

Guernsey International Legal Association

Career opportunities in the legal sector for graduates

Who can practise law in Guernsey?

- Guernsey-qualified lawyers are called ‘Advocates’
- Fused role which combines elements of both English solicitors and English barristers
- However, non-Guernsey qualified lawyers are also permitted to practise in Guernsey so long as they are part of a firm (in fact, a majority of lawyers in Guernsey firms are qualified elsewhere!)
- Whether you choose to remain in Guernsey, or move elsewhere to qualify, you can always come back to Guernsey in the future

Graduate Routes to Qualification

Route	Eligibility	Process
Solicitor		
Solicitor Qualifying Exams (SQE)	Undergraduate degree in any subject	- Two sets of exams (MCQs and practical) - Not required to sit course first (but useful) - Two years' qualifying work experience
Barrister		
Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC)	Undergraduate degree in law OR Non-law degree and a graduate diploma in law	- Join an Inn of Court - One year course followed by exams - If practising in England, one year pupillage
Advocate		
Guernsey Bar Exams	Qualify as a barrister or solicitor in England & Wales, Northern Ireland, or Scotland	- Two sets of exams (Caen and bar exams) - One year pupillage

Opportunities for Graduates

- It's easier than ever to train as a lawyer in Guernsey
- Since the introduction of the SQE route, virtually all Guernsey firms now provide qualifying work experience
- The best way to become a trainee is by building up a relationship with a firm (in Guernsey or elsewhere)
- This can be via bursary schemes, work placements, or joining the firm as a paralegal (a non-qualified legal assistant)
- Even if you don't end up training at the firm, it will build experience and increase your chances with future employers

Guernsey or England.. or Elsewhere?

- There are many reasons why you might want to start your career in Guernsey or in England, or somewhere else entirely
- Generally, it's easier to move between common law systems (i.e. England, Scotland, Canada, Australia, South Africa) **OR** civil law systems (i.e. most of continental Europe)
- Generally, it's easier to move from onshore (i.e. England, Scotland, Canada) to offshore (i.e. Guernsey, Jersey, Cayman)
- Generally, onshore tends to have more high-profile matters and offshore tends to have better work-life balance