

Becoming a Solicitor

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FOLLOW YOUR ROUTE TO QUALIFICATION

Joining the solicitor profession will provide you a dynamic, stimulating and varied legal career. The law influences every aspect of our lives from business, finance, property, family to employment.

Your route to becoming a solicitor will involve commitment, examinations and professional training. In return, as a solicitor, you can enjoy rewarding work and the opportunity to contribute to your community, along with a good starting salary and excellent long-term career prospects.

The steps to qualify as a solicitor in Ireland are as follows:

1. Preliminary Examination (non-graduates)
2. FE-1 Entrance Examination to the Law Society of Ireland
3. Professional Practice Course
4. In-Office Training
5. Admission to the Roll of Solicitor



STEP 1: PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

I AM A NON-GRADUATE. CAN I BECOME A SOLICITOR?

The answer is YES. Your first step is to take the Preliminary Examination, which is designed for non-graduates. This examination is held once a year, usually in March.

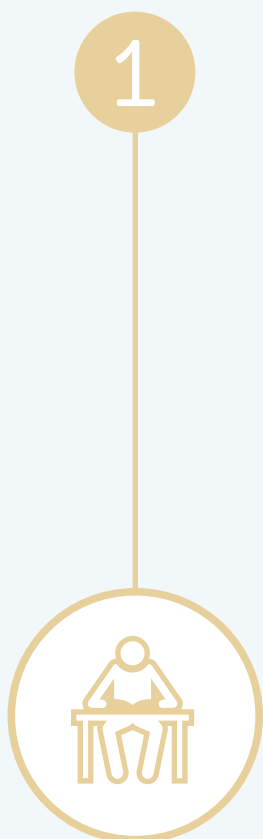
The examination consists of the following three papers:

- English
- Irish Government and Politics
- General Knowledge

The pass mark in each paper is 50% and all three papers must be passed at one sitting in order to pass the examination. Candidates are allowed a maximum of three attempts. To sit the Preliminary Examination a candidate must be at least 21 years old.

To facilitate the diverse range of applicants seeking to qualify as solicitors, there are categories of qualifications the Law Society pre-recognises and therefore are exempt from sitting the Preliminary Examination. A full list of exempted qualifications can be viewed on our website: <https://www.lawsociety.ie/becomingasolicitor>

On successful completion of the Preliminary Examination you are eligible to move to your next step and sit the FE-1 Entrance Examination.



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STEP 2: FE-1 ENTRANCE EXAMINATION TO THE LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND

WHAT IS THE FE-1?

The Final Examination - First Part (FE-1) is the entrance examination to the Law Society of Ireland. It is held twice a year, normally in spring and autumn and consists of eight papers on core legal subjects.

1. Company Law
2. Constitutional Law
3. Law of Contract
4. Criminal Law
5. European Union Law
6. Equity
7. Law of Property
8. Law of Tort

WHY IS THERE AN ENTRANCE EXAMINATION?

This examination ensures that trainee solicitors, who come from different educational backgrounds and third level studies of all disciplines, whether in arts, humanities, engineering or science, commence their practical training in the Law Society with a consistent standard of knowledge in those eight subjects.

AM I ELIGIBLE TO SIT THE FE-1?

If you have completed the first or any subsequent year of a course leading to a qualification at level 7 or higher on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications or a degree awarded by a university in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales, you are eligible to sit the FE-1. If you are a non-graduate and have successfully completed the Preliminary Examination or if you have been granted an exemption from the Preliminary Examination you are also eligible to sit the FE-1.

Everything you need to know about the FE-1 Entrance Examinations can be found on our website: <https://www.lawsociety.ie/becomingasolicitor>

On successful completion of the FE-1 Entrance Examinations you can apply to attend our Professional Practice Course.





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STEP 3: PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COURSE (PPC)

The Professional Practice Course (PPC) is a full-time training course. The PPC is practice-oriented and throughout the course you will learn how to do the work of a solicitor.

Applicants for the PPC must have:

- Passed or gained exemption from the Preliminary Examination (non-graduates).
- Passed the FE-1 Entrance Examinations.
- Found an eligible (practising) solicitor to act as a training solicitor.

ABOUT THE PPC

- Your lectures are supported by small tutorial and skills groups of between 6 and 20 trainee solicitors working together on legal problems.
- Your classes are almost all delivered by practising solicitors who are experts in their own areas of practice.
- Our associate faculty includes solicitors from large commercial firms, solicitors working for the State, general practitioners and in-house lawyers.
- We currently have in the region of 1,200 solicitors teaching for us; that means that more than 10% of all practising solicitors are involved in educating the next generation of the solicitor profession.
- You are assessed through continuous assessment and end of course examinations.
- The Law Society Access Programme provides Scholarships and Bursary to assist with admission fees and maintenance. You are also eligible to apply to SUSI for a student grant.

Read more about the PPC on our website:

<https://www.lawsociety.ie/becomingasolicitor>

Before applying to attend the PPC all applicants must have secured a two-year training contract with an eligible training solicitor.





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STEP 4: IN-OFFICE TRAINING

The two years of in-office training are a vital and essential component of your overall training to become a solicitor. Training solicitors are required to provide you with reasonable and appropriate instruction and experience in three distinct areas of legal practice. You will obtain experience in a variety of areas of law and in practice skills. The Law Society recommends that during the in-office training, trainee solicitors be paid in accordance with the National Minimum Wage Act, 2000.

