

Annex 1

Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) English or Welsh Language Criteria

Our approach

- Candidates will need to demonstrate their English or Welsh language knowledge where:
 - they are exempt from part or whole of the SQE2 and
 - we have concrete and serious doubts about their English or Welsh language knowledge.

This enables a candidate to satisfy the requirements in regulation 6.2(b) of the [SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations](#) before they are issued with a practising certificate. Our criteria outline how English or Welsh language can be demonstrated.

- Allow a range of ways to demonstrate competence whilst ensuring standards.

Acceptable evidence of English or Welsh language knowledge

Applicants will be able to demonstrate they are competent in English or Welsh in one of the following ways:

- Applicants can demonstrate their successful achievement of an English or Welsh language assessment which fulfils the following core requirements:
 - The assessment is at a high level, ie The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), Level C2.
 - Applicants have been assessed on their reading, writing, listening and speaking ability.
 - There is a system of independent assessment report verification (ie a means by which the SRA can independently check candidates' results against the providers' own records).
 - There is ID verification throughout the testing process to ensure the security of its tests and test results including established methods to deal with candidate identity fraud.
 - The assessment must have been passed within two years prior to application for admission.

(In addition to the core requirements above, English or Welsh language assessment organisations will need to provide evidence to demonstrate that they have in place an appropriate policy and process for dealing with requests for reasonable adjustments and for ensuring the standard, validity and reliability of the assessments).

- Applicants demonstrate that their degree has been taught in English or Welsh and is equivalent to a UK FHEQ Level 6 (eg bachelors) degree, through provision of a certificate issued by [UK NARIC](#) which confirms this.
- Applicants demonstrate that they hold a FHEQ Level 6 degree or higher from a university recognised by UK NARIC in a country in which they have stated that all higher education takes place in English.
- Applicants show that they hold a FHEQ Level 6 degree or above from a [Government](#) recognised UK university.