

The logo for Ashfords, consisting of the word "ashfords" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, positioned in the upper right quadrant of the slide. The background features a complex geometric pattern of overlapping triangles in various shades of teal and blue, creating a sense of depth and movement.

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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

We have embraced the transition to the SQE as an opportunity to capitalise on inclusivity and access into a career in law. With this in mind, you will have the option to undertake one of three different pathways before you join the firm for two years of QWE, as set out in the table below.

Course	Overview	Who it is for	Duration	Total time to qualify	Benefits	Downsides
LLM with SQE 1 & 2	This is the closest equivalent to the LPC moving forward and gives you the opportunity to obtain a masters whilst also preparing for the SQE 1 and 2 exams. You will complete both the SQE 1 and 2 exams before joining the firm to complete your QWE.	Law graduates or non-law graduates who have completed the GDL	One year full-time or two years' part time	2 ½ to 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can make use of Time to Count to complete training more quickly• A more familiar approach• SQE exams completed before joining the firm, so interruption to training once in the business• Opportunity to obtain a Masters qualification	No maintenance grant provided

SQE Pathways

Course	Overview	Who it is for	Duration	Total time to qualify	Benefits	Downsides
Graduate apprenticeship (block learning)	<p>Whilst technically an apprenticeship, you will spend one year studying full-time, completing modules similar to those on the LPC, as well as additional content to prepare for the SQE exams. You will undertake just the SQE 1 exam at the end of your studies. As an Apprentice, you will be employed by the firm during your studies, so will receive an apprentice rate salary.</p> <p>You will then join the business to undertake two years' QWE. You will prepare for and take the SQE 2 exams one year into your QWE, which will involve taking 4 weeks out of the business.</p>	Law graduates or non-law graduates who have completed the GDL	One year (full-time option only)	2 ½ to 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary and the benefits of being an employee whilst studying full-time • Significant practical experience as a trainee before taking the SQE 2 exam, which focuses on elements such as interviewing and advocacy • Can still utilise time to count if appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SQE 2 exams have to be taken one year into QWE, meaning an interruption of approximately 4 weeks to one of your seats • In the event that you wish to pick up secondary work during your year out studying, Ashfords would need to conduct a conflict check against your prospective employer. You would also have to be aware of the tax implications of secondary employment

SQE Pathways

Course	Overview	Who it is for	Duration	Total time to qualify	Benefits	Downsides
Masters in law with SQE 1	<p>This pathway is specifically for non-Law graduates. You will spend one year completing the MA Law conversion course, which includes preparation for the SQE 1 exam.</p> <p>You will take the SQE 1 exam at the end of the course. You will then join the business to undertake two years' QWE.</p> <p>Following this, you will spend 6 weeks out of the business completing the SQE 2 preparation course. You will then take the SQE 2 exams.</p>	Non-Law graduates who have not yet completed a conversion course	One year full-time or two years' part time	3 ½ years (approx.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will match the funding offered to Law graduates so significantly less personal cost compared to the previous GDL• Less post-graduate study required overall compared to previous GDL/LPC route	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal contribution towards fees required (£4000 approx.)• Further study to undertake at the end of your two years of training, as well as the SQE 2 exams• 12 week waiting time for SQE 2 results before qualification can be confirmed



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The image features a low-angle photograph of a modern glass skyscraper on the left side, with a bright sky and some clouds. The right side of the image is dominated by a dark teal background with several overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green and teal. The company name 'ashfords' is written in a large, white, lowercase sans-serif font, and the website address 'ashfords.co.uk' is written in a smaller, white, lowercase sans-serif font directly below it.