### **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Legal Access Internship Scheme**

1. **How do I know if I am eligible to apply for this internship access scheme?**

To be eligible for this internship access scheme, you must be a final year undergraduate law student **and**:

1. Be in their final year of study towards an honours undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification (at least a Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications) in Law or a qualification, acceptable to the Law Reform Commission as equivalent, in which Law was taken as a major subject;

**and**

1. Have accessed a Higher Education Institution in Ireland through an Access Programme/ Access Route or availed of one of the following SUSI financial supports:
* Band One Full Maintenance Grant (applicant must also a residential address in a disadvantaged area as classified by the Pobal Deprivation Index)
* Special Rate Maintenance Grant

**or,**

1. Be registered with, and receiving supports from, a Disability Support Service in a Higher Education Institution in Ireland.

If you do not fall into any of the above, you are not eligible for this internship access scheme.

1. **What is an Access Programme/Route?**

“Access Programme / Access Route” includes a variety of higher education initiatives which support access to third-level education, for example, the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR), Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) and other access initiatives which are local and specific to individual Higher Education Institutions and which cater to both school leavers and mature years’ students.

Mature years' students are defined as those aged 23 years or over prior to entry date and who have no previous undergraduate Level 8 qualification.

Access initiatives which are local and specific to individual Higher Education Institutions include being admitted to an Institution’s Access Programme and awarded funding to complete an undergraduate degree by the Institution despite not having entered through the HEAR or DARE Access Programmes. This includes opportunity scholarships awarded by a Higher Education Institution to those who would have been unable to afford to study an undergraduate degree at the Institution without the scholarship.

If you were registered with, and receiving supports from, the Disability Support Service in your Higher Education Institution in this academic year, you are also eligible to apply for the access internship. If you are still unsure about whether you are eligible to apply for the internship, please email careers@csso.gov.ie.

1. **What documents do I need to provide with my application?**

You need to provide a letter from the Access Office in the relevant Higher Education Institution stating that you accessed an undergraduate degree as part of a specified Access Programme/Route e.g., the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) or Disability Access Route to Education (DARE). **The letter must refer to you by name.**

If you entered an undergraduate degree through an access initiative other than HEAR/DARE, you must provide a letter from the Access Office in the relevant Higher Education Institution stating that you accessed an undergraduate degree through that local initiative specifying the initiative and whether it involved the awarding of funding, for example, through a Student Assistance Fund or scholarship. **The letter must refer to you by name.**

**OR**

You need to provide a letter confirming that you are registered with, and receiving supports from, a Disability Support Service in a Higher Education Institution in Ireland. **The letter must refer to you by name.**

1. **If I am studying for a postgraduate degree in Ireland for which I received a scholarship or funding, but I did not enter an undergraduate degree in Ireland through an Access Programme/am not registered with, and receiving supports from, a Disability Support Service, am I eligible to apply for this internship access scheme?**

No, you are ineligible.

1. **If I am in the final year of a degree programme in a subject/discipline other than law, am I eligible to apply for this access internship?**

You must be in the final year of a degree programme in law or a degree programme in which law is a major component (for example: a BA in Legal Studies/Law with another discipline is a degree programme in which law is a major component). You must also meet the criteria specified in the response to Q1. above.

1. **If I am in any year other than the final year of a degree programme in law, am I eligible to apply for this access internship?**

You must be in the **final year** of an undergraduate degree programme in law **or a programme in which law is a major component**. You must also meet the criteria specified in the response to Q1. above.

1. **If I entered an undergraduate degree in a Higher Education Institution through an Access Programme/was registered with a Disability Support Service and have undertaken FE1 exams in the 2023/2024 academic year, am I eligible to apply for this internship access scheme?**

No, you are ineligible.

1. **If I entered an undergraduate degree in a Higher Education Institution through an Access Programme/was registered with a Disability Support Service and am now studying (2023/2024-2024/2025) for the Barrister-at-Law degree at the King’s Inns, am I eligible to apply for this internship scheme?**

No, you are ineligible.

**END**