



The Law Society
of England and Wales

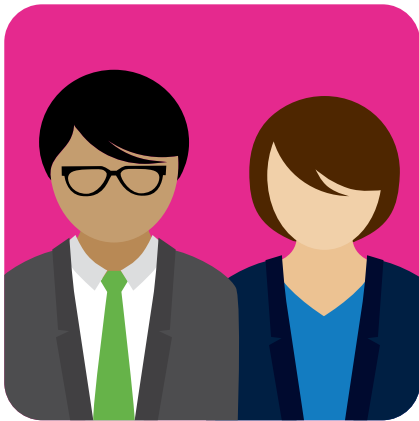
International



www.lawsociety.org.uk/international

Take a global view...

Become a solicitor





A guide to the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme

An international qualification: a borderless profession

Such is the international reach of English law and the English legal profession that requalifying as a solicitor of England and Wales opens up a world of career opportunities.

English law is the global commercial law of choice by a significant margin. It is chosen by businesses to govern their international trading, service and financing agreements; English law provides the legal framework for most international commercial transactions.

Additionally, more international and commercial arbitrations take place in London under English law than in any other city in the world – with 90 per cent of commercial cases handled by London firms involving an international party. London is one of the most important business centres in the world, and the UK is home to a large body of world class, international law firms that offer multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional legal advice to international businesses. Many of these firms also have overseas networks and offices and look to recruit dual-qualified lawyers to bolster their existing expertise and international capacity both at home and abroad.

After requalification many lawyers will continue to work in their originating jurisdiction and use their solicitor qualification to help service clients there. There are now numerous important business centres around the world in which many of the negotiations and transactions are governed by English law. Consequently there is an increasing demand for locally-based, dual-qualified lawyers who can provide English cross-jurisdictional as well as local legal advice.

Requalification as a solicitor of England and Wales

The Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme (QLTS) allows lawyers qualified in foreign jurisdictions to requalify as solicitors of England and Wales. This is a fast-track route to qualification with no experience or training contract requirement. The QLTS does not make any distinction between lawyers who have their first qualification from a common law or a civil law jurisdiction and most foreign lawyers are eligible for direct access to the QLTS assessments. This means that no additional academic study, such as a common law-based law degree, is necessary before taking the QLTS tests.

The tests are challenging but are designed to ensure that requalifying lawyers meet the same standard of knowledge and skill required of a locally-qualified solicitor of England and Wales.

Wherever you plan to practise, within industry or a law firm, and no matter which jurisdiction you plan to base yourself in, the title of solicitor is a mark of global excellence. It will demonstrate your expertise and commitment to the highest standards of legal practice and will be recognised by clients and employers across the world.

Frequently asked questions

The QLTS is managed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA – www.sra.org.uk). The QLTS tests are administered on the SRA's behalf by a legal education and training organisation, Kaplan QLTS (www.kaplanqlts.com).

Who can apply?

Applicants for the QLTS must be qualified lawyers from recognised jurisdictions. A list of qualifications and recognised jurisdictions is available on the SRA website (www.sra.org.uk/qlts).

How to apply:

STEP 1: Ensure your qualification and jurisdiction are listed by checking the SRA website.



STEP 2: If you are an LPC graduate and wish to apply for exemption from the Multiple Choice Test (MCT) you should complete the relevant form found at www.sra.org.uk/qlts before registering with the assessment organisation, Kaplan QLTS.



STEP 3: Contact Kaplan QLTS (www.kaplanqlts.com) to book a place on the assessments.



STEP 4: Once you have passed both the MCT and the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) you can apply to the SRA for admission as a solicitor of England and Wales.



About the tests

The QLTS comprises two tests:

- **The Multiple Choice Test (MCT)** – designed to test the knowledge of law expected of a newly qualified solicitor of England and Wales. It must be passed before sitting the OSCE.
- **The Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)** – tests the further practical legal knowledge and skills expected of a newly qualified solicitor of England and Wales.

Currently both tests are held in London and run twice a year. From February 2016 Kaplan QLTS, in partnership with Pearson VUE, will run the MCT test online and worldwide. Test centre locations will include London and other UK centres, mainland Europe, USA and Asia. Candidates will still have to travel to London to take the OSCE.

Check www.kaplanqlts.com for further information and dates.

How long?

Requalification could take less than a year, if each test is passed at the first sitting and there are no suitability issues. There is no limit on the number of attempts and no time limit for completing the QLTS assessments.

How much?

- Cost of the tests: **MCT = £500*** and **OSCE = £2925***
- Cost of admission application after passing the tests = £100*

The total cost is £3525*. Additional costs may also be involved, such as the costs of flying to London and staying for the duration of the tests.

The SRA has produced a factsheet which covers the QLTS process in greater detail with answers to FAQs and additional useful guidance. Please contact the SRA for further information or visit www.sra.org.uk.

** Prices exclude VAT and are accurate at time of publication: April 2016.*



The Law Society of England and Wales: our international reach

The Law Society represents all solicitors of England and Wales. From influencing law and policy through representation to regulators, government and the wider community, to offering training and advice, we're here to help, protect and promote solicitors.

Once qualified and admitted as a solicitor you will be a member of the Law Society of England and Wales and will join a network of over 166,000 solicitors based all over the world – more than 6,000 of our members are based outside of the UK – and you will be able to take advantage of a number of membership benefits including our International Division.

Find out more:

www.lawsociety.org.uk/international

or email us:

international@lawsociety.org.uk





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The Law Society

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