

GIBSON DUNN

FAQs

Applications and Interviews

1. When do applications open?

A: 1 September 2025.

2. How can I apply?

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

3. What does the application form include?

A: The application form is an opportunity for us to learn more about you — your background, experiences, and what attracts you to Gibson Dunn. We're also interested in your motivation for pursuing a career as a solicitor. Please remember to upload your transcripts.

4. Are applications reviewed on a rolling basis?

A: Yes, so please ensure to submit your application early.

Note: To be considered for a training contract, you must first apply to our Summer Vacation Scheme.

5. Which intake year are you currently recruiting trainees for?

A: 2028.

6. How many trainees are you looking to recruit?

A: One or two.

7. How many Summer Vacation Scheme students are you planning to recruit for 2026?

A: Up to four.

8. What are the Summer Vacation Scheme dates?

A: 1 – 18 June 2026.

9. What is the Summer Vacation Scheme assessment process?

A: The first stage is to submit an online application. Applications are reviewed, and selected candidates will be invited to a first-stage interview with the Graduate Recruitment and Development Team and associates from our Hong Kong office. If successful, you will progress to a second-stage interview, which typically involves discussions with partners and other associates.

10. When do applications close?

A: 1 January 2026.

11. What are your grade requirements?

A: You should have obtained, or expect to obtain, a strong 2:1 degree (or a minimum 3.5 GPA) or above. We do take any mitigating circumstances into account, which you can outline in the application form.

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

A: No. We value individuals based on their potential and capabilities, regardless of their university background or field of study.

13. Who can apply?

A: Undergraduate law students in their penultimate or final year of study, students of other disciplines in their final year, graduates, and those who are completing their JD or PCLL course.

14. 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.

15. What key characteristics do we look for in a Gibson Dunn trainee?

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

Training with us

16. Does the firm cover PCLL fees?

A: Yes, we cover PCLL fees for candidates who have not yet started their PCLL studies at the time of receiving a trainee offer from us. We also provide a competitive maintenance allowance during PCLL studies.

17. Who will supervise?

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

18. What seats are available?

A: We expect to offer seats in Competition, Compliance & Investigations, Corporate, Finance, Funds and Litigation & Dispute Resolution.

19. 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.

20. What are some fast facts about Gibson Dunn?

206K+

Pro Bono Hours
In 2024

\$251M+

value of Pro Bono Hours
in 2024

20+

years of commitment to
diversity efforts

28

years of profit
growth

2021

elected our first female Chair
and Managing Partner

18

active firmwide
affinity groups

330+

diversity events hosted
across the firm in 2024

750+

Pro Bono matters
opened in 2024