

Qualification Route – for full details see: <http://www.lawsociety.ie/Public/Become-a-Solicitor/>

- Preliminary Exam for non-graduates. (Graduates from any degree discipline are exempt from this exam)
- [The Final Exam – First Part \(FE-1\)](#)
- [Finding a Training Contract](#) Training Programme (24 months) with law firm. Training programme can be applied for in final year of degree studies, before sitting the FE-1's
- [Professional Practice Courses \(PPC\) I & II](#)
- [In-office Training](#)

Final Examination – First Part (FE-1)

- Entrance exam to the Law Society: Held twice a year (Spring and Autumn). All exams must be completed within 7 years of sitting first exam. ([FE-1 Regulations](#))
- 8 Papers – European Union Law; Equity; Constitutional Law; Company Law; Criminal Law; Law of Contract; Law of Tort; Real Property
- Graduates of any discipline can sit FE-1's However, you will need to do a preparatory course (see below)
- Preparatory Courses of varying lengths are offered– see [Law Society Contacts for FE-1 preparatory courses and tuition](#)

Training Programme

- In-office training programme –obtain experience in various areas of law and practice in skills e.g. drafting, letter-writing, interviewing, legal research, and negotiations.
- Applicants apply to Law Society for consent to begin training; Applicants must have secured a training contract before applying for a place on PPC I.
- Contract begins 14 days after final exam in PPC1.
- Training contract lasts 24 months, generally comprising: In office training post PPCI – 11 months; Attend PPCII – 3 months; In office training post PPCII – 10 months.
- Trainees can apply for credit (max. 4 months) for time spent in office of training solicitor prior to PPCI. This time must be spent in one block within the six months immediately preceding PPCI. See [Law Society In-office Training](#) for full details

Professional Practice Courses

PPCI - runs annually from September to March. Subjects include: Foundation Course, Applied Land Law, Probate & Tax, Business Law, Litigation (Civil & Criminal), Legal Practice Irish (LP1) as well as key skills including interviewing and advising clients, negotiation, advocacy and legal writing.

PPCII -11 week course begins in mid-April covering subjects such Professional Practice, Conduct & Management as well as electives (full list available from Law School).

For further details on PPC courses, see: <http://www.lawsociety.ie/Trainees/PPC-Courses/>
[PPC Hybrid](#) (flexible attendance)

Funding

- Full details of fees can be obtained from: <https://www.lawsociety.ie/Trainees/PPC-Courses/Fees--Funding/>
- Students should contact the [StudentFinance](#) for details.
- Law society Bursary Scheme: open to those who feel their resources are insufficient to fund their study.

Access Programme: Open to any student who received Access Programme Support at university.

Trainee Salaries: Trainees should be paid the national statutory minimum wage. Further trainee salary details as well as details on secondments during training (max 6 months) and scholarships for academic performance in FE -1, PPCI and PPCII are available from the Law School. They can be contacted at traineesection@lawsociety.ie

Useful Resources

Law Society "Becoming a solicitor" - <http://www.lawsociety.ie/Public/Become-a-Solicitor/>
Careers Service <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers/useful-resources/explore-careers/legal-services> [Gradireland Law](#) and <https://gradireland.com/career-sectors/law-legal-services-and-patents>

For student queries, to book careers appointments and search for jobs/events please use [Careers Connect](#).

An tSeirbhís Gairmeacha

Careers in Law - Barrister

[The role of a barrister](#) – information from the Bar of Ireland
Professional Qualification - [Barrister at Law Degree](#) from Honorable Society of King's Inns.

Entry Requirements

Entry to the Barrister at Law degree is by means of an Entrance Exam.
To be eligible to sit this exam candidates must hold either an [approved Law Degree](#) or Society of King's Inns Diploma in Legal Studies

[Diploma in Legal Studies \(2 Years, part time\)](#)

Year 1: Introduction to the Legal System; Criminal Law; Land Law (Property Law); Law of Contract; Law of Torts; Family Law, Constitutional Law

Year 2: Company Law; Equity and the Law of Trusts; European Union Law; Law of Evidence; Jurisprudence; Human Rights law and Administrative Law). Candidates are allowed two attempts at Year 1 and Year 2 examinations

Graduate applicants and mature applicants are eligible to apply for entry to the Diploma in Legal Studies course Graduate Applicants – holders of an approved (non-law) degree.

Mature Applicants – applicant who does not have an approved degree and is at least 23 years of age on May 1st in the year in which he/she would sit the examination in Year I. Consideration is given to (i) Academic and professional qualifications (ii) occupation and work experience. Applicants who hold a recognised degree may not apply as mature applicants.

Fees

Diploma in Legal Studies Application Fee: €200 (Early Application, end May) ; €300 (Late Applications, early July)
Entrance Exam Fees: €600 (Early Application, end May); €1,000 (Late Application, early July)

[Full details of course fees](#)

Details on the application procedure for a solicitor to become a barrister can be found at: <https://www.kingsinns.ie/members/specially-qualified-applicants> and for a barrister to become a solicitor can be found at: <https://www.lawsociety.ie/Public/Become-a-Solicitor/Barristers/>

Useful Resources

The Honorable Society of King's Inns - prospective students: <http://www.kingsinns.ie/>

Careers Service <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers/useful-resources/explore-careers/legal-services-Gradireland-Law> and <https://gradireland.com/career-sectors/law-legal-services-and-patents>

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