

## The Diversity Access Scheme (DAS) Application Criteria 2024

Please note that DAS 2024 is only open to those ready to start the LPC or undertake the SQE preparation course and/or assessments in the academic year 2024/2025.

*Applicants who fulfil criteria 1.1 - 1.3 are automatically eligible to apply to DAS.*

### 1.1 Residence

Applicants must reside in England or Wales and plan to continue their studies whilst residing in England or Wales.

### 1.2 Financial criteria

Applicants will be required to confirm the following statements:

- a. They do not have access to familial loans or financial gifts
- b. They do not have more than ~£5,000 in their savings account, current account, ISA or held elsewhere.

### 1.3 Background

Applicants will be required to confirm two or more of the following statements:

- a. They attended a non-fee paying school
- b. They are part of the first generation of their family to attend higher education
- c. They were eligible for free school meals whilst at school.

***Applicants that do not fulfil the criteria in 1.2 (b) or 1.3 may still be eligible to apply to the DAS if they face, or have faced, exceptional circumstances in pursuing their legal education or career.***

### Exceptional circumstances

If an applicant does not fulfil the criteria under 1.2 (b) and 1.2 they may still be eligible to apply for the DAS if they have faced or will face exceptional circumstances to pursue their studies and career ambitions as a result of their:

- Cultural background
- Health problems
- Disability
- Sex
- Gender identity
- Sexuality
- Race
- Religion
- Or other challenging personal circumstances

Candidates will be required to provide a brief description of their challenging circumstances on the application form. For examples of circumstances that the DAS short listing panel have considered exceptional and not exceptional in past applications, please see the table on the next page.

**Please note that regardless of exceptional circumstances, candidates must fulfil criteria 1.1 and 1.2 (a) in order to be eligible to apply to the DAS.**

Examples of circumstances that <u>were</u> accepted as "exceptional " in previous DAS applications	Examples of circumstances that were <u>not</u> accepted as "exceptional" in previous DAS applications
Coming from a family where women were not encouraged/allowed to pursue their education or career.	Studying in a second language.
Travelling alone from a warzone or oppressive regime to the UK, without knowing anyone in the country.	Travelling to the UK from a country with a high unemployment rate.
Being disabled or having a chronic health condition, for example dyslexia, dyspraxia, depression or cancer; or caring for a disabled person.	Having a visual impairment but also having the support of a family member who is a solicitor and who arranged work experience placements in the profession.
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.	Having a career change.
Family estrangement	Arguments with housemates during university.