Becoming a solicitor with the Legal Practice Course (transitional requirements)

Updated 25 November 2025

This is who can qualify as a solicitor through the <u>Legal Practice Course</u> [https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/lpc/] (LPC) route:

- 1. Has completed the Common Professional Examination/Graduate Diploma in Law (accepted before 1 September 2021).
- 2. Had accepted an offer for a qualifying law degree (QLD) or exempting law degree (ELD) by 21 September 2021, started the course before 31 December 2021 and have now graduated.
- 3. Deferred a QLD or ELD offer for the academic year 2020/21 and then started the course by 31 August 2022 (inclusive). Please keep evidence of your deferral to be accepted onto the LPC.

So, if you began a QLD in September 2022 or later, you are not eligible for the transitional arrangements and cannot take the LPC. Your only route to qualification as a solicitor is through the <u>SQE</u>
[https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/].

Checking your degree

You check your degree on the QLD [https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/qualifying-law-degree-common-professional-examination/qualifying-law-degree-providers/] or ELD [https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/qualifying-law-degree-common-professional-examination/exempting-law-degrees/] pages. If it is not on the list, it cannot be used for the LPC route.

Qualifying through the Legal Practice Course route

Choose the relevant option below to find out what you would need to do.

Open all [#]

<u>Planning to start the LPC</u>

Most LPC providers have stopped offering the course because demand has fallen. Only a few providers are authorised to deliver the LPC in 2026/27. Find out who these-providers [https://rules.sra.org.uk/becomesolicitor/legal-practice-course-route/lpc/lpc-course-providers/] are.

Transitional arrangements were introduced to give candidates time to complete the LPC and their period of recognised training. As a result, four

years after the SQE was introduced, most LPC providers are phasing out LPC courses in the 2025/26 academic year.

Before starting the LPC, you should consider the following:

 Will you complete it and meet the requirements to qualify by December 2032?

There are limited LPC providers and spaces available. Although the LPC allows five years for completion, you should check your provider's timelines for course availability and resit deadlines.

Can you get a period of recognised training?

To qualify through the LPC route, you must have completed a <u>period of recognised training [https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/period-recognised-training/your-period-recognised-training/prt/] (PRT). Training opportunities are changing, and there are fewer PRTs available. Most training contracts are now for qualifying work experience to qualify via the <u>SQE route [https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/]</u>.</u>

 Could you complete qualifying work experience (QWE) instead of the PRT?

You can <u>substitute QWE and passing SQE2 [https://rules.sra.org.uk/becomesolicitor/legal-practice-course-route/substitute-qwe-sqe2-equivalent-training/]</u> as an equivalent to a period of recognised training.

However, sitting the SQE2 as well would mean more costs on top of your LPC fees. It may be better not to do an LPC but to take the SQE route.

Also, the SQE2 pass rates of LPC graduates have been lower than those of the wider cohort. Cohorts with a higher proportion of LPC graduates tend to have lower overall pass rates. We have reminded LPC graduates that they need to understand the SQE is more demanding than the LPC and prepare accordingly.

SQE2 pass rate for LPC graduates

SQE2 sitting	Pass rate of candidates who had taken SQE1	Pass rate of candidates who had not taken SQE1
April 2024	83%	36%
July 2024	80%	44%
October 2024	85%	62%
January 2025	79%	50%
April 2025	84%	48%

July 2025 81%

47%

Started the LPC

You have three options:

Get a period of recognised training

To qualify through the LPC route, you must have completed a <u>period</u> of recognised training [https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/period-recognised-training/your-period-recognised-training/prt/1 (PRT). Training opportunities are changing, and there are fewer PRTs available. Most training contracts are now for qualifying work experience to qualify via the SQE route.

Use Equivalent Means

To qualify using <u>Equivalent Means [https://rules.sra.org.uk/becomesolicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/]</u>, you will need to demonstrate that you have the equivalent skills and experience gained through a PRT.

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Started LPC more than five years ago?

You must complete both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the LPC within five years. If you do not finish within this timeframe, your LPC provider may consider an extension request where there are exceptional circumstances.

If an extension request is not upheld, you could still:

- qualify through the SQE route
- use <u>Equivalent Means [https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/exemptions/legal-practice-course-exemption/]</u> by demonstrating you can meet <u>LPC Outcomes</u> [<a href="https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/lpc/] through certificated or work-based learning.

Not finished the LPC but have completed a PRT

If you have completed your PRT but not the LPC, you have two options:

Qualify through the SQE

You can use your PRT as QWE QWE QWE QWE <a href="https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-experience-candidates/QWE https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-experience-candidates/https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-experience-candidates/https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-experience-candidates/https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-experience-candidates/https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-expe

Use Equivalent Means

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Already have the LPC

You have three options:

Get period of recognised training

To qualify through the LPC route, you must have completed a <u>period of recognised training [https://rules.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/period-recognised-training/your-period-recognised-training/prt/] (PRT), often know as a training contract. Training opportunities are changing, and there are fewer PRTs available. Most training contracts are now for qualifying work experience to qualify via the SQE route.</u>

Use Equivalent Means

You could qualify using <u>Equivalent Means [https://rules.sra.org.uk/becomesolicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/]</u>. To do this, you will need to demonstrate that you have the equivalent skills and experience gained through a PRT.

Use qualifying work experience (QWE) instead of the PRT?

You can <u>substitute QWE and passing SQE2 [https://rules.sra.org.uk/becomesolicitor/legal-practice-course-route/substitute-qwe-sqe2-equivalent-training/]</u> as an equivalent to a period of recognised training.

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If you choose to qualify through the LPC route, you will have until 31 December 2032 to apply for admission.

After 2032, you can only qualify through the SQE route. Also, having the LPC will not give you any exemptions from the SQE assessments.

The arrangements are part of <u>regulation 11</u>

[https://rules.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/authorisation-individuals-regulations/#reg-11] of the SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations [https://rules.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/authorisation-individuals-regulations/].