



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 at www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/qlts.page

How to apply:

If your qualification and jurisdiction are listed then you need to:

- ensure you meet the English language requirement
- apply to your home Bar for a Certificate of Good Standing
- apply to the SRA for a Certificate of Eligibility, and
- contact Kaplan QLTS to book a place on the assessments.

About the tests

There are two tests:

- the Multiple Choice Test (MCT), and
- the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

Both tests are held in London and are run twice a year. Check www.kaplanqlts.com for dates.

How long?

If all tests are passed at the first attempt, requalification could take less than a year.

How much?

Admission and testing costs from **£3725*** if all tests are passed at the first attempt.

The SRA has produced a factsheet which covers the QLTS process in much 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: January 2014



The Law Society
of England and Wales

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