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There is no requirement to cover all areas of law during your traineeship. The larger city firms tend to move trainees round all their departments. In a small firm, the type of work which the trainee is given will depend upon the kinds of work the partners do.

There is ongoing assessment throughout the traineeship. This consists of maintaining log books and submitting quarterly performance reviews to the Society. At present it does not include a formal examination. The log books and reviews are used by both the training firm and the Law Society to monitor and to progress any problems.

Between the 6th and 18th months of the traineeship trainees attend a skills based course called the Professional Competence Course (PCC). Currently this consists of 36 hours of core and 18 hours of elective modules. It involves more in depth coverage of subjects such as professional ethics and legal practice and it aims to consolidate and build on what is learned in the traineeship.

After completing the first year of training, a trainee can, subject to satisfactory progress, apply to be admitted as a solicitor holding a practising certificate. The purpose of admission after one year of training is to enable trainees to gain valuable experience of appearing in court for their employer's clients.

With the consent of their employers, trainees may apply to the Law Society for permission to spend up to six months of their training in a European Union country.

Trainee solicitors are normally paid by their employers at a mutually agreed rate, based on salary scales recommended by the Law Society of Scotland. At the end of the traineeship the training firm is asked to certify to the Law Society that the trainee is a fit and proper person to become a solicitor. The training contract is discharged and the trainee is entitled to apply for a full practising certificate.

University Law Faculties

In addition to the general university prospectus it should be possible to obtain a more specific prospectus detailing the courses on offer. Enquiries regarding university study should be addressed to the Admissions Officer at the following:

Aberdeen: The Faculty of Law, The University of Aberdeen, Taylor Building, King's College, Old Aberdeen AB24 2UB.
Tel: 01224 272 441
email: law096@abdn.ac.uk

University of Abertay: The Dundee Business School – Law Division, Old College, Bell Street, Dundee DD1 1HG.
Tel: 01382 308 413
email: k.swinton@abertay.ac.uk

Dundee: The Faculty of Law, The University of Dundee, Scrymgeour Building, Park Place, Dundee DD1 1RP.
Tel: 01382 344 028/185
email: law@dundee.ac.uk

Edinburgh University: Undergraduate Admissions, College of Humanities & Social Science, David Hume Tower, 2nd Floor, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9JX.
Tel: 0131 650 3565
email: HSSUG@ed.ac.uk

Glasgow: The Faculty of Law and Financial Studies, The University of Glasgow, The Stair Building, Glasgow G12 8QQ. Tel: 0141 330 4507 (Mrs Lorna Brown)
email: L.Brown@law.gla.ac.uk

Glasgow Caledonian University, City Campus, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow G4 0BA. Tel: 0141 331 3433/8429
email: m.hebenton@gcal.ac.uk

Napier University, Department of Law, Sighthill Court, Edinburgh EH11 4BN.
Tel: 0131 455 3619/3488
email: j.dickson@napier.ac.uk

Robert Gordon University: Aberdeen Business School, Garthdee Road, Aberdeen AB10 7QE. Tel: 01224 263 800
email: a.c.mcdonald@rgu.ac.uk

Stirling: Department of Accounting, Finance and Law The University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA
Tel: 01786 466 416 (Mrs Tikus Little)
email: t.a.little@stir.ac.uk

Strathclyde: The Law School, University of Strathclyde, Stenhouse Building, 173 Cathedral Street, Glasgow G4 0RQ Tel: 0141 548 4347 (Kathy Smith)
email: kathy.smith@strath.ac.uk

THE INFORMATION IN THIS LEAFLET IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN LARGER PRINT FROM THE LAW SOCIETY IF REQUIRED.



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Facsimile: 0131 225 2934
Email: Legaleduc@lawscot.org.uk

Qualifying as a Solicitor

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qualification as a solicitor in Scotland consists of a combination of academic and practical training

academic training

First stage:

LLB Degree

It is possible to study for a Bachelor of Laws Degree at ten Scottish Universities: Aberdeen, Abertay, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian, Napier, Robert Gordon, Stirling and Strathclyde. The LLB Degree is offered as an Ordinary Degree, studied over three years, or an Honours Degree for which four years of study is required. Some universities offer a part time LLB course.

Admission requirements to the LLB Degree at all ten universities are high. Each university will be able to offer you advice about its own admission requirements. The only preferred subject at Higher is English. Apart from this, students with a background in science and those who have studied modern languages and/or history, geography and modern studies are equally acceptable.

If you wish to study law at university you should make every effort to attend Open Days at the universities. This will help you make a more informed decision about where you wish to study. More detailed information about the content of the LLB Degree can be obtained from the Law Schools at each of the universities, whose addresses appear in this leaflet.

Before embarking on an LLB Degree you should be aware that acceptance by a University Law Faculty **does not guarantee future employment in the legal profession in Scotland, nor even a place in the vocational post-graduate Diploma in Legal Practice.**

You should bear in mind that a Law Degree is a well respected qualification which can be used as a stepping stone to many careers. Think about other career opportunities which might be open to you with a Law Degree.

or:

Law Society Examinations

In order to be eligible to sit the Law Society's examinations, a candidate must be in full time employment as a pre-Diploma trainee with a qualified solicitor practising in Scotland. The pre-Diploma training contract lasts for three years during which time the trainee must receive training in the three prescribed areas of conveyancing, court work, and either trusts and executries or the legal work of a local authority.

Further information about this qualification route is contained in our leaflet entitled "Pre-Diploma training".

Second stage:

Diploma in Legal Practice

After completion of the LLB Degree or professional examinations, all intending solicitors require to take the

Diploma in Legal Practice. This seven month course can be taken in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, and Robert Gordon.

The Diploma course has been designed to teach the practical knowledge and skills necessary for the working life of a solicitor. Although the course takes place at a university, much of the teaching is carried out by solicitors and its content is highly practical and skills based. To gain admission to the Diploma course, intrants are required to obtain passes in certain "core" subjects in their LLB Degree (or Law Society examinations). A good examination record is important as it is taken into account by the universities when they are considering applications for places on the Diploma in Legal Practice course.

post-diploma practical training

After successful completion of the Degree and Diploma, all intending solicitors are required to serve a two year post-Diploma training contract with a practising solicitor in Scotland.

The contract may be served with solicitors in private practice, the Crown Office, local authorities and certain public bodies, for example. During this traineeship, you will put into practice what you have learned at university.