



# Bar Training 2022

Statistics on enrolment, results, and student progression by course provider

November 2022

Produced by the Bar Standards Board Research Team. If you would like this report in an alternative format, please contact the BSB Research Team at [research@barstandardsboard.org.uk](mailto:research@barstandardsboard.org.uk)

BAR  
STANDARDS  
BOARD

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
About the Bar Standards Board	3
About training to become a barrister in England and Wales	3
About this report	4
Course providers	5
Cost of Bar Training courses	6
<b>Enrolments by provider</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Student results by provider</b>	<b>8</b>
Pass rates by degree classification – full time students who enrolled between July 2020 and October 2020	9
<b>Student Progression</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>14</b>
Enrolments	14

# Introduction

## About the Bar Standards Board

The Bar Standards Board (BSB) is the regulatory body for barristers in England and Wales. The work that we do is governed by the Legal Services Act 2007 as well as a number of other statutes.

Our responsibilities include setting the education and training requirements for becoming a barrister in England and Wales.

## About training to become a barrister in England and Wales

Those seeking to practise as a barrister in England and Wales are required to satisfy the requirements of three components of training:

- the academic component;
- the vocational component, and
- the pupillage component.

Completing all components should provide a prospective barrister with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the requirements of the Professional Statement for Barristers: this describes the knowledge, skills and attributes that all barristers should have on "day one" of practice at the Bar.<sup>1</sup>

To complete the academic component of training, a prospective barrister needs either a law degree, or a non-law degree and the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL). The degree needs to be a minimum of a 2:2 (lower second-class degree).

The vocational component of training is provided via courses run by a number of course providers. Course providers are authorised by the BSB to deliver vocational training for the Bar through one of the approved training pathways. The vocational component of training may be offered in a few different ways:

- a course in one part, which may be full-time over a year or part-time over a longer period;
- a course in two parts, which may involve face-to-face teaching for both parts or may involve self-study only for one of the parts; and
- a longer course which combines study of the subjects of the vocational component with an undergraduate degree in law.

Upon passing vocational training and satisfying the requirements of their Inn of Court, prospective barristers are eligible to be called to the Bar and to undertake the work based component of training, pupillage.

Prospective barristers have five years following completion of vocational training in which to gain pupillage (although a waiver extending this period may be granted, and waivers for other parts of the training pathway may also be granted in some circumstances).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/training-qualification/the-professional-statement.html>

<sup>2</sup> Further information on training to become a barrister can be found on our website via <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/training-qualification.html>

## About this report

This report contains information on enrolment and results on vocational Bar training, and progression onto pupillage. It is principally aimed at providing prospective students with comparable information on the different course providers at which they may be considering studying.

Further statistics on overall trends in course fees, enrolment, results, and progression are due to be published in a separate report, which the BSB intends to publish in 2023, and yearly from that point onwards.

The BSB does not regulate the grading schemes awarded by each provider, and so the measures of student results given are those that are directly comparable across providers, with these being:

- The percentage of students that have passed all ten course modules
- The percentage of students who passed all ten modules at the first attempt
- The percentage of students gaining pupillage

The statistics in the report are given by first degree classification, as different course providers have different student profiles, and disaggregating the data in this way helps to control for this. Statistics are provided where there are more than 15 students in a respective group (with one exception for Table 4), as statistics on smaller cohorts may give an unrepresentative picture. In some circumstances, provider sites with the same parent institution have been grouped together due to smaller numbers of students at these locations: this is the case for BPP Birmingham, Bristol, and Leeds; as well as ULaw Bristol, Leeds, Manchester and Nottingham.

Due to the issue of smaller numbers of students at some provider sites, in future reports we aim to present results for students enrolled during a two-year period. Due to incomplete data this was not possible for this report.

### Data sources

The data used for this report comes principally from the data provided to the BSB by course providers. Students on Bar training courses are also able to update personal details in their record directly through the MyBar portal. Data on pupillages comes from information stored at the BSB on registered pupillages. The report was compiled by the Bar Standards Board Research Team.

### Data protection and confidentiality

We take our responsibilities for data protection very seriously and have made every attempt to ensure that individual students cannot be identified from the data in this publication. We have adhered to the Anonymisation: managing data protection risk code of practice report from the Information Commissioner's Office (2012) and applied anonymisation techniques where appropriate.

### Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the course providers for their cooperation in providing us with data used in this report.

