

QUALIFYING AS A SOLICITOR



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Law Society of Ireland**

LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND, BLACKHALL PLACE



STEPS TO QUALIFICATION AS A SOLICITOR



Step 1: Preliminary Examination

If you are the holder of a degree from a college / university outside of Ireland and the UK, you will need to make an application to the Law Society FE-1 Section for exemption from sitting the Preliminary Examination.

Application will need to include:

1. Certified copy of your degree certificate
2. Certified copy of your passport

The application fee is €45. Bank details for payment will be provided to the applicant on receipt of the application.



STEPS TO QUALIFICATION AS A SOLICITOR



Step 2: Final Examination - First Part (FE-1s)

2 sittings per year spring and autumn

8 subjects Tort, Company, Equity, Constitutional, Criminal Law, EU, Property, Contract

€115 per subject

You can register to sit individual FE-1 exam subjects on the Law Society website.



STEPS TO QUALIFICATION AS A SOLICITOR



Step 3: Secure and register a training contract with a practising solicitor in Ireland.

The solicitor must have at least 4 years Irish practice experience and either be a partner or a sole practitioner or be employed as an in-house solicitor.

(Cost to register a training contract €840)



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**PRACTISING
SOLICITOR**

STEPS TO QUALIFICATION AS A SOLICITOR



Step 4: Professional Practice Course (cost €10,500)

September to April full time course

Must have a training contract to register

Fulltime course is eligible for SUSI grant support

Subjects : applied land law, probate and tax, business, employment law, family law, civil and criminal litigation

Skills : civil and criminal advocacy, interviewing and advising, legal research, legal presentation skills, legal writing and drafting, negotiation and professional development)

4 advanced elective learning modules to be completed after PPC [May – July] (**cost €1,656** in total if completed with the Law Society)

Extra curricular activities include competitions, sports and yoga etc.

Course can also be completed on a part-time & distance learning basis also by attending the Professional Practice Course (Hybrid)

Step 5: Complete a 24 month training contract commencing after the end of the Professional Practice Course

Gain experience in 3 distinct areas of law and develop solicitor skills

FUNDING



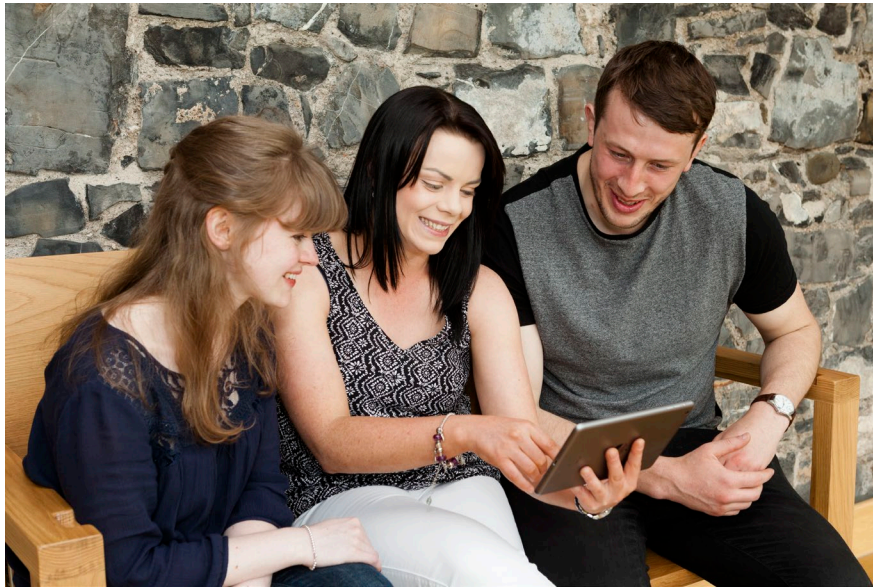
Professional Practice Course Funding

- Law Society Access Scholarship Programme
- Law Society Bursary
- Law Society Small Practice Traineeship Grant
- Dublin Solicitors Bar Association (DSBA) Grant
- SUSI Grant (fulltime course only)

TRAINING CONTRACTS



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Finding your training contract

- Myths & realities of finding a training contract
- Planning your search for a training contract





The Myths

- All trainees have contacts in the legal profession
- You might get a contract if you work for free
- Places are limited to those with 2.1 degrees

The Truth

- 80% of trainees have no contacts at all
- 96% of trainees in paid traineeships
- 539 traineeships were offered to trainees in 2021

TRAINEES & TRAINING FIRMS

60% Women & 40% Men

48% 20 – 25 years old, 39% 26 – 30 years old,
14% 30 and over

Six largest firms 40% of training places

84% places in Dublin



PLANNING YOUR SEARCH FOR A TRAINING CONTRACT



What can you do now to help your future career?

Understand the challenge

Use the success and failure of former trainees experiences to guide you

Apply to firms locally for work experience and internship programmes with commercial firms

Figure out what you kind of practice you want

- Type of firm – commercial or general
- Size of firm – small, medium or large
- In house or private practice

Up to date CV with emphasis on legal work experience

QUALIFYING AS A SOLICITOR – HELP & INFORMATION



Trainee written accounts

Finding Your Training Contract Seminar – Online Seminar

Trainee Recruitment Register

How to become a Solicitor

FE-1 & PPC timetables

Guide to CV and cover letter creation

www.lawsociety.ie/Public/Become-a-Solicitor/