

# Qualifying and Working Abroad



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To practice outside England and Wales, you need to be aware of the local rules governing recognition of overseas trained Solicitors and Barristers. These will vary depending on where you are working: Scotland ; Northern Ireland ; the European Union or elsewhere.

As conditions of mutual recognition of professional qualifications vary greatly between countries, and given the complexity of the requirements for admission to legal practice you must check with the local law society or relevant professional association as to your right to qualify and/or work within a particular jurisdiction.

As a general rule it is far easier to obtain the right to practice within another country if you apply after becoming qualified in England .

Many large commercial law firms have offices located throughout Europe, Asia and North America which deal with international matters crossing many jurisdictional borders. These firms provide opportunities for English law graduates and lawyers to work overseas. In this case, admission to practice law in the local jurisdiction is often not a requirement for employment as foreign lawyers working in international law firms practice international law and may be able to rely on the law of their home jurisdiction. Requirements will depend on the specific jurisdiction involved and the policy of the individual law firm. Appropriate language skills can be of advantage particularly in Asia .

You also need to consider any immigration rules that may apply - either to temporary or permanent work outside the UK . Outside of the European Union the immigration situation varies significantly from country to country and you are advised to contact the embassy, consulate or high commission of the country you are intending to obtain work in, before looking into career opportunities.

The following information relates to the requirements of admission and/or practice for foreign law graduates in various jurisdictions

## Scotland

To become a qualified solicitor in Scotland you must complete a LLB degree in Scots law. There are 10 universities in Scotland accredited by the Society. The next step would be to complete a diploma in legal practice and a two year training period within a law firm.

A law degree from an English university will not form part of the qualification process in Scotland . Transfer tests are in place for qualified solicitors from England , Wales , Northern Ireland and other parts of the European Union who wish to re-qualify as Scottish solicitors.

To become an 'Advocate' you must complete a LLB degree in Scots law. You must then pass or obtain exemption for the Faculty of Advocates examination in law, pass or gain exemption from the diploma in legal practice and then complete 21 months of training within a solicitors firm and serve a period (9 months) as a pupil to a member of the Bar.

Areas of demand for qualified solicitors include: Corporate, Banking, Construction, Projects/PFI, Energy/Oil & Gas, Commercial Property

Further information:

<http://www.lawscot.org.uk>  
<http://www.advocates.org.uk>

## Channel Islands

### Jersey

If you have a law degree or GDL

If you have completed either a law degree from a British university or the GDL, you can qualify as a Jersey Solicitor as long as you are a qualifying citizen (Commonwealth or European Union citizen) or a qualifying national (national of the European Free Trade Area), have passed the qualifying examination and have worked in a Jersey Solicitor's office or an Advocate's office of the Law Officers' Department

Careers Service Contact Details:

[lawcareers@bpp.com](mailto:lawcareers@bpp.com)

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or the Judicial Greffe for the three years immediately preceding the application.

To qualify as an Advocate, it is necessary to have passed either the Bar Vocational Course or the Legal Professional Course. The choice of course does not limit options when considering requalification as a Jersey lawyer. However, it will be relevant to the kind of experience that you may want to acquire in England before going to Jersey .

If you have completed the LPC or BVC

By virtue of having passed either the Bar Vocational Course or the Legal Professional Course, a person can be called to the Jersey Bar as an Advocate by being a qualifying citizen or a qualifying national; having passed the qualifying examination; and having worked in a Jersey Solicitor's office or an Advocate's office of the Law Officers' Department or the Judicial Greffe for the two years immediately preceding the application for call to the Jersey Bar.

However, it is possible to qualify as a Jersey Solicitor and, after practising as a Jersey Solicitor for three years, convert to become an Advocate.

Areas of demand for qualified solicitors include: Corporate/Commercial, Banking, Structured Finance, Securitisation, Funds, Capital Markets & Dispute Resolution.

Further information:

<http://www.jerseylegalinfo.je>

## Guernsey

Becoming an Advocate in Guernsey involves several years of training, in English, French and Guernsey Law. The role of an Advocate combines that of a Barrister or Solicitor in England , i.e. a dual role is performed. If you have completed the LPC you must complete a two-year training contract in order to become a qualified solicitor in Guernsey .

