

UK – England and Wales – Solicitors

Law Society of England and Wales (Solicitors Regulation Authority – SRA)

(Information provided by the UK delegation to the CCBE, October 2012.)

A. Contact Point

SRA contact centre +44 (0) 121 329 6800 or Contactcentre@sra.org.uk

B. General information

1.	Legal basis	-
2.	Overview of procedural steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Applicant has to send the application to the Authorisation Directorate of the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA).2. The SRA will assess the application on the basis of the 'Day One Outcomes'.3. Following the assessment, the applicant will be informed of the gaps in their legal knowledge and experience.

C. Processing of application

1.	Information and documents requested from the applicant	<p>The applicant has to enclose the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Certified true copies of the original degrees, diplomas, examination or admission certificates testifying previously acquired education, accompanied by official translations into English where necessary.2. A certified true copy of the marriage certificate, if applicable, or a statutory declaration if the applicant's name is now different from that shown on any of the original documents, accompanied by an official translation.3. Original copies of references provided by employers, lawyers or judges with official translations into English where necessary.4. Certified copy of passport or Identity Card.
2.	Submission of application	<p>The application form can be emailed and should be submitted by post along with an annexed file of any evidence of previous qualifications and professional training which is believed to be equivalent in full or in part to the qualifications and experience required in England and Wales.</p> <p>Authorisation, The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street, Birmingham B1 1RN Tel: +44 (0) 121 329 6800 Website: www.sra.org.uk</p>
3.	Application fees	£400
4.	Expected duration of the application processing	Approximately 3 months.

D. Initial assessment of application and possible outcomes

1.	General requirements	Be a citizen of the EU, EEA or Switzerland.
2.	Equivalence of relevant knowledge and/or professional qualifications	The competent authority will assess which further qualifications and professional training may or may not be required to be completed by the applicant seeking entry into the profession, when compared to those skills, knowledge and attributes required of a newly qualified solicitor of England and Wales (based on the 'Day One Outcomes').
3.	Outcome	<p>Depending on previous education and professional experience, the applicant either may be required to undertake:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Legal Practice Course (LPC) and / or2. Training contract (may be reduced), or3. Any or all of the QLTS (Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme) assessments (for further information see here.)

E. Normal route to qualify as a lawyer

1.	Academic stage	A qualifying law degree or another degree followed by the Common Professional Examination or the Graduate Diploma in Law.
2.	Vocational Stage	Legal Practice Course (LPC): the LPC outcomes are set out here .

3.	Training Contract and the Professional Skills Course	Training Contract (2 years). Further information on the training contract can be found here . Professional Skills Course (PSC). More about the PSC can be found here .
4.	Registration as a lawyer	Upon successful completion, the applicant can apply to the SRA to be admitted as a fully qualified lawyer.
E. Statistics		
1.	Closed cases	No information available.
2.	Outstanding cases	No information available.