

# LEGAL CAREERS

## IS A CAREER IN LAW FOR YOU?

Whether you are studying law or not, there are many routes into the legal profession and many positions within the sector to choose from.

[www.chambersstudent.co.uk/where-to-start/welcome-to-law](http://www.chambersstudent.co.uk/where-to-start/welcome-to-law)

- Prospects overview of law sector [www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/law-sector](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/law-sector)
- Starting out in a legal career [www.lawcareers.net/Starting-Out](http://www.lawcareers.net/Starting-Out)
- Information for non-Law students (GDL) [www.lawcareers.net/Courses/GDL](http://www.lawcareers.net/Courses/GDL)
- Law Conversion course providers [www.lawsociety.org.uk/law-careers/becoming-a-solicitor](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/law-careers/becoming-a-solicitor)

## SOLICITOR

Solicitors take instructions from clients and give advice on necessary legal action. Clients can be individuals, groups, or private companies. The following links are some of the resources available providing greater insight into the training and role of a solicitor.

- Prospects Job Description [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/solicitor](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/solicitor)
- Becoming a solicitor [www.lawsociety.org.uk/law-careers/becoming-a-solicitor/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/law-careers/becoming-a-solicitor/)

## IN-HOUSE LEGAL TEAMS

A number of organisations have their own in-house legal team. You could be surprised by the variety of work that they do.

[www.thelawyerportal.com/blog/pros-and-cons-of-an-in-house-training-contract/](http://www.thelawyerportal.com/blog/pros-and-cons-of-an-in-house-training-contract/)

## BARRISTER

Barristers (in England and Wales) are specialists in advocacy and represent individuals or organisations in court. The following links are some of the resources available giving you greater insight into the training and role of a barrister.

- Prospects Job Description [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/barrister](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/barrister)
- How to become a barrister [www.chambersstudent.co.uk/the-bar/how-do-you-become-a-barrister](http://www.chambersstudent.co.uk/the-bar/how-do-you-become-a-barrister)
- [www.thelawyerportal.com/free-guides/how-to-become-a-barrister/](http://www.thelawyerportal.com/free-guides/how-to-become-a-barrister/)

To become a barrister, you must join an Inn of Court. It is good to look into this early as there is lots of support and networking offered by the Inns. Once you join you can't change your mind so read this carefully first:

Joining an Inn of Court [www.barcouncil.org.uk/about-the-bar/what-is-the-bar/inns-of-court](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/about-the-bar/what-is-the-bar/inns-of-court)

## LEGAL EXECUTIVE

Legal Executives and Solicitors do a very similar job, but a Chartered Legal Executive specialises in a particular area of law. Otherwise, Legal Execs and Solicitors work together, and Legal Execs can go on to be partners in a law firm. The training is less expensive and is carried out while you work as a paralegal.

Chartered Institute of Legal Executives:  
[www.cilex.org.uk/about\\_cilex/about-cilex-lawyers](http://www.cilex.org.uk/about_cilex/about-cilex-lawyers)

Prospects job description: [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/chartered-legal-executive-england-and-wales](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/chartered-legal-executive-england-and-wales)

## PARALEGAL

Paralegals carry out legal support work and clerical duties. They are an essential part of the legal industry and a good starting point for your legal career. Paralegals are recognised as a professional group in their own right.

National Association of Licensed Paralegals  
[www.nationalparalegals.co.uk/what\\_is\\_a\\_paralegal](http://www.nationalparalegals.co.uk/what_is_a_paralegal)

Prospects job description [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/paralegal](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/paralegal)

Institute of Paralegals [theiop.org](http://theiop.org)

## CHANGES TO SOLICITOR QUALIFICATION ROUTE

There will be significant changes to the qualification route in 2021. Look at <https://www.sra.org.uk/home/hot-topics/solicitors-qualifying-examination/> to keep up to date.

**Note** – if you started your LLB, Senior Status Law Degree or GDL before 01 September 2021 then you will have the choice between the SQE and the LPC.

If you start your LLB, Senior Status Law Degree or GDL after 01 September 2021 then you will have to take the SQE.