## Course providers

The below table gives a breakdown of the different providers of vocational Bar training courses. As of November 2022, courses were run at 10 different institutions, covering 19 different sites in total.

- Vocational training on the three-step pathway consists of the course taken in one part.
- Vocational training on the four-step pathway consists of the course taken in two parts.
- One provider offers an integrated pathway combining the vocational component with an undergraduate degree
- Many providers offer an option of providing vocational Bar training as an integral part of an academic award such as an LLM – this would enable access to a postgraduate master’s loan.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 1. Vocational Bar training course providers**

Provider	Site	Site Code	Courses Offered for 2022/23	Website
BPP	Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, London, Manchester	BPP + site name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 step-pathway full-time at all sites</li> <li>• Part-time offered at BPP London</li> <li>• LLM option offered at all sites</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.bpp.com/">https://www.bpp.com/</a>
Cardiff University	-	CAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-step pathway full-time</li> <li>• LLM option offered</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/">https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/</a>
City Law School	-	CLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-step pathway full-time and part-time</li> <li>• LLM option offered</li> <li>• Specialist training option offered</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.city.ac.uk/">https://www.city.ac.uk/</a>
University of Hertfordshire	-	HERT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-step pathway full-time</li> <li>• LLM option offered</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.herts.ac.uk/">https://www.herts.ac.uk/</a>
The Inns of Court College of Advocacy	-	ICCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-step pathway full-time</li> <li>• 4-step pathway</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.icca.ac.uk/">https://www.icca.ac.uk/</a>
Manchester Metropolitan University	-	MMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-step pathway full-time and part-time</li> <li>• LLM option offered</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.mmu.ac.uk/">https://www.mmu.ac.uk/</a>
Nottingham Law School	-	NTU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-step pathway full-time</li> <li>• LLM option offered</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.ntu.ac.uk/">https://www.ntu.ac.uk/</a>
The University of Law	Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, London, Manchester, Nottingham	ULaw + site name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 step-pathway full-time at all sites, and part-time offered at several sites</li> <li>• LLM option offered at all sites</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.law.ac.uk/">https://www.law.ac.uk/</a>
University of the West of England	-	UWE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-step pathway full-time</li> <li>• 4-step pathway</li> <li>• LLM option offered</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.uwe.ac.uk/">https://www.uwe.ac.uk/</a>
University of Northumbria	-	UNN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-step pathway full-time and part time</li> <li>• 4-step pathway</li> <li>• LLM option offered</li> <li>• Also offered as part of undergraduate degree</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/">https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/</a>

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.gov.uk/masters-loan>

## Cost of Bar Training courses

Table 2 below shows the cost of training for the Bar. Details have been taken from the website of each course provider.

**Table 2. Cost of Bar training for 2022/23 entry – inclusive of the BSB fee**

Provider	Domicile	3-step pathway	4-step pathway		Integrated academic and vocational pathway
		Bar training	Bar training (part 1)	Bar training (part 2)	
<b>BPP London</b>	Overseas	£16,151			
	UK	£15,151			
<b>BPP Non-London</b>	Overseas	£15,121			
	UK	£14,121			
<b>CAR</b>	Overseas	£20,700			
	UK	£18,700			
<b>CLS</b>	All	£16,340			
<b>ICCA</b>	All	£13,990	£1,895	£12,095	
<b>MMU</b>	All	£12,870			
<b>NTU</b>	All	£12,200			
<b>ULaw London</b>	All	£14,000			
<b>ULaw Non-London</b>	All	£12,700			
<b>UNN</b>	All	£12,300	£3,075	£9,225	Undergraduate tuition fees
<b>UWE</b>	All	£13,500	£3,000	£10,500	

\* The cost of combining the Bar training course with a formal Master's degree varies by provider. For further information, see the respective websites.

For the three-stage pathway, the cost of training for the Bar (including the BSB fee) for 2022/23 ranged from £12,200 to £18,700 for UK domiciled students, and from £12,200 to £20,700 for overseas domiciled students across providers. The average cost of Bar training across providers was around £15,000 for 2022/23 entry.

