

Degree or equivalent

September 2021

Degree requirements post SQE introduction

To become a solicitor, you need a degree in any subject, or an equivalent qualifications or experience. What counts as a degree:

- A UK degree awarded at level 6 [<https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels>] (or above) by a recognised degree-awarding body [<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recognised-uk-degrees>]. This is usually an undergraduate degree but can also be diplomas or other qualifications.
- An equivalent UK qualification. These are:
 - An accredited qualification at level 6 (or above) of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, awarded by recognised degree-awarding body
 - A regulated qualification [<https://www.gov.uk/find-a-regulated-qualification>] at level 6 (or above) of the Regulated Qualifications Framework (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). This includes CILEx level 6 qualifications
 - An apprenticeship at level 6 or above, approved by the government departments of England, Wales or Northern Ireland
 - A qualification or apprenticeship at level 9 or above of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) [http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Guide_to_Scottish_Qualifications.pdf] or awarded by a Scottish degree awarding body
- An overseas qualification:
 - Shown to be equivalent to either a UK degree/equivalent qualification or
 - An accredited qualification at level 6 (or above) of the European Qualifications Framework
 - We will check that you hold a degree or equivalent level 6 qualification when you apply for admission
- Work experience equivalent to a UK degree/equivalent qualification (each equivalent application will be considered on a case by case basis). This would be a sufficient standard of general education and learning (level 3 equivalent of the Regulated Qualifications Framework) and considerable work-based learning.