



# **Bar Training Resit (BTR)**

## **Programme Overview**

### **Spring 2025**

## **What is the Bar Training Resit (BTR) Programme?**

The new vocational Bar training courses which commenced from September 2020 allow a student a maximum of five years in which to successfully complete Bar training modules so that they can be Called to the Bar. Each training provider has its own sets of regulations relating to the university academic awards such as Postgraduate Diploma, LLM, etc. within which Bar training is embedded. These local regulations determine the number of re-sits permitted for each assessment as the Bar Standards Board does not regulate the academic awards of the training providers, only the elements which are required to be passed for Call to the Bar. As far as the BSB is concerned, there is no limit to the number of times those elements can be retaken within 5 years.

The BSB discussed with training providers the best way to enable students to continue to take further re-sits once they reached the maximum number permitted under the regulations of their academic awards. All providers were invited to propose solutions and BPP University Law School came forward to offer a solution. We ran a pilot of this proposal in December 2023.

These arrangements are on a **non-award basis**. That means that, although students may be Called to the Bar if they successfully complete all the elements of vocational Bar training prescribed by the BSB, they will not receive any academic award such as a Postgraduate Diploma or LLM either from their original training provider or from BPP (if BPP is not their original provider).

### **December 2023**

All BPP students who have undertaken Bar training at BPP since September 2020 and who are deemed to have reached the maximum number of re-sits under the regulations of their academic award were invited to apply to take further re-sits of any outstanding assessments. 19 BPP students took part in the initial pilot of the BTR Programme in December 2023.

### **Spring 2024, Summer 2024 and Winter 2024**

Following the successful pilot, BPP opened up the BTR programme to all students who have undertaken Bar training at other providers since September 2020 and who have reached the maximum number of re-sits under the regulations of their academic award. 49, 69 and 77 students from various providers took part in the BTR Spring 24, Summer 24 and Winter 24 sits respectively.

### **Ongoing opportunities**

BPP offers three sit opportunities each year in spring, summer, and winter. The Spring 2025 sit will take place between 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

### **Students who have done part 1 of a two-part vocational Bar training course**

This is not a suitable solution for those students who have only completed part 1 of a two-part vocational course because they have not been exposed to any teaching for any of the part 2 elements. Anyone who has passed part 1 of a two-part vocational course and wishes to continue with Bar training must complete part 2 of the vocational course first. It will not be possible to register at BPP to sit part 2 assessments unless you can provide evidence that you have completed part two of the vocational course in full. Additional or refresher training in preparation for the re-sits will be available through BPP, however this will not be considered an alternative to completion of part two.

## **BPTC students**

This is not a solution for BPTC students as these arrangements apply only to students registered on Bar training courses from September 2020.

## **Fees**

Under the BTR, you will pay the fees for the individual assessments you have left to pass, plus any training you wish to take up. The current fees for the assessments are shown below.

As it may well be some considerable time since your original teaching, we have also included the fees for BPP's optional training and preparatory sessions. You can discuss what training options may assist you by contacting the programme team at [BTR@BPP.com](mailto:BTR@BPP.com).

## **Application to BPP**

**We have developed a document entitled BTR Information for Candidates, which contains further important information about the programme. Please ensure that you have read this in full before making an application.**

Once you are ready to apply, download the latest application form from the BPP website or request a copy, by emailing [BTR@BPP.com](mailto:BTR@BPP.com). Once completed, email your application and supporting documents to [BTR@BPP.com](mailto:BTR@BPP.com), by the closing date specified on the form.

BPP cannot accept any applications without evidence of (i) the date on which you enrolled on your original Bar Training course with your original provider (or first provider if you have more than one); and (ii) evidence of the required modules you have left to pass to be eligible to be Called to the Bar of England and Wales. We will check your details against your MyBar record, therefore it is important that you are able to supply us with your MyBar unique identification number when you apply. If you are unsure about this, you can contact us for assistance at [BTR@BPP.com](mailto:BTR@BPP.com).

