaking to barristers at the Inn don't just ask for mini-pupillages. It is better to ask for general advice.

Requirements for Call to the Bar

(full details on the Inn's website)

To be Called you have to submit an application for Call - you will not be automatically assigned. Read all the guidance on the website, including helpful FAQs.

- Completion of the Bar Course
- 10 Qualifying Sessions (& themes)
- Standard DBS Check and International Checks (if applicable)
- £125 Call Fee
- Gowns and wigs can be rented for Call

Note - other Inns may require students to be signed off by a Master of the Bench - at Middle Temple we do not

Dress Code & Tie Policy

Events at the Inn are formal occasions conducted in a professional community. If you bring guests, please remember to make them aware of the dress code. Middle Temple's dress code is Gender Neutral.

Most events require Business Attire - a dark suit, with collar and tie or a blouse, or a dark dress which should cover the shoulders and be of appropriate length for the occasion. A good rule of thumb would be to aim for the kind of clothes you would wear in court.

There are sometimes other dress codes in place, for example Black Tie. For full details, please see the Middle Temple website.

If the dress code says all members will also wear gowns student members borrow an academic gown from the Inn for the evening. These can be collected from the cloakrooms on arrival.

Order of events in Hall during formal dinners

- Students and Hall members will go into Hall and take a seat (usually unassigned). You will stand again before Benchers walk in.
- Benchers will walk into Hall, following the porter striking his staff ('Procession of the Bench').
- Everyone remains standing until the most senior Bencher present says the First Grace ('Grace before Meat'). Everyone sits down for the meal. Napkins are placed in laps.
- Members and guests are not permitted to leave their seats (save for

exceptional circumstances) between the First and Second Grace. Suit jackets need to be kept on for the duration of dinner.

- The meal usually consists of three courses served by waitors.
- After the courses coffee is usually served and, depending on the event, a carafe of port may be available on each table. If you take some, pass the carafe to the left.
- This diagram shows a standard dinner place setting. There isn't a port glass in this image – if port is to be served there will be an additional glass, like a miniture wine glass.



- After Second Grace ('Grace after Meat') there are three toasts: "the King", "Domus" (Latin for the home, i.e. Middle Temple), and "absent members". For each one, first the Master Treasurer addresses the most Junior Bencher, who then replies to Master Treasurer and finally everyone else repeats the toast and raises their glasses.
- If there is a speech or performance after dinner there will be a short comfort break after second grace.

Late Policy: Members and guests must arrive in good time before the doors to Hall close. If late to the pre-dinner lecture, it may be permitted to listen from the gallery. If late to dinner, it is up to the discretion of the Event Manager as to whether latecomers can enter.