



The Law
Society

The Diversity Access Scheme

Application form 2024

PDF viewing only



The Law Society use only. DAS application number:

Part 1: your details and eligibility

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone number:

1.0 Residence

Please confirm you reside in England or Wales:

I reside in England or Wales

1.1 Financial circumstances

Please tick the statements that apply:

- a. I do not have access to familial loans or financial gifts
- b. I do not have more than £5,000 in my savings account, current account, ISA or held elsewhere

1.2 Your background

Please confirm at least two of these statements apply:

- a. I attended a non-fee paying school
- b. I am the first generation in my family to attend higher education
- c. I was eligible for free school meals whilst at secondary school

Exceptional challenges

If you fulfil the criteria under 1.0 to 1.2 you are automatically eligible to apply for the DAS and do not need to complete section 1.3

If you do not fulfil criteria under 1.1(b) to 1.2, you may still be eligible to apply for DAS if you believe that you face or have faced significant challenges in pursuing your education and career ambitions as a result of your:

- cultural background
- health problems

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- disability
- sex
- gender identity
- sexual orientation
- race or ethnicity
- religion
- or other challenging personal circumstances

Please describe these challenges here.

Please note that regardless of significant challenges, you must reside in England or Wales to be eligible for the DAS.

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Part 2: application and commitment

Please confirm the following:

- All statements made in this application are true at the time of submission

- I have read and understand the application guidance and eligibility criteria

- I reside in England or Wales and I am committed to working as a solicitor in England and Wales

- If shortlisted, I am able to attend an interview via Microsoft Teams between Thursday **11 and Saturday 13 July.**

- If my application is successful, I will provide regular updates on my progress to the Law Society and update the Law Society with my contact details

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Part 3: education

3.0 Higher education

Please provide details of any qualifications gained in higher education (degree level and above) including those you are currently studying for.

Institution	Qualification and subject	Mark (specify expected or achieved)

3.1 Results

Law firms and other providers of legal services place importance on your degree class, with many requiring training contract applicants to have either a first class (1st) or an upper second class degree (2:1).

It is not a requirement for the Diversity Access Scheme to have achieved or be predicted to achieve a 1st or 2:1 degree, however, if you did not reach your academic potential as a result of studying under difficult circumstances, please describe these circumstances here.

Up to 250 words

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Part 4: about you

1. What experiences have most influenced your development as an individual?

Around 400 to 500 words

2. What motivates you to join the solicitors profession?

Around 400 to 500 words

3. What areas of law are you most interested in and why? Discuss a current affairs item, development or recent case you have found interesting that relates to this area of law.

Up to 700 words

4. Identify three essential skills you believe a solicitor must have and tell us how your experiences have helped you to develop these skills.

*Please note that this experience does **not** have to have been undertaken in the legal profession but may include:*

- vacation placements
- paid employment
- voluntary work
- personal commitments

Around 400 to 500 words

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Course details

Notes:

1. The routes into the profession are changing.

Applicants to the Diversity Access Scheme 2024 may apply to **either:**

- study for the Legal Practice Course (LPC); or
- study for the Solicitors Qualifying Exam (SQE) preparation course/s and take the SQE parts 1 and 2; or
- study either the LPC or SQE preparation course combined with an LLM.

The fees for the LPC/LPC LLM or the cost of the SQE parts 1 and 2 and SQE preparation courses/SQE preparation courses combined with the LLM will be paid for by the DAS award.

Make sure you have considered both options and are familiar with the rules regarding these qualification routes. Information can be found on the Solicitors Regulation Authority website <https://www.sra.org.uk/students/sqe/>

2. If you are awarded a DAS scholarship, the Law Society may require you to attend an alternative LPC or SQE institution to your first choice. Please see the application guidance for details.
3. No marks will be allocated from this point of the application onwards. Your answers will be used as background, to be expanded on at the interview stage.

Please tick the option you are applying for:

- LPC or LPC combined with LLM starting in September 2024 or January/February 2025, on either a part time or full time basis (go to parts 5 and 6)
- SQE and SQE preparation courses or SQE and SQE preparation courses combined with LLM, with SQE1 to be taken during the academic year 2024/2025 and SQE2 to be taken within 2 years (go to parts 7 and 8)

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Part 5: LPC applicants only – course details

Note section 5 is for applicants who are applying for an Legal Practice Course (LPC) DAS award.

If you are applying for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) DAS award, please go to part 7.

LPC provider:

Name of the course:

Do you have a place confirmed on this course at this institution?

Yes

I don't have a confirmed place, but this is my preferred provider and course

Part time/full time/online:

Start date:

Duration of the course:

Fees:

Please tell us about any other awards, scholarships, bursaries or prizes you have applied for or been awarded for your LPC including the cash value:

Up to 200 words

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Part 6: LPC applicants only – training contract and risks

Please note, you are exempt from questions 6.1 to 6.3 if

- you are a CILEx fellow, or
- you are planning on qualifying through the SQE route (go to parts 8 and 9)

6.1 Have you received a formal offer of a training contract?

If yes, please specify the firm or organisation name, start date and the name and contact details of a member of staff who will verify this information:

6.2 Please list all organisations to which you have applied for a training contract, including those applications that have been unsuccessful and those from which you are awaiting a response:

Name of firm or organisation applied to	Outcome

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6.3 The DAS does not guarantee awardees a training contract.