BPP aims to acknowledge receipt of your application within two business days. Payment can be made by bank transfer or by card over the phone. BPP aims to process your booking and payment over the following three working days, with booking confirmation sent between 7-10 business days after your application has been emailed to BPP (assuming all documentation is correct, and your payment is successful).

## **BPP's Preparatory Training**

Our preparatory training provides practical and highly focused lectures, workshops, learning resources and mock assessments. Sessions are delivered online, using our award-winning Online Classroom Live training platform Adobe Connect or Microsoft Teams.

You will know from your previous experience as a Bar Training student that Bar Training assessments are difficult. Please consider carefully whether you may benefit from taking up training to prepare you for assessments, as this will be the case for most people, particularly if it has been some time since you had your teaching. Sessions provide opportunities for you to prioritise revision topics, put your knowledge and skills into practice, and access tutor feedback and support ahead of your assessments.

BTR training is carried out by experienced tutors and/or practitioners, many of whom are experienced at teaching and assessing on BPP's Barrister Training Course. Our expert tutors are regularly involved in the teaching, drafting and marking of Bar Training assessments, and are ideally placed to give guidance for revision and help you understand what is expected of you in assessments and how you can perform at your best.

Some of our training options offer the opportunity for you to undertake formative assessments (mocks), which aim to give you a realistic insight into what you can expect in your real assessments. This is an excellent opportunity to assess how you would have performed and been marked, so that you can identify what improvements you need to work on before you sit.

Once you are enrolled on the Programme, you will get access to a designated area within BPP's digital learning platform ('the BPP Hub'), which is for use by BTR students and candidates taking the Bar Transfer Test only (if you previously studied on the BTC at BPP, this is separate from your original Hub provision).

If you have signed up only to re-take assessments with BPP (i.e. with no additional training), this is where you will find essential syllabus information and guidance on your assessment format and the criteria against which you will be marked. The 'assessment only' option does not include access to any BPP learning materials and you will be expected to engage in self-directed study, using the syllabus to guide you.

If you have also signed up for training options, your Hub access will include additional study materials to support you in your revision and preparation (if you are a former BPP BTC student, this may be similar in style and content to materials you have been supplied with previously, and the training may involve exercises you are familiar with from prior workshops). All candidates will receive access to the BPP Online Library, which hosts a variety of legal databases through which you can access the online versions of the White Book and Blackstone's Criminal Practice (hard copies are not supplied on this programme and you will be expected to purchase any hard copy books you wish to take into the assessments from the permitted materials list).

### **How long does the programme last**

The BTR runs alongside the Bar Transfer Test (which is for Transferring Qualified Lawyers). Each programme offers the opportunity simply to take assessments through BPP without undergoing the full Barrister Training Course. Therefore, how long each individual participates in the course will depend upon how many module assessments they are required to pass and whether they have also signed up for training.

All of the training and assessments take place within a defined window. We call each window a 'sit'. BTR sits take place three times annually in Spring, Summer and Winter, each typically lasting around two to three months, during which time all Bar Training assessments will run. The Winter 2024 sit will take place between 8th November 2024 and 19th January 2025.

To ensure success in your final assessments, self-study is essential. The time commitment will vary, depending on which assessments you are required to undertake, as well as your previous experience. BPP recognises that many candidates also have significant personal and professional commitments. It

is essential that you plan your studies carefully, so that you are able to dedicate sufficient time to maximise your chances of success and take whatever training you feel is necessary to achieve this.

You may choose to spread out your required assessments across multiple sit opportunities, which provides you with flexibility to plan ahead, and take as much training as you feel you need to prepare. When planning your assessments, please note that some assessments utilise the same set of papers. This means that if you have multiple assessments to sit, it is sensible to sit some of those assessments together within one sit. The following assessments use the same set of case facts:

- Conference Skills, Cross Examination and Examination in Chief
- Opinion Writing and Legal Research

If you require further information about this, please contact the programme team on [BTR@BPP.com](mailto:BTR@BPP.com).

