

Who Are We?

The Ealdormere Academy of Defence was created by Royal Charter on 13 September, A.S. XXXII by TSH Edward and Rylyn.

The Academy is an organization for fencers in Ealdormere, based on the historic London Masters of Defence. Its purpose is to allow those who study the art of the rapier to have a set of long range goals. It has not been uncommon in recent times to see two or even three authorizations in one day by individuals. It is quite possible to attain authorization in all five weapons forms in a short period of time. It is hoped that this structure will encourage fencers to remain active and interested for long periods of time, as well as build awareness of fencing in Ealdormere.

Each rank of the Academy has a number of requirements for advancement to that rank. The requirements have been designed to help our fencers grow into active and vital citizens of Ealdormere. We hope to advocate periodicity and activity in areas of the SCA other than rapier play. Another goal is to encourage research and service for the continuing advancement of the rapier community in Ealdormere.

It may be noted that there is a requirement for a time period of one year between each rank. It is hoped that this will encourage fencers to become dedicated, regardless of their skill level. This Academy is not based on senior members voting for junior members to advance. The emphasis here is on self improvement, fostering interests beyond rapier play, dedication and fun.

About the Academy

There shall be six ranks in the Academy:

- Patron
- Cadet
- Scholar
- Free Scholar
- Provost
- Dean

The officers of the Academy shall be:

- The Praeceptor is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Academy, including supervision of Prize attempts. The Preceptor is entitled to wear a blue scarf with gold/yellow edges to symbolize their position.
- The Proctor is the academic soul of the Academy, guiding and evaluating the research projects of its members.

In keeping with the tradition of the London Masters of Defence, advancement to higher ranks shall be accompanied by the member seeking advancement (the Prizor) calling a Prize. The Prize is a display of skill in which the Prizor shows his prowess in different weapons forms. The Prizor will fence a number of duels to display his or her skill. When the Prize is completed, if the requirements of the Prize have been met, then the Prizor is invested in the new rank.

Members of all ranks are highly encouraged to do research into the art of rapier play. There are a number of period manuals by rapier masters available. Also encouraged highly is service to your group, and the members of the fencing community as a whole. Assisting in training and marshaling lightens the load on everybody else, and allows all of us more time to have fun! Not to mention the experience you will gain, and the relationships you will forge with other fencers.

Most of the duties of each rank are presented with the rank. Some are repeated between the ranks to emphasize their importance. There is a duty that applies to us all, fencer and non-fencer. We'll state it here to emphasize it:

Honour, Chivalry, Courtesy, Gentility - Learn it, Live it!

Calling a Prize

When a member meets the requirements for the next rank, that member may call a Prize whenever they feel ready. The Prizer shall contact the Praeceptor, who will attempt to arrange space and time for the Prize at the desired event. A notice of the Prize shall be published in The Tidings when the Prize has been arranged.

The format of the Prize shall be as follows:

The Prizer will fight a number of duels, which increases with rank. All forms that the Prizer is authorized in must be used at least once. The floor is then opened for a minimum of 15 minutes, maximum of 30 minutes (or longer if time permits) to all comers.

- The Prize for a Cadet shall be 10 bouts before opening the floor.
- The Prize for a Scholar shall be 20 bouts before opening the floor.
- The Prize for a Free Scholar shall be 30 bouts before opening the floor.
- The Prize for a Provost shall be 40 bouts before opening the floor.
- The Prize for a Dean shall be 50 bouts before opening the floor.

Only bouts fought against members of the rank being fought for are counted, all other bouts are for exhibition. The Prizer must be victorious in at least one-third of all bouts fought against opponents of the rank being fought for. If the Prizer does not meet this minimum, then they may call a Prize at another event. If the Prizer meets the minimum, then they win the Prize.

Members successfully winning their Prize shall be invested in court by the ranking member present. If there is no court scheduled, then the member shall be invested in the new rank upon completion of the Prize.

Patron

A Patron of the Academy is anyone who supports the fencing community in Ealdormere

Petition for advancement: Ask. Anyone who wishes to be considered a patron should be accepted.

