

WBD's Training Contract

Our SQE Offering - FAQs

Application Requirements

Q - Can I apply if I have an LPC?

A - Yes, you can apply if you have completed the LPC. If you have already completed the LPC, you will be exempt from completing SQE1 and will only need to complete SQE2 as part of your training contract with us.

Q - What are the qualification requirements to apply?

A - We don't have "minimum requirements", however, to qualify as a Solicitor in England and Wales, you will need to meet the SRA's requirements. A diagram at the end of this document explains this.

Q - If I've not yet completed the PGDL, is there a specific provider I need to use?

A - Yes, we partner with ULaw for the PGDL.

Q - I'm a non-law student, can I apply?

A - We accept applications from non-law students but we would expect you to have completed the PGDL/GDL, or equivalent, before starting the training contract.

Q - What happens if I have already completed the SQE 1 / SQE 2?

A - If by September 2025 you have already passed both SQE exams, you will join WBD and complete your qualifying work experience. If you have passed just SQE1, you will be able to join our preparatory course and subsequently complete the SQE 2 assessments prior to commencing your period of qualifying work experience.

Q - What happens if I already have qualifying work experience?

A - If you already have some qualifying work experience, it may be possible for us to reduce your training contract by up to a maximum of 6 months, however, this will be dependent on a number of factors including your performance, completion of our required development programmes, and, of course, business need at the time.

Q - I am applying for a Training Contract in Edinburgh, how does the SQE affect me?

A - The SQE will not affect Scottish trainees. The entrance into Law for Scottish trainees remains the same. (You can find more information on the Law Society of Scotland website lawscot.org.uk)

You would join the rest of the cohort in September 2025 for the qualifying work experience and will be integrated into our development programme.

Grants and Funding

Q - Will the SQE prep course and exams be funded by the firm?

A - Yes, WBD will fund your SQE prep course and exams – both the prep course and exams will be undertaken through ULaw, our preferred provider.

Q - Will you fund the PGDL and will I receive a Maintenance Grant?

A - Yes. If you have not yet started the PGDL upon offer of a training contract, we will fund this as well as provide a maintenance grant.

The Programme

Q - When will my training contract start?

A - The period of qualifying work experience will commence in September 2025, however your SQE preparation may start up to 12 months before this.

Q - How long is the Training Contract?

A - You will complete a 2 year period of qualifying work experience at WBD, plus the necessary preparation time (this could be up to 12 months).

Q - How many seats will I do?

A - You will gain experience working in 4 different placements, of 6 months each, during your training contract with us.

Q - Will I have a choice of seats?

A - We will allow our trainees to have one seat choice (i.e. one seat that they definitely want to experience during their training contract). Beyond this, we will decide your other seats ensuring that you gain a rounded experience, in line with your interests, whilst meeting business needs.

SQE Exams

Q - What happens if I don't pass SQE1 or 2 at the first attempt?

A - If you don't pass the SQE assessments, we will fund one re-sit for each exam, as well as providing you with all the necessary additional support that you might need.

Q - What happens if I fail the re-sit?

A - It is very much hoped that our preparatory courses and development programmes will well prepare you for the SQE assessments, but in the unlikely event that you do not pass any re-sits, we will be reviewing the circumstances on a case by case basis before making a final decision on next steps, which may include further funding from the firm, self-funding or, in some circumstances, the termination of your training contract.

Q - Does the firm allow time off for exams or will I have to use my holiday allowance for this?

A - Yes. You will be allowed time off for your exam, plus revision. You will not need to use holiday for this, unless you would like extra time off around exams.

SQE Qualification

Degree or equivalent



A UK degree or other level 6 qualification

OR



Apply for an equivalence using other qualifications/experience

SQE assessments



Create and SQE assessment candidate account



Sit and pass both SQE1 and SQE2 assessments

Qualifying work experience



2 years qualifying work experience



This can be gained in up to four organisations

Suitability and admission requirements



Apply for screening and get your results



Then apply for admission