Training takes place across a combination of weekdays, weekends and evenings. It is not possible for us to accommodate requests to rearrange the training dates. Training and assessment dates are contained within the BTR application form and will also be published on the Hub.

Given the challenging nature of the Bar Training assessments, BPP recommends that you dedicate as much free time as possible to study during the sitting. This allows you to better engage in the programme which, ultimately, provides the best chance of success in the assessments.

We usually recommend that you spend at least 30 hours studying for each of the Professional Ethics, Criminal Litigation and Sentencing, and Civil Litigation and Evidence assessments, but this will depend upon the extent of your previous studies for these modules. The amount of time needed to study for written and advocacy assessments will, again, depend on your own experience of practising these skills, and how much prior study you have engaged in.

It is recommended that you start planning and preparation at the earliest opportunity. Once you have access to your online learning resources, you should log into the BPP Hub and read any guidance and syllabus documents relevant to the assessments you are taking. From there you can start to study any recommended texts and the [BSB Handbook](#). If you have signed up for training, you can begin working your way through the training materials.

If you have signed up for workshops which involve practical exercises, please ensure that you set aside sufficient time to fully prepare for these in advance. It will be the expectation of your tutor and your colleagues that all attendees fully prepare, participate in the session and (if relevant) perform. This is important, as a failure to fully engage will impact your learning and, potentially, that of others in the session.

## **BPP Learning Support**

BPP has a dedicated Learning Support team. If you have a learning difficulty, disability or health condition that may affect your completion of this programme, please inform the Learning Support team by email at [LearningSupport@bpp.com](mailto:LearningSupport@bpp.com) once your application has been confirmed. The deadline for the Learning Support team to confirm reasonable adjustments for assessments is **one month before the assessment date**. Any previous Learning Support Arrangements that have been in place prior to enrolment on the BTR at BPP will **not automatically apply**, therefore it is important that you inform us of this quickly so that we may refer you for assessment.

## **Pupillage and Call to the Bar**

Once you have completed your assessments, you are eligible to apply for pupillage. For details of current pupillage vacancies, please refer to the [Pupillage Gateway](#) website, administered by the Bar Council. After successful completion of the required assessments and the requisite number of [Qualifying Sessions](#), you will be eligible for the Called to the Bar of England and Wales.

## **Training and Assessments**

The table below sets out further information about the training and assessment options, together with the costs of each option. The dates and times for each training session and assessment are contained within the BTR application form.

Training and preparatory sessions		Cost
<b>Civil Litigation (online)</b>	<p>This consists of two full days of training which are designed to assist you in your revision and preparation for the BSB Centralised assessment in Civil Litigation. These workshops cover a broad overview of examinable topics, plus practice MCQs on each area and tips to help focus your revision. You can choose whether to sign up to one day, or both.</p> <p>Day 1, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Theme 1: Alternative Dispute Resolution methods</li><li>- Theme 2: Pre-action matters and associated costs</li><li>- Theme 3: Commencing and responding to a claim.</li></ul> <p>Day 2, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Theme 4: Early dismissal of claims and additional claims</li><li>- Theme 5: Progressing and defending the claim (interim hearings, case management and evidence, further evidence, and settlement)</li><li>- Theme 6: Concluding the claim and appeals / enforcement.</li></ul>	<p>Day 1 - £375</p> <p>Day 2 - £375</p>