For special service beyond this, the Academy may vote to accord a Patron a gold stripe on their scarf. This would cover those whose support is more active and of long duration. Examples of service include, but are certainly not restricted to: assistance at list tables, assistance with paperwork, support of fence as a surgeon or waterbearer, constructing garb for fencers, making equipment (hilts, etc.) for fencers, research of any kind into fencing or the culture of the rapier era, etc.

Duties

- Have Fun!
- Provide moral support for fencers
- Be proud of the connection to the Academy

Symbol of Rank

A purple scarf

Patrons of the Academy

- Dame Asa Gormsdottir
- Mistress Cainer ingen Hui Chatharnaig
- His Grace Edward the Red - founding ruler
- Lady Elzebeth MacGregor - wishes to offer her assistance to the EOAD community in reading/editing of papers.
- Viscountess Morgon the Fey Wanderer of Ealdormere
- Her Grace Rylyn Buchanan - founding ruler
- Her Majesty Tangwystl Caterina D'Courci
- Viscount Ziegfried Gunter Von Wieselburg

Cadet

Requirements

- Have the single rapier authorization
- Desire to join the Academy
- Start thinking about garb that can be made list legal for fencing

Prize Requirement

To earn the rank of Cadet, the Prizer must fight 10 bouts, followed by a minimum of 15 minutes of open challenge.

Duties of Cadets

- Have Fun! This is your most important duty.
- Become involved with other aspects of the SCA.
- Hone rapier skills beyond the basics, into advanced techniques, especially period forms
- Begin learning at least one of the secondary weapons forms
- Begin creating garb that is list legal for fencing

Symbol of Rank

A red scarf

Cadets of the Academy

- Lord Alexander Gladstone
- Lady Alieana of the March
- Baron Alistair Kirk
- Lord Cesare Ambrigino di Salvazzi (July 2017)
- Lord David of Ben Dunfirth (June 2016)
- Lady Eveleen the Aggressive
- His Excellency Shahid al Hasan (March 2016)

Scholar

Requirements:

- Have at least one primary authorization and be proficient in at least one secondary weapons form
- Have at least one year of experience as an authorized fighter
- Wear period garb in the list

Prize Requirement

To earn the rank of Scholar, the Prizer must fight 20 bouts, followed by a minimum of 15 minutes of open challenge.

Duties of Scholars

- Have Fun!
- Continue honing rapier skills
- Get an appointment as a Marshal in Training
- Continue work on secondary weapons forms
- Assist in training and guidance of other fencers
- Begin studying period sources, if not already doing so

Symbol of Rank

A red scarf edged in green

Scholars of the Academy

- Lord Alessandro Falchetti
- Lord Brennen MacSuibhne
- Estienne de Nantes
- Lord Gregorie Moroz (March 2016)
- Lord Gunnar (November 2016)
- Maestra Jocelyn Cranewall
- THL Kurushima Yoshiatsu (October 2015)
- Lord Mateo de Merida
- Lord Nikolai Ivanovich Verderevsky (November 2016)
- THL Raithe of Trinovantia Nova
- Lord Raphael de Merida
- THL Tadhg of Trinovantia Nova

Free Scholar

Requirements

- Have at least one primary authorization and be proficient in at least two secondary forms
- Have at least two years of experience as an authorized fighter
- Wear period garb in the list
- Be involved in at least one other aspect of the SCA
- Have obtained an appointment as a Marshal in Training

Prize Requirement

To earn the rank of Free Scholar, the Prizer must fight 30 bouts, followed by a minimum of 15 minutes of open challenges.

