

# Qualified lawyers – becoming a solicitor

- Must hold a legal qualification which allows you to practise in the UK or an international jurisdiction
- You'll need:
  - Degree or other level 6 qualification
  - Pass the SQE (made up of two parts - SQE1 and SQE2) or an exemption
  - Meet our character and suitability requirements
- NB – no requirement for qualifying work experience

# SQE1

- Two parts to SQE1
  - Functioning Legal Knowledge (FLK) 1
  - Functioning Legal Knowledge (FLK) 2
- Identifying legal principles and applying them to client problems and transactions
- Taken over two days – can be done in UK or international centres

# SQE2

- Tests practical legal skills and functioning legal knowledge equally
- Simulating tasks carried out by a solicitor in practice through written and oral tests
- Written – taken over three day at UK or international centres
- Oral – take over two days at UK centres (Cardiff, Manchester and London)

# Practice rights

- Conduct criminal litigation (including advising clients at the police station)
- Conduct civil litigation/dispute resolution
- Property practice
- Wills and intestacy, probate administration and practice
- Business organisations rules and procedures

# Working in the UK - Lawyers and other titles



- **Solicitors**
  - reserved legal services, alongside other services / general legal advice
- **Registered foreign lawyers**
  - some legal services
  - manager or owner
- **Other regulated lawyers**
  - reserved legal services alongside other services
  - includes barristers, licensed conveyancers, immigration advisers
- **Non-regulated lawyers**
  - on-restricted legal services / general legal advice
  - such as professional will-writers

# Options in the English and Welsh legal services markets

- Provide non-reserved / restricted legal services
- Registered foreign lawyer
- Seek admission as a solicitor or another type of regulated lawyer

# SQE exemptions – what are they?

- All qualified lawyers can apply for exemptions
- Agreed or individual based on qualifications and experience
- Full list of agreed exemptions - [sra.org.uk/sqe-exemptions](https://sra.org.uk/sqe-exemptions)

# SQE1 exemption

- Cannot grant partial exemptions – only all of FLK1 or FLK2
- Your qualifications and experience need to cover **all** areas of law tested in SQE1
- Must be at the standard of a newly qualified solicitor in England and Wales – level three of our Threshold Standard ([sra.org.uk/threshold](https://www.sra.org.uk/threshold))



# Top tips for SQE exemptions

- Create your mySRA account – make sure you use the same personal details when also opening your SQE assessment account
- Read our exemptions information - [sra.org.uk/sqe-exemptions](https://sra.org.uk/sqe-exemptions)
- Read our guidance - [sra.org.uk/exemption-form](https://sra.org.uk/exemption-form)
- Read the application form in mySRA - [sra.org.uk/mySRA](https://sra.org.uk/mySRA)  
'Apply for qualified lawyer exemption from the SQE assessments'

# SQE2 exemption

- Can apply for an SQE2 exemption before sitting the SQE1 assessment – no limitations on when to apply
- Upload evidence of your qualification, a copy of your admission certificate is the best evidence
- Provide a reference to show at least two years' professional legal work experience

# QLTS transitional arrangements

- SQE has replaced QLTS
- Not passed the MCT - you'll need to qualify through the SQE
- Passed the MCT - can take the SQE2 to complete QLTS qualification
- Must apply for admission by 31 March 2024 – if not, you'll have to qualify through the SQE

# Keep in touch



Send your queries to [contactcentre@sra.org.uk](mailto:contactcentre@sra.org.uk)



SQE assessment [sqa.sra.org.uk](https://sqa.sra.org.uk)  
Qualified lawyers [sra.org.uk/qualified-lawyers](https://sra.org.uk/qualified-lawyers)



SQE Update bulletin [sra.org.uk/sqeupdate](https://sra.org.uk/sqeupdate)

# More information – working in the UK

- Our guidance on how to become a registered foreign lawyer  
[sra.org.uk/rfl](https://sra.org.uk/rfl)
- Professions approved for registered foreign lawyer status  
[sra.org.uk/professions-rfl-approved](https://sra.org.uk/professions-rfl-approved)
- Contact a UK law society for more advice:
  - England and Wales - [www.lawsociety.org.uk](https://www.lawsociety.org.uk)
  - Scotland - [www.lawscot.org.uk](https://www.lawscot.org.uk)
  - Northern Ireland - [www.lawsoc-ni.org](https://www.lawsoc-ni.org)