



## SQE candidates

Updated March 2025

Here are the steps you need to take before applying for admission as a solicitor of England and Wales. We also offer guidance on when to do this, but the steps do not have to be done in a set order.

You'll also find a personalised SQE qualification checklist within mySRA (in 'My profile') that tracks your progress to admission and highlights next steps.

### Create your accounts - do this first

- Create a mySRA account – this is where you will tell us about your degree, work experience and apply for admission. Find out how to [create an account](https://referral.sra.org.uk/mysra/get-mysra-account/#heading_a27d) [https://referral.sra.org.uk/mysra/get-mysra-account/#heading\_a27d].
- Create an SQE assessment account to book your exams and get your results. [Find out how](https://sqa.sra.org.uk/registering-and-booking) [https://sqa.sra.org.uk/registering-and-booking].
- Please make sure the names match exactly on the two accounts.

### Validate your degree - anytime

- Your degree must be a [UK degree or equivalent level 6 qualification](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/check-validate-qualification/degree-equivalent/) [https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/check-validate-qualification/degree-equivalent/], and can be in any subject. Find out how we [check and validate your degree](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/check-validate-qualification/) [https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/check-validate-qualification/].
- You can also apply for equivalence to a degree using other qualifications (eg CILEX level 3 qualification) and/or relevant work experience. Find out how to [apply for an equivalence](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/check-validate-qualification/) [https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/check-validate-qualification/].
- If you are a solicitor apprentice, your degree or equivalent level 6 qualification will be validated through your SQE assessment account.

### Retrieve SQE assessment results - passed both exams

- You'll need to retrieve your SQE results in mySRA once you have passed all your required assessments. Log into mySRA, and in 'Start a new application' you'll find the 'Retrieve your SQE results' application.



## Register your qualifying work experience - anytime

- You must register two years' [qualifying work experience](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-experience-candidates/) [\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-experience-candidates/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-experience-candidates/) before you can apply for admission Find out more about [recording your work experience](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-experience-candidates/registering-qualifying-work-experience/) [\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-experience-candidates/registering-qualifying-work-experience/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/qualifying-work-experience-candidates/registering-qualifying-work-experience/).
- If you are a solicitor apprentice, this can be any two-year period within your apprenticeship.

## Background checks and suitability - just before applying for admission

- We check your suitability when you are applying for admission. You can also speak to us early if you have [any potential concerns](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/character-and-suitability/) [\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/character-and-suitability/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/character-and-suitability/).
- You will need to do a background check/screening. Once complete, you are ready to apply for admission. Find out how to [apply for screening](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/admission/screening/) [\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/admission/screening/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/admission/screening/).

## Applying for admission

- When applying, you will choose 'Solicitors Qualifying Examination route' on the application. Find out more about [applying for admission](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/admission/admission-forms-fees/) [\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/admission/admission-forms-fees/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/admission/admission-forms-fees/).

## Applying for a practising certificate - after choosing your admission date

Once you have chosen your admission date, you can apply for a practising certificate. Find out [how to apply](https://referral.sra.org.uk/mysra/manage-account/individual-account/step-by-step-guides/apply-practising-certificate/) [\[https://referral.sra.org.uk/mysra/manage-account/individual-account/step-by-step-guides/apply-practising-certificate/\]](https://referral.sra.org.uk/mysra/manage-account/individual-account/step-by-step-guides/apply-practising-certificate/).