



Republic of Mauritius

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

PUPILLAGE SCHEME FOR PROSPECTIVE BARRISTERS AND ATTORNEYS

INTRODUCTION

Sections 4 and 5(A) of the Law Practitioners' Act 55 Of 1984, as subsequently amended, provides for prospective barristers and attorneys to undergo a training called pupillage/articledship of at least 12 months under the supervision of a barrister and/or attorney, as the case may be, of at least 15 years standing at the Bar called the Pupil Master to enable them to practice as Barrister or Attorney in Mauritius. According to the relevant section of the law, a prospective barrister is required to undergo nine months/an aggregate of nine months of pupillage under the supervision of a barrister and 3 months pupillage under the supervision of an attorney where as a prospective attorney is required to undergo a period of twelve/an aggregate period of twelve months articledship under the supervision of one or more attorneys.

Prior to 2006, only public officers were allowed to undergo their period of pupillage at the AGO. In 2006, the then Attorney General, informed the Cabinet of the extension of the pupillage scheme at the AGO to officers of the parastatal bodies.

At the 16th meeting of the Cabinet held on the 20 April 2018 (CAB (2018)219), Cabinet approved the proposal of the Honourable Attorney General to extend the present pupillage scheme, on a case to case basis, to prospective barristers and attorneys who are neither public officers nor officers of the parastatal bodies so that they may be given the opportunity to serve their period of pupillage at the AGO.

However, up to date no proper scheme for pupillage has been designed by this Office.

CURRENT PRACTICE

Presently prospective barristers and attorneys both from the public service and the general public who have successfully completed their Vocational Training Examinations are allowed to serve their period of pupillage at the AGO. However, officers from the civil service are granted leave on full pay to undergo pupillage at the AGO only on condition that they bind themselves to refund the salary drawn during the period of pupillage in instalments over a period of three years as from the end of the pupillage. As regards those from the parastatal bodies, they are granted leave without pay to undergo pupillage at the AGO. No pupil- barristers or pupil-attorneys are presently being paid a stipend/allowance during their period of pupillage.

NEW SCHEME

The Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms has in a memorandum dated 05 January 2022, informed this Office that the High Powered Committee has, at its meeting held on 14 December 2021, examined the request of the Solicitor General and approved that a full-fledged Pupillage Scheme be set up, to be administered by the Attorney-General's Office, including the payment of a stipend to pupil-barristers and pupil-attorneys both for pupils from the public and private sectors.

The rationale behind the setting up of the scheme are as follows:

- (i) Grant of leave without pay to public officers may be possible but with payment of a stipend to incumbents;
- (ii) Stipend should not be refundable at the end of the pupillage; and
- (iii) No Bond would be required for public officers.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates possessing a Degree in Law from a recognized institution and who have successfully completed the Legal Vocational Course.

Enlistment of pupil would be made on **a first - come first - serve basis** subject to availability of funds, Pupil-Master and office accommodation.

DURATION AND TRAINING STRUCTURE

The period of pupillage would be up to a maximum of two years, subject to the approval of the Council for Legal and Vocational Education (CVLE). Each pupil-barrister would be required to undergo a period of nine months pupillage under the supervision of one or more Law Officers and three months articleship/attachment under the supervision of an Attorney. As regards pupil-attorneys, they would be required to undergo a period of 12 months' articleship under the supervision of one or more attorneys. Each pupil-barrister and pupil-attorneys would be assigned one or more Pupil-Masters, as approved by the CVLE. Pupil-barristers and pupil-attorneys would also be allowed to undergo part of their pupillage or articleship, as appropriate, at this Office. ***They may also opt to undergo part of their pupillage at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.***

Pupil-barristers and pupil-attorneys would be required to undertake legal research works in various aspects of the legal duties and to accompany their pupil-masters to Court/Tribunals, as and when required but would in no circumstances be allowed to sign any documents, legal advice or report on any legal matter and should not depone in court on behalf of this Office or Pupil-Master.

On satisfactory completion of the pupillage/articleship, each pupil-barrister and pupil-attorney would be issued with a testimonial in two originals. One to be submitted to the CVLE and the other one for Affidavit purpose.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Upon enlistment, pupil-barristers and pupil-attorneys would be required to sign a copy of the Official Secrets Act and they should in no circumstances, during or after their pupillage/articleship, communicate to any third party any information that they might have come across during their stay at this Office, failing which they might render themselves liable to disciplinary actions, as appropriate.

LEAVE AND ALLOWANCE

Pupil-barristers and Pupil-attorneys would not be eligible for any paid leave during their pupillage/articleship period. They would be required to compensate for any period of absences during their period of training.

Pupil-barristers and Pupil-attorneys would be eligible for the payment of a monthly stipend Rs **25,525** to meet the cost of transport, meal and incidental expenses.

MODE OF APPLICATION

Candidates should submit their application with full Curriculum Vitae (CV) together with copies of their educational/professional qualifications to the Solicitor General either by email on sgo@govmu.org or by post on the following address: **The Solicitor General, Attorney General's Office, Level 5, Renganaden Seeneevassen Building Corner Maillard and Pope Hennessy streets PORT-LOUIS,** not later than 3 months prior to the commencement of their pupillage/articleship.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This new scheme will come into effect on **01 JULY 2022.**

NOTE

On completion of the training and on being entered on the Roll of Barristers or Attorney-at-Law of Mauritius, as appropriate, candidates would have no claim, whatsoever, for appointment or priority of consideration for appointment to legal post in the Public Service. If candidates wish to join the service, they would have to compete in the usual way with other candidates applying for posts advertised by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission or the Public Service Commission provided they possess the prescribed qualifications.

DATE: **14 April 2022**

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