

SQE Legal Career Timeline Checklist

To support your journey to becoming a solicitor, we have created this SQE legal career checklist –designed to help you stay on track, plan, and feel confident about what's next.

Stage 1: Explore & decide

Research the [SQE structure](#).

Decide if the solicitor route is right for you – research the role fully.

Explore [BARBRI SQE Prep courses](#) on offer – check course lengths, fees, flexibility.

Look into QWE ([Qualifying Work Experience](#)) options – firms, clinics, pro bono.

Speak to BARBRI course adviser team for guidance – [book a call here](#).

Plan your timeline backwards from when you want to qualify – [timings here](#).

Stage 2: Prepare for SQE1

Enrol on a BARBRI SQE1 prep course.

Set up a study schedule (10–20–40 hours per week) – be realistic.

Familiarise yourself with [multiple choice questions](#) and gain an insight.

Start revising foundation law areas – BARBRI offers a [Foundations in Law](#) course.

Join study groups / forums for peer support.

Register with the SRA for the SQE1 exam.

Stage 3: Sit SQE1 exam (January or July)

Sit the FLK1 and FLK2 exams (over two days).

Celebrate – and rest!

Await results (5-6 weeks).

Stage 4: Build your QWE (Ongoing)

Secure legal work experience (law firms, in-house, legal clinics, etc.).

Ensure the work meets the SRA's QWE requirements.

Log your work against solicitor competencies.

Get experience confirmed by a solicitor or compliance officer.

Track your 2 years of total QWE.

Stage 5: Prepare for SQE2

Enrol on BARBRI's SQE2 prep course.

Practise skills regularly with feedback.

Simulate client interactions and legal drafting.

Take mock assessments under timed conditions.

Get confident with both oral and written elements.

Stage 6: Sit SQE2 exam (January, April, July or October)

Register for SQE2 with the SRA.

Sit the 16 assessments (oral & written skills).

Breathe – it's a big one!

Await results (14-18 weeks).

Stage 7: Apply for admission as a Solicitor

Log into your SRA account.

Submit proof of QWE, SQE results, and character & suitability declaration.

Pay the admission fee.

Officially qualify as a solicitor of England and Wales!

Bonus: Ongoing throughout

Stay organised with folders, deadlines, and your SRA ID details.

Keep a reflective journal of what you are learning during QWE.

Read legal news regularly – build commercial awareness.

Build your LinkedIn and CV throughout.

Don't ignore your wellbeing – try and have relaxation time!