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 <u>level 6 [https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels]</u> or above, awarded by a <u>recognised degree-awarding body [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recognised-uk-degrees]</u>. 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 <u>regulated qualification [https://www.gov.uk/find-a-regulated-qualification]</u> 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 <u>validate degrees and other qualifications</u> [https://gltt.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 <u>validate degrees and other qualifications</u> [https://qltt.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 <u>apply for an equivalence [https://qltt.sra.org.uk/becomesolicitor/sqe/check-validate-qualification/equivalence-to-a-degree/]</u>.