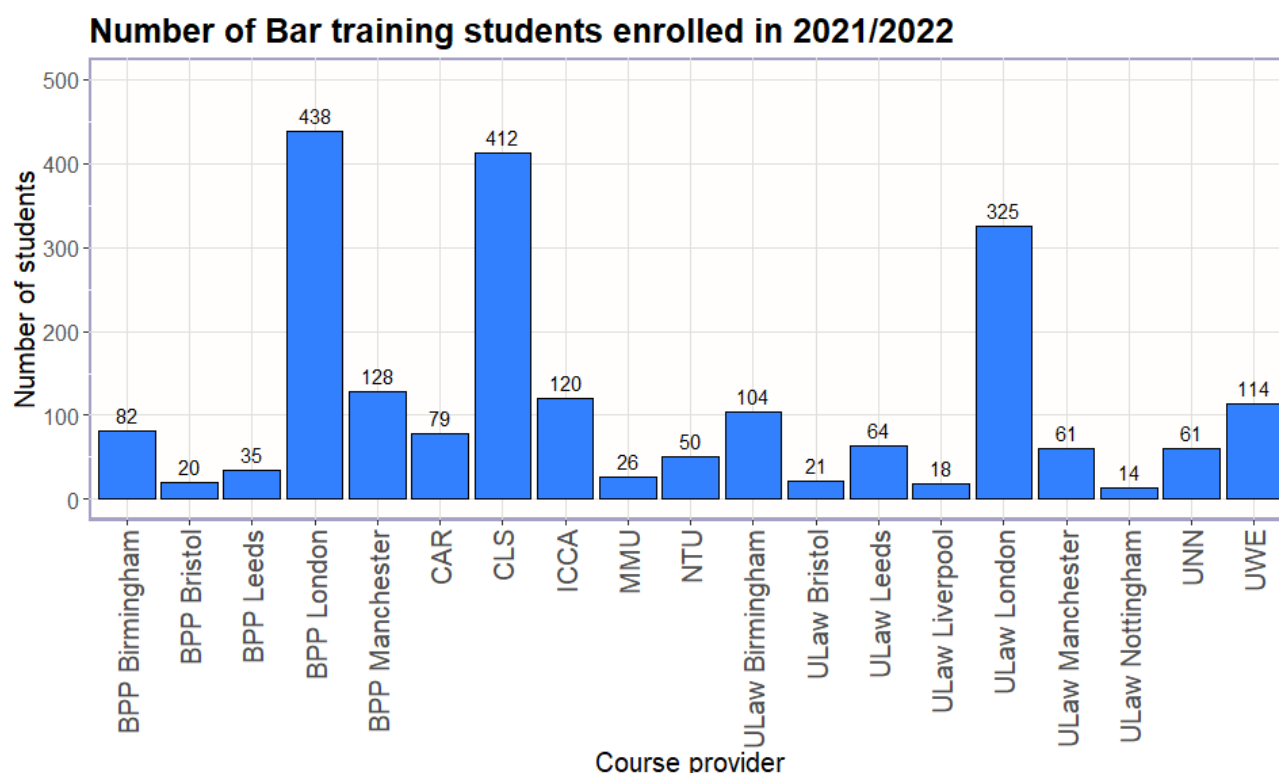
The inflation adjusted cost of the course dropped at most course providers following the implementation of the new courses that followed on from the BPTC<sup>4</sup> (those starting from 2020/21 onwards).

<sup>4</sup> The BPTC (Bar Professional Training Course) was the previous name of the vocational component of Bar training and ran from 2011/12 until 2019/20

## Enrolments by provider

The below chart shows the number of those who enrolled on Bar training courses by provider between July 2021 and June 2022. There were 2,172 students who enrolled during this period across all sites, up from 2,112 for July 2020 to June 2021. Information on the demographic profile of those enrolling in 2020/21-2021/22 can be found in the appendices.

Chart 1. Enrolments in 2021/22 by course provider<sup>5</sup>



The table below gives a breakdown of the proportion of a cohort studying the course full time and part time at course providers offering part time study.

Table 3. Study mode of those enrolling between July 2021 and June 2022 by course provider

Provider	Full time	Part time
<b>Overall - Count</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>Overall - Per cent</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>8%</b>
BPP London	87%	13%
CLS	94%	6%
MMU	54%	46%
ULaw Birmingham	77%	23%
ULaw Leeds	75%	25%
ULaw London	86%	14%
UNN	93%	7%
All other sites had full time students only		

<sup>5</sup> This is the latest year for which we have a full record of enrolment across providers

## Student results by provider

The tables in this section relate to student results by provider. As there are different course offerings, and providers may have different awards for those undertaking study at their institution, the information below only contains comparisons between providers on overall measures that are valid across all of them.

