DRAFT - SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations [2017]

Annex 1: Regulations

May 2017
Draft SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations [2017]

Part 1 - Admission as a solicitor

Eligibility for admission

1.1 You will be eligible for admission as a solicitor if:

(a) you have satisfactorily passed an assessment which is designed to assess your competence against the prescribed competences for solicitors and is conducted by an assessment organisation appointed by the SRA for the purpose;

(b) you hold a degree or qualifications or experience which the SRA is satisfied are equivalent to a degree;

(c) you have completed qualifying work experience which meets the requirements of regulation 2; and

(d) the SRA is satisfied as to your character and suitability to be a solicitor.

Qualifying work experience

2.1 Qualifying work experience must:

(a) comprise experience of providing legal services which provides you the opportunity to develop the prescribed competences for solicitors;

(b) be of a duration of a total of at least two years full time or equivalent; and

(c) be carried out under an arrangement or employment with no more than four separate firms, educational institutions or other organisations.

2.2 In respect of each organisation under 2.1(c) above, you must arrange for confirmation in the prescribed form of the period of work experience carried out and that it provided you with the opportunity to develop some or all of the prescribed competences for solicitors, to be given by:

(a) the organisation’s COLP;

(b) a solicitor working within the organisation; or

(c) if neither (a) or (b) are applicable, a solicitor.
Eligibility for admission of qualified lawyers

3.1 You will be eligible for admission as a solicitor if:

(a) you hold a legal professional qualification which confers rights to practise in England and Wales or in an overseas jurisdiction, that is recognised by the SRA; and

(b) subject to 3.2, you meet the criteria in 1.1(a), (b) and (d).

3.2 If the SRA is satisfied that your qualifications or experience demonstrate that you meet some or all of the prescribed competences, we may decide you are not required to pass the assessment under 1.1(a) or such parts of it as we consider appropriate.

Commencement

4.1 These regulations come into force on a date to be determined in an order made by the SRA Board and such an order may bring these regulations into force at different times for different purposes.

To note: these draft regulations form the first part of the wider Authorisation of Individuals Regulations and we will consult on the other parts of these draft regulations in Phase Two of our wider Handbook review.

Glossary for draft SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations [20XX]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glossary term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>degree</td>
<td>means a UK degree, awarded at level 6 (or above) of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, by a recognised degree-awarding body</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To note: this Glossary covers only the new definition of "degree" which appears in the draft SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations [20XX]. Other defined terms in these draft regulations remain as set out in the SRA Handbook Glossary 2012.