

GIBSON DUNN

FAQs

Applications and Interviews

1. When do applications open?

A: 1 September 2026

2. How can I apply?

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

3. What does the application 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.

4. Are applications reviewed on a rolling basis?

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

5. What is the assessment process?

A: The first stage is to submit an online application and complete an online situational judgment and strengths assessment. Applications and scores are reviewed, and selected candidates will be invited to a first-stage interview with the Graduate Recruitment and Development Team. If successful, you will progress to a second-stage interview, which typically involves discussions with partners.

6. When do applications close?

A: 8 January 2027.

7. What are your grade requirements?

A: You should have at least three A levels (ABB minimum) or equivalent, and have obtained, or expect to obtain, a 2.1 or above in your undergraduate degree (or minimum 3.5 GPA). We do consider mitigating circumstances and there is a space on the application form to include these.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. Who can apply?

A: We welcome applications from final or penultimate year LLB students (UK Qualifying degree only), final year students on a non-UK-qualifying law course, final year non-law students, career changers and recent graduates.

11. 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.

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

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

Training with us

13. Do I need to pass any additional qualifications before starting as a trainee?

A: Our training programme in the UAE is designed 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 UK qualifying 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.

14. Does the firm cover PGDL and SQE fees?

A: We cover the full cost of the SQE and PGDL, and provide a competitive maintenance grant of £20,000 for each.

15. Who will supervise?

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

16. What seats are available?

A: We offer a variety of seats in transactional and litigation. We expect to offer seats in Corporate (M&A), Project Development, Finance, Funds, Disputes and Capital Markets.

17. 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.

18. 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).
- 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.

19. What are some fast facts about Gibson Dunn?

240K+

Pro Bono Hours
In 2025

\$321M+

value of Pro Bono Hours
in 2025

20+

years of commitment to
diversity efforts

29

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