

UCD Sutherland School of Law
Masters in Common Law (MCL) Programme

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	Corresponding School of Law Modules
• Constitutional Law	Key Issues in Irish Public Law
• Law of Contract	Role of Contract Law in the 21 st Century
• Law of Tort	Role of Tort Law in the 21 st Century
• Company Law	Corporations in Society and the Law
• Criminal Law	Issues and Perspectives in Criminal Law
• European Union Law	Law in the EU: Theory & Practice
• Equity	Advanced Issues in Equity & Trusts
• Real Property	Property Law

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	Corresponding School of Law Modules
• Company Law	Corporations in Society and the Law

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| • Administrative Law | Public Law in Practice |
| • Law of the European Union | Law in the EU: Theory & Practice |
| • Equity and Trusts | Advanced Issues in Equity and Trusts |
| • Land Law | Property Law |
| • Jurisprudence | Jurisprudence |

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

- | Entrance Examination | Corresponding School of Law modules |
|-----------------------------|--|
| • Irish Constitutional Law | Key Issues in Irish Public Law |
| • Law of Contract | Role of Contract Law in the 21 st Century |
| • Law of Tort | Role of Tort Law in the 21 st Century |
| • Criminal Law | Issues & Perspectives in Criminal Law |
| • Law of Evidence | Evidence Law: Doctrine & Reality |

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.

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:
 - Public Law, including Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights;
 - Law of the European Union;
 - Criminal Law;

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.

- Obligations including Contract, Restitution and Tort;
- Property Law;
- Equity and the Law of Trusts

FLK subject

Corresponding School of Law Modules

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Law ● Law of the EU ● Obligations ● Criminal Law ● Property Law ● Equity ● Law of Trusts | } | <p>Key Issues in Irish Public Law AND
 Public Law in Practice AND English Public Law
 Law in the EU: Theory & Practice
 Role of Contract Law in the 21st Century AND
 Role of Tort Law in the 21st Century
 Issues and Perspectives in Criminal Law
 Property Law AND English Land Law
 Advanced Issues in Equity & Trusts</p> |
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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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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Constitutional Law ● Law of Contract ● Law of Tort ● Criminal Law ● EU Law ● Equity ● Law of Trusts ● Land Law ● Law of Evidence* | } | <p>Key Issues in Irish Public Law
 Role of Contract Law in the 21st Century
 Role of Tort Law in the 21st Century
 Issues and Perspectives in Criminal Law
 Law in the EU: Theory & Practice
 Advanced Issues in Equity & Trusts</p> <p>Property Law
 Evidence Law: Doctrine & Reality</p> |
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* 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

Appendix – Law module codes

(Majority of modules are 10 ECTS*)

LAW40740: Key Issues in Irish Public Law
LAW40800: Role of Contract Law in the 21st Century
LAW40770: Role of Tort Law in the 21st Century
LAW40900: Corporations in Society and the Law
LAW40820: Issues and Perspectives in Criminal Law
LAW40810: Law in the EU: Theory & Practice
LAW40890: Advanced Issues in Equity & Trusts
LAW40830: Property Law
LAW40910: Public Law in Practice
LAW40880: Evidence Law: Doctrine & Reality
LAW40920: Jurisprudence*
LAW37450 English Public Law*
LAW30380 English Land Law*

*5 credit modules