Get ready for PGD Solicitors Training Course (SQE Prep)

Introduction

Welcome to the Solicitors Training Course! We are here to help you prepare for the Solicitors Qualifying Examinations (SQE), the passing of which is an essential step in qualifying as a solicitor.

From 1 September, you will be registered on Blackboard which will be our means of communication with you as a cohort and will provide you with access to the teaching materials and additional resources.

The course will begin with an Induction Day on 1 September, when you will be required to attend campus for introductory lectures, to meet the teaching team and to collect your books. You will begin with four weeks of online self-study, with access to tutors during that period to answer your queries. During this period, you will need to attend campus on Monday mornings for further introductory lectures. Face to face teaching will begin in the last week of September. The teaching sessions will be on campus every Monday and Tuesday.

We are a team of dedicated current and former practitioners who will support you throughout the course. We are very much looking forward to meeting you all.

Dr Zainab Bakari
Programme Leader

Before you start

Teaching

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 1 September for the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practice the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website with more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the enrolment process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about enrolment, Starting Block and the start of teaching on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise

yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Enrolment

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can enrol. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Enrolment for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Enrolment website.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive your login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Engage with your programme

Read around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the Library web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Solicitors Training Course ("STC") suggested reading list

This is a suggested reading list in advance of starting the course. It is **not** a requirement to read everything on the list but it is designed to introduce you to the SQE syllabus and topic areas we will be covering on the course. You may wish to use the guidance to brush up on your existing legal knowledge or explore new topic areas.

For SQE 1 we are covering a range of subjects which cover "black letter law" studied by those undertaking an LLB or the GDL, plus practice-based subjects which are covered on the LPC.

The black letter law subjects are:

- Public Law (constitutional & admin law, Legal Systems)
- Contract
- Tort
- Land Law
- Trusts
- Criminal Law

These 6 topics will be the focus of your online learning throughout September. You will receive guidance and access to materials to structure your learning, which will be followed

up with teaching sessions from the last week of September to consolidate your learning and to practice some MCQs. The focus will then shift to the practice-based topics (see below).

You will be provided with some textbooks on the course. This will include 12 titles from the University of Law SQE prep books (Business Law & Practice, Dispute Resolution, Contract, Tort, Constitutional & Admin, Land, Legal Services, Property Practice, Wills & Admin of Estates, Land, Trusts & Criminal Law). In addition, you will receive the full range of OUP SQE e-books.

To get you going with the basic legal concepts, you may wish to do some reading in advance. Here is a list of the books we recommend to our GDL students:

- Smith Hogan and Omero, Essentials of Criminal Law 4th edn
- Blackstones's Statutes on Criminal Law 2022/2023
- Horsley K & Rackley E, Kidner's Casebook on Torts 15th edn
- Gilliker P, Tort 7th edn
- Foster & Ryan Unlocking Constitutional & Administrative Law 4th edn
- Blackstone's Statutes on Public Law & Human Rights 2022/23
- Steiner & Woods EU Law 14th edn
- Blackstone's EU Treaties & Legislation 2022/23
- Blackstone's Statutes on Contract Tort & Restitution 2022/23
- Merkin R & Severine Saintier, Poole's Text Book on Contract Law 15th edn
- Merkin R & Severine Saintier, Poole's Casebook on Contract Law 15th edn
- MacKenzie & Phillips Textbook on Land Law 18th edn
- Maudsley & Burn's Land Law Cases & Materials 9th edn
- Blackstone's Statutes on Property Law 2022/23

Two other books which are worth a look are:

- Albon, E. & Kaur Dua, S. *Elliot & Quinn's English Legal System* (Pearson: 2020/2021)
- *Megarry & Wade on the Law of Real Property (9th ed)* (Sweet & Maxwell: 2019)

Warning 1! Don't try to read all these books cover to cover but use them to come to grips with the basic concepts in line with the SQE syllabus (see below).
Warning 2! Law books are expensive and become out of date very quickly. Ideally, seek to borrow books from a law library or friends/legal contacts. If you wish to buy, see if you can find the most recent edition on Ebay (for example).

The practice-focused subjects we are covering are:

- Criminal Practice
- Dispute Resolution
- Property Law & Practice
- Business Law & Practice
- Wills & Administration of Estates
- Legal Services & Solicitors Accounts

We will be focusing on these areas (which are the "LPC type" topics) in the teaching sessions from the end of September onwards. It is therefore recommended that you focus any pre-reading on the black letter law subjects above as this will set you up for the practice focused subjects which is more about application of your basic legal knowledge.

In order to focus some of your reading, take a look at the SQE 1 Syllabus:

https://sqe.sra.org.uk/exam-arrangements/assessment-information/sqe1-assessment-specification-september-2023

You might find looking at this a little overwhelming at this stage, but it will give you an idea of the topic areas we will need to cover.

More information will be provided before the start of the course, but the above is designed to give you a global overview and perhaps a starting point for those who wish to get ahead over the summer.

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE webpage for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications. For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

International students

The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the programme, please contact the Bristol Law School Student & Programme Support Team at law.sps@uwe.ac.uk

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026