

UCD Sutherland School of Law

General information on admission requirements of professional law bodies

This document provides guidance to students studying for law degrees concerning the requirements of various professional bodies for the solicitors' and barristers' professions in Ireland, England and Wales and Northern Ireland. The information provided constitutes our understanding of the various requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: It is YOUR responsibility to check any particular requirements in order to be able to pursue YOUR chosen professional path. In particular it should be noted that requirements may change from time to time and the professional bodies do not always notify us of such changes. Students interested in a pursuing a particular route to professional qualification should consult the website of the relevant professional body for further details.

If you are considering a career as a solicitor in Ireland:
Further information is available at www.lawsociety.ie

UCD Sutherland School of Law graduates are exempt from the Law Society of Ireland Preliminary Examination. You are **not** required to apply for exemption from the Preliminary Examination but you must provide a certified copy of your degree certificate when applying to sit the Final Examination - First Part (FE-1). The Law Society of Ireland does not recognise a qualifying degree in law and accordingly does not require applicants to have studied any particular subjects during their law degree as it sets its own examinations. The Law Society of Ireland requires all applicants to sit and pass examinations, as part of its entrance examination (final examination – first part FE-1) in the following subjects:

Law Society Examination

- Constitutional Law
- Law of Contract
- Law of Tort
- Company Law
- Criminal Law
- European Union Law
- Equity
- Real Property

Corresponding School of Law Modules

Constitutional Frameworks **AND** Constitutional Rights
Contract: Formation **AND** Contract: Vitiating Factors
Negligence and Related Matters **AND** Nominate Torts
Company Law I **AND** Company Law II
Criminal Liability **AND** Criminal Offences and Defences
EU Constitutional Law **AND** EU Economic Law
Equity **AND** Law of Trusts
Property Law I **AND** Property Law II

If you are considering a career as a barrister in Ireland:
Further information is available at www.kingsinns.ie

The King's Inns require intending barristers to:

- (a) hold a degree in Irish law which must contain passes in the following core subjects:

King's Inns Core Subject

- Company Law

Corresponding School of Law Modules

Company Law I **AND** Company Law II

- Administrative Law Administrative Law: Review **AND** Administrative Law: Remedies
- Law of the European Union EU Constitutional Law **AND** EU Economic Law
- Equity and Trusts Equity **AND** Law of Trusts
- Land Law Property Law I **AND** Property Law II
- Jurisprudence LAW30180 Jurisprudence

and (b) sit and pass an entrance examination comprising the following subjects:

Entrance Examination

- Irish Constitutional Law
- Law of Contract
- Law of Tort
- Criminal Law
- Law of Evidence

Corresponding School of Law modules

- Constitutional Frameworks **AND** Constitutional Rights
- Contract: Formation **AND** Contract: Vitiating Factors
- Negligence and Related Matters **AND** Nominate Torts
- Criminal Liability **AND** Criminal Offences and Defences
- Evidence: Foundations **AND** Evidence: Practice & Principles

If you are considering a legal career in England or Wales:
Further information is available (for solicitors) from the Solicitors Regulatory Authority
(www.sra.org.uk/students/academic-stage.page)
and for barristers from the Bar Standards Board
(www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualifying-as-a-barrister/academic-stage)

PLEASE NOTE: Regulations regarding required modules and exemptions may be subject to further changes, and, as the case may be, fees may be incurred for additional (i.e. not in the programme structure) modules.

Applicants for admission to the Legal Practice Course (solicitors) or the Bar Professional Training Course (barristers) must either pass the Common Professional Examination or have an approved law degree. Degrees offered outside England and Wales (e.g. UCD) are not recognised as qualifying law degrees for this purpose. However, the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has recently recognised that UCD Sutherland School of Law graduates who have successfully completed the modules listed below “**will have met the joint academic stage requirements and will be exempt from having to complete the Common Professional Examination**”. This will be reflected on the SRA website in due course.

Under a Joint Statement issued by the Law Society of England/Wales and the General Council of the Bar the conditions for the recognition of undergraduate law degrees are set out. These are:

- The course of study includes the study of legal subjects for the equivalent of not less than two years out of a three year or four year course of study, (for example, a student must gain not less than 120 credits in the study of legal subjects in a 180 or 240 credit degree programme) and
- The coverage of those legal subjects referred to in the professional bodies’ qualifying regulations as the Foundations of Legal Knowledge (FLK) must involve not less than one and a half years study i.e. the coverage of the Foundations shall amount to not less than 90 credits¹.
- The FLK are the key elements and general principles of the following areas of legal study:

¹ The SRA / BSB Joint Statement provides that other courses involving the study of aspects of the English legal system will be allowed to count towards the required 90 credits.

