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Becoming a Solicitor or Barrister

Students who obtain one of our LLB degrees may claim exemption from the first part of the Bar and Law Society Examinations, as their programme has included all of the subjects required to pass the first stage of their requirements.

The subjects are public law, criminal law, European law, obligations A (contract), obligations B (tort), property law A (property) and property law B (equity and trusts). These exemptions are the same as those obtainable by the majority of law degrees in England and Wales.

Barristers

In order to practise in England and Wales the intending barrister must first join an Inn of Court. Many students do this while taking their degree. The School has its own Inns of Court Students' Association from which details can be obtained about joining an Inn. On successful completion of the degree intending barristers must take a further one-year full-time course, the Bar Professional Training Course leading to the second part of the Bar examination. There then follows a one-year period of Pupillage – a form of apprenticeship in a barrister's chambers.

Solicitors

On completion of their degree intending solicitors take a one-year full-time course. This is called the Legal Practice Course (LPC). Thereafter, there is a two-year training contract (apprenticeship in a firm of solicitors), all or most of which must be taken after completing the LPC. Fuller information on both the Bar and the Solicitors' professions is given in the Law School Handbook. The official bodies, from which complete particulars should be sought, are as follows:

The Council of Legal Education
4 Gray's Inn Place
London
WC1R 5DX

The Law Society Education and Training Department
Ipsley Court
Redditch
Worcestershire
B98 OTD

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