The situation is more complicated for those intending to practice at the Bar,

If you have passed the Bar Vocational Course you can be called to the Bar and then proceed directly to studying for the Guernsey Bar exams. In order to practice at the Guernsey Bar, the following requirements must be met:

1. you must have been resident in the Bailiwick of Guernsey for a period of at least three years commencing after your sixteenth birthday;
2. you must be either a member of the Bar of England & Wales, of the Bar of Northern Ireland, or of the Faculty of Advocates in Scotland; or be a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales, of the Supreme Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland, or in Scotland;
3. you must hold either a License or Maitrise en Droit from one of the Universities of France; a diploma stating that he is "Bachelor" of one of the Faculties of Law of France; or hold a "Certificat d'Études Juridiques Françaises et Normandes" from Caen University;
4. you must have undertaken a twelve month pupillage with an accredited Guernsey advocate, unless you have already undertaken a twelve month pupillage at the Bar of any country in the United Kingdom or are a qualified solicitor of any country in the United Kingdom, in which case you must only undertake a six month pupillage in Guernsey; and
5. you must have passed the qualifying examinations

Further Information:

<http://www.guernseybar.com/>

## Ireland

In order to become a trainee solicitor in Ireland you are obliged by statute to pass the First Irish Examination. This is a written and oral examination in the Irish language. The Law Society of Ireland cannot grant exemption from this examination.

The First Irish Examination is held twice a year, usually in January and July. The First Irish Examination must be passed before an application can be made for consent from the Law Society to become a trainee

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solicitor. Note: You do not have to pass the First Irish Examination before you sit the FE-1. The 'Final Examination - First Part' is the entrance examination to the Law Society of Ireland. It is held twice a year, in April / September.

A Training Contract commences after the final examination on the Professional Practice Course I (PPC I). However applicants must have secured a training contract before they can apply for a place on the PPC I. The training contract is twenty four months in duration, including attendance on the Professional Practice course II (PPC II).

## Qualified Solicitors

If you are a qualified solicitor in England and Wales you can simply obtain a Certificate of Admission. This form is used to apply to go on the Roll of Solicitors in the Republic of Ireland. Unless the Society otherwise determines, solicitors whose first place of qualification is England and Wales are not obliged to pass any subject in the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test. However; If you were formerly called to the bar, you must have 3 years qualified experience in England and Wales to avail of the direct reciprocity ruling.

Areas of demand for qualified solicitors include: Corporate, Finance, Projects/PFI, Commercial Property, Investment Funds and Litigation

Further information:

<http://www.lawsociety.ie/>

## Europe

English solicitors who wish to live and work in another member state of the European Union may do so under their home title and/or by joining a bar or law society of the country they will be working in.

Below is a list of the relevant law societies and professional bodies for each member state:

AUSTRIA	Österreichische Rechtsanwaltskammertag	<a href="http://www.oerak.or.at/">http://www.oerak.or.at/</a>
BELGIUM	Ordre des Barreaux francophones et germanophones	<a href="http://www.avocat.be">http://www.avocat.be</a>
	Vereniging van Vlaamse Balies	<a href="http://www.advocaat.be">http://www.advocaat.be</a>
CYPRUS	Cyprus Bar Association	<a href="http://www.cyprusbarassociation.org">http://www.cyprusbarassociation.org</a>
CZECH REPUBLIC	Czech Bar Association	<a href="http://www.cak.cz">http://www.cak.cz</a>
DENMARK	Advokatsamfundet	<a href="http://www.advocom.dk/">http://www.advocom.dk/</a>
ESTONIA	Estonian Bar Association	<a href="http://www.advokatuur.ee">http://www.advokatuur.ee</a>
FINLAND	Finnish Bar Association	<a href="http://www.asianajajat.fi/">http://www.asianajajat.fi/</a>
FRANCE	Barreau de Paris	<a href="http://www.avocatparis.org">http://www.avocatparis.org</a>
	Association française des Avocats Conseils d'entreprise	<a href="http://www.avocats-conseils.org">http://www.avocats-conseils.org</a>
	Conseil National des Barreaux	<a href="http://www.cnb.avocat.fr">http://www.cnb.avocat.fr</a>
	Confédération Nationale des Avocats	<a href="http://www.cna-avocats.com">http://www.cna-avocats.com</a>

