



Degree and equivalent qualifications explained

Updated 23 July 2025

To qualify as a solicitor, you must have a degree in any subject, or an equivalent qualification or relevant experience. Find out what is accepted as a degree.

UK degrees and other qualifications

- A UK qualification at [level 6](https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels) or above, awarded by a [recognised degree-awarding body](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recognised-uk-degrees). This is typically an undergraduate degree, or other recognised level 6 qualifications. However, it can also include master's degrees and postgraduate diplomas.
- These equivalent UK qualifications:
 - an accredited qualification at level 6 (or above) of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, awarded by recognised degree-awarding body
 - a [regulated qualification](https://www.gov.uk/find-a-regulated-qualification) at level 6 (or above) of the Regulated Qualifications Framework (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). This includes CILEX level 6 qualifications
 - an apprenticeship at level 6 or above, approved by the government departments of England, Wales or Northern Ireland
 - a qualification or apprenticeship at level 9 or above of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, [accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority \(SQA\)](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Guide_to_Scottish_Qualifications.pdf) or awarded by a Scottish degree awarding body

Find out how we check and [validate degrees and other qualifications](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/check-validate-qualification/)

Non-UK/overseas degrees and qualification

- A degree shown to be equivalent to either a UK degree/equivalent qualification
- An accredited qualification at level 6 (or above) of the European Qualifications Framework.

Find out how we check and [validate degrees and other qualifications](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/check-validate-qualification/)

Work experience

Work experience equivalent to a UK degree/equivalent qualification can be considered on a case-by-case basis. This would be a sufficient standard of general education and learning (level 3 equivalent of the Regulated Qualifications Framework) and considerable work-based learning.

Find out how to [apply for an equivalence](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/check-validate-qualification/equivalence-to-a-degree/) [https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/check-validate-qualification/equivalence-to-a-degree/].