Statistics in the below tables depend to some extent on receiving the most up to date data from each provider, and students having a chance to re-sit any modules they did not pass at the first attempt. As the data used for several tables in this section analyses latest sits only, the most up to date data will include students that have re-sat modules they did not pass the first time around.

Ideally, we would have results data for the most recent attempts from every course provider, but at the time of writing we do not have the most recent record for some. As a result we have used a cut-off date of sits taken as of the end of December 2021.

With the exception of the 'Overall' column in Table 4, statistics are given where there are 15 or more students in a relevant group. Students included in these tables are those that enrolled between July 2020 and October 2020 only.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Students can enrol at multiple times throughout the year on the Bar training courses, and the proportion of students enrolling at different times throughout the year differs by provider. If a student enrolled later in the 2020/21 year, then they would have had fewer sits in which to complete the course as of Dec-2021, and so pass rates would be expected to be lower for such students. This makes it more difficult to compare across providers and so a defined enrolment window is used to give more of a like for like comparison for this report.



## Pass rates by degree classification – full time students who enrolled between July 2020 and October 2020

Table 4. Percentage of students that had passed all 10 modules as of latest attempt before 31 December 2021, by provider and degree classification

Provider	First class		Upper second class		Lower second class		Overall <sup>7</sup>	
	Count	Pass Rate	Count	Pass Rate	Count	Pass Rate	Count	Pass Rate
<b>All students</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>65%</b>
BPP London	63	81%	123	59%	68	28%	254	56%
BPP Manchester	32	91%	59	56%	-	-	94	68%
BPP Other sites	26	81%	65	49%	39	28%	130	49%
CAR	-	-	38	76%	-	-	56	70%
CLS	94	89%	157	74%	26	65%	277	78%
ICCA	17	94%	18	94%	-	-	35	94%
MMU	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	62%
NTU	-	-	30	50%	-	-	53	53%
ULaw Birmingham	20	80%	33	64%	-	-	58	66%
ULaw London	41	76%	76	64%	-	-	131	66%
ULaw Other sites	29	93%	52	73%	-	-	87	79%
UNN	17	65%	23	57%	-	-	42	60%
UWE*	-	-	31	65%	64	41%	103	51%

- The average for all students with the above degree classifications was 65%
- Students who have not yet passed may still go on to do so.
- The number of students at MMU is too small to represent for individual degree classifications in the above table. Overall, 6 out of 10 students at MMU with a first class or 2:1 degree who had sat all ten modules had passed the course as of 31 December 2021, and 8 out of 13 students across all degree classifications at MMU who had sat all modules had passed the course (this equates to a 62% pass rate compared to 65% for all students).

The table below displays the percentage of students who passed all 10 modules at the first attempt.

<sup>7</sup> The overall figure is given for this table in order to provide pass rate figures for all providers, even when numbers are too low to provide comparisons by degree class. Note that comparisons by degree class represent a better comparative measure across providers, as provider's student cohorts vary considerably by the proportion of students with different degree classifications.

**Table 5. Percentage of students that passed all 10 modules at the first attempt by provider and degree classification as of December 2021**

Provider	First class		Upper second class		Lower second class	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>All students</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>13%</b>
BPP London	63	65%	123	30%	68	6%
BPP Manchester	32	75%	59	34%	-	-
BPP Other sites	26	73%	65	23%	39	10%
CAR	-	-	38	21%	-	-
CLS	94	78%	157	46%	26	31%
ICCA	17	94%	18	83%	-	-
NTU	-	-	30	23%	-	-
ULaw Birmingham	20	60%	33	55%	-	-
ULaw London	41	63%	76	30%	-	-
ULaw Other sites	29	72%	52	48%	-	-
UNN	17	35%	23	22%	-	-
UWE	-	-	31	32%	64	19%

- The average for all students with the above degree classifications was 41%.

# Student Progression

This section provides information on progression onto pupillage following on from vocational Bar training. Those seeking to undertake pupillage in England and Wales are allowed up to five years in which they can gain pupillage following completion of the vocational component of Bar training—after this point, a waiver would be needed.

