



## How to become a Solicitor

### What does a Solicitor do?

Solicitors advise clients about different aspects of the law. You may be dealing with property purchases, wills, divorces or civil or criminal proceedings. You could work as a solicitor in a range of places:

- **Private practice** – providing legal services such as conveyancing, probate, civil and family law, litigation, personal injury and criminal law.
- **Commercial practice** – advising and acting for businesses in areas including contract law, tax, employment law and company sales and mergers.
- **In-house legal advice** – for companies, the government or local authorities.
- **Crown Prosecution Services** – examining evidence to decide whether to bring cases to court.

Wherever you work, you are likely to be dealing with a range of clients so good people skills are essential. You will also need to be able to explain complex areas of law in a simple, easy-to-understand manner.

---

### What do I need to do to become a Solicitor?

- Complete a degree level qualification or equivalent qualifying law degree, followed by the Solicitor's Qualifying Examinations (SQEs) and Qualifying Work Experience (QWE) (see separate sheet).
  - Complete the membership or fellowship route of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) while working in a legal profession – this route can be taken if you do not have a degree.
- 

### Related skills

- Attention to detail
- Communication
- IT
- Literacy
- Problem solving
- Business management
- Interpersonal skills
- Leadership
- Organisation

**Related subjects**

- English
- History
- Foreign languages

**Essential qualifications**

- Undergraduate degree or equivalent and pass SQEs and undertake QWE
- Or complete exams leading to membership of CILEx

**Desirable qualifications**

- A level English
- A level Law
- A level History