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	Fédération Nationale des Unions de Jeunes Avocats	<a href="http://www.fnuja.com/">http://www.fnuja.com/</a>
	Délégation des Barreaux de France	<a href="http://www.dbfbruxelles.com">http://www.dbfbruxelles.com</a>
	Sites Internet des principaux Barreaux français	<a href="http://www.dbfbruxelles.com/DBF/sitesbarreauxfrance.htm">http://www.dbfbruxelles.com/DBF/sitesbarreauxfrance.htm</a>
GERMANY	Bundesrechtsanwaltskammer (BRAK)	<a href="http://www.brak.de/">http://www.brak.de/</a>
	Deutscher AnwaltVerein (DAV)	<a href="http://www.anwaltverein.de/">http://www.anwaltverein.de/</a>
GREECE	Athens Bar Association	<a href="http://www.dsa.gr">http://www.dsa.gr</a>
HUNGARY	Magyar Ügyvédi Kamara	<a href="http://www.magyarugyvedikamara.hu">http://www.magyarugyvedikamara.hu</a>
ICELAND	Icelandic Bar Association	<a href="http://www.lmfi.is/">http://www.lmfi.is/</a>
IRELAND	The Law Society of Ireland	<a href="http://www.lawsociety.ie/">http://www.lawsociety.ie/</a>
	Bar council of Ireland	<a href="http://www.lawlibrary.ie/">http://www.lawlibrary.ie/</a>
ITALY	Consiglio Nazionale Forense	<a href="http://www.cnf.it/">http://www.cnf.it/</a>
	Consiglio dell'Ordine degli Avvocati e Procuratori di Roma	<a href="http://www.ordineavvocati.roma.it/">http://www.ordineavvocati.roma.it/</a>
	Consiglio dell'Ordine degli Avvocati e Procuratori di Napoli	<a href="http://www.netway.it/services/avvocati/avvocati.html">http://www.netway.it/services/avvocati/avvocati.html</a>
LATVIA	Latvian Council of Sworn Advocates	<a href="http://www.advokatura.lv">http://www.advokatura.lv</a>
LIECHTENSTEIN	Liechtensteinische Rechtsanwaltskammer	<a href="http://www.lirak.li/">http://www.lirak.li/</a>
LITHUANIA	Lithuanian Bar Association	<a href="http://www.advoco.lt">http://www.advoco.lt</a>
LUXEMBOURG	Le Barreau de Luxembourg	<a href="http://www.barreau.lu">http://www.barreau.lu</a>
MALTA	Chamber of Advocates	<a href="http://www.justice.gov.mt/chamadv.asp">http://www.justice.gov.mt/chamadv.asp</a>
THE NETHERLANDS	Nederlandse Orde van Advocaten	<a href="http://www.advocatenorde.nl/welkom.html">http://www.advocatenorde.nl/welkom.html</a>
NORWAY	Norwegian Bar Association	<a href="http://www.jus.no">http://www.jus.no</a>
POLAND	Polish Bar Association	<a href="http://www.adwokatura.org.pl/">http://www.adwokatura.org.pl/</a>
	National Council of Legal Advisers	<a href="http://sopot.lex.pl/~krrp_warszawa/">http://sopot.lex.pl/~krrp_warszawa/</a>
PORTUGAL	Ordem dos Advogados	<a href="http://www.oa.pt/">http://www.oa.pt/</a>
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Slovak Bar Association	<a href="http://www.sak.sk">http://www.sak.sk</a>
SLOVENIA	Odvetniška Zbornica Slovenije	<a href="http://www.odv-zb.si">http://www.odv-zb.si</a>
SPAIN	Consejo General de la Abogacía Española	<a href="http://www.cgae.es/">http://www.cgae.es/</a>
SWEDEN	Sveriges Advokatsamfund	<a href="http://www.advokatsamfundet.se/">http://www.advokatsamfundet.se/</a>
UNITED KINGDOM	The General Council of the Bar	<a href="http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/">http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/</a>
	The Law Society of England and Wales	<a href="http://www.lawsoc.org.uk/">http://www.lawsoc.org.uk/</a>
	Faculty of Advocates ( Scotland )	<a href="http://www.advocates.org.uk">http://www.advocates.org.uk</a>
	The Law Society of Scotland	<a href="http://www.lawscot.org.uk/">http://www.lawscot.org.uk/</a>
	General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland	<a href="http://www.barcouncil-ni.org.uk/">http://www.barcouncil-ni.org.uk/</a>
	Law Society of Northern Ireland	<a href="http://www.lawsoc-ni.org">http://www.lawsoc-ni.org</a>

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CCBE Observer Members		
BULGARIA	Supreme Bar Council	<a href="http://www.vas.lex.bg">http://www.vas.lex.bg</a>
CROATIA	Hrvatska odvjetnicka komora	<a href="http://www.odv-j-komora.hr">http://www.odv-j-komora.hr</a>
FYROM ( Former Yougoslave Republic of Macedonia )	Macedonian Bar Association	<a href="http://www.mba.org.mk">http://www.mba.org.mk</a>
ROMANIA	Romanian Bar Association	<a href="http://www.uar.ro">http://www.uar.ro</a>
SWITZERLAND	Fédération Suisse des Avocats	<a href="http://www.swisslawyers.com">http://www.swisslawyers.com</a>
TURKEY	Union of Turkish Bars	<a href="http://www.barobirlik.org.tr">http://www.barobirlik.org.tr</a>
UKRAINE	Union of Advocates of Ukraine	<a href="http://www.advokatura.org.ua">http://www.advokatura.org.ua</a>

Taken from the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe website: <http://www.ccbe.org>

## United States of America

The criteria for eligibility to take the bar examination or otherwise to qualify for bar admission in the US are prescribed at the US State level. Each state has its own criteria for becoming a licensed attorney. These requirements vary greatly from state to state, with respect to the requirements for admission of foreign-educated law graduates. There is no system of mutual recognition operating in the US.