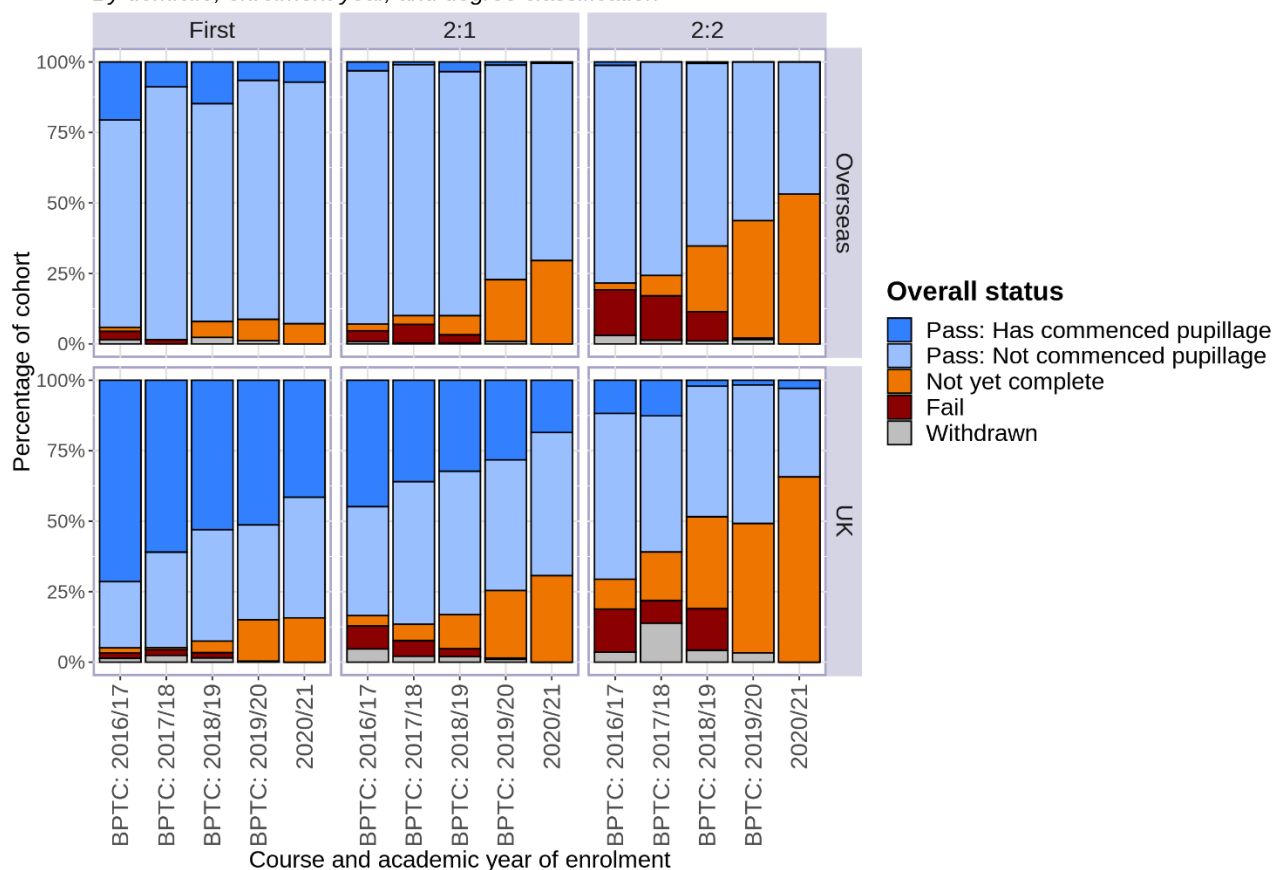
In cases where charts relate to students domiciled in the UK or overseas only, this refers to the region in which the student was domiciled prior to enrolment. Most of those domiciled in other countries prior to undertaking a vocational Bar training course do not appear to seek pupillage in England and Wales following completion of the course. For this reason, two of the charts in this section relates to data on those ordinarily domiciled in the UK only.

The charts below do not control for one important factor, which has been found to correlate with gaining pupillage - first-degree institution attended.<sup>8</sup>

**Chart 7. Status of vocational training students by domicile, year of enrolment and first degree classification overall – as of November 2022<sup>9</sup>**

### Overall status of Bar training students

*By domicile, enrolment year, and degree classification*



*Outcome on course as of November 2022*

<sup>8</sup> A further exploration of overall trends in student progression is to be given in a separate report due to be published by the BSB, which will summarise overall trends for those undertaking Bar training courses.