Please confirm that you are aware of and have considered the risks involved in starting the LPC without a training contract and your reasons for wishing to do so.

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Part 7: SQE applicants only – course details

Please note this section is for applicants who are applying for an Solicitors Qualifying Examination DAS award. For the Legal Practice Course (LPC) DAS award, please go to parts 5-6.

SQE preparation course institution:

Name of the course/s:

Do you have a place confirmed on this course at this institution?

- Yes**
 No this is my preferred institution and course

Part time/full time/online:

Start date:

Duration of the course:

Fees:

Have you already taken and passed SQE1?

- Yes**
 No

Tell us about any other awards, scholarships, bursaries or prizes you have applied for or been awarded for your SQE including the cash value.

Include applications to and offers from organisations such as Flex Legal.

Up to 200 words

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Part 8: SQE applicants only – Qualifying Work Experience (QWE)

8.0 Have you had any periods of QWE signed off by a solicitor?

No

Yes. Please specify the name of the firm or organisation, the name and contact details of the solicitor who signed off the QWE and the length of the QWE.

Firm or organisation	Name of the signing off solicitor	Contact details	Length of QWE

8.1 If you have had 2 years of QWE signed off by a solicitor, have you had a formal offer of a newly qualified position?

No

Yes. Please specify the firm or organisation name, intended start date and the name and contact details of a member of staff who will verify this information:

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Part 9: financial circumstances

The DAS award does not provide living expenses, so we need to be confident that you will be able to meet all living costs for yourself and your dependants during the period of study. If your application is shortlisted, you may be required to bring evidence of this information to interview.

9.0 Provide details of anyone who will be financially dependent on you during your study.

9.1 How do you intend to meet all your living costs and those of your dependants during study?

9.2 Confirm details of your **monthly income** including that of your spouse or partner as it will be during your study.

Income	Amount
Wages or salary	
Universal credit	
Disability living allowance or personal independence payment	
Child benefit	
Other income (please specify all)	
Total income per month	

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9.3 Please confirm details of your **monthly expenditure** including that of your spouse or partner and dependants as it will be during your study.

Expenditure	Amount
Rent or mortgage	
Council tax	
Utilities	
Food	
Clothing	
Telephone/internet	
Travel	
Loan repayments	
Credit card or store cards	
Other expenditure (please specify)	
Total expenditure per month	

9.4 Confirm the value of any **savings, investments, assets** (including equity in your home) and debts including those of your partner at the present time.

Savings	
Investments (please specify)	
Assets (please specify - includes equity in the home)	

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Part 10: references

Provide the names and contact details of two people who are willing to provide you with references in support of your application should it be shortlisted.

Referees should be academic or professional contacts such as teachers or employers who can confirm your ability to solve problems and present arguments clearly. References will not be accepted from family members.

Referee 1

Title and full name	
Job title	
Organisation	
Relationship to you	
Email address	
Telephone number	

Referee 2

Title and full name	
Job title	
Organisation	
Relationship to you	
Email address	
Telephone number	

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SEPARATE FORM

Equal opportunities monitoring

This information will be immediately separated from your application form and will not be seen by the shortlisting or interview panel or form any part of the selection process.

It will be kept in a password protected file and completely anonymised.

Please fill in this diversity questionnaire as fully as possible. Once applications have closed and the awards have been made, the data will be analysed to identify the characteristics of who the DAS is helping and of those missing out on our support. This analysis will be used as the basis of a plan to improve the DAS and its processes, ensuring it is accessible, fair and fit for purpose.

Age	
<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 to 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 54 to 65
<input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 34	<input type="checkbox"/> 65+
<input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

What is your sex?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Other preferred description, please specify:

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<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/> No	

Ethnicity

Asian or Asian British

Black or Black British

Bangladeshi

African

Chinese

Caribbean

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<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Black/ Caribbean/ Black British background (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian (please specify)	
White	Mixed / multiple ethnic groups
<input type="checkbox"/> British/ English / Welsh / Northern Irish / Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African
<input type="checkbox"/> Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Irish Traveler	<input type="checkbox"/> White Chinese
<input type="checkbox"/> Other white background (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other mixed ethnic background (specify)

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<i>Other ethnic group</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Arab	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Prefer not to say

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Disability	
Do you consider yourself to have a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	

Religion / belief	
<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/> Muslim
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian	<input type="checkbox"/> Sikh
<input type="checkbox"/> Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/> No religion or belief
<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	

Sexual orientation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gay man/homosexual	<input type="checkbox"/> Gay woman/lesbian
<input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/straight	<input type="checkbox"/> Bi-sexual
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

Socio-economic background

If you went to university were you part of the first generation of your family to do so?

Yes

No

Did not attend university

Prefer not to say

Did you mainly attend a state or fee-paying school between the ages of 11 to 18?

UK state school

UK independent fee-paying school

Attended school outside the UK

Were you eligible for free school meals?

Yes

No

Don't know

N/A

Prefer not to say

Caring responsibilities

Are you a primary carer for a child or children under 18?

Yes

No

Don't know

Prefer not to say

Do you look after, or give any support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either long-term physical or mental ill-health/disability or problems related to old age

Do not count anything as part of paid employment.

No

Yes, 1 to 19 hours a week

Yes, 20 to 49 hours a week

Yes, 50 or more hours a week

Prefer not to say