Foreign law students (i.e., non-US) and graduates should refer to the ' Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements ' published by the American Bar Association (ABA) for a state by state guide to eligibility for foreign-educated law graduates to sit for the relevant bar exam.

You may speak directly to the state bar examiner of the state in which you want to practice for requirement specifics. See the Directory of State Bar Admissions Offices: [www.abanet.org/legaled/baradmissions](http://www.abanet.org/legaled/baradmissions) for a list of bar admissions offices for each state.

Just over half of all state bar administrators have stated that graduates of foreign law schools are not eligible to sit their bar exam under the rules of their jurisdiction. Of those states that will grant permission to foreign law graduates, most require either that the foreign law school is the equivalent of an ABA-accredited

law school or that the graduate has done a certain amount of study at an ABA-accredited law school. Admission to a full three-year postgraduate law program (juris doctorate, or JD) is the most straightforward route to eligibility in any US state, and some universities may award partial credit (advanced standing) towards the JD if the student has an undergraduate law degree.

Foreign-educated law graduates frequently seek qualifications in New York. Completion of a UK LLB program provides automatic eligibility to sit the NY Bar Exam. Those who studied the GDL and LPC/BVC must both complete qualification AND an LLM program at an ABA-accredited law school.

Areas of demand for qualified solicitors in New York include: Corporate, Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Projects, Energy, Securitisation, Derivatives, and Private Equity.

[www.nybarexam.org](http://www.nybarexam.org)

California

State Bar of California  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco , CA 94105  
TEL: (415) 538-2000

[http://www.calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar\\_home.jsp](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_home.jsp)

Careers Service Contact Details:

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If you must complete additional coursework, please refer to the listing of ABA-approved law schools: [www.abanet.org/legaled/approvedlawschools/approved.html](http://www.abanet.org/legaled/approvedlawschools/approved.html) .

For further information about qualifying in America contact the American Bar Association: [www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org)

## Australia

Each state and Territory has specific requirements for admission to practice law. Therefore you must contact the Law Society or Bar Association of the state in which you intend to work and live (see below). In general there are different regulations for those who have completed the academic stage (e.g. LLB or GDL and the LPC/BVC), those who have completed the 'practical legal training stage' (training contract or pupillage) and for those who have practiced.

### New South Wales ( Sydney )

The Legal Profession Admission Board of NSW assesses overseas academic qualifications in a similar way to the Law Society in the UK . See <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/> for further information.

For applicants who have not completed the vocational training programme (LPC / BVC):

An application for exemption from academic subjects forming part of the Board's Examinations would be treated under Rule 97(2)(b). Exemption assessment would be completed by comparing each individual subject studied in your original law degree with those required to be studied on the Board's Examinations i.e. assessed on a subject for subject basis.

Consequently, an applicant with an English law degree (or GDL) would be likely to receive only limited exemptions given that the Board's Examinations comprise 20 subjects and that, in England, the norm would be 12 law subjects on a LLB degree and only 8 law subjects on a GDL (or equivalent) programme.

Furthermore, some of those law subjects previously

studied may not have a Board examination equivalent e.g. English Constitutional Law.

For applicants who have completed the vocational training programme:

An applicant who has successfully completed the vocational training programme will be assessed under different criteria. An applicant for admission must study a maximum of thirteen of the Board's subjects. However - a UK applicant who has completed the legal practice course may be exempt from all but one of the Board's subjects; Australian Constitutional Law. If the applicant has any subject that needs to be satisfactorily completed, they may study externally through the Law Extension Committee of the University of Sydney (LEC).

Areas of demand for qualified solicitors include: Corporate, Banking & Finance, Project Finance, Securitisation, Funds, Capital Markets, Construction, Energy & Dispute Resolution.

### Victoria ( Melbourne )

Requirements for admission to practice law in Victoria :

Both the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and the Juris Doctor (JD) meet the educational requirements for admission to practice as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria. The practical requirements for admission to practice as a Barrister and Solicitor can be satisfied either through completing Articles of Clerkship - 12 months supervised work experience in a legal firm; or through completion of a Victorian Practical Legal Training Course. International students are ineligible to obtain a student visa to undertake articles of clerkship as this is considered to be employment rather than further study.

