

THE NPA'S ASPIRANT PROSECUTOR PROGRAMME - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Are you a law graduate or student interested in pursuing a career as a Prosecutor? The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) is offering you an excellent and a lifetime opportunity to fulfil your career ambitions through our unique training programme – the ASPIRANT PROSECUTOR PROGRAMME.

Please go through the **Questions & Answer** below to find out more about the above programme:

1. What is the Aspirant Prosecutor Programme?

The Aspirant Prosecutor Programme is an internship programme offered by the NPA, aimed at equipping law graduates with practical experience to pursue a career as a Prosecutor. It is an in-service training programme in which successful candidates are attached to the NPA's National Prosecutions Service to gain the required practical experience.

2. How long is the Aspirant Prosecutor Programme?

The programme runs for a period of 12 months.

3. What happens on successful completion of the programme?

On successful completion of the programme, you can expect to be offered an entry level prosecutorial position within the NPA's National Prosecutions Service.

4. I am interested in joining the programme. What are the requirements?

Interested applicants should have a Bachelor's degree in law or in their final studies towards an LLB degree, which should include at least the following courses:

- Law of Evidence,
- Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure,
- Civil Procedure; and
- Interpretation of Statutes

5. Where does the training programme take place?

The programme is presented at 20 training centres, namely: Athlone, Bloemfontein, Durban, East London, George, Johannesburg, Kimberley, Klerksdorp, Middelburg, Mthatha, Pietermaritzburg, Polokwane, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria, Thabamooopo, Benoni, Welkom, Madadeni, Randburg and Soweto.

6. Do successful candidates choose which training centre they will be attached to?

During the application process, candidates are required to submit their applications to the preferred training centre.

7. Who conducts the training?

The training is conducted by qualified tutors who hold the same rank as Senior Public Prosecutor. Each tutor is assigned a maximum of 10 aspirant prosecutors during the 12 months evaluation period.

8. How is recruitment done? Is there an application form I can fill straight away?

To ensure that the recruitment process is fair and transparent, an advertisement will be placed in the national newspapers, inviting interested candidates to apply. Therefore, there are no application forms that you need to fill in to apply – you'll only apply in response to an advertisement that the NPA will place in the national press. You must therefore be on the look out for that advert! The advert is normally placed in the national press and the NPA website in June or July every year.

9. How is the selection process conducted?

The following outlines how the selection process will be conducted:

- Based on the requirements of the advert, the tutors perform pre-selection of candidates
- After the pre-selection phase, applicants who qualify are invited to register for the entry examination. The purpose of the entry examination is to assist with the sifting of applications. Upon registration, applicants are each given a Training Prosecutors Manual from which they prepare themselves for the entry examination.

- Amongst other criteria, the mark obtained by a candidate will also be used to determine whether the candidate will be invited for an interview or not.
- Following the interviews, ten (10) successful candidates at each centre are recommended to undergo the training. In addition, five (5) candidates at each centre are recommended as *secundi*.
- Upon completion of the aforementioned process, candidates will be required to sign a contract with the NPA for a period of 8 months.

10. In what format is the training conducted?

During the first month, Aspirant Prosecutors receive classroom tuition. From the second month onwards, they receive practical or in-court training. They will be required to conduct real cases in court to demonstrate their competency.

11. How will learners be assessed?

Learners are assessed on a continuous basis to determine their competency. Before the expiry of the programme, final assessment is conducted on each aspirant prosecutor. Only those that are found to be competent may be offered positions within the NPA.

12. Do you need SA citizenship to apply?

Yes, only South African citizens must apply.

13. Is the training programme accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)?

Not yet, but the NPA is in the process of seeking full SAQA accreditation.