## APPLICATIONS

### Solicitor training

**LPC applications** are made through the Central Applications Board [www.Lawcabs.ac.uk](http://www.Lawcabs.ac.uk) (note this will change for 2021 when the LPC is replaced by the SQE)

### Bar training

Before you can enrol on a Bar Training course, you need to have completed the Bar Course Aptitude Test. Details can be found on the **Bar Standards Board website** [www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/](http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/)

**GET EXPERIENCE – any experience can be useful, but if you are looking for law related experience then here are some things to consider:**

Law related	Solicitor related	Barrister related
<b>UoE Law Clinic</b> – offering free initial advice to local clients <a href="http://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/law/essex-law-clinic/working-in-essex-law-clinic">www.essex.ac.uk/departments/law/essex-law-clinic/working-in-essex-law-clinic</a>	<b>Vacation schemes (VS)</b> – work experience in a law firm <a href="#">check deadlines on firms' websites</a>	<b>Mini-pupillage</b> – work experience in a Chambers <a href="http://www.chambersstudent.co.uk/the-bar/mini-pupillages">www.chambersstudent.co.uk/the-bar/mini-pupillages</a>
<b>CORAM</b> - direct, practical help and support for vulnerable children, young people, and their families <a href="http://www.coram.org.uk">www.coram.org.uk</a>	<b>VS deadlines can also be found here</b> <a href="http://www.lex100.com/career-clinic/deadlines/vacation-scheme-deadlines/">www.lex100.com/career-clinic/deadlines/vacation-scheme-deadlines/</a>	<b>Support Through Court</b> - provide reassurance and guidance to those attending court alone <a href="http://www.supportthroughcourt.org/">www.supportthroughcourt.org/</a>
<b>Citizen's Advice Bureau</b> - <a href="http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/support-us/volunteering">www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/support-us/volunteering</a>	<b>InsideSherpa</b> – virtual internships to give you an idea of tasks you could be asked to do in a law firm - <a href="http://www.insidesherpa.com">www.insidesherpa.com</a>	<b>Marshalling</b> <a href="http://www.allaboutlaw.co.uk/law-careers/legal-work-experience/marshalling">www.allaboutlaw.co.uk/law-careers/legal-work-experience/marshalling</a>
<b>Victim Support</b> supporting those affected by crime <a href="https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-roles">https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-roles</a>	<b>Free Representation Unit</b> provides legal advice, case preparation and advocacy in employment, social security, and some criminal injury compensation tribunal cases. <a href="http://www.thefru.org.uk/volunteers">www.thefru.org.uk/volunteers</a>	<b>Observe different types of courts in session, including local courts and magistrates' courts</b>

## THINGS TO REMEMBER IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A BARRISTER

- 1 – **Join an Inn of Court** as soon as you can
- 2 – **take the Bar Aptitude Test** before you start the Bar Training Course

## ALTERNATIVE CAREERS

You may be interested in careers with a legal element but not want to be a solicitor or barrister. Check out these links for alternative career ideas. [www.chambersstudent.co.uk/where-to-start/alternative-careers-in-the-law-prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/law](http://www.chambersstudent.co.uk/where-to-start/alternative-careers-in-the-law-prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/law)

Interested in the management of a business? **Company Secretary** [www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/company-secretary](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/company-secretary)

Enjoy contracts, business or valuations? **Chartered Surveyor** [www.rics.org/uk/the-profession/what-surveyors-do/](http://www.rics.org/uk/the-profession/what-surveyors-do/)

Enjoy financial analysis and litigation? **Costs Lawyer** [www.associationofcostslawyers.co.uk/Train-to-be-a-Costs-Lawyer-2](http://www.associationofcostslawyers.co.uk/Train-to-be-a-Costs-Lawyer-2)

Interested in business and enjoy employment law, contracts and strategy? **Human Resources**  
[www.cipd.co.uk/new-hr-learning-development/about](http://www.cipd.co.uk/new-hr-learning-development/about)

Want to work with management and staff to identify and manage regulatory risk? **Compliance** [www.int-comp.org/](http://www.int-comp.org/)