Duties of Free Scholars

- Have Fun!
- Get that Marshals Warrant
- Work with other fencers in training and guidance
- Keep working on technique and weapons forms, especially period forms
- Begin a research project

Symbol of Rank

A green scarf

Free Scholars of the Academy

- Lady Adelle Bicknell (March 2015)
- Lady Aidan Lann Ottardottir
- Donald Jacob Murray
- Master Eyrny Ormarrsdottir
- Lord Gavin MacAidan
- His Excellency THL Gerrard Carpentarius
- Master Lars Eriksson
- Lord Lucius Lowthayne (June 2016)
- Lord Magnus Rasmussen
- Lord Sebastian Greenwood
- THL Vladislav cel Inalt
- Lord Zarek Guay (March 2015)

Provost

Requirements

- Have at least one primary authorization and be proficient in at least three secondary forms
- Have at least three years of experience as an authorized fighter
- Wear period garb in the list
- Have obtained a Marshals Warrant
- Be involved in at least one other aspect of the SCA
- Be familiar with at least one period manual
- Have completed a research project

Prize Requirement

To earn the rank of Provost, the Prizor must have a research project completed, then fight 40 bouts, followed by a minimum of 15 minutes of open challenges.

Duties of Provosts

- Have Fun!
- Be active in the training and guidance of other fencers
- Act as a guide in research, training and any other areas of expertise
- Continue learning and teaching period forms
- Begin a second research project

Symbol of Rank

A green scarf edged with blue

Provosts of the Academy

- Master Albrecht Stampfer
- THL Cerdic Wayfarer
- THL Merewen de Sweynesheie (June 2016)
- THL Wilhelm von Pottruff

Dean

Requirements

- Be authorized in all weapons forms.
- Have at least four years of experience as an authorized fencer
- Wear period garb in the list
- Be involved in at least one other aspect of the SCA
- Have completed at least two research projects (one for Provost, one for Dean)
- Be familiar with at least two period manuals

Prize Requirement

To earn the rank of Dean, the Prizer must have completed their second research project, then fight 50 bouts, followed by a minimum of 15 minutes of open challenges.

Duties of Deans

- Have Fun!
- Act as a guide in research, training and any other areas of expertise
- Act as advisors to the Praeceptor
- Teach, talk about and demonstrate period forms
- Help people understand period manuals
- Help people with their research projects where possible
- Continue your own research and learning

Symbol of Rank

A blue scarf

Deans of the Academy

- Master Gareth Campbell
- His Excellency, Maestro Giovanni di Enzinas

Challenging a Prize

When a member meets the requirements for the next rank, that member may call a Prize whenever they feel ready. To learn how, please see "Scheduling a Prize"

Note that there is a requirement for a time period of one year between each rank. It is hoped that this will encourage fencers to become dedicated, regardless of their skill level.

The format of the Prize shall be as follows

Prize Rounds

The Prizor will fight a number of duels, which increase with rank.

- The Prize for a Cadet shall be 10 bouts before opening the floor.
- The Prize for a Scholar shall be 20 bouts before opening the floor.
- The Prize for a Free Scholar shall be 30 bouts before opening the floor.
- The Prize for a Provost shall be 40 bouts before opening the floor.
- The Prize for a Dean shall be 50 bouts before opening the floor.

In order to earn the Prize, the Prizor must be victorious in at least one-third of all bouts fought against opponents of the rank being fought for. If the Prizor does not meet this minimum, then they may call a Prize at another event. If the Prizor meets the minimum, then they win the Prize.

Weapon Use

At all ranks, the Prizor must make use during their Prize fights all of the forms in which they have authorized and started a tournament bout, within the last two years. This number of forms must meet (at least) the minimum number of forms required for the Prize from the Secondary Forms List.

The Prize may be fought with either Heavy Rapier or Cut and Thrust, provided there are a sufficient number of authorized opponents of the correct rank. If the Prizor is authorized in both Heavy Rapier and Cut and Thrust, they may omit one primary form (either Heavy Rapier or Cut and Thrust). This is because there may not be enough opponents available in the other form, and the armour requirements may not be feasible within the time constraints.

If the Prizor has authorization in *out of kingdom epee*, they are not required to complete bouts in this form because epee is not performed in kingdom.

Opponents

Only bouts fought against members of the rank being fought for are counted; any other bouts are for exhibition. In order to proceed, the Prize fight requires three members of the desired Prize rank who are authorized and capable of fighting in the Prizor's style (either heavy rapier or cut and thrust). Exceptions or amendments to this guideline may be made on a case by case basis by the Preceptor or their deputy, in consultation with any members of the Council of Deans and Provosts who are in attendance.

