

# GIBSON DUNN

## FAQs

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### Applications and Interviews

**1. When do applications open?**

A: 1 September 2024.

**2. How can I apply?**

A: Online: <https://www.apply4law.com/GibsonDunn/>

**3. What does the application include?**

A: We are keen to get to know you so there is the opportunity to share more about you and your experiences as well as what attracts you to Gibson Dunn and why you want to become a solicitor.

**4. Are applications reviewed on a rolling basis?**

A: Yes, so we encourage you to submit your application early.

*Note: To be considered for a place on our two-year training programme, you should first apply for our vacation scheme.*

**5. Which year are you currently recruiting for?**

A: We are looking to recruit one trainee for 2025, 2026 & 2027 either in our Dubai or Abu Dhabi office.

**6. How many vacation scheme students are you looking to recruit for 2025?**

A: Up to four.

**7. What is the vacation scheme interview process?**

A: First stage interview with Graduate Recruitment, followed by two second stage interviews with partners and associates (competency-based interview and a case study).

**8. When do applications close?**

A: 16 January 2025.

**9. What are your grade requirements?**

A: You should have at least three A levels (AAA, AAB or ABB) or equivalent, and have obtained, or expect to obtain, a 2.1 or above in your undergraduate degree. We do consider mitigating circumstances and there is a space on the application form to include these.

**10. Do you recruit from certain universities or law schools or require certain subjects?**

A: No. We welcome applications from exceptional students from any university and discipline.

**11. Do you have any other eligibility requirements?**

A: We are particularly interested to hear from UAE Nationals and candidates who have strong ties to the region and a genuine commitment for building a long-term career in the Middle East. Fluent Arabic writing and speaking skills are preferred.

**12. Who can apply?**

A: Undergraduate law students in their penultimate or final year of study, students of other disciplines in their final year, those who have already graduated and those completing the Post Graduate Diploma in Law (PGDL), LPC or Solicitors Qualification Exam (SQE).

**13. How can I make my application stand out?**

A: Be yourself. Your application will stand out if it is well-considered and a true reflection of your achievements and ambitions. Do your research, but don't just repeat what you have read on our website

or tell us what you think we want to hear. Connect your skills and experience with the firm; we like curious individuals! We don't expect all candidates to have valuable legal work experience, but we encourage you to think outside the parameters of the roles that you have held and consider any commercial aspects.

#### **14. What key characteristics do we look for in a Gibson Dunn trainee?**

A: Intellectual curiosity; Entrepreneurial Spirit; Maturity; Sociability.

## **Training with us**

#### **15. Do I need to pass any additional qualifications before starting as a trainee?**

A: Our training programme in the Middle East is designed for you to qualify as an England & Wales lawyer. Before you can start as a trainee in our Dubai or Abu Dhabi office, you will need to have completed the Solicitors Qualification Exam (SQE). As well as SQE1 & SQE2, you will also complete our bespoke Essentials for Practice course. If you have not studied a law degree, you will also first need to complete the Post Graduate Diploma in Law (PGDL). Once you have completed the PGDL (if required) and SQE assessments, you will then complete your qualifying work experience by undertaking a two-year training period in our Dubai or Abu Dhabi office.

#### **16. Does the firm cover PGDL and SQE fees?**

A: Yes, for those who need sponsorship. We also pay a competitive maintenance allowance for full time students.

#### **17. Who will supervise?**

A: You will be supervised by senior associates and partners.

#### **18. What seats are available?**

A: We offer a variety of seats in transactional and litigation. We expect to offer seats in Corporate, Projects, Finance, Disputes and Capital Markets.

#### **19. Do you offer international and client secondments?**

A: There may be opportunities to complete a client secondment or undertake a seat in one of our international offices. Discussions will take place with Graduate Recruitment according to commercial need.

#### **20. What makes the Gibson Dunn training contract unique?**

A: We are the go-to firm for global high-end legal work where the financial and reputation risks are at their highest.

- Our low leverage model allows trainees greater early experience and exposure to clients and interesting aspects of the work. Our free market system provides lawyers the flexibility to chart their long-term career goals.
- We are a truly international firm and you will work on complex cross-border matters, with fluid overlap between offices.
- Our trainees benefit from annual individual training (\$1,000 USD), client development (\$1,000 USD) & book budgets (\$300 USD).
- Lead by our Executive Committee, we have firm-wide and local office diversity committees and affinity groups to support our lawyers through programming and training.
- Pro bono – 1 for 1 billable credit. We have a long-standing and valued tradition of service to the community and we look forward to welcoming trainees who are interested in getting involved in pro bono work.

## 21. What are some fast facts about Gibson Dunn?

**1.4M+**

Pro Bono Hours  
since 2014

**50%**

of all global Partners in  
Charge are diverse

**20+**

years of commitment to  
diversity efforts

**27**

years of profit  
growth

**2021**

elected our first female Chair  
and Managing Partner

**20**

active firmwide  
affinity groups

**350+**

diversity events hosted  
across the firm in 2023

**550+**

Pro Bono matters  
opened in 2023