- 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;
- Equity and the Law of Trusts

FLK subject	Corresponding School of Law Modules
Public Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional Frameworks AND Constitutional Rights AND Administrative Law: Review AND Administrative Law: Remedies AND English Public Law
Law of the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Constitutional Law AND EU Economic Law
Obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract: Formation AND Contract: Vitiating Factors AND Negligence and Related Matters AND Nominated Torts
Criminal Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Liability AND Criminal Offences and Defences
Property Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Law I AND Property Law II AND English Land Law
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity
Law of Trusts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law of Trusts

The Bar Standards Board requires a minimum 2.2 honours degree. It will **NOT** normally accept passes by compensation in foundation subjects. The Bar Standards Board also requires applicants to pass a Bar Course Aptitude Test (BCAT).

Experience suggests that applicants to either of the England and Wales professional bodies are likely to be asked for detailed curricula in respect of each of the modules listed below as part of an application for exemption. Detailed module descriptors can be found online on the curriculum archive at the following link - www.ucd.ie/students/course_search.htm and the appendix to this document gives the relevant module codes.

If you are considering a career as a solicitor in Northern Ireland:

For further information see

[\(http://www.gub.ac.uk/schools/InstituteofProfessionalLegalStudies/\)](http://www.gub.ac.uk/schools/InstituteofProfessionalLegalStudies/)

Applicants for admission to the Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS) in Northern Ireland must possess an acceptable law degree, which must include passes in the following subjects:

IPLS Subject

Corresponding School of Law Modules

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|----------------------|--|
| • Constitutional Law | Constitutional Frameworks AND Constitutional Rights |
| • Law of Contract | Contract: Formation AND Contract: Vitiating Factors |

- Law of Tort Negligence and Related Matters **AND** Nominated Torts
- Criminal Law Criminal Liability **AND** Criminal Offences and Defences
- EU Law EU Constitutional Law **AND** EU Economic Law
- Equity Equity
- Law of Trusts Law of Trusts
- Land Law Property Law I **AND** Property Law II
- Law of Evidence* Evidence: Foundations **AND** Evidence: Practice & Principles

* The IPLS holds special examinations each year for trainees who have not studied Evidence

It is YOUR responsibility to ensure that you make appropriate choices to meet particular professional requirements noted above. You must take all modules required – so if there is an AND both modules are necessary to satisfy the particular requirement

Note for students on the following programmes:

BCL Law Maîtrise,
 BCL Law with French Law/History, Philosophy, Social Justice, Politics, Economics
 BCL Law and Chinese
 BBL
 Erasmus

1. Jurisprudence

The Kings Inns has indicated that they are able to accept **Jurisprudence** towards a qualifying degree where it is studied during the period of study in France. Students are advised to confirm this with Kings Inns in each case. This is of particular relevance to students on the **BCL/Maîtrise** programme, and **BCL or BBL** students selected for **Erasmus** study in stage 3.

2. Company Law I and II

Law with French Law/History/Philosophy/Social Justice/Politics/Economics

As Company Law is not core in stage 2 of your programme you are advised to take Company Law I and Company Law II as in-programme electives in Stage 2 if you wish to fulfil the Kings Inns requirements and/or to cover the subject-areas relevant to the Law Society's FE-1 examinations. This is particularly important for students studying abroad in stage 3 of their programme.

3. Law and Chinese Studies:

You will have the opportunity to study **Company Law I and II**, as optional subjects, in stage 4 of your programme.

4. BBL Students:

As **Company Law I & II** are core to stage 3 of the **BBL programme**, students studying abroad in Semester 2 of stage 3 will be required to take Company Law II as a Law option in semester 2 of Stage 4.

5. French Law programmes

The *additional* English law modules (English Land Law **AND** English Public Law) will be fee-paying.

*UCD Sutherland School of Law
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Appendix – Law module codes
(All modules are 5 ECTS)

LAW10050 Constitutional Frameworks
LAW10060 Constitutional Rights
LAW10340 Contract: Formation
LAW10350 Contract: Vitiating Factors
LAW10190 Negligence and Related Matters
LAW10200 Nominate Torts
LAW20090 Company Law I
LAW20170 Company Law II
LAW20330 EU Constitutional Law
LAW20340 EU Economic Law
LAW20370 Property Law I
LAW20380 Property Law II
LAW20390 Criminal Liability
LAW20400 Criminal Offences and Defences
LAW30060 Equity
LAW30230 Law of Trusts
LAW30180 Jurisprudence
LAW30070 Evidence: Foundations
LAW30160 Evidence: Practice & Principles
LAW37450 English Public Law
LAW30380 English Land Law