Two common exceptions:

- If there are a number of Prizors fighting for the same Prize at an event and few other opponents of the correct rank, the Praeceptor, at their discretion, may include the other Prizors fencing for the same Prize as opponents.
- In cases where there are not enough opponents of a specified rank to hold a Prize (but the required number of opponents was expected), higher-ranked fencers may be substituted at the discretion of the Praeceptor and the Prizor. The Prize will still be fought for the original rank.

Secondary Forms List

- Sword and Dagger/Two Dagger
- Case of Swords
- Rigid Parry
- Non-Rigid Parry

Timed Exhibition Bouts

After the prize rounds, the floor is then opened for a minimum of 15 minutes, maximum of 30 minutes (or longer if time permits) to all comers.

Award of Prize

Members who succeed in winning their Prize shall be invested in court by the ranking Academy official present. If there is no court scheduled, then the member shall be invested in the new rank upon successful completion of the Prize.

Scheduling a Prize

To call a Prize, contact the Praeceptor with the following information or complete the form online:

- Name (Mundane and SCA, please)
- The rank you want to fight for
- The event at which you'd like to play your Prize
- A telephone number you can be reached at in the evening
- Your email address, if available
- If this will be your first Prize, and you are not playing for the rank of Cadet, please indicate how and/or why you qualify for the rank desired
- Ranks requiring research projects require the approval of the Proctor before your Prize can be scheduled!

For the initial filling of the ranks, please determine what rank you feel you qualify for. So long as you qualify for the rank, you may play your initial Prize at that rank or lower. Feel free to start at the bottom and work your way up if you so desire, even if you qualify for a higher rank.

The Praeceptor will attempt to arrange space and time for the Prize at the desired event. If you are contacting the Praeceptor close to the prize scheduling deadline, please contact the Rapier MiC for the desired event to attempt to arrange time for your Prize, otherwise the Prize attempt may need to be delayed.

You are responsible for bringing your scarf for presentation in court.

Deadlines

Note that by the charter of the Academy, all Prizes must be published in the Tidings preceding the event. The staff at the Tidings require all announcements before the end of the month two months before publication. If you want to play a Prize in August, the Praeceptor needs to know by the end of June!

Praeceptor

The Praeceptor is responsible for overseeing the Academy and its members. The term of office for the Praeceptor shall be one year.

Duties of the Praeceptor

- Have Fun!
- Maintain a roll of members of the Academy. When a member attains a higher rank, the member who advanced in rank shall notify the Praeceptor in writing so that the increase in rank may be recorded in the Academy's records.
- Appoint the next Praeceptor at the end of the term of office, subject to approval by the Crown of Ealdormere. The successor shall present themselves in court before the Crown, and shall be invested thus.
- Continue practicing the duties of the rank held by the Praeceptor, if any

The Praeceptor may call for an exception to the charter on an individual basis. After calling the exception, all of the Deans and Provosts of the Academy shall vote to ratify it.

When a member wishes to play a Prize for the next rank, the Praeceptor shall attempt to arrange time and space with the Marshal in Charge of the event that the Prize is to be played at. Once this is done, then the Praeceptor shall arrange to have a notice published in The Tidings so that interested parties may plan to attend.

Symbol of Rank

A blue scarf edged with gold.

Proctor

The Proctor is the Academy's research advisor. In other words, someone who has done research into things like manuals of fence, culture, clothing, weapons, etc. There is no requirement that they be an authorized fencer, but it would be preferable that they have active knowledge of actual rapier play. The term of office for the Proctor shall be one year.

Duties of the Proctor

- The Proctor's specific duty is to approve research tasks for those wishing to advance to Provost or Dean
- After advising and assisting as needed through the research process, the Proctor will review the completed research
 - At the Provost level, it is mainly desirable that the candidate be familiar at a basic level about period rapier play
 - At the Dean level, evidence of more intense and organized research will be required. This can take many forms: a demonstration of period rapier play, making a new set of rapier garb, writing a paper on some aspect of the culture, etc.
- The Proctor is also the person responsible for encouraging research and application of it within the Academy, and is a resource person for anyone wanting to do this kind of research.