<b>Civil Litigation revision webinar (online)</b>	This is not a substitute for undertaking the 2-day training. Revision webinars provide you with an opportunity to ask questions on the syllabus content, in advance of the centralised assessment.	£340
<b>Criminal Litigation (online)</b>	This consists of two full days of training which are designed to assist you in your revision and preparation for the BSB centralised assessment in Criminal Litigation, Evidence and Sentencing. These workshops will cover a broad overview of examinable topics, plus practice MCQs on each area and tips to help focus your revision.	£750
<b>Criminal Litigation revision webinar (online)</b>	This is not a substitute for undertaking the full day training. Revision webinars provide you with an opportunity to ask questions on the syllabus content, in advance of the centralised assessment.	£340
<b>Professional Ethics (online)</b>	During this full-day training session, you will consolidate on your revision in professional ethics and work with your colleagues and trainer to discuss a number of scenarios which give rise to ethical issues, considering how these might best be resolved in accordance with the duties within the BSB Handbook and associated Guidance. You will have the opportunity to practice answering and discussing Multiple-Choice and Single Best Answer Questions, to help prepare you for the BPP Professional Ethics Assessment.	£375
<b>Professional Ethics revision webinar (online)</b>	This is not a substitute for undertaking the full day training. Revision webinars provide you with an opportunity to ask questions on the syllabus content, in advance of the Professional Ethics assessment.	£340
<b>Advocacy and Witness Handling (online)</b>	<p>Three full days of training are available. You may sign up to each day independently. The training is structured as follows:</p> <p><b>Day 1 – Lectures</b> in Witness Handling and Submission Advocacy.</p> <p><b>Day 2 – Witness Handling.</b> You will work in small groups practicing your skills in cross-examination and examination-in-chief. You will then undertake a formative assessment (mock) in each skill and receive feedback from your trainer. Just like the assessment and to make the experience more realistic, an actor will play the witness in your formative assessment.</p> <p><b>Day 3 – Submission Advocacy.</b> You will work in small groups practicing your submission advocacy skills. You will then</p>	<p>Day 1 - £315</p> <p>Day 2 - £500</p> <p>Day 3 - £500</p>

	undertake a formative assessment (mock) and receive feedback from your trainer.	
<b>Submission Advocacy (Civil Applications) workshop (online)</b>	This 2-hour small group workshop incorporates practice and assessment preparation in submission advocacy (civil applications). You will prepare for and perform part of an application. You will receive feedback on your performance and on your skeleton argument, to help prepare you for your assessments.	£315
<b>Witness Handling Mini-Trial workshop (online)</b>	This 2-hour small group workshop incorporates practice and assessment preparation in cross-examination and examination-in-chief. An actor will role play the witnesses you are to examine. You will receive feedback on your performances from your trainer to help you prepare for the assessments.	£450
<b>Conference Skills (online)</b>	This 2-part workshop is designed to help you practice the skills needed to succeed in the conference skills assessment. During the first session, you will work with your trainer to better understand how to plan for and undertake an effective client conference. During session 2 you will perform a formative conference assessment (mock). Just like in the assessments, an actor will role play the client. You will receive feedback on your performance from your trainer to help you prepare for the assessments.	£630
<b>Drafting (online)</b>	This 2-part workshop is designed to help you practice the skills needed to succeed in the Drafting Assessment. During the first session, you will work with your trainer to better understand how to produce an effective statement of case. You will be provided with the opportunity to undertake a formative assessment (mock), which you will produce and submit in the period between the two sessions. This will be marked by your trainer and feedback will be provided. During session 2 you will review the formative assessment and learn how you might have improved on your work.	£630
<b>Opinion Writing/Legal Research (online)</b>  <i>(Whilst these are two separate modules, we recommend studying them together as the</i>	This 2-part workshop is designed to help you practice the skills needed to succeed in the Opinion Writing and Legal Research Assessments. During the first session, you will work with your trainer to better understand how to write a good quality Opinion and document your research effectively in a Research Trail.	£630