Contact the Council of Legal Education for information on qualification requirements:

Level 27, 530 Collins Street , Melbourne 3000  
Ph: (03) 9613 8794; (03) 9614 1011

Email: [colevic@aar.com.au](mailto:colevic@aar.com.au)

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For links to authorities in each state of Australia see:  
<http://www.lawcouncil.asn.au>

See also: guidelines for Admission to Legal Practice Requirements in Australia :

[http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/staff/admission\\_guide\\_lines.html#1.1](http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/staff/admission_guide_lines.html#1.1)

## New Zealand

Admission as a barrister and solicitor is governed by Section 44 of the Law Practitioners Act 1982 which can be accessed at [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz)

If you have a legal qualification from an overseas university or institution, and have not been admitted to practice as a barrister, solicitor, advocate or attorney by a superior court in any country, and wish to have your overseas qualification credited towards a New Zealand qualification in law you will first need to have your current qualifications assessed by the New Zealand Council of Legal Education (NZCLE):

New Zealand Council of Legal Education  
P O Box 5041  
Wellington 6145 New Zealand

Telephone 64 4 471 1161  
Email [nzcle@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nzcle@xtra.co.nz)

If you are a foreign lawyer who has been admitted as a barrister, solicitor, advocate or attorney in your own country and you intend to practice only home jurisdiction law in New Zealand , you don't need to be admitted as a barrister and solicitor in New Zealand , nor will you be regulated by the New Zealand Law Society.

However you will be subject to general consumer protection law in New Zealand and must comply with Part IV of the Law Practitioners Act . In particular, you must not act or hold yourself out as qualified to act as a barrister and/or solicitor nor may you operate in partnership with New Zealand lawyers.

## Canada

Foreign law graduates or legal practitioners from common law jurisdictions may apply to the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA) for an evaluation of their legal credentials and experience to establish eligibility for admission to practice law in Canada . There are both common law and civil law jurisdictions in Canada so eligibility for admission will be determined by the jurisdiction.

Further information:

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada  
<http://www.flsc.ca/en/foreignLawyers/foreignLawyers.asp>

## British Columbia

An applicant seeking to be called to the bar in British Columbia who has obtained a law degree from outside Canada must first obtain either a Canadian LL.B. degree or a Certificate of Qualification issued by the National Committee on Accreditation (NCA).

Equivalence to an approved Canadian LL.B. degree serves as the Committee's benchmark when it evaluates applicants with foreign legal education or training.

The NCA bases its recommendation on the applicant's legal background, both academic and professional. It takes into account the source country of legal education (common law, non-common law, "hybrid"), subject matter studied, academic marks and standing, nature of the degree granting institution, professional qualifications and length and nature of professional legal experience.

The NCA reviews each applicant's file individually. Upon completion of its review, the NCA issues a recommendation that the applicant either; pass examinations in specified areas of Canadian law; take further education at a Canadian law school with a specified program of studies; or complete a Canadian LL.B. program. The NCA issues a Certificate of Qualification upon successful completion of the

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requirements set out in Options 1 and 2 above. Applicants receive a law degree upon completion of Option 3.

With either of these qualifications, you must then apply to enrol in the Law Society Admission Program (LSAP). The LSAP consists of nine months of articles and the 10-week Professional Legal Training Course. Upon successful completion of LSAP, the applicant may then be called and admitted in BC. An applicant who holds professional legal qualifications in a common law jurisdiction and has been in the practice of law in that jurisdiction for at least one full year may apply for a reduction in the nine-month articling term.

Further information:

National Committee on Accreditation  
Faculty of Law, Common Law Section  
57 Louis Pasteur  
University of Ottawa  
Ottawa , ON K1N 6N5

Tel.: 613 562-5204  
Email: frusso@uottawa.ca

The NCA application package is available on the Federation of Law Society's website: [www.flsc.ca](http://www.flsc.ca) .

Member Services Representative  
Law Society of British Columbia  
8th Floor, 845 Cambie Street  
Vancouver , BC V6B 4Z9

Tel.: 604 443-5792 Toll-free in BC: 1-800-903-5300  
Fax: 604 687-0135  
Email: [memberinfo@lsbc.org](mailto:memberinfo@lsbc.org)

The National Committee on Accreditation does not evaluate credentials for lawyers who want to apply to become members of the Barreau du Québec or the Chambre des notaires du Québec , which have their own evaluation procedures.

