



The Law Society

The Diversity Access Scheme (DAS) Application Criteria 2018

Please note that DAS 2018 is only open to those ready to start the LPC in September 2018.

1.1 Financial criteria

Applicants must be unable to finance the cost of their legal practice course (LPC) fees.

They will be required to confirm that:

- a) They do not have access to familial loans; and
- b) They do not have savings or investments of over £5,000; and
- c) Should they be awarded a DAS scholarship, they can support their own living costs.

1.2 Background

Applicants will be required to confirm that:

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

If an applicant fulfils criteria 1.1 and 1.2 they are automatically eligible to apply for the DAS and do not need to fulfil criteria under 1.3 below.

1.3 Exceptional circumstances

If an applicant fulfils all the criteria under 1.1 but does **not** fulfil the criteria under 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
- Gender
- Sexuality
- Race
- Religion or
- Other extreme 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 overleaf to consider whether you may be eligible.

Examples of circumstances that were considered exceptional in previous DAS applications

Coming from a family where women were not encouraged/allowed to pursue their education or career.

Travelling alone from a warzone or oppressive regime to the UK, without knowing anyone in the country.

Having a disability or chronic health condition for example, severe dyslexia, dyspraxia, mental illness, cancer, a disability caused by an accident or caring for someone with a severe disability.

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.

Examples of circumstances that were not considered exceptional in previous DAS application

Studying in a second language.

Travelling to the UK from a country with a high unemployment rate.

Suffering from a visual impairment but also having the support of a family member who is a solicitor and who arranged work placements for the applicant.

Having a career change.