assessments take place at the same time)	You will be provided with the opportunity to undertake a formative assessment (mock), which you will produce and submit in the period between the sessions. This will be marked by your trainer and feedback will be provided. During session 2 you will review the formative assessment and learn how you might have improved on your work.	
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Assessments		Cost
<b>Civil Litigation (in person)</b>  <i>(You must take both papers in the same sitting)</i>	<p><b>Paper one:</b> A pen-and-paper assessment in person lasting 2 hours.</p> <p>The Civil Litigation Paper 1 assessment is a <b>closed-book</b> supervised assessment consisting of multiple-choice questions or single-best-answer questions.</p> <p>For closed-book assessments, you are not allowed to bring any paper and the venue will provide rough paper for you.</p> <p><b>Paper two:</b> A pen-and-paper assessment taken in person lasting 2.5-hours.</p> <p>The Civil Litigation Paper 2 assessment is an <b>open book</b> supervised assessment consisting of multiple-choice questions or single best answer questions questions, with 7 rolling case scenarios of 5 questions and 5 standalone questions.</p> <p><b>You are permitted to take Volumes 1 and 2 of the White Book into this assessment.</b> The materials you are permitted to use are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A copy of the White Book, which can be highlighted and annotated.*</li> <li>- Sticky page markers, which can be used to mark sections of the White Book**</li> <li>- Sticky notes with annotations in the White Book but you may not interleave the pages with loose sheets or other material.</li> <li>- <b>You are not permitted to use any additional loose material.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>*Annotations:</b> the BSB has confirmed that candidates are permitted to write annotations in the blank pages of the White Book. There is no qualification of the definition of 'annotation'.</p> <p><b>**Sticky notes/Sticky page markers:</b> a sticky note/sticky page marker is something that has its own adhesive which</p>	<p>Paper 1 - £385</p> <p>Paper 2 - £385</p>

	allows it to be stuck to the White Book but also removed. Sticky Notes/Sticky page markers would not therefore include paper that is permanently stuck, glued or stapled on or inside the White Book**	
<b>Criminal Litigation (in person)</b>	A pen-and-paper assessment taken in person lasting 3 hours.  The Criminal Litigation assessment is a <b>closed-book</b> supervised assessments consisting of multiple-choice questions or single-best-answer questions.  For closed-book assessments, you are not allowed to bring any paper and the venue will provide rough paper for you.	£385
<b>Professional Ethics (in person)</b>	A pen-and-paper assessment taken in person lasting 2 hours.  The Professional Ethics assessment is a <b>closed-book</b> supervised assessment consisting of multiple-choice questions or single-best-answer questions.  For closed-book assessments, you are not allowed to bring any paper in and the venue will provide rough paper for you.	£385
<b>Submission Advocacy (Civil Applications) (online)</b>	15-minute oral assessment consisting of making a civil application, plus a marked written component comprising a skeleton argument.  Assessment materials are provided in advance.	£420
<b>Advocacy – Cross Examination (online)</b>	15-minute oral assessment consisting of cross examining a witness (played by an actor), plus a mandatory written component comprising a case theory and trial strategy document.  Assessment materials are provided in advance.	£420
<b>Advocacy – Examination in Chief (online)</b>	15-minute oral assessment consisting of examining in chief a witness (played by an actor), plus a mandatory written component comprising a case theory and trial strategy document.  Assessment materials are provided in advance.	£420
<b>Conference Skills (online)</b>	Oral assessment  Candidates must perform 20 minutes of a conference in a criminal case with their client played by an actor.  Candidates must produce a conference preparation note limited to 3 sides of A4 in font Arial 11.	£420
<b>Drafting (in person)</b>	A supervised assessment, taken in person and lasting 3 hours.	£385

	<p>Candidates will be required to draft a statement of case.</p> <p>One week prior to the assessment, Candidates will be supplied with a briefing sheet outlining the broad areas of law which will form the basis of the assessment. Candidates are supplied with a list of permitted materials which can be taken into the assessment.</p> <p><b>Candidates are required to use their own laptops during this assessment and will be required to attend one of BPP's designated assessment venues.</b></p>	
<b>Opinion Writing (coursework, online)</b>	<p>Coursework – 7 days.</p> <p>Candidates receive a set of case papers and are required to undertake legal research and write an Opinion with a maximum word limit of 4000 words.</p>	£385
<b>Legal Research (coursework, online)</b>	<p>Coursework – 7 days.</p> <p>This assessment is based on the same set of case papers used for the Opinion Writing assessment. The Legal Research element is separately assessed through the requirement to produce a legal research trail of no more than 2000 words.</p>	£285