<sup>9</sup> “Not yet complete” means the student has either not taken all the assessments, not passed all the assessments, deferred one or more assessments to a future year, or been permitted to suspend their studies and resume at a specified point.

Chart 7 above shows the overall status (as of November 2022) **of all students** for whom we have results. The inclusion of part time students for 2020/21, and 2019/20 will slightly boost the proportion of those who have not completed the course for those years, as we have not received all of the data for these students at a point where they could have completed the course.

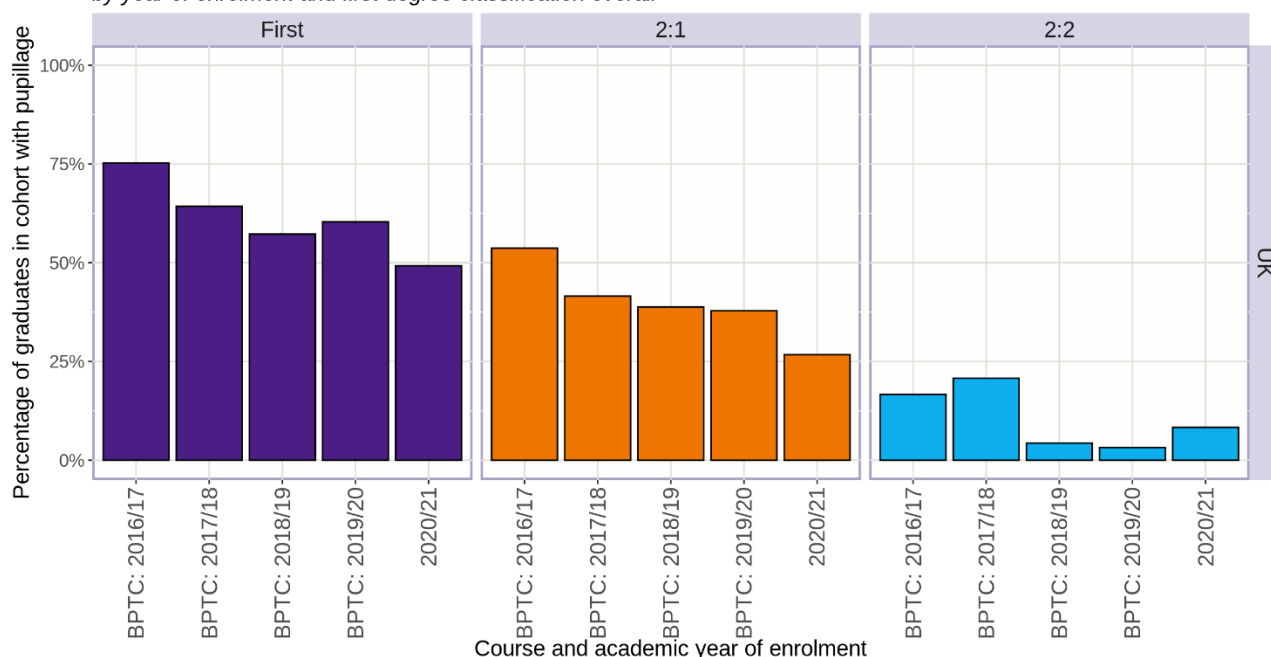
The difference between overseas and UK domiciled students in the proportion gaining pupillage following the course can clearly be seen. Otherwise, the proportions who failed and who had not yet completed the course are broadly in line with each other by domicile. There does appear to be a greater proportion of UK students who withdrew from the BPTC compared to overseas students (particularly for those with a 2:2 degree), although it is still a relatively small proportion that do so.

The proportion of those who go on to gain pupillage has a strong relationship with first degree classification. Chart 7 shows that a relatively low proportion of UK domiciled students with a 2:2 degree go on to gain pupillage, and a higher proportion take longer to finish vocational training than those with a 2:1 or first-class degree (although most of those with a 2:2 degree class are likely to pass vocational training eventually).

This trend is also reflected in Chart 8 below, which gives the proportion of UK domiciled students **who have passed** the Bar training course who have gone on to gain pupillage by first degree classification.