Barreau du Québec  
Montreal , Quebec  
Tel: (514) 954-3400 Toll free: 1-800-361-8495  
Fax: (514) 954-3464

Web site: <http://www.barreau.qc.ca>

E-mail: [infos@barreau.qc.ca](mailto:infos@barreau.qc.ca)

For information on qualifying in Upper Canada ( Ontario ) see:

Law Society of Upper Canada  
<http://www.lsuc.on.ca>

*For information on specific qualification requirements in other areas of Canada please contact the relevant law societies:*

Law Society of Manitoba  
Winnipeg  
Tel: (204) 942-5571  
Fax: (204) 956-0624  
[admin@lawsociety.mb.ca](mailto:admin@lawsociety.mb.ca)

Law Society of Upper Canada  
Toronto  
Tel: (416) 947-3300  
Toll free: 1-800-668-7380  
Fax: (416) 947-5263  
Web site: <http://www.lsuc.on.ca>  
[lawsociety@lsuc.on.ca](mailto:lawsociety@lsuc.on.ca)

Law Society of Prince Edward Island  
Charlottetown , Prince Edward Island  
Telephone: (902 ) 566-1666  
Fax: (902) 368-7557  
Web site: <http://www.lspei.pe.ca>  
E-mail: [jwyatt@lspei.pe.ca](mailto:jwyatt@lspei.pe.ca)

Law Society of Yukon  
Whitehorse , Yukon  
Tel: (867) 668-4231  
Fax: (867) 667-7556  
<http://www.lawsocietyyukon.com>  
E-mail: [lsy@yknet.yk.ca](mailto:lsy@yknet.yk.ca)

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## Law Society of Nunavut

Iqualuit , Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 979-2330  
Fax: (867) 979-2333  
Web site: <http://lawsociety.nu.ca>  
E-mail: [lawsoc@nunanet.com](mailto:lawsoc@nunanet.com)

## Law Society of Alberta

Calgary  
Tel: (403) 229-4700  
Toll free: 1-800-661-9003  
Fax: (403) 228-1728  
[www.lawsocietyalberta.com](http://www.lawsocietyalberta.com)

## Law Society of Saskatchewan

Regina , Saskatchewan  
Tel: (306) 569-8242  
(ask for Membership Services)  
Toll free (in province): 1-800-667-9886  
Fax: (306) 352-2989  
E-mail: [reception@lawsociety.sk.ca](mailto:reception@lawsociety.sk.ca)

## Nova Scotia

Halifax , Nova Scotia  
Canada  
Tel: (902) 422-1491  
Fax: (902) 429-4869  
Web site: <http://www.nsbs.org>  
E-mail: [info@nsbs.org](mailto:info@nsbs.org)

## Law Society of Newfoundland & Labrador

St. John's , Newfoundland  
Tel: (709)722-4740  
Fax: (709) 722-8902  
Web site: <http://www.lawsociety.nf.ca>  
E-mail: [janice.whitman@lawsociety.nf.ca](mailto:janice.whitman@lawsociety.nf.ca)

## Law Society of the Northwest Territories

Yellowknife , Northwest Territories  
Tel: (867) 873-3828  
Fax: (867) 873-6344  
Web site: <http://www.lawsociety.nt.ca/>  
E-mail: [LSNT@TheEdge.ca](mailto:LSNT@TheEdge.ca)

## South Africa

The only academic qualification recognised and accepted for admission of persons as attorneys in the Republic of South Africa is the LLB law degree attained from a South African university. A person must have a South African LLB or B Proc to be admitted as an attorney in terms of the Attorneys Act, 1979.

Foreign applicants can only be exempted from this requirement if a South African University certifies that they have obtained a degree in a designated country (sections 2, 13 of the Act) and that the syllabus of instruction and standard of the training of such degree is similar or superior to the South African LLB or B Proc degree. (Section 2 (1) (a B). At present the only designated countries are Swaziland and Zimbabwe while it is expected that Namibia and Nigeria will follow soon.

A person who is not from a designated country must have a South African LLB or B Proc degree, for the purpose of qualification in terms of the Attorneys Act 1979, where ever such a person is from or where ever the degree was obtained. An A SAQA certificate to the effect that such foreign degree is of equal status is irrelevant for purposes of the Attorneys Act.

The Legal Education and Development section of the Law Society of South Africa suggest that overseas trained applicants enroll for a South African LLB degree and apply if appropriate to the particular faculty for exemptions/credits on the basis of subjects completed elsewhere.

Please note: foreigners who enroll for a South African LLM degree but who do not have a South African LLB, can not be admitted on the basis of the LLM degree.

