

GURU NANAK SOCIAL MOBILITY BAR SCHOLARSHIPS

Announcement

1. Mukhtiar Singh and the Sikh Education Council are delighted to announce the results of the 2025 Guru Nanak Social Mobility Bar Scholarships.
2. The winners are:
 - a) First place: Kiran Kaur Kalsi: £4,000 also mentoring for one year.
 - b) Second place: Harry Camp: £300.
 - c) Third place: Amlan Mishra: Work experience.
3. All three are congratulated for their impressive applications and essays. All have come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have shown not only do they have the necessary strong commitment to become barristers, but they also have the ability. Each have their own stories of overcoming significant obstacles, which many are privileged not to face. As has been the case with previous scholars, all three are expected to be successful barristers in the future.
4. Run since 2018, the aims of the scholarships are:
 - a) To improve social mobility in professions perceived to be out of reach for those from poorer backgrounds. This will be achieved through financial awards, mentoring and work placements.
 - b) To encourage a wider understanding of Sikh jurisprudence by considering whether society may learn from Sikhism for the benefit of us all. To achieve this, and celebrating 80 years since VE day, applicants were asked to write an essay on, ***“By reference to British values, what are the best values for humans to aspire to?”***
5. Whilst no feedback is provided, the best answers engaged with the second aim of the scholarships and demonstrated the requisite skills for becoming barristers (researching; persuasive writing; structured and logical arguments; and analytical ability). In considering the quality of the essay, we considered the stage of the applicant’s studies as well as the obstacles they face. It did not matter if we disagreed with the points made, but it was important that the essay was persuasive and sourced.
6. We were particularly impressed with a number of applications and their essays will also be published on the website (singhbarrister.co.uk). This year’s standard was exceptional and all those that applied are congratulated.
7. Candidates that made genuine applications will be assisted with their pupillage applications if applying this year.
8. All of this year’s applicants stood out in terms of the diversity of applicants from working class backgrounds and the ability to overcome extremely difficult obstacles.

9. Those that were not successful for the first prize, and continue to meet the criteria, are encouraged to apply again next year.
10. The essays will be published on the Sikh Education Council website and on Mukhtiar Singh's website.
11. Chambers and firms willing to provide work placements should please contact Mukhtiar Singh at m.singh@doughtystreet.co.uk. Please state whether you are able to pay for reasonable travel expenses. Barristers able to assist with reviewing pupillage applications, should also please contact Mukhtiar.

Next year

12. There will another Bar Scholarship competition next year offering financial prizes, mentoring and work placements. This will be announced at around Vaisakhi time (April) 2026 on the website (singhbarrister.co.uk) and via LinkedIn.
13. It is hoped that the Guru Nanak Social Mobility Scholarships will be available in other professions in the future, for professions deemed out of reach for the working class.
14. Any firm or individual wishing to sponsor a Solicitor or Bar Scholarship in 2026 should please contact Mukhtiar Singh at m.singh@doughtystreet.co.uk
15. In the spirit of the legal profession, and in the spirit of Sikhism, award winners and runner ups who subsequently secure pupillage through the scheme ("the Scholars") will be expected to (and we are delighted that they do) participate in the scheme in the future including providing mentoring.
16. It is hoped that as the scheme develops, Scholars will lead engagement in state schools with the Sikh Education Council to encourage a career in the Bar, whatever their background.
17. Questions about the Bar Scholarship or the scholarships generally should be directed to Mukhtiar Singh: m.singh@doughtystreet.co.uk
18. Mukhtiar Singh is an Employment and Commercial Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers. He has a particular interest in discrimination; whistleblowing; and commercial and business ethics. [Mukhtiar Singh | Doughty Street Chambers](#)
19. The Sikh Education Council provides guidance; engages in research; and teaches about the Sikh way of life. [The Sikh Way | The online home of the Sikh Education Council](#)