

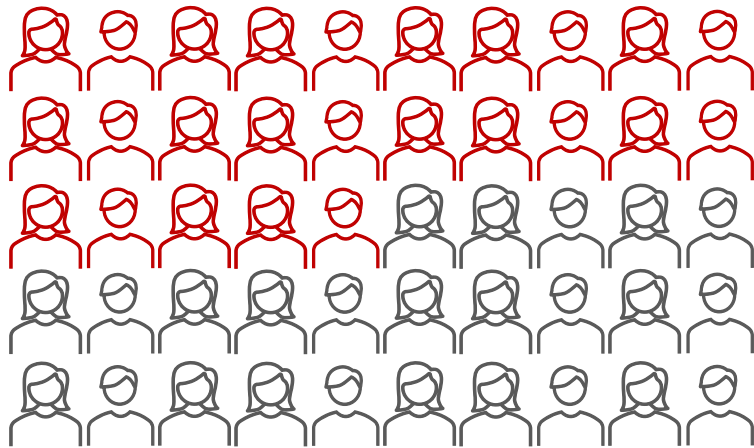
SQE: Four years on

Julie Swan, Director of Education

Candidate success

SQE1

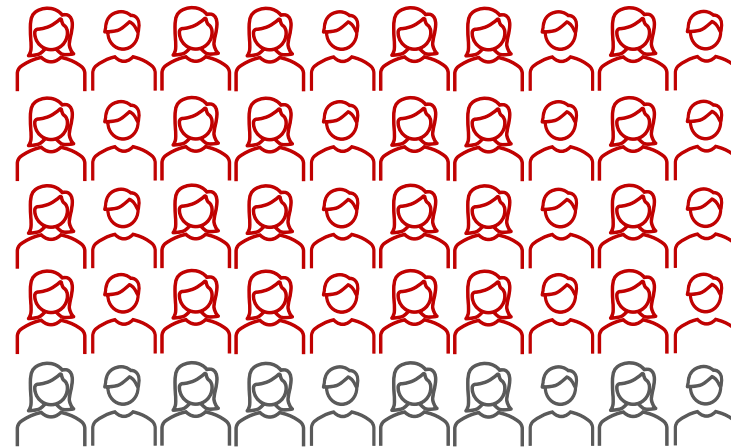
Passed by **19,281** candidates:
66.1% of those entered
54.3% passed on their first attempt



Passed on their first attempt

SQE2

Passed by **9,986** candidates:
81.4% of those entered
79.7% passed on their first attempt

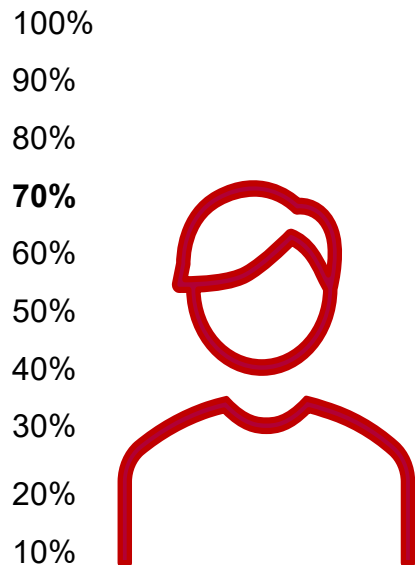


Passed on their first attempt

Solicitor apprentices' success

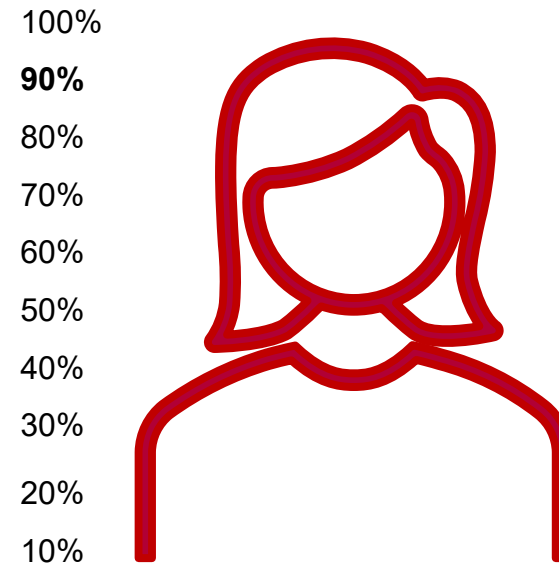
SQE1

1,337 solicitor apprentices
have passed
70.5% pass rate



SQE2

684 solicitor apprentices have
passed
91.7% pass rate



SQE route admissions

A total of 8,058 people have qualified as a solicitor under the SQE route

SQE: four years on

Compliance Officers Conference 2025

For what comes next
tlt.com



Legal Apprenticeships

Level 7 Solicitor Apprenticeship

A six-year, Level 7 programme combining work and study.

Leads to qualification as a solicitor via the SQE route.

Level 5 Advanced Paralegal

A two-year programme that could be a progression route to L7.

Level 3 Paralegal

A two-year programme that could be a progression route to L5 or L7.

Funding Overview

- The new Growth and Skills Levy replaces the previous apprenticeship levy
- Levy applies to employers with £3 million+ annual payroll and it covers
- Non-levy paying firms can access 95% government co-funding. This makes apprenticeships financially viable for firms of all sizes.
- It covers:
 - Training provider fees
 - SQE preparation and exams
- It does not cover:
 - Apprentice salaries

Benefits

- Ability to grow and train a new generation of lawyers.
 - Allows us to develop lawyers who are well-versed in the firm's strategy, culture and values.
 - Apprenticeships benefit both the individual and the firm:
 - For apprentices, it's a chance to build confidence, earn a salary, and work towards a recognised qualification, all while contributing to the success of the firm.
 - For the firm, apprentices bring fresh perspectives, new energy, and innovative ideas, contributing to long-term growth.
 - Apprentices allow us to increase access to a career in law and therefore increases diversity within our future lawyers by providing alternative routes into the profession, making it accessible to a broader range of candidates.
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L7 Funding Reforms

- From Jan 2026, funding restricted to apprentices aged 16–21 (or 16–25 with EHCP or care leaver status)
 - Existing apprentices funded to completion
 - Risk to graduate and mature candidates
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