**Chart 8. Progression of UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage by year of enrolment and first degree classification overall – as of November 2022**

**Progression of UK domiciled Bar training graduates onto pupillage**  
by year of enrolment and first degree classification overall

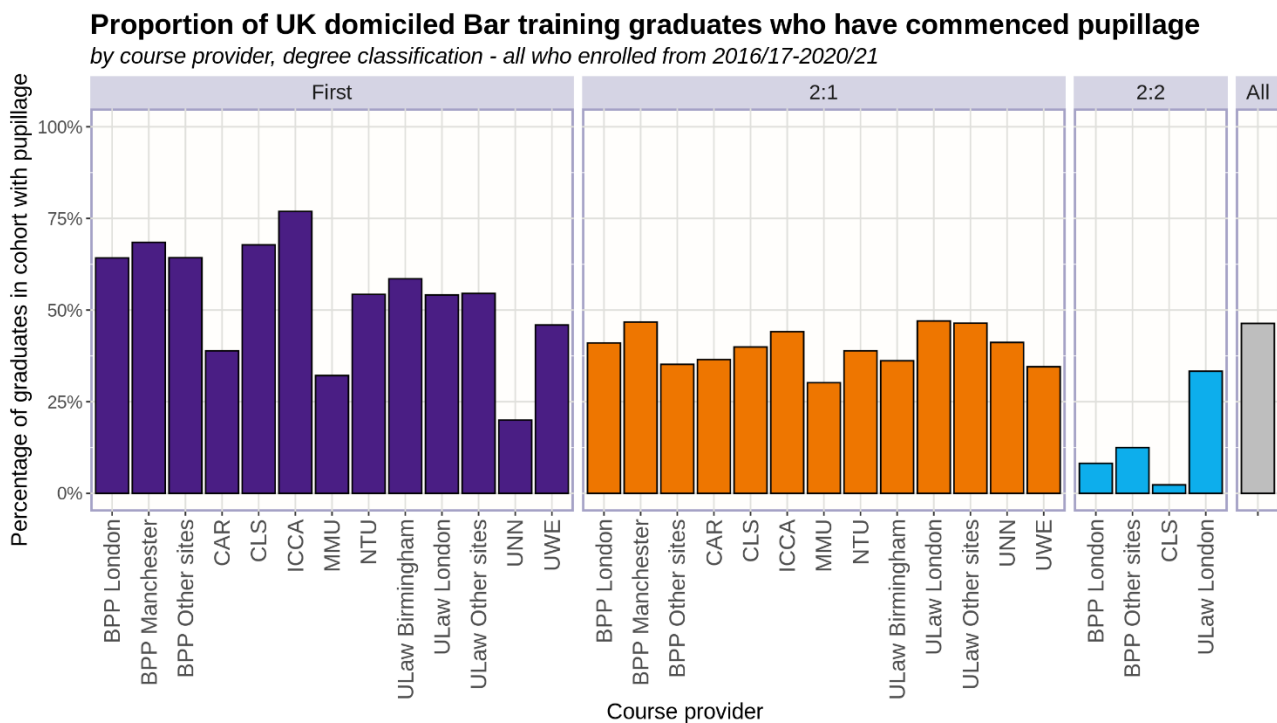


As of November 2022

Chart 9 below represents the proportion of UK domiciled students who enrolled on a Bar training course between 2016/17 and 2020/21 who have commenced pupillage by course provider. The most recent cohort of 2020/21 have been included, but it should be noted that as it can take some time for graduates to obtain pupillage, pupillage rates are higher for earlier cohorts (as shown in Chart 8). As a result, including the 2020/21 cohort means pupillage rates reported in this chart are slightly lower than they would be if this cohort was not included.

Statistics are not provided where the number of graduates in a grouping was fewer than 15, which is why many degree class groupings for provider sites are missing from the below.

**Chart 9. Progression of UK Bar training graduates onto pupillage by degree class and course provider – Those who enrolled between 2016/17 and 2020/21 – as of November 2022**



As of November 2022

# Appendices

## Enrolments

Table A1. Student profile by course provider for those enrolling on Bar training courses for 2020/21 and 2021/22 enrolment years together

