

City St George's University of London (CSG)

30th July 2024

30/07/2024 15:49

how long can bvs students deferr examss....

as in a student joined in 2019 and is still trying to pass civ lit

this would technically be their last year to pass as they have a five year deadline in which they need to pass

30th July 2024

30/07/2024 15:55

Hey [REDACTED] just a quick question about BPTC students that started in 2019..

do they have the same amount of time to complete (5 years)

Hi [REDACTED] in practice, no time limit for BPTC students. The BSB did impose a time limit but then got scared when students started threatening legal action so they opted to grant waivers as long as students had ECs/appeals in place - which basically leaves them able to go on forever as long as we keep accepting their applications.



30/07/2024 16:07

such a strange rule! thank you 😊

and is there a maximum number of years the can keep registering?

No maximum, they're not actually 'registered' as such any more of course - just regarded as resitters and we keep on extending their end date to the end of the next assessment period. About 30 of them left...plus one BVC student (from 09-10).



22nd October 2024

22/10/2024 13:20

Hello - quick question - do we email students with all of the defferal/appeal info on the 1st November?

and also - what is the time limit on completeing the bar course

sorry I should know this but can't quite recall

Hello - quick question - do we email students with all of the defferal/appeal info on the 1st November?

Absolutely, that'll be in there. Take a look at the results emails from SR 23 to get an idea.

and also - what is the time limit on completeing the bar course

Five years from registration for BVS. So those that commenced in Sept 2020 must pass all assessments by Sept 2025 - which, in practical terms, means by the July 2025 board (the last board prior to Sept 2025). Realistically, probably the June 2025 board in fact as the July board is only for Electives. So if they only have vocational assessments or Diss/CLE remaining then it's the June board.

No time limit for BPTC/BVC. The limit the BSB used to impose has withered away - it used to be two or three years depending on when they started; then it became unlimited as long as they had ECs; then it just disappeared altogether in the pandemic.

22/10/2024 13:40

thank you - this is all really helpful!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 January 2025 07:43:00
To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Subject: BVS five year rule - clarification

Good to know! Thanks [REDACTED]

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The City Law School
City St George's, University of London
Northampton Square
London EC1V 0HB
www.city.ac.uk

From: [REDACTED]city.ac.uk>
Sent: 28 January 2025 17:10
To: [REDACTED]city.ac.uk>; [REDACTED]city.ac.uk>
Subject: BVS five year rule - clarification

Hi both

I discovered today that I've been misinterpreting the five-year completion rule for the BVS.

In short, students can continue to sit assessments up until their deadline (my previous assumption was that they would be required to have passed by their deadline).

So a student that commenced the course in September 2020 can continue to sit assessments up until September 2025 (so they can sit in Summer 2025 even though they won't be awarded (if they even pass) until after September 2025).

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The City Law School
City St George's, University of London
Northampton Square
London EC1V 0HB
www.city.ac.uk

25th March 2025

25/03 15:26

What's their student ID?

They also appear to have been on the degree for 5 years almost

[REDACTED]

25/03 15:27

yeah they are on the BVS LLM route

are they near MPR

or do they have longer

[REDACTED]

25/03 15:28

Well that depends, on the BVS it's five years since they first sat one of the assessments in the vocational component of the programme

so if they had ECs etc for the first attempts, it could be different

does the LLM add any years

or is it within the 5

25/03 15:29



Nope, they must complete the vocational component within five years of sitting the first assessment

Est. 25th - 28th March 2025

Nope, they must complete the vocational component within five years of sitting teh first assessment

Just checked this when I was redrafting the BVS programme spec for the CMS:

Registration Period:

The usual period for completion is one year for full-time study and two years for part-time study. The maximum period of registration on the programme is five years from the date of enrolment on the programme.

[REDACTED]

28/03 16:14

Yeah, I need to confirm we are doing it right

it may have been different regs for different cohorts

This is for 2024/25

Vocational Component

Time Limit for Completion

6.3 In order to be eligible for Call to the Bar, a student must complete the Vocational Component within 5 years of the date of enrolment on the Programme.

6.4 A student shall be barred from exercising any right to resit available under Regulation 5.12 or deferring a resit under Regulation 12 beyond the time limit in Regulation 6.3 above.

ooo

oh goodness. Some of them are so close to 5 years

28/03 16:20

Yep



I'm going to check what the 20-21 handbook said (for [REDACTED])

Internal messages between City St George's University of London staff

14th April 2025

14/04 15:02

yes....

