

The following is an extract from the Bar Standards Board's [Handbook](#), specifically from the Bar Training Rules in Part 4 (Qualification Rules) of the Handbook.

B4. The Vocational Stage

rQ27 A person starts the *vocational stage* of training on starting to attend at a *Bar Professional Training Course*, and completes the *vocational stage* on being certified by the course provider that he has successfully completed a *Bar Professional Training Course*.

rQ28 Before starting the *vocational stage*, a person must:

.1 have completed (or been exempted under Section 4.B7 from) the *Academic Stage*; and

.2 have successfully completed the *Bar Course Aptitude Test*, the pass score for which is set by the *Bar Standards Board* from time to time; and

.3 be a member of an *Inn of Court*.

rQ29 A person may not start the *vocational stage* more than five years after completing the *Academic Stage* except with the permission of the *Bar Standards Board* and after complying with any condition which the *Bar Standards Board* may impose.

The additional text added above via tracked changes is intended to clarify the existing rule. The wording of the rule as it currently stands is somewhat ambiguous; the new wording will clarify that successful completion of the Bar Course Aptitude Test (BCAT) is a requirement for all individuals before they enrol on the Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC).