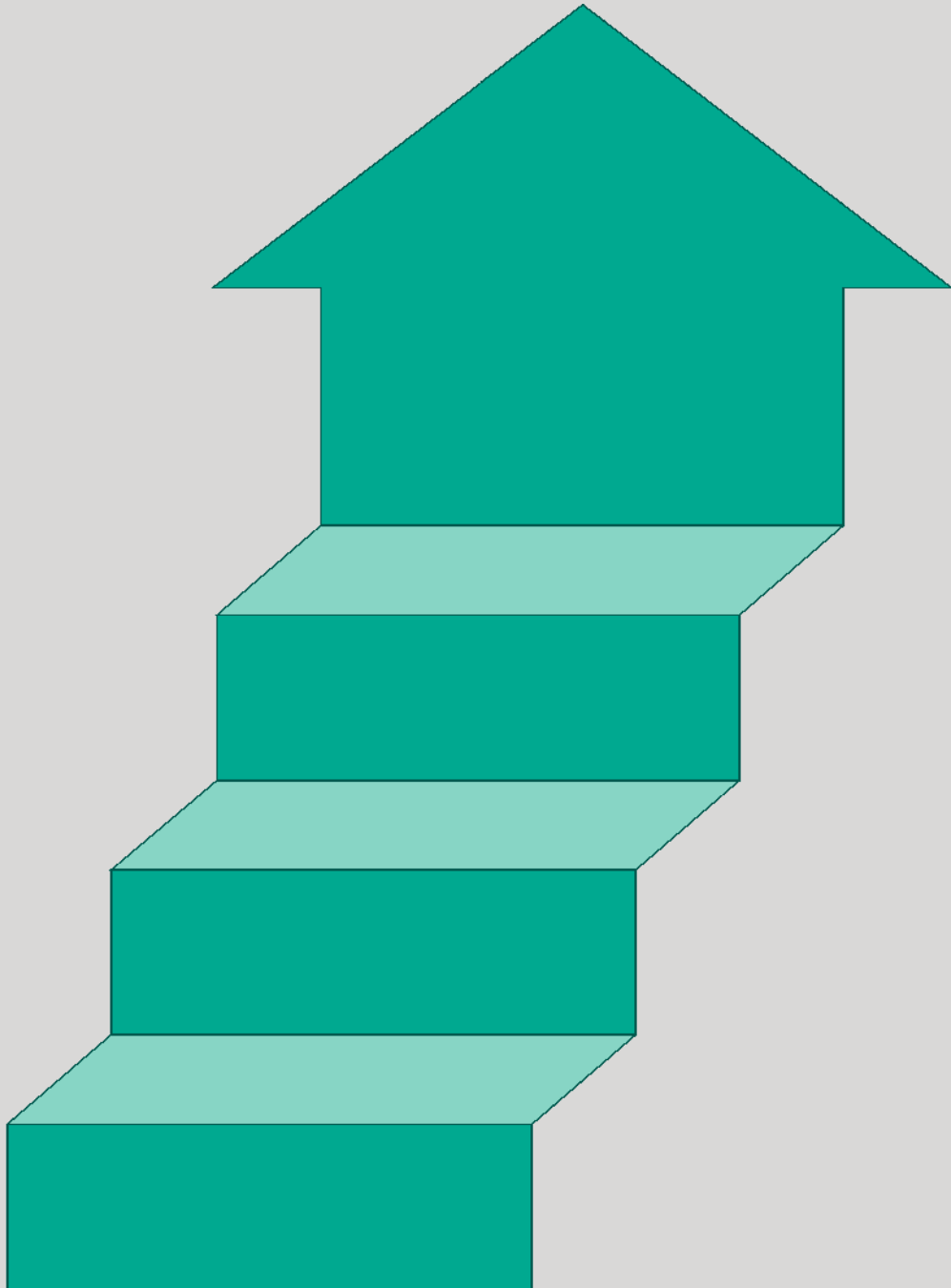




The Law
Society



Becoming a solicitor

Start planning your future today

Junior Lawyers Division

If you're a solicitor apprentice, LPC student, LPC graduate (including those working as paralegals), trainee, or solicitor with up to five years' post qualification experience, you're automatically part of the Junior Lawyers Division (JLD) community. Membership is free.

We provide members with opportunities to network and connect with other junior lawyers, discuss issues that concern them, and access training and advice provided at conferences, meetings, and online via podcasts and webinars.

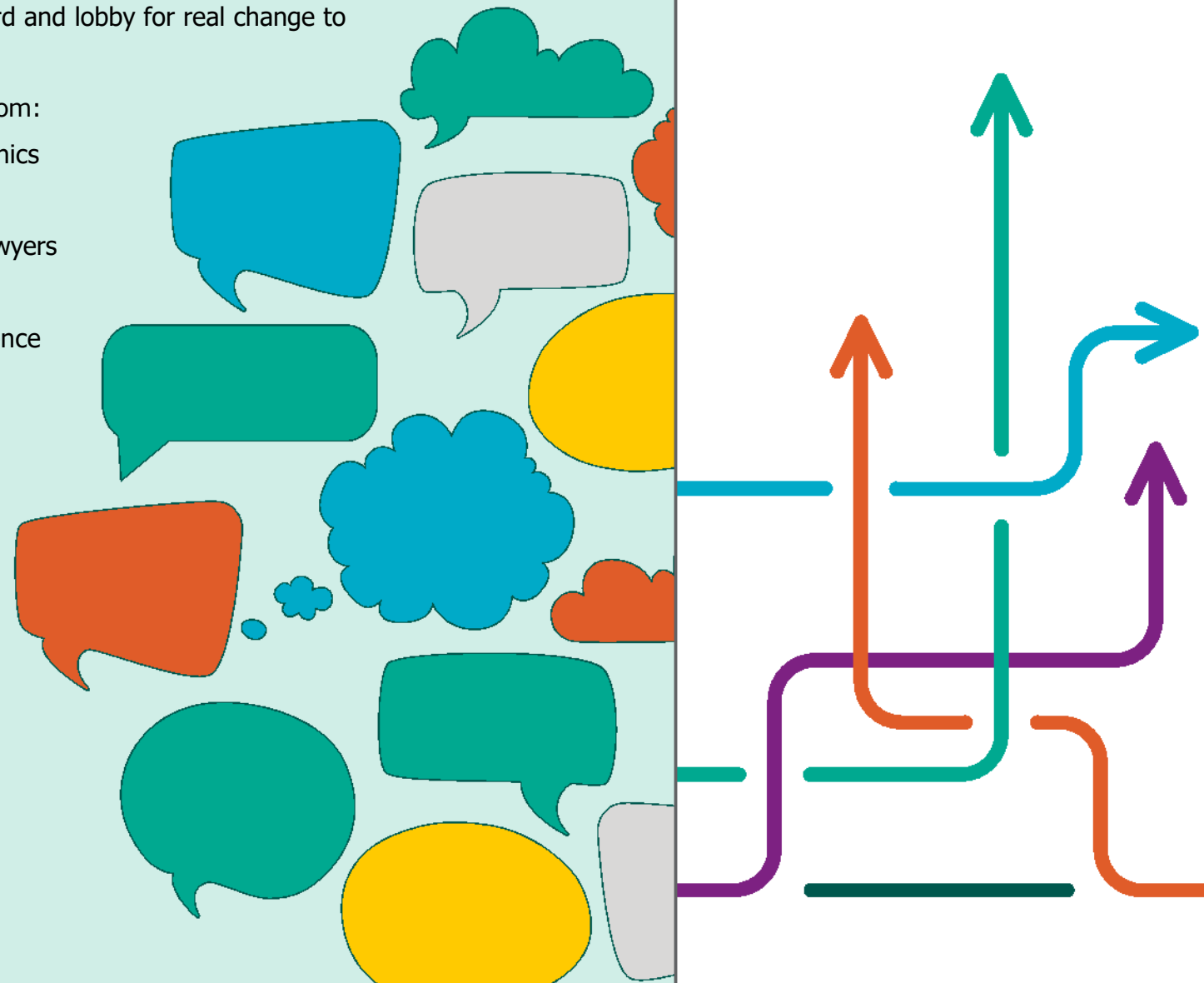
We also make sure our members' views are heard and lobby for real change to further your interests.

Subscribe to our email newsletter and benefit from:

- free and discounted training events and CV clinics
- support and guidance from your peers
- opportunities to represent your fellow junior lawyers
- career development material and insights
- the chance to attend the JLD's annual conference

Visit www.lawsociety.org.uk/juniorlawyers for more information.

-  Junior Lawyers Division
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-  Junior Lawyers Division of the Law Society of England & Wales
-  @juniorlawyersdivision



Contents

- 4 Getting started
- 5 Who becomes a solicitor?
- 6 What solicitors do
- 6 A wide range of career options
- 8 Routes to becoming a solicitor
 - Solicitors Qualifying Exam
 - SQE 1 and SQE 2 assessment
 - Qualifying Work Experience (QWE)
 - Character and Suitability
 - Costs
 - Equivalent means
 - Apprenticeships
 - LPC and GDL route
 - Qualifying Law degree route
 - Non qualifying law degree route
 - Cilex route
 - Qualifying as an overseas Lawyer
- 14 Checklists
 - law undergraduate
 - non-law undergraduate
- 16 Application / selection – top tips
 - covering letters
 - CVs
 - applications
 - interviews
 - assessment centres
- 19 Alternative options
- 20 Useful contacts
- 22 The role of the Law Society

Getting started

This brochure aims to answer the questions you might have if you are thinking about becoming a solicitor. It covers:

- **the skills and training you need**
- **the different routes to qualification**
- **career options**

It also includes checklists to help you assess your progress.

A career as a solicitor can be incredibly rewarding, providing many exciting challenges and opportunities. The range of work is diverse and growing all the time as new areas of specialisation emerge in response to new legislation and client demand.

Training to become a solicitor demands considerable commitment over a number of years. It is important that you carry out research to find out as much as you can about what a career as a solicitor is really like. Talk to people in the profession and try to get some relevant work experience. Make sure you are right for the profession and the profession is right for you.

The right choice

To succeed as a solicitor, you need to be determined and highly motivated.

It will take at least three years to train if you are a law graduate, at least four years if you are a non-law graduate and at least six years if you are not a graduate.

Understanding the realities

Qualifying as a solicitor is not easy. You will face the intellectual challenge of exams and you will have to fund your studies. Many trainee solicitors finish their training with debts. Others are not able to finish their training because they cannot get a suitable job. There is no guarantee of getting a job either as a trainee or as a solicitor. However, some students are sponsored through part of their studies and the great majority of students qualify and enjoy successful careers.

You will need to:

- show you have the academic ability to cope with a demanding course
- compete with very able people to win a place
- find a firm/organisation that will supervise you while you complete your training

Who becomes a solicitor?

A career as a solicitor demands:

- intellectual ability – the law is complex
- versatility – no two days are the same
- a desire to work with people
- commitment – the training is rigorous and requires substantial effort and resources

Academic excellence is important, but employers look for many other personal skills and attributes:

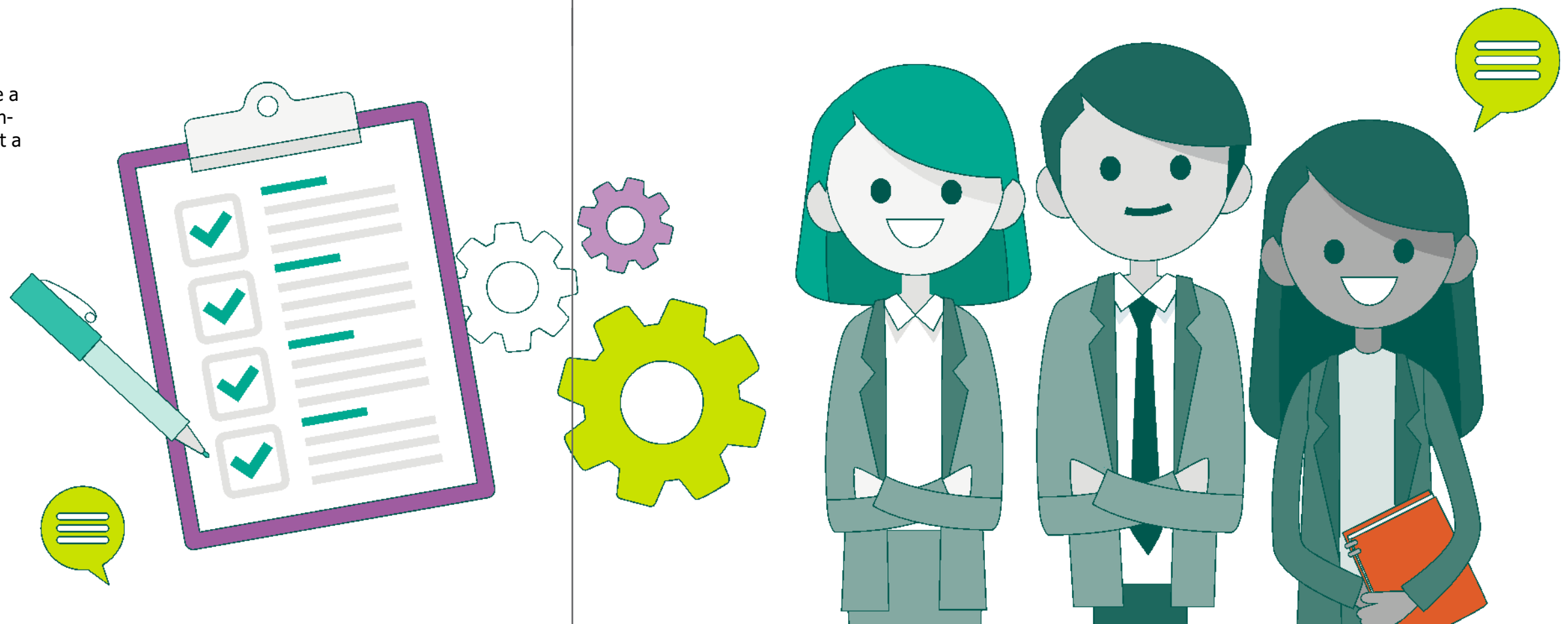
- dedication, commitment and a capacity for hard work
- professional responsibility – personal integrity and an ethical approach - this forms the basis of solicitor/client relationships
- commercial awareness
- numeracy skills – the ability to understand financial statements and interpret accounts
- personal effectiveness skills – the ability to manage your time, prioritise conflicting demands, delegate and plan projects

- flexibility and a positive approach to new ideas and concepts
- problem solving skills
- communication skills – written and oral; the ability to understand complex language and information and to present information in plain English
- interpersonal skills – you will have to work well with other people and in teams

You must be cooperative, collaborative and a good listener, with the ability to communicate with people at all levels and win their confidence and respect:

- IT skills – you will need to be proficient in word processing, case management systems, spreadsheets, financial accounting packages, email and information retrieval systems
- Commitment to ensure you remain competent throughout your working life as a solicitor

Taking part in activities will enable you to define and refine your skills in real life situations.



What solicitors do

There are more than 146,000 solicitors currently working in England and Wales.

As a solicitor you are a confidential adviser who will have direct contact with your clients, combining legal expertise and people-skills to provide expert legal advice and assistance in a range of situations.

- **Everyday issues**

Solicitors provide expert guidance on the issues people regularly face such as buying and selling houses, drawing up wills, and dealing with relationship breakdown.

- **Promoting business**

They help businesses with the legal side of commercial transactions.

- **Protecting the rights of individuals**

Solicitors advise people of their rights, ensuring they are treated fairly by public or private bodies, and that they receive compensation when they have been unfairly treated.

- **Supporting the community**

Many solicitors spend a portion of their time providing free help for those unable to pay for legal services.

Solicitors can represent clients personally in the lower courts (magistrate court, county court and tribunal) and with specialist training are also able to represent them in higher courts (crown court, high court, court of appeal).

A wide range of career options

Once you qualify your career options are very varied. You could choose to work in private practice, within a business or organisation, in local or national government or in the court services.

Private practice

Over 95,000 solicitors in England and Wales work in private practices. These range from sole practitioners to multinational firms with hundreds of partners and offices across the world. Many solicitors in private practice work with individual clients. You may become involved in helping to buy and sell property, investigating claims for injury compensation, arranging wills, advising on divorce or representing clients in court and at tribunals.

You might work for a firm advising businesses and corporate clients in areas such as employment law, contracts or company mergers and acquisitions.

Work in overseas offices may involve advising local clients on English, EU or foreign law.

Other firms advise on insurance, the registration of patents and copyrights, shipping, banking, the media, entertainment and other specialist areas.

In private practice solicitors are employed at various levels of seniority. You may eventually become a partner or proprietor of a firm – in other words, you own the business. This carries with it the rewards of profit-sharing but also the risk of fluctuating success.

Commerce and industry

Another 20,000 solicitors are employed by commercial and industrial organisations dealing with their legal business in-house.

Legislation has considerable impact on corporate decisions and, as an in-house solicitor, you will play a key role in developing and implementing corporate strategy. Your work will be demanding and varied – ranging from multi-million-pound projects such as mergers and takeovers to employment issues and industrial relations.

You could also have opportunities to move into more general management roles.

Local and central government

Around 4,500 solicitors are employed in local government where their role is to advise on the services the authority provides to the community. The range of this work is diverse and you could be providing advice on everything from education and social services to planning and construction.

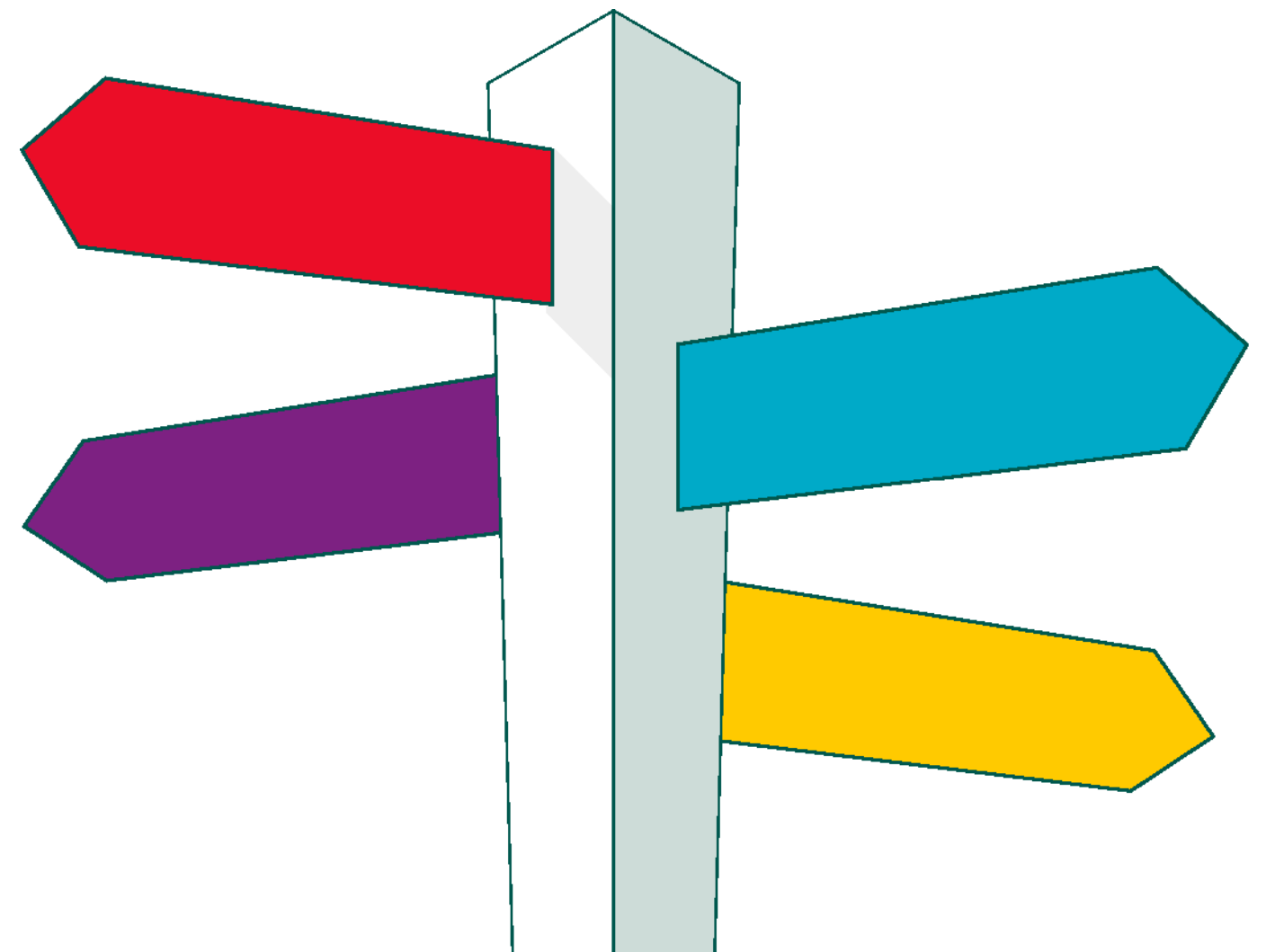
Approximately 1,000 solicitors work in the government legal service. This could involve advising government ministers and implementing government decisions, as well as prosecuting people who contravene regulations.

Court services

You might choose to apply to the Crown Prosecution Service, which employs approximately 2,000 solicitors. The Service prosecutes the majority of criminal cases in England and Wales and advises the police on prosecutions. It provides the opportunity to work in all areas of the country and to practise advocacy.

Other careers

Other opportunities include the Magistrates' Court Service where you would be involved in advising magistrates on a wide range of matters, including criminal law, family law and licensing. Additional career paths include law centres, charities and the armed forces.



Routes to becoming a solicitor

Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) – The new route to qualification

In Autumn 2021 the Solicitors Qualification Examination (SQE) replaced the previous LPC routes to qualifying as a solicitor in England and Wales. The SQE provides greater flexibility to choose training that best suits your needs and the new assessment ensures that everyone meets the same high standard when qualifying.

There are transitional arrangements designed to give candidates who, by 1 September 2021, are already on their way to becoming a solicitor. This means those already studying or training can continue to qualify through the existing routes or choose to do the SQE. Further details of the transitional arrangements can be found on the SRA website (see useful contacts). The transitional arrangements remain in place until 31 December 2032.

The SQE will include two stages of assessments - SQE 1 and SQE 2.

While the other required elements of the SQE can be completed in any order, candidates must complete the SQE1 assessments before they can sit the SQE2 assessments.

The Key stages to qualify under the new SQE include:

- **a degree in any subject (or equivalent qualification or work experience)**
- **pass both SQE1 and SQE2 assessments**
- **2 years' qualifying work experience**

- **pass the SRA character and suitability requirements.**

Many legal education providers will offer courses to prepare both law and non-law graduates for the SQE1 (and later SQE2) assessment.

SQE1 Assessment

SQE1 will consist of two functioning legal knowledge assessments, made up of 180 multiple-choice questions drawn on any combination of the subject areas below:

- Business Law and Practice,
- Dispute resolution
- Contract; tort; legal system of England and Wales
- Constitutional and administrative law and EU law and legal services
- Property practice; wills and the administration of estates; solicitors' accounts; land law; trusts; criminal law and practice

Ethics and professional conduct will be examined pervasively across the two assessments. Principles of taxation will be examined only in the context of business law and practice, property law and practice and wills and the administration of estates.

It is likely that many candidates will take SQE1 at the same time as, or slightly after, they complete their academic education.

SQE2 Assessment

Functioning legal knowledge and practical legal skills are assessed on the SQE2. The assessment is divided into two parts, although there is one pass mark for the assessment as a whole:

Part 1 SQE2 consists of four oral legal skills assessments which will take place over two half days, covering:

- interview and attendance note/legal analysis
- advocacy

Part 2 SQE2 consists of 12 written legal skills assessments which will take place over three half days, covering:

- case and matter analysis
- legal research
- legal writing
- legal drafting

The interviewing exercises will be marked by the assessor playing the role of the client and will be marked on skills only. All other exercises will be marked by a solicitor who will assess candidates on both skills and application of law.

These will be assessed across a range of 5 legal practice areas:

- criminal litigation
- dispute resolution
- property practice, wills and intestacy, probate administration and practice
- business organisations, rules and procedures

It is likely candidates will take SQE2 near the end of their qualifying work experience (QWE).

Further information

On the SRA SQE assessment website you will find:

- the latest assessment dates
- where candidates can sit the assessments
- how candidates will be able to register for the SQE and book assessments
- what to expect on the day of an SQE assessment
- the SQE assessment specifications and sample questions
- SQE-related policies.

The first SQE1 assessment is scheduled for November 2021.

Qualifying Work Experience (QWE)

Under the new SQE, Qualifying Work Experience (QWE) will replace the period of recognised training (Training contract), and offer more flexibility in how and where legal work experience can be gained.

To qualify via the SQE you are required to complete 2 years of Qualifying Work Experience (QWE). QWE is defined as any experience providing legal services, where you can develop the skills and knowledge to work as a solicitor. This includes experience:

- interacting with clients
- seeing how solicitors work in practice
- considering ethical challenges
- developing competences set out in the Statement of Solicitor Competence (available on the SRA website)

QWE can be gained in one period or across several stages, in up to 4 organisations. Examples of where this can be attained include:

- law clinics
- law degree placements
- law firms
- voluntary organisations, including the Citizens Advice Bureau and law centres
- working as a paralegal
- other appropriate organisations

Work experience can be done in England or Wales or overseas, and it does not need to cover English and Welsh law. A candidate will need knowledge of this to take the SQE assessment, but they do not need to gain this specifically through their work experience.

In all cases, a solicitor or compliance officer for legal practice (COLP) must confirm a candidate's QWE.

There is no requirement to attain QWE before completing the SQE 2, however it is ideal to do this to increase your chances of passing the exam.

More information on Qualifying Work Experience can be found on the SRA website, (see useful contacts).

Character and Suitability requirements

The final stage is to pass the SRA's character and suitability requirements.

Your integrity to be a solicitor is treated as seriously as your knowledge and skills. If you do not meet the SRA requirements for character and suitability, you will not be admitted as a solicitor. You are able to find the rules on character and suitability on the SRA website (see useful contacts).

You are not required to inform the SRA about any character and suitability issues at the start of studying or training/qualifying work experience but would need to do so when you apply to be a solicitor.

You are able to check any potential problems before then, by completing an early character and suitability assessment at any time, there is a cost of £39.

Further information can be found on the SRA website (see useful contacts).

Costs

The total cost of the SQE is estimated to be around £3,980

This will break down as:

- SQE1 – £1,558 (correct at July 2021)
- SQE2 – £2,422 (correct at July 2021)

In addition to this, candidates may wish to undertake courses, or buy resources, to help them prepare for the SQE assessments. Details of teaching institutions offering SQE preparation courses can be found on the SRA website (see useful contacts)

Equivalent means

Equivalent means route to qualification allows the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) to recognise the knowledge, skills outcomes and standards which may have been achieved through other assessed and work-based learning. In these cases, the SRA may grant exemption from all or part of the academic or vocational stages, each case is assessed individually. To find out more visit the SRA website (see useful contacts).

Apprenticeships

From 2016 legal apprenticeships have been offered as an alternative to the traditional graduate route to qualification. It is possible to qualify as a solicitor, paralegal, probate technician or chartered legal executive by completing an apprenticeship.

The apprenticeship is a blend of on and off the job learning, apprentices receive a salary with the cost of training being met by the employer. In most cases apprentices join a firm after finishing school, rather than attending university. However, apprenticeships are also open to post A Level, university and LPC students. The standards expected of apprentice solicitors is the same as those expected of all solicitors with the same rigorous assessments before they are admitted to the roll of solicitors.

It is not a requirement to study for a degree as part of the apprenticeship, although it is likely that a part-time degree will form part of many apprenticeships. The recommended minimum entry requirements are:

- 5 GCSEs, including mathematics and English – grade C or above (or equivalent)
- 3 A Levels (or equivalent) – minimum grade C

The solicitor apprenticeship route takes five to six years. This may be reduced if exemptions from training are applicable. For further information on apprenticeships (see useful contacts).

CILEx routes

Another option is to qualify as a solicitor through the Chartered Institute of Legal Executive (CILEx) route, by undertaking the CILEX Professional Qualification (CPQ). This route involves undertaking examinations set by CILEx while working within a legal environment. There are three stages:

- CPQ Foundation
- CPQ Advanced
- CPQ Professional

Students can start at a stage corresponding to their qualifications and experience, with each stage including assessments on legal knowledge and skills, ethics and professional responsibility, and professional experience.

After completing the final stage and achieving the CPQ Professional Qualification, you then qualify to become a CILEx Lawyer or can go on to qualify as a Solicitor (under the old LPC route) . Under the new SQE route, CILEx lawyers are exempt from Qualifying Work Experience (QWE)

The previous CILEx qualifications are being phased out, with the last Level 3 exams taking place in June 2023, and the final Level 6 exams in June 2026.

To find out more about this route to qualification, visit the CILEx website (see useful contacts).

The LPC and GDL route to qualification

This route to qualification is only open to those who, before 1 September 2021, have completed, started, accepted an offer of a place or paid a non-refundable deposit for one of the following:

- the Common Professional Examination / Graduate Diploma in Law
- the Legal Practice Course
- a period of recognised training (also known as a training contract).

This route to qualification will be phased out with transitional arrangements in place until 2032. During the transitional period, you can still become a solicitor through this path if you choose to.

The stages include:

Qualifying law degree route

- Qualifying Law degree
- Legal Practice Course
- Period of recognised training including Professional Skills Course
- Admission to the roll of solicitors

Non-qualifying law degree route

- Degree in any subject
- Common Professional Examination / Graduate Diploma in Law
- Legal Practice Course
- Period of recognised training including Professional Skills Course
- Admission to the roll of solicitors

Visit the SRA website for more details on routes to qualification (see useful contacts).

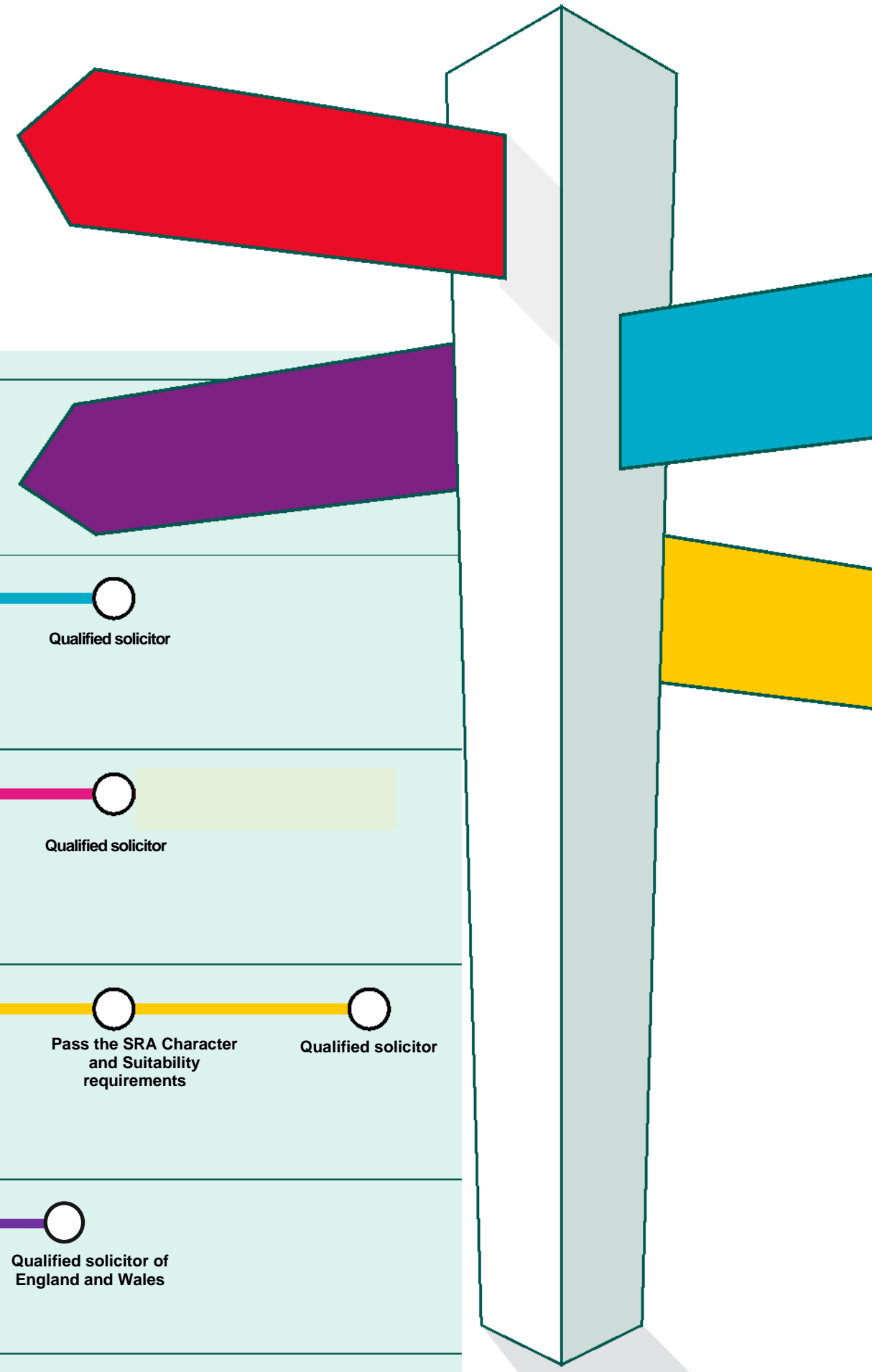
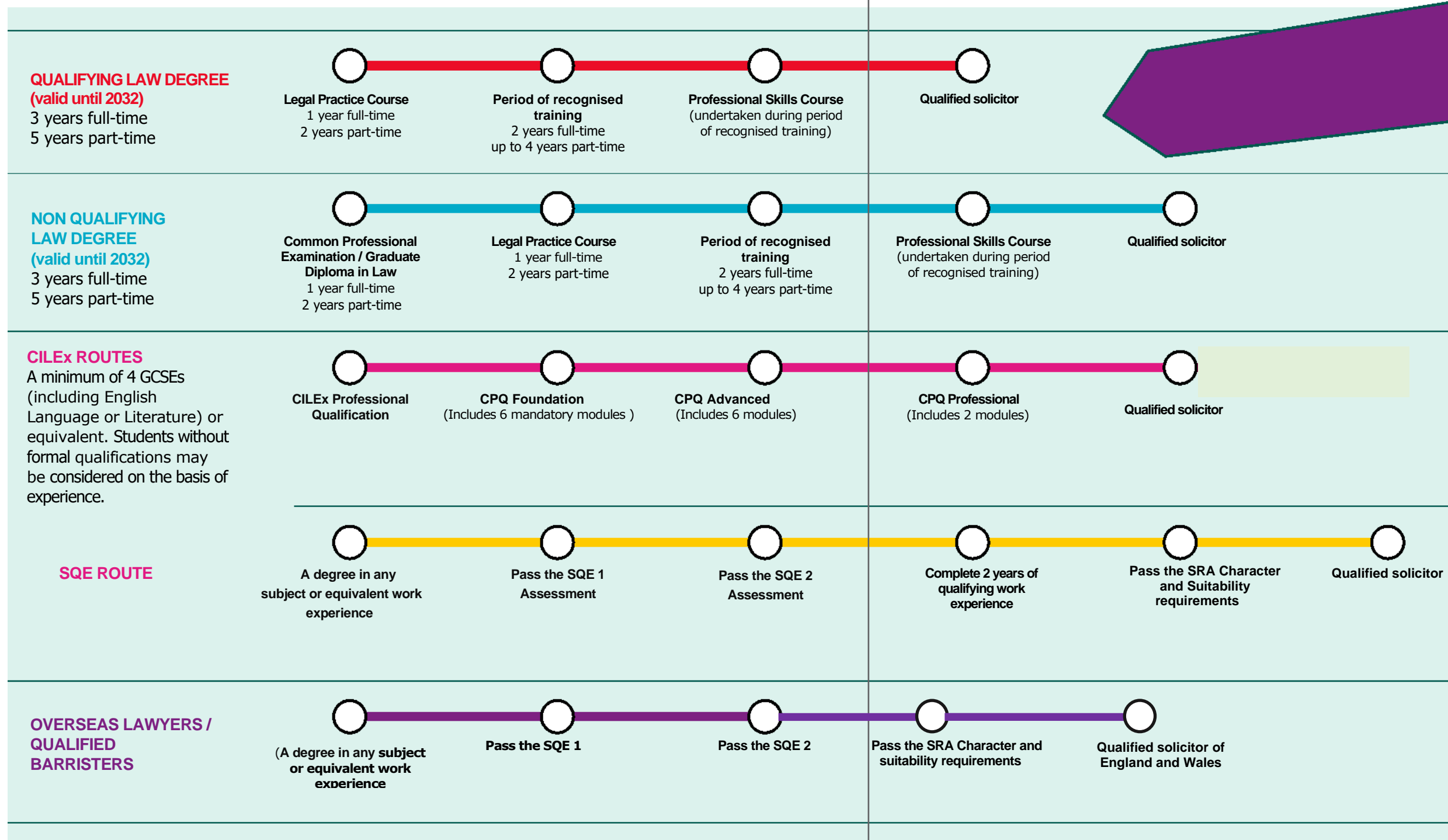
Becoming a solicitor for overseas Lawyers

The SQE has replaced the qualified lawyers transfer scheme (QLTS). It offers more flexibility as most of the requirements can be met from abroad. If you are a lawyer from another jurisdiction or a barrister of England and Wales and want to be admitted as a solicitor in England and Wales; you must now complete the SQE to qualify. Transitional arrangements are in place and exemptions may be granted depending on your level of qualification. It is not a requirement for qualified lawyers to undertake qualified work experience (QWE) (see useful contacts).

Routes to becoming a solicitor

NO A LEVELS OR EQUIVALENT

- **CILEx route** (see below)
- **Access / Introductory Programme** – 1 year full-time (Access Certificate qualifies you for University entry)



Checklist for SQE

Complete undergraduate degree or equivalent work experience

Year 1

1. If choosing to do a law degree check with the university or provider whether the course includes SQE preparation
2. Talk to your careers adviser for more information about law as well as career fairs/open days and work experience schemes
3. Find vacation placement work - this will provide insight into the different types of firms and help you decide if the profession is right for you. Any work experience undertaken, even at this stage will enhance your CV and count towards qualifying work experience if you are providing legal services and developing skills required to work as a solicitor.
4. Give thought to where you want to work and the areas of law you wish to practice
5. Start applying for opportunities to gain qualifying work experience

Year 2

1. Make full use of your careers service to discuss the profession generally and ascertain whether the profession is right for you.
2. Talk to solicitors in the profession
3. Explore funding possibilities for any SQE courses
4. Apply for work experience opportunities including vacation placements. This will give you insight into the different types of firms and help you decide if the profession is right for you. Any work experience undertaken, even at this stage will enhance your CV and counts towards qualifying work experience if

you are providing legal services and developing skills required to work as a solicitor.

5. Attend Law fairs and open days. This is your opportunity to meet firms face to face.
6. Start applying for opportunities to gain qualifying work experience
7. Start researching preparatory courses for the SQE 1

Year 3

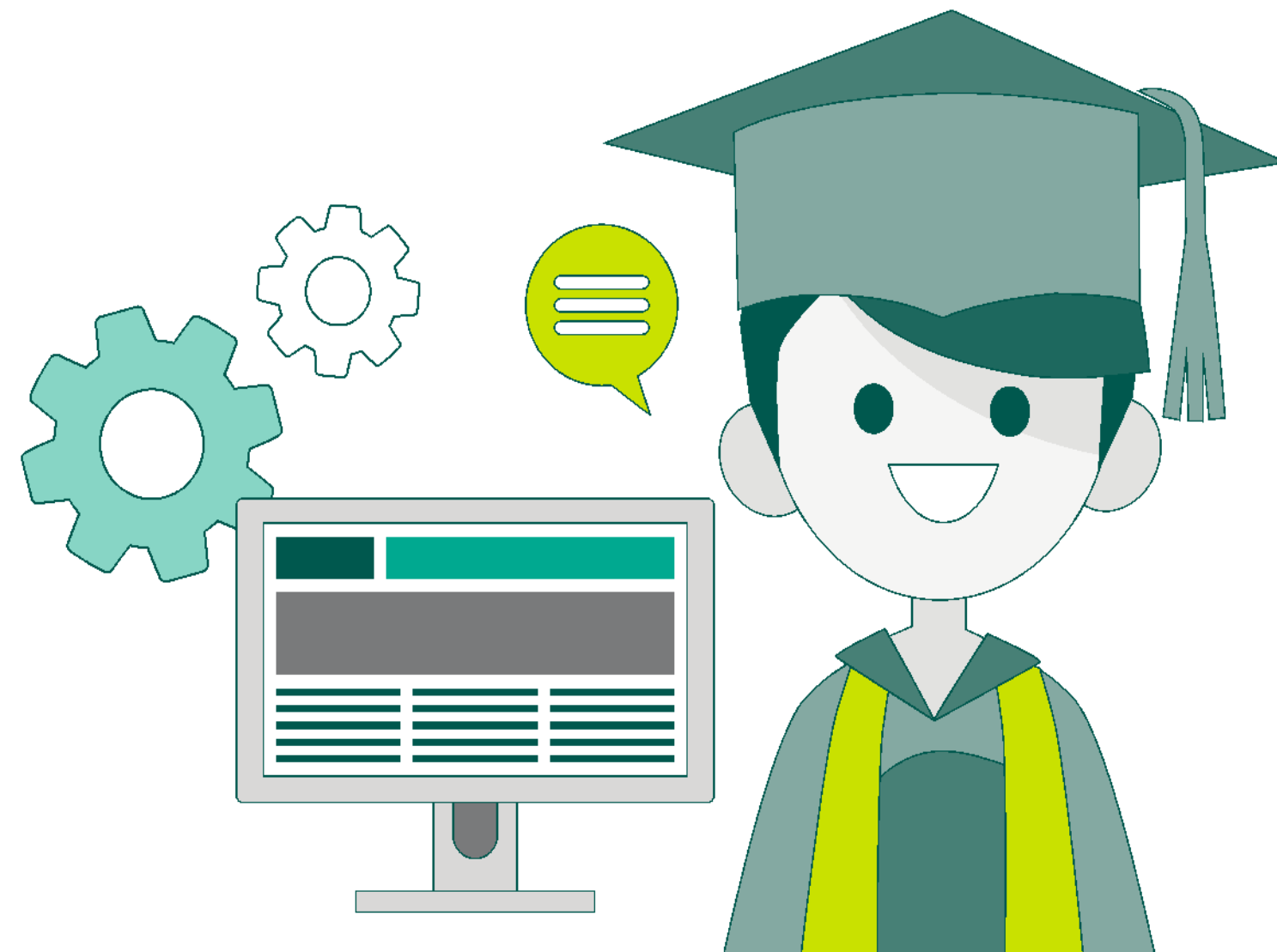
1. Continue gaining qualifying work experience
2. Apply for SQE 1 Preparatory course

Qualifying work experience (QWE)

1. Ensure the work experience offers the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge required to practice as a solicitor
2. Record all of your QWE including details of the work carried out
3. Ensure your compliance officer, supervising solicitor or solicitor is knowledgeable of your work has signed it off

Completing the SQE 1 and SQE 2 Assessment

1. Ensure you have sufficient legal knowledge and practical skills by completing courses to prepare for the exam



Application / selection – top tips

By the time you reach the stage of applying for qualified work experience you should have carried out extensive research and know where you want to work. It is highly recommended that you undertake some relevant work experience as this will help to enhance your CV. It is important to allocate enough time for completing applications. The level of research and time needed to prepare a quality application is often underestimated. When submitting applications for QWE bear in mind that many firms look to fill their places two years in advance.

Keep copies of all the applications you submit.

Covering letter

- every CV requires a covering letter
- ensure your letter is addressed to an individual
- research the firm/organisation – consider whether you have the skills, abilities and qualities required
- consider how you are suited to the firm/organisation and how this can be best conveyed
- indicate evidence for the claims you make about yourself in your CV
- explain why you are applying to the firm/organisation
- highlight the best things you can offer the firm/organisation
- your letter should persuade the employer that you are the best candidate for the job
- express what you need to say as concisely as you can
- first impressions are important - check for spelling and other errors

Letter format

Beginning

A brief introduction to who you are, the job you are applying for, where you saw the advertisement and why you are applying to that particular firm/organisation. Say that your CV is enclosed.

Middle

Say why you are interested in the job and firm/organisation. Demonstrate that you understand the requirements of the role and firm/organisation. Sell yourself – why are you right for the role? Demonstrate your strengths and why you are right for the role. The letter should be tailored to the specific role and firm/organisation.

End

Be positive and say that you look forward to hearing from them.



CV writing

- your CV should be two to three pages in length at most
- it should be easy to read in a clear font size on good quality paper
- personal details – these should be on the first page so that a potential employer can contact you with ease
- education and experience – these should be arranged clearly with the most recent first
- key skills – ensure you highlight the keys skills you have that are relevant to the role
- career history – give details of your role, status and achievements
- list professional memberships and qualifications
- put information that is relevant and demonstrates your suitability for the role near the beginning
- it is not necessary to include referees on your CV. Should you choose to include referees ensure any you include are happy to provide a reference
- first impressions are important - check for spelling and other errors

CV Format

- Contact details
- Education and qualifications
- Work experience (dates, organisation, job title, achievements)
- IT skills
- Interests and activities
- Referees (optional)



Applications

Many firms/organisations use application forms or online applications to select candidates for interview.

- be clear and concise - this is your opportunity to demonstrate your written communication skills
- prepare by researching about the firm/organisation and its recruitment criteria
- gauge your answers by the size of the space provided
- the word count specified on online applications indicates how much detail is required
- read through the form and carefully follow instructions
- prepare a draft first to ensure you can fit the information into the boxes
- ensure your application is neat. Do not resort to tiny writing to squeeze more in
- be clear about the selection criteria and match your skills, knowledge and experience to them closely
- do not leave gaps in your life. It is better to explain time spent travelling for example

Interviews

Prepare thoroughly for interviews. Find out as much as you can about the firm/organisation and try to get a feeling of the ethos of the firm/ organisation.

Consider:

- why you want a career in law
- what areas interest you
- what type of firm you want to practise in
- why this firm/organisation in particular
- what you can offer

The interview is your opportunity to demonstrate that you have the criteria required.

Interview tips

- arrive on time. Dress smartly. Be polite.
- ensure you are familiar with your CV/application and able to talk about it.
- listen carefully to the questions.
- be succinct, whilst also ensuring that you 'sell' yourself.
- if there is more than one interviewer try to address your answers to each equally.
- if you don't understand something, don't be afraid to say so.
- it is normal to be asked whether you have any questions – think about them in advance.