We provide many resources to assist you in finding a Training Contract. These include:

- Finding your Training Contract Seminars.
- CV and Cover Letter Workshops.
- Q&A Sessions with past trainee solicitors.
- Guides on securing a training contract in the current market.
- Digital alerts when training contract roles are advertised online.

Learn more about In-Office Training on our website:

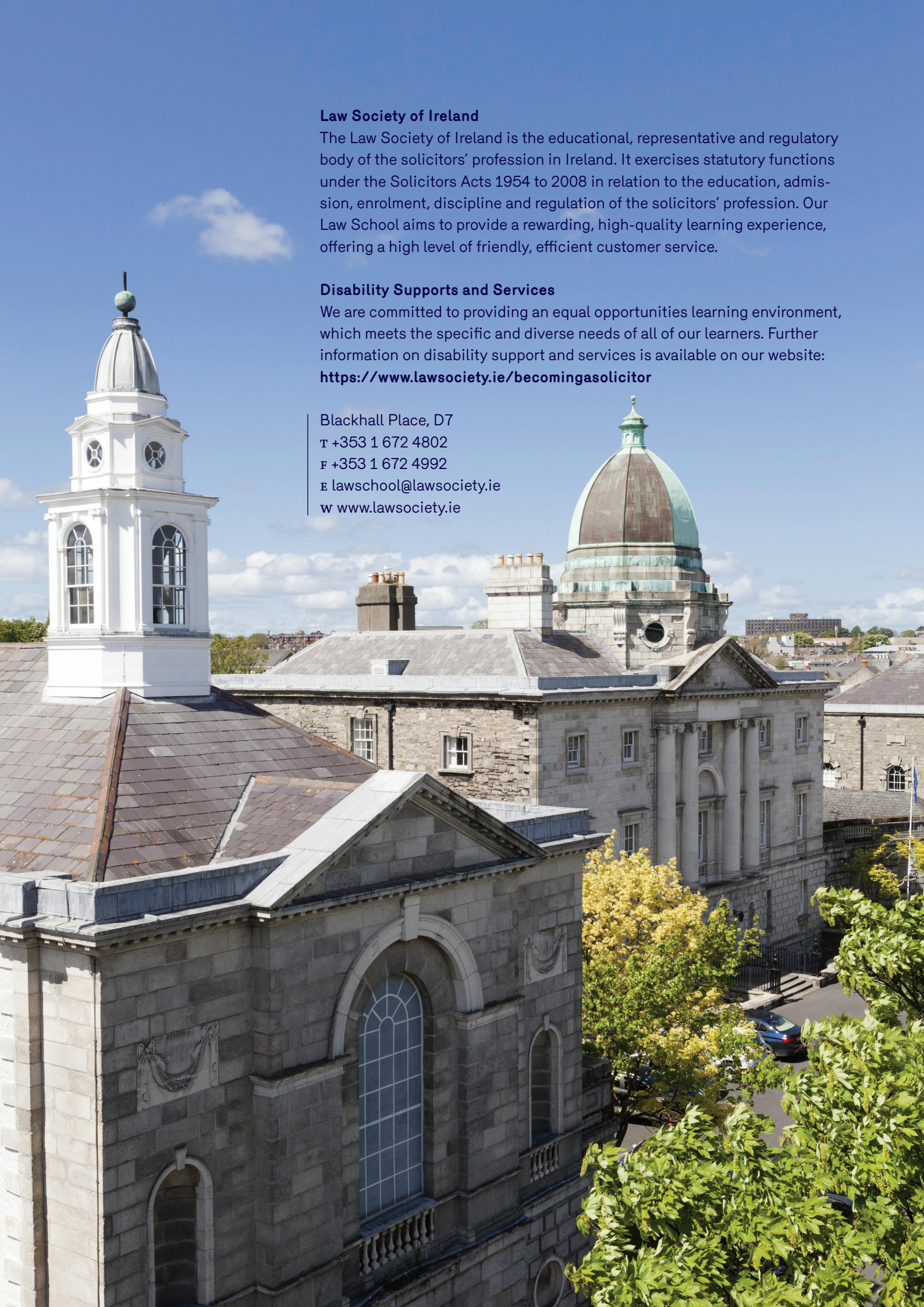
<https://www.lawsociety.ie/becomingasolicitor>

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STEP 5: ADMISSION TO THE ROLL OF SOLICITOR

When you have successfully completed your PPC examinations and your in-office training you may apply to have your name entered on the Roll of Solicitors. Congratulations – your dream of becoming a solicitor has come true. You are joining a profession with a respected history of service to the law and the community as a whole.





Law Society of Ireland

The Law Society of Ireland is the educational, representative and regulatory body of the solicitors' profession in Ireland. It exercises statutory functions under the Solicitors Acts 1954 to 2008 in relation to the education, admission, enrolment, discipline and regulation of the solicitors' profession. Our Law School aims to provide a rewarding, high-quality learning experience, offering a high level of friendly, efficient customer service.

Disability Supports and Services

We are committed to providing an equal opportunities learning environment, which meets the specific and diverse needs of all of our learners. Further information on disability support and services is available on our website:

<https://www.lawsociety.ie/becomingasolicitor>

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