14/04 15:08

[REDACTED]

also the five years they must complete everything in is from the assessment right. So if a students started 23/24 - then they will need to have completed by February 29?

is that correct?

or january actually

No - five years from point of registration. They can be awarded after that point - but cannot sit assessments after that point.
So final assessment period for a Sept 23 starter is Summer 28.

14/04 15:11

[REDACTED]

Edited

[REDACTED]

Edited

in the handbook it says this - You must pass assessments in all of the Vocational Component modules within five years of the date of the first assessment in order to be called to the Bar.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] it still yields the same deadline though

14/04 15:13

yes, cause you would need to have sat everything by summer to then reach the board in time for everything

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]BarStandardsBoard.org.uk>
Sent: 24 April 2025 08:55
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BSB Bar Training Forum - 25th April 2025

Good morning all,

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at the Bar Training Forum tomorrow. If you are not planning to join us (or are sending someone in your place) please do let me know. Otherwise, do join us for 11am.

Over the past few weeks, we have received some queries from AETOs and students regarding the “5 year” rule, which we will discuss on Friday. Whilst we are not considering a change to the rule, we would like to clarify the position during the meeting on Friday. We are also considering providing additional guidance into the Curriculum Assessment Strategy and Bar Qualification Manual, and propose adding the following text (see below):

Existing Wording

The purpose of assessment is to allow candidates to demonstrate the Competences set out in the Professional Statement. Candidates studying the vocational component must pass assessments in all subjects within five years of the date of enrolment in order to be called to the Bar.

The BSB stipulates only that completion must be within five years; we do not stipulate the maximum number of attempts that a candidate may be allowed within those five years. However, AETOs' specific regulations determine the number of re-sits available to a candidate at their institution. For the purpose of Call to the Bar no compensation for failure is permitted and no condoned failure is permitted. However, AETOs' specific regulations may permit compensation for failure or may permit condoned failure for the purpose of making an academic award. Completion of such an award without meeting the requirements of Call to the Bar will not constitute completion of an approved Bar training route. AETOs should operate extenuating circumstances policies which ensure that a student's final result for any individual assessment is a fair reflection of their competence. Where a student receives a mark that is at or above the pass threshold, and that is not affected by extenuating circumstances, the mark should stand, and they should not be permitted to resit purely for the purpose of improving the mark. AETOs may offer assessments in any approved mode of delivery.

Proposed New Wording

The purpose of assessment is to allow candidates to demonstrate the Competences set out in the Professional Statement. Candidates studying the vocational component must pass assessments in all subjects within five years of the date of enrolment in order to be called to the Bar.

For this purpose, the five years will commence from the month in which the course starts and ends on the last day of the relevant month five years later. Specifically, if an AETO commences its Bar course (i.e., commences classes or makes materials available to its students) in the month of September 2020, the candidate must have completed their last assessment in the month of August 2025 (even if their results are not received before the end of August 2025). This time limit applies to both full-time and part-time candidates. The maximum time limit exists to avoid graduates proceeding to pupillage with “stale” knowledge. This period cannot be extended under any circumstances (for example candidates cannot apply for waivers or extenuating circumstances to extend the five-year period).

The BSB stipulates only that completion must be within five years; we do not stipulate the maximum number of attempts that a candidate may be allowed within those five years. However, AETOs' specific regulations determine the number of re-sits available to a candidate at their institution. For the purpose of Call to the Bar no compensation for failure is permitted and no condoned failure is permitted. However, AETOs' specific regulations may permit compensation for failure or may permit

condoned failure for the purpose of making an academic award. Completion of such an award without meeting the requirements of Call to the Bar will not constitute completion of an approved Bar training route. AETOs should operate extenuating circumstances policies which ensure that a student's final result for any individual assessment is a fair reflection of their competence. Where a student receives a mark that is at or above the pass threshold, and that is not affected by extenuating circumstances, the mark should stand, and they should not be permitted to resit purely for the purpose of improving the mark. AETOs may offer assessments in any approved mode of delivery.

Between now and Friday, if you have time, please do read the proposed text and bring your thoughts with you.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The Bar Standards Board
289-293 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HZ
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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If you have received this information in error, please destroy it and inform me on [REDACTED] as soon as possible. Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Extension to complete BVS
Date: 11 June 2025 18:43:32

Thank you both.

