

Supreme Court Moot Policy

General Terms and Conditions

1. We are offering 12 free slots for graduate law schools and university law societies to hold the final round of their internal mooting competition at the Supreme Court.
2. The moot finals will take place between February and May 2020.

Applications

3. We are only able to accept one application per law school/society.
4. Priority will primarily be given to graduate law schools, undergraduate groups/law societies that have not hosted a moot final at the Supreme Court before, followed by those who have not hosted a moot here within the last two years.
5. We welcome applications from across the UK, in particular from institutions from Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.
6. Please note that we are unable to accept applications from institutions that do not teach law.
7. Following submission of your application, an Education Officer from the Supreme Court will contact you over the telephone to discuss your application in more detail. We will give you advance warning of when we plan to telephone you at a mutually convenient time.
8. Please ensure that the Master or Mistress of the Moot has a deputy who we can contact should we not be able to get hold of the main contact point.
9. Law schools/societies will be allocated a two-hour time slot (between 5pm and 7pm Monday to Thursday) in which to hold their moot final. If a moot finishes after 7pm, the cost of covering extra security arrangements will be passed on to the institution/society.
10. Only one moot final per time slot is allowed – this means only 4 students should take part in the moot (two appellants and two respondents).
11. This is an opportunity primarily for students - our aim is to inspire the next generation of legal professionals. We request that you do not allow qualified lawyers (even if they are studying at the university) to take part in the moot finals.
12. Applicants must ensure they are able to commit to participating and attending the moot final. Those who pull out at short notice jeopardise the chance of their institution/society being successful in future years. If you are in any doubt that you will be able to commit to this requirement, please do not submit an application form, as it is unfair on unsuccessful applications.
13. As the moot programme forms part of the court's education and outreach initiatives, we ask that the moot finals are not explicitly branded or marketed, this means no banners or visual branding should be on display in or outside the courtroom (although it is acceptable to produce medals and literature with the sponsor's names on).

Judges

14. The moot final will be judged by a Supreme Court Justice, allocated by the Education and Outreach team. We are unable to accept requests from law schools/societies for a particular Justice.
15. The allocated Justice will be the only judge of the moot final. Law schools/societies may not bring their own supplementary judges to the Court. The Justice's Judicial Assistant may join their Justice on the bench.

16. Successful applicants will be allowed to invite Academic staff, non-competing students and students to the Moot Final.
17. Given the commitment the Supreme Court Justices are making to this programme, requests for a Justice to judge moots held at the Supreme Court outside of the 12 free slots cannot be met. To avoid embarrassment, we would ask institutions to refrain from asking Justices to judge such moots being held at the Court.

Rules and Deadlines

18. Law schools/societies can choose their own moot problem. However, all moot problems must revolve around an arguable point of law of general public importance, reflecting genuine Supreme Court cases. Please see **Appendixes A and B** for examples of the type of moot problem that should be submitted. *(Please note that these moot problems are the copyright of BPP Law School and City Law School respectively and not be copied or used, wholly or partly, without the author's express permission.)*
19. In order to ensure a high standard and legally accurate moot, we would recommend that the moot problem is checked over by a law professor or faculty member of the law school before it is submitted to the Court. If there are any significant legal inaccuracies or errors, the Supreme Court reserves the right to suggest that amendments be made to the moot problem before it is submitted to the judge.
20. Moot problems need to be submitted electronically **one month** before the date of the moot final.
21. Skeleton arguments and bundles should be submitted electronically **one week** before the moot final.
22. Two, paginated skeleton arguments must be provided, one each for the appellant and respondent.
23. One, agreed bundle of authorities duly paginated, and in the interests of size and conciseness, authorities should be limited to those which are essential. **We are happy to provide an example of a skeleton argument and bundle from a previous moot, upon request.**
24. In addition to being submitted electronically, parties must bring a copy of their bundle to the moot final for the benefit of the Judge. It may be necessary to provide an extra set of skeleton arguments and bundles for an attending JA. We will notify you of this in advance, if applicable.
25. There will be no exceptions to the deadlines stated above. In keeping with civil courts procedure, we expect deadlines to be strictly adhered to and we reserve the right to cancel the moot final if material is not lodged in time.

Timings

26. We recommend that Senior Counsel are given 20 minutes and Junior Counsel are given 15 minutes to make their oral submissions, so that students can get the most out of their experience at the Supreme Court. However, we do appreciate that each law school/society has different rules regarding timings and so alternative timings may be permitted at the discretion of the Supreme Court.
27. A timing clerk must be provided by the law school/university and discreet time prompts for the benefits of students are permitted.
28. Law schools/societies are expected to manage the timing for the moot and to ensure that the event finishes on time. This includes bringing your own equipment to time the moots

and ensuring that all necessary batteries are fully charged to last the entirety of the moot final.

29. We request that during the moots, the clock is not stopped for intervention or interruptions, as this makes the moot a more realistic and worthwhile experience for the participants.

Results

30. Supreme Court Justices will not use institution's marking sheets when judging the moot finals. The Justice will choose a team and/or individual moot winner (please notify the Education Officer of your preference in advance). They are happy to provide oral feedback on individual participants, although they should not be asked to rank the students by level of individual performance.

Unsuccessful applicants

31. If you are unsuccessful in your application but are still interested in holding your moot final at the UK Supreme Court, you can hire the court as a venue. Please see the [Venue hire](#) section of the UKSC for more information.