What is a Qualifying Law Degree?

The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) requires students to have successfully completed the Academic Stage of Legal Education prior to starting the Legal Practice Course. This requirement is met by either completing a qualifying law degree or passing a CPE/GDL or similar (such as being a Graduate of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives or a Chartered Legal Executive).

Qualifying law degrees must cover the foundation subjects specified by the SRA. Students must achieve a pass mark of 40% in each subject, irrespective of the pass mark set by their institution.

The Foundations of Legal Knowledge are:

The key elements and general principles of the following areas of legal study:

- Public Law, including Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights;
- Law of the European Union;
- Criminal Law;
- Obligations including Contract, Restitution and Tort;
- Property Law; and
- Equity and the Law of Trusts.

In addition, students are expected to have received training in legal research.

Condoned or compensated fails of assessments in any of the seven Foundations of Legal Knowledge are not accepted by the SRA as passes unless they have agreed in writing following a request from the university awarding the degree.

If you are in any doubt about whether your degree is a Qualifying Law Degree, please check with your institution or contact our Admissions team, admissions@law.ac.uk.

If you have a CPE/GDL or CILEx award, your qualification transcript should also list the foundation subjects listed above.

Your qualification transcript will be checked during the induction process at the University of Law and you must therefore ensure that you have the original copy of this prior to your induction day.

Useful links:

The Law Society website outlining the different routes to qualifying as a solicitor

http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/careers/becoming-a-solicitor/routes-to-qualifying/

SRA List of Qualifying Law Degree Providers

http://www.sra.org.uk/students/courses/qualifying-law-degree-providers.page

The University of Law’s Entry Requirements

http://www.law.ac.uk/postgraduate/postgraduate-entry-requirements/