

DRAFT - SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations [2017]

Annex 1: Regulations

May 2017

Draft SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations [2017]

Part 1 - Admission as a solicitor

Eligibility for admission

- 1.1 You will be eligible for admission as a *solicitor* if:
- (a) you have satisfactorily passed an assessment which is designed to assess your competence against the *prescribed* competences for *solicitors* and is conducted by an assessment organisation appointed by the *SRA* for the purpose;
 - (b) you hold a *degree* or qualifications or experience which the *SRA* is satisfied are equivalent to a *degree*;
 - (c) you have completed qualifying work experience which meets the requirements of regulation 2; and
 - (d) the *SRA* is satisfied as to your *character and suitability* to be a *solicitor*.

Qualifying work experience

- 2.1 Qualifying work experience must:
- (a) comprise experience of providing legal services which provides you the opportunity to develop the *prescribed* competences for *solicitors*;
 - (b) be of a duration of a total of at least two years full time or equivalent; and
 - (c) be carried out under an arrangement or employment with no more than four separate firms, educational institutions or other organisations.
- 2.2 In respect of each organisation under 2.1(c) above, you must arrange for confirmation in the *prescribed* form of the period of work experience carried out and that it provided you with the opportunity to develop some or all of the *prescribed* competences for *solicitors*, to be given by:
- (a) the organisation's *COLP*;
 - (b) a *solicitor* working within the organisation; or
 - (c) if neither (a) or (b) are applicable, a *solicitor*.

Eligibility for admission of qualified lawyers

- 3.1 You will be eligible for admission as a *solicitor* if:
- (a) you hold a legal professional qualification which confers rights to practise in England and Wales or in an overseas jurisdiction, that is recognised by the *SRA*; and
 - (b) subject to 3.2, you meet the criteria in 1.1(a), (b) and (d).
- 3.2 If the *SRA* is satisfied that your qualifications or experience demonstrate that you meet some or all of the *prescribed* competences, we may decide you are not required to pass the assessment under 1.1(a) or such parts of it as we consider appropriate.

Commencement

- 4.1 These regulations come into force on a date to be determined in an order made by the *SRA* Board and such an order may bring these regulations into force at different times for different purposes.

To note: these draft regulations form the first part of the wider Authorisation of Individuals Regulations and we will consult on the other parts of these draft regulations in Phase Two of our wider Handbook review.

Glossary for draft SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations [20XX]

Glossary term	Definition
degree	means a UK degree, awarded at level 6 (or above) of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, by a recognised degree-awarding body

To note: this Glossary covers only the new definition of "degree" which appears in the draft SRA Authorisation of Individuals Regulations [20XX]. Other defined terms in these draft regulations remain as set out in the SRA Handbook Glossary 2012.