Demographic Group		BPP Birmingham	BPP Bristol	BPP Leeds	BPP London	BPP Manchester	CAR	CLS	ICCA	MMU	NTU	ULa w Birmingham	ULa w Bristol	ULa w Leeds	ULa w Liverpool	ULa w London	ULa w Manchester	ULa w Nottingham	UNN	UWE	Total	
Age	Under 25	75%	59%	82%	71%	87%	85%	74%	57%	72%	63%	68%	82%	70%	78%	70%	80%	83%	83%	70%	73%	
	25-34	16%	34%	14%	21%	12%	11%	20%	35%	13%	27%	21%	16%	21%	22%	20%	17%	17%	11%	24%	20%	
	35+	8%	7%	5%	8%	2%	4%	7%	8%	15%	10%	11%	3%	9%	0%	10%	3%	0%	6%	6%	7%	
Disability	Declared disability	1%	3%	7%	5%	4%	10%	8%	20%	15%	2%	19%	18%	22%	33%	18%	15%	17%	4%	4%	10%	
	No declared disability	49%	46%	33%	55%	39%	85%	92%	79%	81%	19%	81%	82%	76%	67%	82%	85%	83%	46%	96%	70%	
	Pref. not to say/No info.	49%	51%	60%	40%	57%	6%	0%	2%	4%	79%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	20%	
Domicile	Overseas	47%	20%	22%	35%	34%	65%	48%	4%	11%	40%	12%	13%	23%	28%	22%	25%	22%	20%	87%	36%	
	UK	21%	31%	38%	34%	29%	35%	52%	96%	89%	60%	57%	61%	56%	72%	56%	56%	52%	29%	13%	45%	
	Pref. not to say/No info.	33%	49%	41%	31%	37%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	31%	26%	21%	0%	22%	19%	26%	51%	0%	19%	
Ethnicity	Asian/Asian British	54%	29%	28%	41%	35%	62%	55%	9%	21%	15%	32%	24%	33%	28%	31%	40%	26%	25%	79%	41%	
	Black/Black British	10%	8%	1%	10%	7%	5%	7%	4%	17%	5%	13%	3%	7%	17%	16%	7%	13%	1%	2%	8%	

## BAR TRAINING 2022: STATISTICS BY COURSE PROVIDER

Demographic Group		BPP Birmingham	BPP Bristol	BPP Leeds	BPP London	BPP Manchester	CAR	CLS	ICC A	MM U	NTU	ULa w Birmingham	ULa w Bristol	ULa w Leeds	ULa w Liverpool	ULa w London	ULa w Manchester	ULa w Nottingham	UN N	UW E	Total
	Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups	3%	8%	7%	5%	5%	2%	5%	8%	0%	2%	6%	11%	2%	6%	8%	5%	0%	3%	3%	5%
	Other	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	4%	0%	3%	0%	5%	1%	0%	1%	7%	3%
	White	13%	27%	41%	26%	31%	27%	28%	74%	55%	16%	40%	63%	55%	50%	38%	42%	61%	37%	9%	32%
	Pref. not to say/No info.	18%	25%	20%	16%	21%	2%	3%	5%	8%	62%	4%	0%	2%	0%	2%	5%	0%	32%	0%	10%
Gender	Female	54%	53%	67%	52%	60%	58%	33%	56%	64%	57%	64%	74%	63%	72%	63%	62%	83%	35%	39%	52%
	Male	46%	47%	32%	48%	40%	39%	28%	43%	36%	43%	34%	26%	37%	28%	36%	38%	17%	34%	60%	40%
	I use a different term	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Pref. not to say/No info.	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	40%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	31%	1%	9%
Degree class	First Class	10%	17%	30%	17%	27%	18%	32%	47%	26%	17%	26%	32%	29%	22%	26%	26%	30%	19%	12%	24%
	Upper Second Class	39%	42%	61%	45%	64%	64%	51%	45%	42%	58%	54%	61%	58%	72%	57%	61%	65%	34%	28%	50%
	Lower Second Class	49%	36%	8%	35%	4%	17%	11%	2%	32%	22%	9%	8%	10%	6%	9%	7%	4%	3%	51%	19%
	Pref. not to say/No info.	2%	5%	1%	4%	4%	1%	6%	5%	0%	3%	10%	0%	3%	0%	7%	6%	0%	44%	8%	6%

## Contacting us

We are committed to providing a high standard of service and dealing with everyone in a way that is fair, transparent, and proportionate. We welcome your feedback on our services, particularly where the level of service has exceeded or fallen below your expectations. Your comments and suggestions are important to us as they will help us to meet our obligations to you and to improve our performance.

## Write to us

Bar Standards Board  
289-293 High Holborn  
London WC1V 7HZ

**Tel:** 020 7611 1444

[contactus@barstandardsboard.org.uk](mailto:contactus@barstandardsboard.org.uk)

[www.barstandardsboard.org.uk](http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk)

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