

Waivers and Modification of the Requirement to Attend Qualifying Sessions and Call Ceremonies

1. The Inns have agreed that the process and criteria below are applicable when considering applications to waive or modify Qualifying Sessions or waive the requirement to attend Call Ceremonies, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, the Qualifying Sessions Framework and the Bar Qualification Manual. The requirement to undertake Qualifying Sessions and attend Call Ceremonies applies to all candidates for Call, including transferring lawyers, except those seeking temporary Call.

Waivers for Student Members & Transferring Lawyers

2. A waiver will remove the requirement to attend one or more Qualifying Sessions and/or the Call Ceremony.
3. Qualifying Session waiver applications will not normally be granted where there are further opportunities to attend Qualifying Sessions, unless paragraph 4 applies.

Waivers for Transferring Lawyers Only

4. Transferring lawyers who believe their previous experience means they have obtained the requisite level of skill and/or knowledge required in one or more of the Qualifying Session themes as set out in the Qualifying Session Framework may apply to have attendance at Qualifying Sessions related to those themes waived.

Modification

5. A modification will alter the requirements for successfully completing a Qualifying Session that was attended by the applicant. For example, to disregard partial attendance/late arrival at a Qualifying Session or treat as within the time limit a Qualifying Session that was completed outside the time limit (ordinarily to be completed within the 5 years prior to the date of Call).
6. When deciding whether to grant a request for modification in the event of partial attendance/late arrival consideration will be given as to whether the applicant has been able to take part in the substance of the Qualifying Session and whether therefore it has been possible for the learning outcomes to have been met. If an event contains a number of Qualifying Sessions (such as a residential weekend) the number of Qualifying Sessions awarded may be reduced proportionately to the outcomes not met.

7. When deciding whether to treat Qualifying Sessions falling outside the time limit as within the time limit consideration will be given to a range of factors including, but not limited to, how long outside the time limit the Qualifying Sessions are, how many of the Qualifying Sessions were completed within the time limit, and whether Qualifying Session/s are outside the time limit due to factors beyond the applicant's control.

Applications

8. Waivers and modifications will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and when supported by documentary evidence.
9. Applications for waiver or modification are to be made using the form prescribed by the Inns for consideration by the Nominated Officer of the applicant's Inn.
10. Appeal against the Nominated Officer's decision will be made to the Treasurer of the applicant's Inn or their representative(s). The decision of the Treasurer or their representative(s) will be final.
11. Normally consideration will only be given to waiving or modifying a maximum of two Qualifying Sessions.
12. Examples of exceptional circumstances are set out below: (the table is not exhaustive).

	Event	Evidence Required
a.	Severe transport disruption	National news report; travel document etc.
b.	Medical condition (self or dependant)	Doctor's certificate or supporting statement
c.	Bereavement	Supporting document/statement
d.	International visa/travel difficulties	Supporting document/statement
e.	Other compassionate reason	Supporting statement

13. Inns may request further information in support of the waiver or modification application.
14. Applicants may be required to attend the Inn to explain why they seek a waiver or modification.
15. In cases where requests for waiver or modification are not granted the Inn will consider refunding the cost of the event to the applicant.