



Lawyers training systems in the EU

Ireland

Information provided by: Law Society of Ireland

April, 2014

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM FOR LAWYERS in Ireland

1. Access to the Profession

Higher education / university education	<p>NO</p> <p>While a University degree is not a pre-requisite for qualification as a solicitor, the bulk of applicants are university educated. Approximately 95% of all those seeking to be admitted as solicitors hold a university degree. To embark on induction training, applicants must be university graduates or alternatively pass a preliminary examination at university degree level</p>
A law degree is compulsory	NO
Steps to becoming a fully-fledged lawyer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass the entrance examination in law in eight legal subjects • 2-year training contract (2-year period of training in a solicitor's office) • 2 vocational training courses (the 2 vocational training courses are the PPC I and PPC II) • Examination (organised by the Law Society of Ireland) • Registration with the Bar <p>Legal basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 24 of the Solicitors Act 1954
Alternative routes to the profession:	<p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law degree or

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree level examination set by the law Society (the law Degree is not a pre-requisite to access the profession). Legal executives with five or more years of experience and a Diploma in Law (law degree) are exempted from this exam <p>Legal basis: Sections 24 and 25 of the Solicitors Act 1954 as amended by Sections 40 and 41 of the Solicitors (Amendment) Act 1994</p>
2. Training during induction period		
Is there an induction period?	YES	<p>Legal basis:</p> <p>1) The Irish Statute Book</p> <p>2) Solicitors Acts 1954 http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1954/en/act/pub/0036/index.html - 2002</p> <p>3) Continuing Professional Development:2012 Statutory instrument n° 501</p>
Compulsory	YES	<p>Set length: 2 years</p>
Types of structures responsible for organising induction training		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law Society Private practices and law firms
Form of induction training		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeship supervised by a private practice Apprenticeship supervised by the Law Society Training on non-legal professional skills Training on legal professional skills Training on non-legal professional skills Training on legal professional skills
Entrance exam / check before induction period	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check/verification of diploma Entrance exam: The initial examination consists of 8 legal subjects. These are Contract law, Constitutional Law, Tort Law, Equity, Real Property, EU Law, Company Law and Criminal Law.

Set curriculum during induction period	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Practice Course I (PPC I) –Full-time release course • Professional Practice Course II (PPC II) –Full time release course • Block of experience indentures (The period spent in a training solicitors office is separate from PPC I and PPC II) <p>A foundation course takes place in the first week of PPC I – Introduction to best practice concepts of Professional Conduct (also covered in greater detail at PPC II level)</p> <p>Both are practice driven and instruction is almost entirely given by practising solicitors and members of the law Society Staff</p> <p>PPC I (6-month full-time course) / PPC II (3-month full-time course)</p> <p>Topics covered in PPC I: Foundation, Litigation (civil and criminal), applied Land Law, Business Law, Probate and taxation, skills (advocacy, effective legal negotiations, legal research, interviewing and advising clients, legal drafting)</p> <p>Topics covered in PPC II: Employment law, English property law and practice, family and child law, professional practice conduct and management, elective courses (students are required to select 3 courses from a list of offered courses)</p>
Specificities regarding EU law and linguistic training:	YES	<p>EU law content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU law is one of the eight subjects of the entrance examination • On PPC I there is a specific induction course in EU law • EU law is further taught pervasively throughout both PPC I and PPC II <p>No requirements regarding linguistic training</p>
Induction period divided into different stages	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different periods for covering various aspects of law • Different periods for covering various aspects of the legal profession

Post-induction period assessment / exam	YES	PPC I and PPC II are assessed through end of course examinations (written exams and oral exams)
3. Continuous training system		
Differentiation between continuous training / specialisation training	NO	
Obligations regarding continuous / specialized training	YES	Compulsory training obligations as stated in the internal regulations of the Bar Legal basis: Solicitors (Continuing Professional Development Regulations 2012 (SI No 501/2012))
Obligations regarding learning foreign languages	No obligations	
Obligations regarding EU law content in relation to continuous / specialization training	NO	
4. Accreditation systems and training providers		
Possibility for accreditation	NO	The Irish training system does not provide for possibility of accreditation
Number of training providers offering continuous training activities	N/A	
Type of training providers developing accredited continuous training activities	N/A	
Activities and methods		
Type of training activities accepted under the obligations of continuous or specialization training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending face to face training sessions • Completing e-learning modules • Watching a webinar • Completing blended learning activities 	Participation in training activities in another Member State: As the Irish system of Compulsory Continuing Professional Development is done on the basis of self-certification, solicitors are free to count training in another member state towards their CPD requirement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending training conferences • Participating in training activities as trainer or teacher • Writing / Publishing 	
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5. Supervision of training activities

Organizations involved in supervising continuous training activities	N/A - No accreditation system in Ireland
Supervision process	N/A

6. National reform of training system

Report on professional legal education to be compiled on enactment of [Legal Services Bill 2011](#). The Legal Services Bill 2011 introduces a Legal Services Regulatory Authority. This will oversee the provision of vocational legal education of solicitors and barristers. It further provides for a report on professional legal education to be compiled. While this report is likely to advocate change, it is very difficult to know whether it will espouse specific reforms. It will require further intervention by the new authority and by the Minister for Justice to introduce change.

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training: "Lot 2 – Study on the state of play of lawyers training in EU law", carried out by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) and the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)