



# SRA Education, Training and Assessment Provider Regulations

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/education-training-assessment-provider-regulations/?docId=1931775049>]

---

## *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.

This introduction does not form part of the SRA Education, Training and Assessment Provider Regulations.

## *Part 1: Requirements for education providers*

### *Regulation 1: Education providers*

#### **1.1** Only an approved education provider

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#approved-education-provider>] may provide and assess:

- (a) a Qualifying Law Degree [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Qualifying-Law-Degree>] ;
- (b) a CPE [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#CPE>] ;
- (c) an Exempting Law Degree [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Exempting-Law-Degree>] ; OR
- (d) an Integrated Course [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Integrated-Course>] .

#### **1.2** Only an authorised education provider

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-education-provider>] may provide and assess the Legal Practice Course [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Legal-Practice-Course>] or the Professional Skills Course.

#### **1.3** An organisation may apply to the SRA

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] in such manner as may be prescribed [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#prescribed>] to be an approved education



provider [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#approved-education-provider>] or an authorised education provider [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-education-provider>] .

**1.4** The SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] may, in relation to an application for approval or authorisation:

- (a) grant the application, subject to such conditions and for period as it considers appropriate; or
- (b) refuse the application.

**1.5** If the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] considers that an approved education provider [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#approved-education-provider>] or an authorised education provider [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-education-provider>] has failed to comply with any obligation placed on it under these regulations, the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#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*

### *Regulation 2: Authorised training providers*

- 2.1** Only an authorised training provider [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-training-provider>] may provide a period of recognised training [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#period-of-recognised-training>] to trainees [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#trainee>] .
- 2.2** An organisation may apply for authorisation as an authorised training provider [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-training-provider>] and its application must demonstrate that it will meet the requirements of regulations 3 to 5 below.
- 2.3** The SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] may, in relation to an application for



approval or authorisation:

- (a) grant the application, subject to such conditions and for period as it considers appropriate; or
- (b) refuse the application.

**2.4** If the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] considers that an authorised training provider [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-training-provider>] or a training principal [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#training-principal>] has failed to comply with any obligation placed on it under these regulations, the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#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 [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-training-provider>] to appoint a new training principal [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#training-principal>] .

### *Regulation 3: Requirements for authorised training providers*

**3.1** An authorised training provider [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-training-provider>] must:

- (a) have in place a training principal [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#training-principal>] for the whole duration of any period of recognised training [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#period-of-recognised-training>] , who meets the requirements of regulation 5 and whose identity has been notified to the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] in the prescribed [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#prescribed>] form; and
- (b) pay the fees and expenses for each trainee's [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#training>] first attempt at the Professional Skills Course.



**Regulation 4: Requirements for recognised training**

**4.1 A period of recognised training**

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#period-of-recognised-training>] must:

- (a) unless regulation 4.2 applies, be of a duration of a total least two years full time, or equivalent;
- (b) ensure that the trainee [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#trainee>] has applied and developed the as set out in the Practice Skills Standards [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Practice-Skills-Standards>] ;
- (c) be appropriately supervised by solicitors [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#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; and
- (d) include regular appraisal of the trainee's [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#trainee>] performance and development, and review of the trainee's record of training [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#record-of-training>] .

**4.2 An authorised training provider**

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-training-provider>] may recognise previous work-based experience the trainee [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#trainee>] has undertaken as satisfying up to six months of the required period of recognised training [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#period-of-recognised-training>] , provided:

- (a) the experience was gained in the three years preceding commencement of the period of recognised training [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#period-of-recognised-training>] ;
- (b) the experience enabled the trainee [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#trainee>] to apply and develop one or more of the skills as set out in the Practice Skills Standards [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#Practice-Skills-Standards>] ; and
- (c) the trainee [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#trainee>] was supervised, and was subject to



an appraisal of their performance and development, during the period of work-based experience.