I would be grateful if you could respond to the student.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

Sent from Outlook for iOS

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 1:46:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>; [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Extension to complete BVS

Dear both

Thanks [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] actually sent me the wording earlier this week as it came up when discussing a student case I think he then raised with you. I am very pleased the wording has been clarified.

[REDACTED] - I imagine we will get a few similar queries in the coming weeks, particularly after we release BVS results on 27th June. This summer is the first point at which BVS students can hit the 5 year rule and we have a number who are looking like they will run out of time.

There will be communications to students around this as part of results (and we have been flagging the rule to these students for the past couple of years) but it is unusual for a deadline to be so absolute and I expect some students to struggle to accept that.

Would you like me to respond to the student?

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 11 June 2025 13:12
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>; [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: Re: Extension to complete BVS

Dear [REDACTED]

I can confirm that we are not permitted to extend the deadline.

As it happens, the BSB have very recently sent an email with proposed new wording for the 5-year rule, and this was discussed (briefly) at the BSB meeting on 6 June. As you will see from the new wording below, they are explicit that the period cannot be extended under any circumstances.

[REDACTED] - I was going to forward this to you this week so that you are aware. They describe the amendment as a clarification rather than a change.

I am in the process of arranging for an email to be sent to all students who are caught by the 5 year rule to remind them and set out the new wording.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Existing Wording

The purpose of assessment is to allow candidates to demonstrate the Competences set out in the Professional Statement. Candidates studying the vocational component must pass assessments in all subjects within five years of the date of enrolment in order to be called to the Bar.

The BSB stipulates only that completion must be within five years; we do not stipulate the maximum number of attempts that a candidate may be allowed within those five years. However, AETOs' specific regulations determine the number of re-sits available to a candidate at their institution. For the purpose of Call to the Bar no compensation for failure is permitted and no condoned failure is permitted. However, AETOs' specific regulations may permit compensation for failure or may permit condoned failure for the purpose of making an academic award. Completion of such an award without meeting the requirements of Call to the Bar will not constitute completion of an approved Bar training route. AETOs should operate extenuating circumstances policies which ensure that a student's final result for any individual assessment is a fair reflection of their competence. Where a student receives a mark that is at or above the pass threshold, and that is not affected by extenuating circumstances, the mark should stand, and they should not be permitted to resit purely for the purpose of improving the mark. AETOs may offer assessments in any approved mode of delivery.

Proposed New Wording

The purpose of assessment is to allow candidates to demonstrate the Competences set out in the Professional Statement. Candidates studying the vocational component must pass assessments in all subjects within five years of the date of enrolment in order to be called to the Bar.

For this purpose, the five years will commence from the month in which the course starts and ends on the last day of the relevant month five years later. Specifically, if an AETO commences its Bar course (i.e., commences classes or makes materials available to its students) in the month of September 2020, the candidate must have completed their last assessment in the month of August 2025 (even if their results are not received before the end of August 2025). This time limit applies to both full-time and part-time candidates. The maximum time limit exists to avoid graduates proceeding to pupillage with "stale" knowledge. This period cannot be extended under any circumstances (for example candidates cannot apply for waivers or extenuating circumstances to extend the five-year period).

The BSB stipulates only that completion must be within five years; we do not stipulate the maximum number of attempts that a candidate may be allowed within those five years. However, AETOs' specific regulations determine the number of re-sits available to a candidate at their institution. For the purpose of Call to the Bar no compensation for failure is permitted and no condoned failure is permitted. However, AETOs' specific regulations may permit compensation for failure or may permit condoned failure for the purpose of making an academic award. Completion of such an award without meeting the requirements of Call to the Bar will not constitute completion of an approved Bar training route. AETOs should operate extenuating circumstances policies which ensure that a student's final result for any individual assessment

is a fair reflection of their competence. Where a student receives a mark that is at or above the pass threshold, and that is not affected by extenuating circumstances, the mark should stand, and they should not be permitted to resit purely for the purpose of improving the mark. AETOs may offer assessments in any approved mode of delivery.

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 11 June 2025 12:52
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>; [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: Fw: Extension to complete BVS

Not in my gift, I think? BSB regulations apply?

