



ashfords

Ashfords' approach to the SQE

Qualifying Work Experience

We understand that beginning your legal career in the new SQE era comes with its unknowns, so we have worked hard to ensure that our approach to the SQE and your training with the firm will set you up for success through:

- Consistency
- Structure
- Standard setting

Your two years with us will now be known as Qualifying Work Experience rather than a Period of Recognised Training. Following feedback from our current and former trainees, we will be maintaining a structure of four six-month seats. We are confident that this is still the most effective way for you to experience life at a full-service law firm and to gain that all important breadth of knowledge.

We offer a wide variety of opportunities for specialisation. Major practice areas include Real Estate; Commercial Litigation; Commercial; Construction and Infrastructure; Corporate; Employment; Restructuring and Insolvency; Planning; Property Litigation and Trusts and Estates. A full list of the firms practice areas and sectors can be found on the website, here:

<https://www.ashfords.co.uk>.

What do the SQE exams involve?

SQE 1

SQE 1 focuses on 'functioning legal knowledge' by testing application of law based on realistic client-based scenarios in multiple choice questions.

There are two lengthy multiple choice papers of 180 questions each, covering all aspects of the SQE 1 syllabus.

SQE 1 must be passed before being eligible to sit the SQE2 assessments.

SQE 2

SQE 2 will test the practical legal skills required for practice, including:

- Interviewing (with written attendance note/legal analysis)
- Advocacy
- Legal research
- Legal drafting
- Legal writing
- Case and matter analysis

SQE Pathways

The firm provides support for SQE preparation through the College of Legal Practice for both Law and non-Law graduates. These are preparation courses designed to help candidates succeed in the SQE assessments, which the firm also funds in full. The table below sets out the pathways we support and the courses available.

Undergraduate Degree	Courses	Provider	Duration	Funding
Law	SQE 1 & 2 Prep Course	College of Legal Practice (fully remote study)	40 weeks (20 weeks per course)	Cost of courses & SQE exams + £8,000 maintenance grant (£4,000 per course)
Non-law	GDL + SQE 1 & 2 Prep Courses		60 weeks (20 weeks per course)	Cost of courses & SQE exams + £12,000 maintenance grant (£4,000 per course)

The image features a low-angle shot of a modern glass skyscraper reflecting the sky and clouds. The building is partially obscured by large, diagonal, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of teal and light green. In the bottom left corner, there is a small black and white icon of a person's head and shoulders.

ashfords
ashfords.co.uk