**Regulation 5: Training principals**

- 5.1** The training principal [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#training-principal>] for an authorised training provider [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-training-provider>] must:
- (a) be a solicitor [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#solicitor>] holding a current practising certificate or be a practising barrister [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#barrister>];
  - (b) notify the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] in the prescribed [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#prescribed>] form before any individual commences a period of recognised training [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#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 [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#trainee>] maintains a record of training [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#record-of-training>] which will meet the requirements set out at regulation 3E.1 of the SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulation and
  - (e) certify to the authorised training provider [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-training-provider>] in the prescribed [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#prescribed>] form at the end of any period of recognised training [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#period-of-recognised-training>] whether, in the opinion, the trainee [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#trainee>]:
    - (i) is of the proper character and suitability [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#proper-character-and-suitability>] to be admitted as a solicitor [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#admitted-as-a-solicitor>] and



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

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

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#trainee>]

### ***Part 3: Requirements for higher rights of audience and Police Station Representative Accreditation Scheme assessment providers***

#### ***Regulation 6: Higher rights of audience assessment providers***

- 6.1** Only an organisation approved by the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] may provide assessments in higher courts [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#higher-courts>] civil advocacy and higher courts [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#higher-courts>] criminal advocacy conferring a higher courts advocacy qualification [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#higher-courts-advocacy-qualification>] .
- 6.2** An organisation may apply to the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] in such manner as may be prescribed [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#prescribed>] to be approved to provide such assessments.
- 6.3** The SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#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 [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#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 [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#higher-courts-advocacy-qualification>] must be assessed.



**6.5** If the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] considers that an assessment provider has failed to comply with any obligation placed on it under these regulations, the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#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.

***Regulation 6A: Police Station Representative Accreditation Scheme assessment providers***

**6A.1** Only an organisation approved by the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] may provide assessments for the Police Station Representative Accreditation Scheme.

**6A.2** An organisation may apply to the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] in such manner as may be prescribed [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#prescribed>] to be approved to provide such assessments.

**6A.3** The SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#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.

**6A.4** The SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] shall issue assessment standards against which an assessment provider must assess the competence of those applying for a police station representative accreditation.

**6A.5** The SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] may issue assessment guidelines for the delivery by an assessment provider of the assessment of those applying for a police station representative accreditation. An assessment provider must provide assessments in accordance with any such guidelines.

**6A.6** If the SRA [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>] considers that an assessment provider has failed to comply with any obligation placed on it under these regulations, the SRA



[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#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*

### *Regulation 7: Monitoring and inspection*

- 7.1** In order to protect and promote the standards of legal education and training, the SRA

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA>]

may:

- (a) monitor the relevant programmes of study provided by :  
approved education provider  
[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#approved-education-provider>] and an authorised education provider  
[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-education-provider>] , the training provided by an authorised training provider  
[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#authorised-training-provider>] or the assessment 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  
[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#SRA-explanations>, information or documents;
- (d) require the provider to ensure that relevant information documents it holds, or that a third party holds on its behalf are available for inspection.

## *Part 5: Transitional provisions*

### *Regulation 8: 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 2011 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

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/glossary/#period-of-recognised-training>] entered into before these regulations come into force will continue to be governed by the SRA Training Regulations 2014 - Qualification and Provider Regulations.

## *Supplemental notes*

Regulations made by the SRA Board on 16 March 2023.

Made under section 2 of the Solicitors Act 1974.

### *SRA Education, Training and Assessment Provider Regulations*

You are reading current version in effect from **29 August 2023**

Guidance (1) [\[ \]](#)

#### *Tags*

Law degrees & education providers [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/index/#12884941452>]

Training contracts & trainees [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/index/#12884941455>]

Print this section [[javascript:PrintFromSidebar\(\)](#)] Copy highlighted section to clipboard [<#>]

Back to [\[ \]](#)

You are reading current version in effect from **29 August 2023**

## *Guidance*

### *Guidance*

Vocational training for trainee solicitors - Guidance [<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/vocational-training-for-trainee-solicitors/>]

Guidance: To help you understand the steps you need to take to complete the vocational part of training to become a solicitor.

---