If certification of your degree is obtained, you must still comply with other requirements for admission: completion of a practical training course as approved by the particular Provincial Law Society as well as the admission examination.

Careers Service Contact Details:

[lawcareers@bpp.com](mailto:lawcareers@bpp.com)

0207 430 5306 or 0207 633 4539

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Those with UK qualifications will have to approach a South African university to ascertain the further requirements to be complied with in relation to your law degree for your admission as an attorney in South Africa .

## Further information:

The University of South Africa ,  
P O Box 392 , Pretoria 0001.  
South Africa

## Advocates

Professional training to become an advocate is provided by the constituent 'Societies of Advocates' of the General Council of the Bar of South Africa. Pupillage, beginning in January and ending in December, inc. an examination is a prerequisite to join the Bar. Information regarding pupillage and pupillage syllabus can be obtained from the Bars.

General Council of the Bar of South Africa  
PO Box 2260 , Johannesburg , 2000  
Tel: + 27 (0)11 336-3976  
Fax: + 27 (0)11 336-8970

<http://www.sabar.co.za/>

E-mail: [gcb@mweb.co.za](mailto:gcb@mweb.co.za)

Law Society of South Africa

<http://www.lssa.org.za/>

Cape Law Society

<http://www.capelawsoc.law.za/>

Law Society of the Northern Provinces

<http://www.northernlaw.co.za/>

## Mauritius

The following information on Mauritius comes from the Rhodes University Faculty of Law website:

<http://www.ru.ac.za/academic/faculties/law/careers/practice.htm>

The law faculty of the University of Mauritius conducts courses leading to the LLB degree and vocational courses for would-be barristers as well as other legal practitioners. Barristers who qualify in the United Kingdom must sit vocational examinations in Mauritius.

(Professional association information not available).

## Botswana

The following information on Botswana comes from the Rhodes University Faculty of Law website:  
<http://www.ru.ac.za/academic/faculties/law/careers/practice.htm>

The University of Botswana conducts an LLB degree; the course lasts five years. Persons admitted to practice in the United Kingdom , the Republic of Ireland , South Africa or Zimbabwe may also be admitted.

Other applicants holding law degrees must sit an examination set by the Legal Practitioners' Committee and serve three years of articles.

## Further information:

The Secretary,  
Legal Practitioners Committee,  
Attorney General's Chambers,  
Private Bag 009, Gaborone,  
Botswana .

## Kenya

The following information on Kenya comes from the Rhodes University Faculty of Law website:  
<http://www.ru.ac.za/academic/faculties/law/careers/practice.htm>

Candidates must obtain a law degree from a prescribed university. The University of Nairobi and Moi University both give an LLB degree course lasting four years. Graduates must then complete one year

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of practical training at the Kenya School of Law and sit a Bar examination set by the Council of Legal Education. Persons admitted as barrister in England and Wales or Northern Ireland , or as practitioner in a Commonwealth country, may also be admitted.

Further information:

Law Society of Kenya,  
The Professional Centre, St John's Gate,  
Parliament Road , PO Box 72219 ,  
Nairobi , Kenya .  
Tel: (2) 229915/225558.

program, are required to make written application to the Board of Legal Education, Singapore providing details of the program undertaken, in order to be considered an 'eligible person' for the purpose of admission.

A foreign lawyer can practice foreign law in Singapore , including their home country law, a third-country law, or international law, without requalifying, so long as that person is duly authorised or registered to practice law in a state or territory other than Singapore by a foreign authority and he or she obtains an employment pass to practice foreign law. Foreign lawyers are prohibited from practicing Singapore law.

Training in Singapore :

For non-Singapore Citizens who will be serving pupillage before the Postgraduate Practical Law Course (PLC) , it is necessary for you to obtain a Training Visit Pass (TVP) . The Ministry of Manpower has informed the Board of Legal Education that upon application, foreign law students will be granted a 12-month TVP which will cover the duration of both the pupillage and the PLC. For those who will be applying for a TVP, you are requested to approach the Law Firm that you are attached to for assistance.

Board of Legal Education, Singapore :

[www.lawsoc.org.sg](http://www.lawsoc.org.sg)

Areas of demand for qualified solicitors include: Corporate, Banking & Finance, Project Finance, Capital Markets & Energy.

**Hong Kong**

Foreign law graduates of common law jurisdictions may be eligible for admission to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) offered by the Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong . After successful completion of the PCLL a further two years of employment as a trainee solicitor or twelve months pupillage is required in order to be eligible for admission to

It is up to the Board of Legal Education to decide whether your overseas qualifications are sufficient to allow you to be a 'qualified person'.