Sent from Outlook for iOS

[REDACTED]

NOTE: the above redacted email may be the 11 June 2025 11:47:29 AM email at COR 002

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Extension to complete BVS
Date: 12 June 2025 12:00:00

Dear [REDACTED]

I am not sure what progress you have made with comms for the students who look likely to get caught by the 5-year rule, but I thought it might be helpful to see what I've just written to the student who contacted [REDACTED]

I've had a quick look at the draft report for next week's Assessment Board and identified 7 students who are at risk [REDACTED] who definitely need to sit this summer, including the student below and the student [REDACTED] (contacted you about earlier this week) and [REDACTED] who may need to, depending on the results of the April CEBs (which we haven't yet had).

I've just had a chat to [REDACTED] about these students, as it feels very harsh to just tell them they need to get on and sit this summer if they want to try to complete the course. We agreed that the students should be directed to them to review if there is anything we can do to support the student to sit. You might want to do the same in any comms you are drafting. I will talk to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] about making sure this happens in the comms which go with results (when they are back).

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: cls-pg-assessments
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 5 year rule
Date: 12 June 2025 14:59:00

Hey [REDACTED],

Attached is our resitter doc if that is helpful?

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The City Law School
City St George's, University of London
Northampton Square
London EC1V 0HB
www.city.ac.uk

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 12 June 2025 14:44
To: cls-pg-assessments <cls-pg-assessments@citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: FW: 5 year rule

Hi [REDACTED]

Please can you provide me with a list (or point me in the direction) of all BVS resitting students who commenced in September 2020 so I can send them the below email as requested by [REDACTED]?

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The City Law School
City St George's, University of London
Northampton Square
London EC1V 0HB
T: [REDACTED]
www.city.ac.uk

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 09 June 2025 12:04
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: 5 year rule

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you've had a lovely holiday. This is for when you return from leave.

I would like to please send an email to all students who are still in the system who commenced the BVS in

in September 2020 to remind them of the 5 year rule. The BSB have recently amended the wording of the rule to clarify that the 5 years runs from the date of commencement and the course must be completed by this August. The new wording of the rule is as follows:

For this purpose, the five years will commence from the month in which the course starts and ends on the last day of the relevant month five years later. Specifically, if an AETO commences its Bar course (i.e., commences classes or makes materials available to its students) in the month of September 2020, the candidate must have completed their last assessment in the month of August 2025 (even if their results are not received before the end of August 2025). This time limit applies to both full-time and part-time candidates. The maximum time limit exists to avoid graduates proceeding to pupillage with "stale" knowledge. This period cannot be extended under any circumstances (for example candidates cannot apply for waivers or extenuating circumstances to extend the five-year period).

Draft email wording below.

Many thanks.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Draft email

Dear Student

As you commenced the BVS programme in September 2020, we would like to remind you that under our programme regulations and as required by the Bar Standards Board, you must complete your last assessments within 5 years of commencing the course. This means that you must have completed your last assessments in the month of **August 2025**. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that you must have sat your assessment(s), not that you must have received your results which can be provided at a later date. This period cannot be extended under any circumstances.

Best wishes etc

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The City Law School

City St George's, University of London

Northampton Square

London EC1V 0HB

www.city.ac.uk

[EMAIL HEADER OMITTED]

Thanks for sending this. Since I wrote it, [REDACTED] has come up with a much better wording which refers these students to sources of support. I was going to amend my version for sending next week because I didn't realise you were back today. Never mind! If any of the 9 students get in touch and are concerned about their ability to sit, we can refer them to cls.support@citystgeorges.ac.uk to explore whether there is any support we can provide. They can also contact [REDACTED] (cls.learningsupport@citystgeorges.ac.uk) to review their Student Support Plan.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 12 June 2025 17:05
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: 5 year rule

Hi [REDACTED],

This email has now been sent - there were 9 students (FT & PT) who commenced the course in September 2020.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The City Law School
City St Georges, University of London
Northampton Square
London EC1V 0HB
T: [REDACTED]
www.city.ac.uk

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 09 June 2025 12:04
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: 5 year rule

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I would like to please send an email to all students who are still in the system who commenced the BVS in September 2020 to remind them of the 5 year rule. The BSB have recently amended the wording of the rule to clarify that the 5 years runs from the date of commencement and the course must be completed by this August. The new wording of the rule is as follows:

For this purpose, the five years will commence from the month in which the course starts and ends on the last day of the relevant month five years later. Specifically, if an AETO commences its Bar course (i.e., commences classes or makes materials available to its students) in the month of September 2020, the candidate must have completed their last assessment in the month of August 2025 (even if their results are not received before the end of August 2025). This time limit applies to both full-time and part-time candidates. The maximum time limit exists to avoid graduates proceeding to pupillage with "stale" knowledge. This period cannot be extended under any circumstances (for example candidates cannot apply for waivers or extenuating circumstances to extend the five-year period).

