

SRA Education, Training and Assessment Provider Regulations

Introduction

These Regulations set out the requirements governing organisations which are providing or intending to provide education and training, and the delivery of assessments to those seeking to be admitted as solicitors.

PART 1: REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION PROVIDERS

- 1.1 Only an *approved education provider* may provide and assess:
 - (a) a Qualifying Law Degree;
 - (b) a *CPE*;
 - (c) an *Exempting Law Degree*; or
 - (d) an *Integrated Course*.
- 1.2 Only an *authorised education provider* may provide and assess the Legal Practice Course or the Professional Skills Course.
- 1.3 An organisation may apply to the *SRA* in such manner as may be *prescribed* to be an *approved education provider* or an *authorised education provider*.
- 1.4 The *SRA* may, in relation to an application for approval or authorisation:
 - (a) grant the application, subject to such conditions and for such period as it considers appropriate; or
 - (b) refuse the application.
- 1.5 If the *SRA* considers that an *approved education provider* or an *authorised education provider* has failed to comply with any obligation placed on it under these regulations, the *SRA* may:
 - (a) revoke the organisation's approval or authorisation, as appropriate; or
 - (b) make the approval or authorisation subject to such conditions as it considers appropriate.

PART 2: REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORISED TRAINING PROVIDERS

Authorised training providers

- 2.1 Only an *authorised training provider* may provide a *period of recognised training* to *trainees*.
- 2.2 An organisation may apply for authorisation as an *authorised training provider* and its application must demonstrate that it will meet the requirements of regulations 3 to 5 below.
- 2.3 The *SRA* may, in relation to an application for approval or authorisation:
- (a) grant the application, subject to such conditions and for such period as it considers appropriate; or
 - (b) refuse the application.
- 2.4 If the *SRA* considers that an *authorised training provider* or a *training principal* has failed to comply with any obligation placed on it under these regulations, the *SRA* may:
- (a) revoke the organisation's authorisation;
 - (b) make the authorisation subject to such conditions as it considers appropriate; or
 - (c) require the *authorised training provider* to appoint a new *training principal*.

Requirements for authorised training providers

- 3.1 An *authorised training provider* must:
- (a) have in place a *training principal* for the whole duration of any *period of recognised training*, who meets the requirements of regulation 5 and whose identity has been notified to the *SRA* in the *prescribed* form; and
 - (b) pay the fees and expenses for each *trainee's* first attempt at the Professional Skills Course.

Requirements for recognised training

- 4.1 A *period of recognised training* must:
- (a) unless regulation 4.2 applies, be of a duration of a total of at least two years full time, or equivalent;

- (b) ensure that the *trainee* has applied and developed the skills as set out in the *Practice Skills Standards*;
- (c) be appropriately supervised by *solicitors* and other individuals who have adequate legal knowledge and experience in the practice area they are supervising and the necessary skills to provide effective supervision;
- (d) include regular appraisal of the *trainee's* performance and development, and review of the *trainee's record of training*.

4.2 An *authorised training provider* may recognise previous work-based experience the *trainee* has undertaken as satisfying up to six months of the required *period of recognised training*, provided:

- (a) the experience was gained in the three years preceding the commencement of the *period of recognised training*;
- (b) the experience enabled the *trainee* to apply and develop one or more of the skills as set out in the *Practice Skills Standards*; and
- (c) the *trainee* was supervised, and was subject to an appraisal of their performance and development, during the period of work-based experience.

Training principals

5.1 The *training principal* for an *authorised training provider* must:

- (a) be a *solicitor* holding a current practising certificate or be a practising *barrister*;
- (b) notify the *SRA* in the *prescribed* form before any individual commences a *period of recognised training* or if this is not possible then as soon as practicable thereafter;
- (c) ensure that the training provided meets the requirements of regulation 4;
- (d) ensure that the *trainee* maintains a *record of training* which will meet the requirements set out at regulation 3E.1 of the SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations; and
- (e) certify to the *authorised training provider* in the *prescribed* form at the end of any *period of recognised training* whether, in their opinion, the *trainee*:
 - (i) is of the proper *character and suitability* to be admitted as a *solicitor*; and

- (ii) has completed training which complies with regulation 4 of these regulations,

and inform the **SRA** of any previous experience recognised under regulation 4.2.

PART 3: REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGHER RIGHTS OF AUDIENCE ASSESSMENT PROVIDERS

- 6.1 Only an organisation approved by the **SRA** may provide assessments in *higher courts* civil advocacy and *higher courts* criminal advocacy conferring a *higher courts advocacy qualification*.
- 6.2 An organisation may apply to the **SRA** in such manner as may be *prescribed* to be approved to provide such assessments.
- 6.3 The **SRA** may, in relation to an application for approval:
 - (a) grant the application, subject to such conditions as it considers appropriate; or
 - (b) refuse the application.
- 6.4 The **SRA** shall issue guidelines and standards for the provision of competence assessments against which the competence of those applying for a *higher court advocacy qualification* must be assessed.
- 6.5 If the **SRA** considers that an assessment provider has failed to comply with any obligation placed on it under these regulations, the **SRA** may:
 - (a) revoke the provider's approval; or
 - (b) make the approval subject to such conditions and for such period as it considers appropriate.

PART 4: MONITORING AND INSPECTION

- 7.1 In order to protect and promote the standards of legal education and training, the **SRA** may:
 - (a) monitor the relevant programmes of study provided by an *approved education provider* and an *authorised education provider*, the training provided by an *authorised training provider* or the assessments provided by an assessment provider approved under regulation 6;
 - (b) visit the provider's premises, at such intervals and on such grounds as it may consider appropriate;

- (c) require the provider to respond promptly, fully and accurately to any request by the **SRA** for explanations, information or documents;
- (d) require the provider to ensure that relevant information or documents it holds, or that a third party holds on its behalf are available for inspection.

PART 5: TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 8.1 Any approval, authorisation or recognition granted under the Monitoring of Courses Regulations 1991, the SRA Training Regulations 2011, the SRA Higher Rights of Audience Regulations or the SRA Training Regulations 2014 - Qualification and Provider Regulations, will continue as if granted under these regulations.
- 8.2 A *period of recognised training* entered into on or before [XXX] will continue to be governed by the SRA Training Regulations 2014 - Qualification and Provider Regulations.

Supplemental notes

Made by the SRA Board on [date]

Made under sections 2, 79, and 80 of the Solicitors Act 1974

Approved by the Legal Services Board under paragraph 19 of Schedule 4 to the Legal Services Act 2007, on [date]

Commencing on [date] 2018 and replacing the SRA Training Regulations 2014 - Qualification and Provider Regulations, the SRA Admission Regulations 2011 and the SRA Transfer of Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme Regulations 2011