



Lawyers training systems in the EU

Northern Ireland

Information provided by: The Bar Council of Northern Ireland

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DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM FOR LAWYERS in Northern Ireland

1. Access to the Profession

Higher education / university education	YES
A law degree is compulsory	YES
Steps to becoming a fully-fledged lawyer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration with the Bar • Completion of an induction period (one year postgraduate course and one year pupillage) <p>The most common entry route is: Qualifying law degree + Barrister at Law degree from the Queens University Belfast Institute of Professional Legal Studies + Pupillage</p>
Alternative routes to the profession:	<p>YES</p> <p>Transfer routes from other professions</p> <p>It is possible for English and Irish barristers to requalify in Northern Ireland but they must submit evidence that they have completed the equivalent of all three stages of the Northern Irish qualification process. In theory a European lawyer should be able to requalify under articles 2 or 10 of the Establishment Directive but this has never been tested.</p> <p>http://www.barlibrary.com/filestore/documents/SCAN0982_000.pdf</p>

2. Training during induction period		
Is there an induction period?	YES	Legal basis: Code of Conduct for the Bar of Northern Ireland
Compulsory	YES	Set length: 1 year
Types of structures responsible for organising induction training		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bar • private practices and law firms • private training providers • Universities • Lawyers' academies and training structures established by the bar
Form of induction training		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship supervised by a private practice • Apprenticeship supervised by the Bar • Training on legal professional skills
Entrance exam / check before induction period	NO	
Set curriculum during induction period	NO	
Specificities regarding EU law and linguistic training:		No EU law sessions No linguistic training
Induction period divided into different stages	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different periods during the year at the Institute of legal studies covering various aspects of law (full time) • 6 months non-practising (i.e. Not appearing directly), 6 months practising under supervision (i.e. appearing in parts of cases and tribunals but under supervision). All courses are done during the Institute stage
Post-induction period assessment / exam	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through reports from tutors • Training evaluation (by pupil master) <p>Within 12 months of call to the Bar, all barristers must complete</p> <p>(i) A Northern Ireland Bar Advocacy Training Course; and</p> <p>(ii) A Northern Ireland Bar Ethics Course.</p>
3. Continuous training system		
Differentiation between continuous training / specialisation training	NO	

Obligations regarding continuous training	YES	Compulsory training obligations as stated in the internal regulations of the Bar Library Legal basis: Regulation 6.01 of the Code of Conduct http://www.barlibrary.com/code-of-conduct/ http://www.barlibrary.com/about-barristers/barristers-profession/cpd/
Obligations regarding specialization training	NO	There is no specialisation mentioned in the code of conduct. There are specialist bar groups which bring together those who spend more time e.g. on criminal or family law work.
Obligations regarding learning foreign languages	No obligations	
Obligations regarding EU law content in relation to continuous / specialization training?	No obligations	
4. Accreditation systems and training providers		
Possibility for accreditation	Possibility of accreditation (only for CPD training) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of training courses • of national training providers • of training providers from all member states 	
Number of training providers offering continuous training activities	More than 50	
Type of training providers developing accredited continuous training activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bar • Organisation managed or established by the Bar • Accredited private commercial training provider (incl. law firms) • Accredited private or public non-for profit training provider (incl. universities, foundations) • Non-accredited private commercial training provider • Non-accredited private or public non-for-profit training provider 	
Number of training providers organizing training in preparation for specialization	Between 21 and 50	

Type of training providers developing accredited training activities in preparation for specialization	Not applicable	
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 distance training sessions • Completing e-learning modules • Watching a webinar • Attending training conferences 	Participation in training activities in another Member States: Yes, it can count towards continuous training obligations. This will depend on the views of the education committee who decide on the CPD rules.
5. Supervision of training activities		
Organizations involved in supervising continuous training activities	YES	The Bar CPD Committee c/o the Bar Library (the Bar Library is the address in which the Bar Council is based. All barristers are members of the Bar Library which acts as their office and provides them administrative support)
Supervision process	Regarding CPD training, barristers must declare each year that they have completed the 12 hours required	
Organizations involved in supervising training activities towards specialization	NO	There are no formal specialisations in Northern Ireland
Supervision process	Not applicable	
6. National reform of training system		
A review is underway with changes expected in 2014 – this is unlikely to impact on EU training.		

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)