

# Careers at Hine Solicitors

Are you  
considering  
becoming a  
solicitor?





To succeed as a solicitor you will need to be a highly motivated and determined individual. Training to be a solicitor demands considerable commitment over a number of years. There are challenging exams and many solicitors finish their training with significant debts.

Despite the challenges, the rewards in becoming a solicitor are high. You will continue to receive intellectual stimulation; no two days will be the same; you will be working with other highly motivated people and there will be opportunities for career progression and skill development.

On qualification your career options are very varied, you do not have to necessarily work in a private practice or even as a solicitor. The skills that you develop in becoming qualified can be transferable to many different disciplines and businesses.

### **Routes to qualification with Hine Solicitors**

Hine Solicitors currently offer Periods of Recognised Training to graduates who have followed one of the two academic routes.

- The law graduate route
- The non-law graduate route

# Academic stages of training

## The law graduate route

Competition for places on law degree programmes is fierce. You will need a strong academic record with at least three good passes in any academic A Level subjects to get into some universities. You can choose to study full time, part time or by distance learning. You can apply for full-time study through UCAS which has a searchable database of courses offered by higher education institutions, including details of entrance requirements and information about the universities and colleges.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and the Bar Council are responsible for setting out the conditions a law degree course must meet in order to be termed a 'qualifying law degree', and you will find a list of institutions offering qualifying law degrees on the SRA website.

The foundations of legal knowledge form the academic stage of legal education and are compulsory for students seeking to enter the vocational stage of training.

Your qualifying law degree will involve studying the following foundation core subjects:

- Obligations (including contract, restitution and tort)
- Public law (including constitutional law, administrative law and Human Rights)

- Criminal law
- Property law
- Equity and the law of trusts
- Law of the European Union

You also will be expected to have appropriate expertise in legal research skills and the English Legal System.

A degree in law is incredibly useful whether or not you decide to continue with a career in law. A good law degree is evidence of high intellectual capacity, an ability to understand difficult concepts and to articulate arguments.

Once you have completed a traditional law degree the key stages are:

- Legal Practice Course – *one year full time/two years part time*
- A Period of Recognised Training – *two years full time*
- Admission to the roll of solicitors

Some law degrees now incorporate the Legal Practice Course and the Recognised Training which will make the period of study at University longer however ultimately this may be shorter than doing each element separately.

# Vocational stages of training

## The non-law graduate route

If you have completed a non-law degree and have decided to become a solicitor you must complete the academic stage of training which covers the foundation core subjects.

The key stages once you have completed your non-law degree are:

- Common Professional Examination /Graduate Diploma in law – *one year full time/two years part time*
- Legal Practice Course – *one year full time/two years part time*
- Period of Recognised Training incorporating the Professional Skills Course – *two years full time*
- Admission to the roll of solicitors

### **Common Professional Examination or Graduate Diploma in Law (CPE/GDL)**

Your application for this course will be assessed on academic merit. Details of the institutions offering these courses can be found on the SRA website.

## Legal practice course (LPC)

Once you have your degree and have obtained a certificate of completion of the academic stage of training, you will need to complete the LPC.

The LPC teaches the skills required to work in a solicitors' office and comprises of:

- Compulsory areas – business law and practice, property law and practice and civil/criminal litigation and advocacy.
- Core areas/pervasive areas – accounts, professional conduct, client care, European Union law, probate, revenue law and Human Rights.
- Skills areas – advocacy, interviewing and advising, practical legal research, problem solving, writing and drafting.
- Elective subjects – you must study three from a range of subjects including private and corporate client work

*Details of colleges and universities offering the LPC can be found on the SRA website.*

## **Period of Recognised Training**

*(formerly known as a training contract)*

Hine Solicitors are a training provider authorised by the Solicitors Regulation Authority to offer Periods of Recognised Training.

A Period of Recognised Training involves working as a trainee solicitor in a firm of solicitors or other organisation authorised to take trainees.

Most trainees undertake this training in private practice but you can train within local or central government, commerce and industry, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Magistrates' Court Service or other approved organisations.

## **Professional skills course (PSC)**

This is the final stage to becoming qualified as a solicitor and is normally undertaken during the Recognised Training. The PSC requires the equivalent of twenty days full-time attendance, building on the vocational training provided in the LPC and your Recognised Training.

It comprises of three core modules:

- Client care and professional standards
- Advocacy and communication skills
- Financial and business skills

You must also complete elective courses, of which no more than half may be by distance learning. You can choose from a range of subject areas.

## **Admission to the roll**

Once you have successfully completed your degree, LPC, PSC and your Recognised Training you can apply to join the roll of solicitors in England and Wales, which entitles you to practise as a solicitor.

## **What to expect at Hine Solicitors**

You will initially be employed on a probationary period and will be supervised and continually monitored to assess your suitability for Recognised Training.

Those wishing to pursue seats in our criminal departments will be expected to complete the Police Station Representatives Accreditation Scheme prior to being offered a Period of Recognised Training.

During your training you will have to complete seats in at least three departments, one of which must be non-contentious.

We currently offer seats in the following departments:

**Crown court | Magistrates court | Prison law | Residential property law | Family law | Wills & probate law**

Your Period of Recognised Training may take you to any of the firm's multiple offices. Candidates should note that they will be expected to work from more than one of the offices during their training.

### **What we are looking for**

Applicants should have a strong academic background with a minimum 2:1 degree and a Commendation or above on their Legal Practice Course.

We endeavour to structure the Recognised Training around each individual's long term career aspirations. Knowing which area of law that you may wish to practise in upon qualification will assist your application as we seek to employ trainees who will stay with the firm upon qualification.

### *How to apply*



Please email your CV and covering letter to [recruitment@hinesolicitors.com](mailto:recruitment@hinesolicitors.com)

Our website provides further details of opportunities at the firm. Due to the number of applications we receive we will only be able to respond to applicants who we would like to invite for an interview.