Draft email wording below.

Many thanks.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Draft email

Dear Student

As you commenced the BVS programme in September 2020, we would like to remind you that under our programme regulations and as required by the Bar Standards Board, you must complete your last assessments within 5 years of commencing the course. This means that you must have completed your last assessments in the month of **August 2025**. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that you must have sat your assessment(s), not that you must have received your results which can be provided at a later date. This period cannot be extended under any circumstances.

Best wishes etc

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The City Law School
City St George's, University of London
Northampton Square
London EC1V 0HB
www.city.ac.uk

From: CLS Learning Support
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BSB 5 year rule
Date: 13 June 2025 12:15:00
Sensitivity: Confidential

That's great. I'll be in Monday so can check then.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 13 June 2025 11:13
To: CLS Learning Support <cls.learningsupport@citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: BSB 5 year rule
Sensitivity: Confidential

Thanks [REDACTED]

We wouldn't normally give resitters a new copy of the White Book, but we might have a spare copy of the edition we gave to students this year (i.e. the 2024 edition, not the one that's just been published) because the publisher doesn't allow us to return spares if we over order.

If there are any spares they will actually be in the cupboard behind where you sit (don't take one of the new editions on the floor by the stationery cupboards). Feel free to have a look if you're in the office. If not, I will be there on Monday and can have a look. If there's one there she can have it.

No need to reach out to the other students at present. They are all going to be written to and have it suggested to them to contact you (along the lines of what I said to [REDACTED] and we'll do the same again after results are released on 26th. We need to re-evaluate the situation with each student after the results on the 26th.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: CLS Learning Support <cls.learningsupport@citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 13 June 2025 10:52
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: BSB 5 year rule
Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for sending the list on.

[REDACTED]

I have also checked if the students mentioned below have SSPs and have noted the relevant adjustments for

your information. Let me know if I should reach out to any of them.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BSB 5 year rule
Date: 13 June 2025 16:52:00
Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry, just noticed that there is only one email below. Should there be more of a chain which includes your response to one of them?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The City Law School
City St George's, University of London
Northampton Square
London EC1V 0HB
T: [REDACTED]
www.city.ac.uk

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 13 June 2025 09:45
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: FW: BSB 5 year rule
Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed, below is the list of students I think might be caught by the 5 year rule and, further down, my response to one of them which includes the BSB's clarification of the rule.

We will need to make sure any students who are still resitting and are going to run out of time this year get a special, appropriately worded email with their results (I think you could adapt what I've said below). If there are any who would have to appeal after the June results before they can resit then we will need to try to expedite those appeals; I will talk to [REDACTED] about that.
next week.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2025 11:53
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>; CLS Learning Support
<cls.learningsupport@citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: BSB 5 year rule
Sensitivity: Confidential

Dear both

As promised, these are the 7 students I have identified as definitely or potentially being caught by the BVS 5 year rule:

Definitely

[REDACTED] – already contacted [REDACTED] he's including a referral to [REDACTED] in his comms
[REDACTED] - you will have seen my email to her
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Maybe – depend on April CEB results

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The City Law School

City St George's, University of London

Northampton Square

London EC1V 0HB

T: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.citystgeorges.ac.uk

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: BSB 5 Year Rule
Date: 24 June 2025 14:13:00

Hi [REDACTED]

Just an additional thing for BVS results release on Friday - we're going to need to warn students about the fact they are coming to the end of their 5 year period. They all know this as they have been contacted by [REDACTED] per below, but could we also send them a reminder? These are the students:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Can we send them something along the lines of the following (feel free to tweak!):

*As you have already been informed, as you commenced the BVS programme in September 2020 you must complete your last assessments within 5 years of commencing the course (under our programme regulations and as required by the Bar Standards Board). This means that you must have completed your last assessments in the month of **August 2025**. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that you must have sat your assessments, not that you must have received your results which can be provided at a later date. This period cannot be extended under any circumstances.*

I hope you are able to take and pass the assessments) in order to be awarded in time.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The City Law School
City St George's, University of London
Northampton Square
London EC1V 0HB
T: [REDACTED]
www.city.ac.uk

From: BVS Course Admin <BVS_Course_Admin@citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 20 June 2025 14:34

To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: FW: BSB 5 Year Rule

Hi [REDACTED]

The below is the email [REDACTED] had asked me to send out.

