

I am very grateful for the support of the Kathleen Nixon Prize in undertaking my studies on the Graduate Diploma in Law at City University. I studied History at Royal Holloway, before completing an MPhil in the same subject at Oxford University, and am now training to be a barrister, with a view to starting my own commercial and chancery practice. When I commenced my studies at Royal Holloway, the University did not yet have a Law Faculty, and I was not even aware of the possibility of undertaking a law conversion. However, many of the interests and skills I developed at Royal Holloway helped set me on my path to the law. My experience winning “outstanding delegation” with the Model UN team at the New York NMUN in 2014 showed me that I enjoy public speaking, and my discussions with professors in the History Faculty encouraged me to think critically about building arguments, and be meticulous about my research.

I also received some support for my studies in the shape of the Edmond James Lawson Scholarship from Gray’s Inn however, this did not cover my full tuition fees for the year, so the entirety of the Kathleen Nixon Scholarship award was put towards paying my course fees as well. I am very grateful for the support I have received from Royal Holloway, which made a material difference to my ability to undertake the Graduate Diploma in Law, while also completing a range of extracurricular activities which will further my career at the Bar. This year, I was able to complete my course, while also training to be a debate mentor with Vocalise, a pro bono project which aims to train prison inmates to learn debating skills, thus improving their prospects of employment after release. I was also selected for the Gray’s Inn team for the Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moot in Vienna, training three hours a week under Marion Smith QC. Finally, I was appointed associate editor of the Gray’s Inn Student Law Journal, and will be completing editing work over the summer. I was also able to join the Bar Yacht Club, and am looking forward to participating in the Bar vs. Bench regatta in September. Had I not received financial support, some of the time I dedicated to these extracurricular activities would have been spent on part-time work. I am therefore extremely grateful to have been allowed the opportunity to focus on my studies, and deepen my knowledge of the law, while also building connections with members of the profession through extracurricular activities.