If your questions are answered during the interview, cross them off mentally. Don't ask anything you should already know from information given to you by the firm/organisation.

- at the end of the interview thank the interviewers for seeing you.
- reflect on the interview – do you want to work for that firm/organisation? Are you content with your performance? Could you do better next time?
- if you are not successful, try to seek feedback.



Assessment centres

Assessment centres are used by many firms/organisations as a major part of their selection process, more recently these have been offered virtually by some firms. An assessment centre invites candidates to undertake a combination of individual and group exercises. These are designed to assess your competencies and personal qualities to measure your suitability for the firm/organisation and the role.

You will be assessed on your analytical skills, and business sense rather than your legal knowledge. They can be as short as half a day or as long as three days. Throughout the exercises you will be observed by assessors. It can be daunting but remember, this is your opportunity to show off your skills and also to assess whether the firm/organisation is right for you. You should also bear in mind that being invited to an assessment centre means that you have overcome one hurdle, as you will have been chosen on the strength of your application.

Employers normally only invite promising candidates to assessment centres. You will need to prepare in the same way you would for an interview, give thought to how you may approach a case study or working within a group. It is advisable to practise presentation skills and in-tray exercises as these are widely used. Do seek advice from your university careers adviser.

You will find resources at Law Society Learning that provide assistance with the application/selection process. (see useful contacts):

Alternative options

Some law graduates decide that becoming a solicitor is not for them. This might be because of a lack of training places or jobs, or financial pressure, or just a change of mind.

However, law graduates are sought after by a wide variety of employers and the training includes many transferable skills including the ability to:

- conduct research
- collect and analyse large amounts of information
- weigh-up points and counter points
- create a logical argument and reasoned conclusion from a set of facts
- communicate clearly
- be discreet
- work under pressure
- remember a lot of facts

Alternatively, you could choose another legal career. You might consider a legal support role, such as paralegal, law costs draftsmen, legal secretary or barrister's clerk. Or you might decide on one of a number of administrative and advisory roles, such as executive officer in the Court and Crown Prosecution Services, or adviser in a citizen's advice bureau, welfare rights or social organisation.

Useful contacts

Courses

For entrance requirements for admission to full-time undergraduate law degree courses at universities of higher education you should apply to:

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Rose Hill
New Barn Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 3LZ

Telephone: 0371 468 0468

www.ucas.com

The Central Applications Board

The Central Application Board administers online systems for processing full-time applications for the Legal Practice Course and Common Professional Examination / Graduate Diploma in Law course

applications@lawcabs.ac.uk

www.lawcabs.ac.uk/

Kaplan

Kaplan SQE limited have been appointed to run the SQE assessments.

To register for the SQE assessment visit:

<https://sqa.sra.org.uk/registering-and-booking/registering-for-the-sqa>

Apprenticeships

For general information on [apprenticeships](http://apprenticeships.gov.uk). www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

Consult legal recruiters for the latest apprenticeship vacancies.

Guidance for solicitor apprentices can be found at [SRA | Solicitor apprenticeships | Solicitors Regulation Authority](http://sra.org.uk/solicitor-apprenticeships)

The Law Society

For information on routes to qualification and how the Law Society can provide support throughout your career contact:

The Law Society's Hall

113 Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1PL

Telephone: 020 7242 1222

Email: careers@lawsociety.org.uk

[Becoming a solicitor | The Law Society](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/becoming-a-solicitor)

Law Society Communities

For information on all Law Society communities and the wide range of targeted support that is available to support you in your professional life.

www.lawsociety.org.uk/communities/ Email: communities@lawsociety.org.uk

The Law Society communities include:

- Junior Lawyers Division
- Ethnic Minority Lawyers Division
- Women Lawyers Division
- Lawyers with Disabilities Division
- LGBT

Solicitors Regulation Authority

For additional information on qualification requirements.

Telephone: 0370 606 2555

www.sra.org.uk

- The Solicitors Qualification Examination (SQE)
- Qualifying work experience
- SRA pre-admission screening
- SRA character and suitability assessment form
- SRA assessment and character suitability rules
- Student information pack

The Bar Council

For more information on a career as a barrister, contact:

General Council of the Bar
289-293 High Holborn
London WC1V 7HZ

Telephone: 020 7242 0082

Email: contactus@barcouncil.org.uk

www.barcouncil.org.uk

Government

For details about a career as a solicitor in government, contact:

The GLS Recruitment Team (legal trainee recruitment enquiries)

102 Petty France
Westminster
London
SW1H 9GL

Telephone 020 7210 3000

Email: thetreasurysolicitor@governmentlegal.gov.uk

www.gov.uk

The Magistrates' Association

For more information on a career in the Magistrates' Court Service, contact:

The Magistrates Association

10A Flagstaff House
St George Wharf
London
SW8 2LE

Telephone 020 7387 2353

Email: information@magistrates-association.org.uk

www.magistrates-association.org.uk

The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives

If you are interested in following the chartered legal executive routes, contact:

The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives

Kempston Manor
Kempston
Bedfordshire
MK42 7AB

Telephone: 01234 845 777

Email: membership@cilex.org.uk

www.cilex.org.uk

Law Society Gazette

The Gazette jobs provides access to the latest legal jobs:

www.lawgazettejobs.co.uk

The Lawyer Portal

For resources for those considering law www.thelawyerportal.com/

Careers service

Your careers adviser at your teaching institution will have a wide range of reading material.

Local authorities / commerce and industry

If you wish to train within commerce, industry or a local authority, you should contact relevant organisations direct.

Crown Prosecution Service

For more information on a career at the Crown Prosecution Service and The Legal Trainee Scheme contact:

The Staff Management Unit

Telephone: 020 3357 0000

www.cps.gov.uk

The role of the Law Society

As the representative body for solicitors in England and Wales, the Law Society is here to support you at every stage of your training, qualifying and throughout your career as a solicitor.

The Law Society is committed to attracting the most able candidates into the legal profession and to promoting equality at all stages. Solicitors are drawn from all walks of life and around 6,000 qualify each year in England and Wales.

A career as a solicitor is open to anyone and the Law Society is actively promoting diversity in entrants to the profession. In recent years more women than men have been qualifying as solicitors and at least 17 per cent of people qualifying have been from minority ethnic groups.

Equality in the profession

The Law Society has developed the Diversity Access Scheme to aid diversity in the profession.

- **Diversity Access Scheme**

The Law Society Diversity Access Scheme aims to improve social mobility in the legal profession by supporting promising entrants who also face exceptional social, educational, financial or personal obstacles to qualification. The scheme offers successful applicants financial assistance with Legal Practice Course/Solicitors Qualifying Examination fees, access to relevant high quality work experience and a professional mentor.

Applications open February of each year. The scheme offers 10-15 diversity scholarships each year. Entrants are required to answer an essay question.

For further information email diversityaccessscheme@lawsociety.org.uk





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020 7242 1222



113 Chancery Lane, London
WC2A 1PL