



Helpline Enquiries

Studying for a Law degree in Scotland, does it rule out working as a Solicitor in England?

Enquiry from Head of Careers October 2020

I have a student who wants to study for a Law degree at the University of Edinburgh, after this is it possible to work as a Solicitor in England?

Our reply

As far as we are aware 3 of the Scottish Universities do offer English Law – Aberdeen, Strathclyde and Dundee, but not Edinburgh. The degree in Edinburgh is 4 years. It is possible to convert a Scottish Law degree, so as the student can then practice in England.

When the student has finished their degree, if they stay in Scotland and qualify as a Solicitor and then want to return to England they will have to complete a QTLS assessment.

<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/qlts/>

The requirements to become a solicitor in England will change from autumn 2021. Law degrees will prepare prospective solicitors for the new SQE exams and may also include the in-work experience required. Non-Law graduates will no longer need a Graduate Diploma in Law, but instead may take an SQE preparation course before completing the two SQE stages.

The SQE will sit outside the academic system. It will be run by Kaplan and comprise two exams.

For more information please see

<https://www.sra.org.uk/students/sqe/>

Therefore, if the student completes a Law degree in Scotland and then wants to return to England before they are fully qualified, they will probably need to do a SQE preparation course before taking the SQE.

To do a Law degree at the University of Edinburgh and then work as a Solicitor or Barrister in England is possible but will take longer and be more expensive