

How to qualify as a Solicitor in the UK?

Solicitors Regulation Authority: <https://www.sra.org.uk/>

There are two options:

1. SQE route = Solicitors Qualifying Examination (started in Autumn 2021)

- SQE1 Exam: focuses on practical legal knowledge
 - SQE2 Exam: focuses on practical legal skills
 - Two years' full-time (or equivalent) Qualifying Work Experience – this can be obtained during or after students sit the SQE assessments
 - Character and suitability requirements
 - SOLICITOR

For more details on this qualifying route, [click here](#)

2. Traditional route: Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) + Legal Practice Course (LPC) + Training Contract (TC). This route is still available for students who started their studies before Autumn 2021. They can still qualify through this route up until 2032.

- Graduate Diploma in Law – could be required depending on the Bachelor degree
 - Legal Practice Course – 1 year
 - Training Contract – 2 years
 - Professional Skills Course
 - Character and suitability requirements
 - SOLICITOR

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is illustrative. It is the responsibility of the reader to frequently check the official sources of information mentioned in this document.

Desired profile / ideal candidate

Perfect Candidate

- **Academic Experience** – Excellent GPA with outstanding academic records (Honors and minimum Excellence)
- **Corporate Law** – A genuine interest for Corporate Law with a preferable proven academic or professional experience (Honors or Excellence in Corporate Courses / Previous Corporate Internships / Extra Activities related to Corporate Field)
- **Languages** – Fluent in English (mandatory) and one or two additional languages
- **Extra Activities** – Participation in activities such as: Moots / Legal Clinic / LawWithoutWalls / Young Corporate Program / Class Representative / Mentoring / etc
- **International Background** – Show and Demonstrate an International Experience and Diverse Culture Backgrounds (Volunteering Programs / Internships Abroad / Exchange Programs)
- **Soft Skills** – Resilience / Communication Skills / Analytical Ability & Critical Thinking / Commercial Awareness / Presentation Skills
- **Participate in the UK Journey since the 1st Year (this increases the chances to secure a Training Contract):**
 - 1st & 2nd Years: Open Days
 - 2nd & 3rd Years: Vacation Schemes
- You **SHOULD APPLY** to all the vacancies available in a customized and tailor-made approach. It is a matter of **quantity WITH quality**.
- You **SHOULD NOT** focus your speech only talking about yourself, rather than THE COMPANY and the value the opportunity will add to the COMPANY and for your development.

Opportunities in the UK

- **Open Days:** application deadlines vary a lot from one firm to other, as law firms host this kind of events in different moments throughout the year.
- **Summer Vacation Schemes:** application periods usually opened until January 31st of the year in course.

Participation in Open Days and Vacation Schemes is highly valued by law firms and increases the possibilities of securing a TC or any other work experience within law firms in the UK.
- **Training Contract:** very important to start applying since the 2nd year of studies. Usually opened until July 31st of two years in advance (for big firms).
- **Qualifying work experience – 2 years:** work experience/s (maximum four experiences) under the supervision of a Solicitor or Compliance Officer for Legal Practice (COLP) that can take place in a wide range of organisations providing legal services. This experience/s can be carried out during or after the SQE assessments. For more information on this, [click here](#)

LAW FIRMS IN THE UK

MAGIC CIRCLE

- Allen & Overy
- Clifford Chance
- Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
- Linklaters
- Slaughter and May

SILVER CIRCLE

- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Hogan Lovells
- Norton Rose Fulbright
- Stephenson Harwood
- Ashurst
- Macfarlanes
- Berwin Leighton Paisner (now Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner)
- Travers Smith

SECOND TIERS

- Addleshaw Goddard
- Clyde & Co
- DLA Piper
- Pinsent Masons
- Womble Bond Dickinson
- CMS
- Dentons
- Eversheds Sutherland
- Latham & Watkins
- RPC
- Simmons & Simmons
- Taylor Wessing

Relevant search engines

[Studentladder UK - Open Days](#)
[Studentladder UK - Vacation Schemes](#)
[Chambersstudent UK](#)
[Chambersstudent UK - Open Days](#)
[Targetjobs UK](#)
[Targetjobs UK - TC and Vacation schemes](#)
[Lawcareers.net - Vacation Schemes](#)
[Lawcareers.net - Solicitors - TC](#)
[allaboutlaw - UK](#)
[Chambersstudent UK - the bar](#)
[TheLawyerPortal](#)
[International Bar Association - Internship Program](#)

Useful resources for your application processes

We have many resources to help you prepare for your recruitment processes.
Please access blackboard.ie.edu > Courses > Career Success / Accelerator.
Also, access the T&C Website: <https://ieconnects.ie.edu/careersmasters/junior%20master%20students/>

For your applications to the UK, it is very important that you practice the **Watson Glaser Test**. Please request access to Jobtestprep platform to your Career Advisor.

If interested in receiving free mentoring from an alumni who secured a TC, ask your Career Advisor.

Other useful resources:

- **Be updated!:**
 - [Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)
 - [Thelawyer.com](#)
 - [Legal-week](#)
 - [Legal500](#)
 - [Chambers&Partners](#)
 - [Lawsociety.org UK](#)
 - [Chambersstudent UK - the bar](#)