The Requirements for Admission as an Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore also include restrictions that apply to graduates of 'dual degrees' and 'accelerated degrees'. Under Rule 11 of the admission requirements graduates who have undertaken the LLB as part of a double degree program, or the JD

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practice as a solicitor or a barrister respectively in Hong Kong .

Foreign lawyers who have been admitted to practice law in a common law jurisdiction other than Hong Kong and who have at least 2 years of post-admission experience may be eligible to apply for admission to practice law in Hong Kong after successful completion of the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination. Bar admission and pupillage are governed by the provisions of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, Cap.159, Laws of Hong Kong ("the Ordinance")

A person is qualified for admission as a barrister under section 27(1) of the Ordinance if he or she is: a holder of a Postgraduate Certificate in Law; is a solicitor in Hong Kong ; or is an overseas lawyer. An overseas lawyer must hold a currently valid certificate of admission as legal practitioner in their jurisdiction of admission; have been in practice for at least 3 years in the jurisdiction of admission and pass the Barristers Qualification Examination.

Further information:

[www.hklawsoc.org.uk](http://www.hklawsoc.org.uk)

Areas of demand for qualified solicitors include: Corporate, Banking & Finance, Project Finance, Securitisation, Energy, Construction, Capital Markets & Dispute Resolution.

There is an increase in demand for qualified lawyers with Chinese language skills esp. with knowledge of mandarin as many firms are now focusing on the PRC.

## Malaysia

There are two separate regions in Malaysia for the purpose of admission to legal practice, East Malaysia (States of Sarawak & Sabah) and West Malaysia (Peninsula ). Whilst it is possible to gain admission to practice law in East Malaysia on the basis of admission in West Malaysia , the reverse does not apply.

East Malaysia (States of Sarawak & Sabah)

In East Malaysia the general requirement for admission to practice law is for applicants to have already been admitted to practice law in another country of the Commonwealth. Advice should be sought directly from either the Advocates Association of Sarawak or the Advocates Association of Sabah as citizenship / residency requirements also apply.

## West Malaysia ( Peninsula )

The provisions governing admission and qualifications for admission to the Malaysian Bar in West Malaysia are governed by the Legal Profession Act 1976. The Legal Profession Qualifying Board, Malaysia determines the qualifications which may entitle a person to become a "qualified person" within the meaning of the Act for purposes of admission as an advocate and solicitor in Malaysia.

Those with overseas qualifications must have their degree recognised by the Legal Profession Qualifying Board, Malaysia, thus enabling such graduates to sit the examination for the Malaysian Certificate of Legal Practice (CLP). Upon successful completion of the CLP examination, candidates are eligible to apply for admission to practice law in West Malaysia. Barristers who are admitted to practice in England may also be eligible to apply for admission to the Bar in West Malaysia.

Further information:

[www.malaysianbar.org.my](http://www.malaysianbar.org.my)

## United Arab Emirates ( Dubai )

The majority of foreign lawyers in UAE work for international firms and as such do not qualify in the local jurisdiction. Graduates wishing to practice before the bar must complete additional units on Sharia law required of all practicing barristers in private practice in the UAE.

Areas of demand for qualified solicitors include: Corporate/Commercial, Banking & Finance inc. projects, Commercial Property, Intellectual Property & Dispute

Careers Service Contact Details:

[lawcareers@bpp.com](mailto:lawcareers@bpp.com)

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## Cayman Islands

In order to be admitted as an Attorney at Law of the Cayman Islands and have the right to practice local law, you must successfully complete the Qualifying Examination of the Professional Practice Course, certified by the Cayman Islands Legal Advisory Council. This course is run by the Cayman Islands Law School which is affiliated with Liverpool University. After this time you need to undertake 18 months of clerkship.

The above is not required of lawyers qualified in the UK already. The Cayman Islands is one of the largest offshore financial and business centers with law firms staffed mainly by UK lawyers.

Areas of demand for qualified solicitors include: Corporate Finance, Banking & Finance, Funds, Commercial Litigation and Trusts.

Information on obtaining work and permits in the Cayman Islands :

[www.caymannewresident.com](http://www.caymannewresident.com)

The information in this document has been sourced from the websites mentioned for each jurisdiction as well as the resources below:

[www.taylorroot.com](http://www.taylorroot.com) - 'A Lawyer's Guide to Working Overseas', Taylor Root

Download available

[www.collasday.com](http://www.collasday.com) -for information on Guernsey

[www.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.unimelb.edu.au) – Melbourne University Law School information on qualifying in Malaysia and Singapore .

Please note: the information provided here is subject to change and may not relate to a particular individual's situation. Therefore you must contact the law society of the jurisdiction you wish to qualify and/or practice within, for specific information.