



# Becoming a solicitor with the Legal Practice Course (transitional requirements)

April 2024

Some aspiring solicitors can still qualify by taking the [Legal Practice Course](https://www.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/lpc/) (LPC). Please read the information below to see who can take the LPC under our transitional requirements.

But there are a few things to consider before you take this option, if it is available to you:

- **Can you get a period of recognised training?**

To qualify through the LPC route, you must have completed a [period of recognised training](https://www.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/period-recognised-training/your-period-recognised-training/prt/) (PRT). Training opportunities are changing, and there are fewer PRTs available.

- **Can you complete qualifying work experience instead of PRT?**

You can only do this if you also take and pass the SQE2 assessment. This would mean more costs on top of your LPC fees. It may be better not to do an LPC but to take the [SQE route](https://www.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/).

- **Are LPCs still available?**

Some providers have already withdrawn their LPCs. You need to check with your preferred provider when they will stop offering their LPC.

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## **Do you already have a qualifying law degree or exempting law degree or have started one?**

You can qualify on the LPC route if you are one of the following:

1. You already have a qualifying law degree (QLD) or an exempting law degree (ELD) before 1 September 2021.
2. You had started a QLD or ELD before 1 September 2021.
3. You had accepted an offer for QLD/ELD by 21 September 2021 and started the course before 31 December 2021.
4. You deferred a QLD or ELD offer for the academic year 2020/21 and then started your course by 31 August 2022 (inclusive). You will



need to keep evidence of your deferral to be accepted onto the LPC.

This means if you started a law degree, for example, in September 2023, you cannot take the LPC. You can only qualify as a solicitor through the [SQE route](https://www.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/) [https://www.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/].

### **What if you were a non-law graduate who had a PRT offer?**

Some non-law graduates may have accepted an offer of a PRT before 1 September 2021, for example, in their second year of their degree. In this case, you must have started your GDL course by 31 August 2022 (inclusive).

You need to keep evidence of your PRT offer to be accepted onto the LPC. This could be correspondence between you and your training provider accepting the offer of a PRT.

### **Do you already have the LPC or are you planning to start an LPC?**

#### **Qualifying with a period of recognised training**

Once you have the LPC or an ELD you will need to complete a PRT to qualify through the LPC route.

#### **Qualifying through Equivalent Means**

You could qualify using [Equivalent Means](https://www.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/) [https://www.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/]. To do this, you will need to demonstrate that you have the equivalent skills and experience gained through a PRT.

#### **Qualifying using qualifying work experience and SQE2**

We will also recognise a combination of qualifying work experience and passing the SQE2 assessment as equivalent to the PRT. Find out [more about this](https://www.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/substitute-qwe-sqe2-equivalent-training/) [https://www.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/substitute-qwe-sqe2-equivalent-training/].

Anyone who falls within these transitional requirements, will have until 31 December 2032 to qualify as a solicitor under the LPC route.

The arrangements are part of [regulation 11](https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/authorisation-individuals-regulations/#reg-11) [https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/authorisation-individuals-regulations/#reg-11] of the [SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations](https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/authorisation-individuals-regulations/) [https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/authorisation-individuals-regulations/].