It was sent out to 9 students.

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The City Law School
City St George's, University of London
Northampton Square
London EC1V 0HB
T: [REDACTED]
www.city.ac.uk

From: BVS Course Admin
Sent: 12 June 2025 17:05
Subject: BSB 5 Year Rule

Dear Student

*As you commenced the BVS programme in September 2020, we would like to remind you that under our programme regulations and as required by the Bar Standards Board, you must complete your last assessments within 5 years of commencing the course. This means that you must have completed your last assessments in the month of **August 2025**. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that you must have sat your assessment(s), not that you must have received your results which can be provided at a later date. This period cannot be extended under any circumstances.*

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The City Law School
City St George's, University of London
Northampton Square
London EC1V 0HB
T: [REDACTED]
www.city.ac.uk

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Five-year deadline for completion of the vocational component of training (the "Five-year Rule")
Date: 30 July 2025 10:57:42

Dear All

We received the below message from the BSB on Monday, which [REDACTED] and I have now had a chance to discuss.

Noting that the students affected are all currently in the midst of assessments, and that the BSB have not yet taken a decision, they are just reviewing the position, so there is no definite news to share, we have taken the view that we will not notify all affected students at the present time. However, should any of the students approach you about this, please do advise them as requested by the BSB (I have highlighted the relevant bits). The BSB will notify us (not the students) when they have taken a decision; we will of course pass any definite information on to relevant students as soon as we receive it.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 28 July 2025 16:58
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>; [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>;
[REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: Fw: Five-year deadline for completion of the vocational component of training (the "Five-year Rule")

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Date: Mon 11/08/2025 11:46
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>; [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>;
[REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: FW: Vocational Bar Training - application for an extension to the "five-year rule"

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 06 August 2025 15:28
To: [REDACTED]BarStandardsBoard.org.uk [REDACTED]BarStandardsBoard.org.uk>
CC: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>; [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>;
[REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: FW: Vocational Bar Training - application for an extension to the "five-year rule"

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, which I am responding to on behalf of the School as [REDACTED] is currently on leave.

We are pleased to hear that consideration is being given to enabling extensions to the "five-year rule" in exceptional and limited circumstances. It is obviously important that careful consideration is given as to what the process for this will be so as to ensure all students are treated fairly and it does not lead to any unintended consequences. We would be happy to help with this, we have maximum periods of registration which include extensions on other programmes within the university which may provide a useful basis for such a process.

As you note, this is a very stressful time for the students concerned. We have 7 students who might run out of time this year, all of whom will be taking one or more of the CEBs in the next couple of weeks. We are consequently very concerned about doing anything which may impact their preparation for these assessments. Technically speaking we do not have any students who have applied for an extension to the "five-year rule" yet, as this was understood not to be possible. We do have at least [REDACTED] students who could possibly be deemed to have applied by virtue of the fact that they have expressed the view that an extension should be possible given their circumstances. However, as extensions were not understood to be possible, they may not have explained fully the grounds on which they would want to rely in the event of such an application nor have we requested sight of supporting evidence (although we will have some evidence in the form of previous extenuating circumstances applications etc). This being the case we would be concerned about their requests being judged on the basis of what they have supplied to date. They should be given an opportunity to make a formal submission, but it would clearly not be appropriate to ask them to do this at the present time. It is also possible that the other students might have expressed a similar desire for an extension had they thought it was a possibility so we are concerned about the fairness of an emergency process which does not allow all students the chance to apply. Given these circumstances we do not feel it would be appropriate to provide the details requested by Monday.

Of course, at present, none of these students have run out of time to complete, it will all depend on their results from the current assessment period. We would therefore favour holding off considering any applications until after the assessments have taken place and, instead, concentrating on having a process in place which can be communicated to all possibly impacted students after the assessments.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The City Law School
City St George's, University of London
Northampton Square
T: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
www.citystgeorges.ac.uk

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From: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Sent: 04 August 2025 11:55
To: [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>; [REDACTED]citystgeorges.ac.uk>
Subject: Fw: Vocational Bar Training - application for an extension to the "five-year rule"

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[REDACTED]