

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/how-do-you-become-a-lawyer

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

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
- How to become a barrister
www.chambersstudent.co.uk/the-bar/how-do-you-become-a-barrister
- 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

CHARTERED LEGAL EXECUTIVE LAWYER

Chartered Legal Executive lawyers 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
- Prospects job description:
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.

- Prospects job description www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/paralegal
- Institute of Paralegals theiop.org

CHANGES TO SOLICITOR QUALIFICATION ROUTE

There were significant changes to the qualification route in 2021. These changes are still being worked through. Look at www.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/sqe-visuals/ to keep up to date.

Note – if you accepted your place on an 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 accept your place on an LLB, Senior Status Law Degree or GDL after 01 September 2021 then you will have to take the SQE.

APPLICATIONS

Solicitor training

Full-time LPC applications, and some SQE course applications, are made through the Central Applications Board www.lawcabs.ac.uk/; part-time courses can be booked with the provider (note: this will be confirmed on the course providers' websites)

Bar training

Before you can enroll 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/

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

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

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 Course Aptitude Test before you start the Bar Training Course. Practise tests are available

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

Interested in the management of a business? Company Secretary www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/company-secretary

Enjoy contracts, business or valuations? Chartered Surveyor www.rics.org/uk/surveying-profession/what-is-surveying/what-surveyors-do/

Enjoy financial analysis and litigation? Costs Lawyer www.associationofcostslawyers.co.uk/What-is-a-Costs-Lawyer

Interested in business and enjoy employment law, contracts and strategy? Human Resources 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/