



# Qualifying through the Equivalent Means pathway

September 2024

You can only qualify through this route if you meet our [transitional requirements](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/becoming-solicitor-legal-practice-course-transitional-requirements/). [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/becoming-solicitor-legal-practice-course-transitional-requirements/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/becoming-solicitor-legal-practice-course-transitional-requirements/) If you do not meet these, you will need to qualify under the [SQE](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/sqe/).

If you have been granted an exemption from one of the following, you can apply through [Equivalent Means](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/):

- [Legal Practice Course](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/exemptions/legal-practice-course-exemption/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/exemptions/legal-practice-course-exemption/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/exemptions/legal-practice-course-exemption/)
- [Period of recognised training](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/exemptions/period-recognised-training/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/exemptions/period-recognised-training/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/equivalent-means-information-pack/exemptions/period-recognised-training/).

Here are the steps you need to take before applying for admission as a solicitor of England and Wales.

## Complete the Professional Skills Course

- The Professional Skills Course (PSC) is the final, compulsory part of training on the LPC route. [Find out more about the PSC](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/professional-skills-course/professional-skills-course-information-pack/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/professional-skills-course/professional-skills-course-information-pack/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/legal-practice-course-route/professional-skills-course/professional-skills-course-information-pack/)

## Background checks and suitability

- We check your suitability when you are applying for admission. You can also speak to us early if you have [any potential concerns](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/character-and-suitability/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/character-and-suitability/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/character-and-suitability/).
- You will need to do a background check/screening. We will contact you eight weeks before your training is due to end so you can do this. Once complete, you are ready to apply for admission. Find out [more about screening](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/admission/screening/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/admission/screening/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/admission/screening/).

## Applying for admission

- When applying, you will choose 'Equivalent Means' on the application. Find out more about [applying for admission](#)

[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/admission/admission-forms-fees/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/become-solicitor/admission/admission-forms-fees/).

## **Applying for a practising certificate**

Once you have chosen your admission date, you can apply for a practising certificate. Find out [how to apply](#).  
[\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/mysra/manage-account/individual-account/step-by-step-guides/apply-practising-certificate/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/mysra/manage-account/individual-account/step-by-step-guides/apply-practising-certificate/).