

SRA INFORMATION – CHANGES TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING REGULATIONS

The SRA has recently put in place proposals to simplify the training regulations.

These proposals have resulted in the removal of the requirement for students:

- (a) to apply for a Certificate of Completion of the Academic Stage of Training; and
- (b) to enrol with the SRA prior to commencing the LPC.

What follows is an explanation of the impact of these changes. **Please note that they could impact considerably upon you and it is your responsibility to ensure that you understand your revised obligations in respect of the LPC.**

If you are in any doubt about how these changes affect you, please consult the SRA's website (www.sra.org.uk).

1. Certificate of Completion of the Academic Stage of Training ("CAST")

In order to study on the LPC, you are required to hold a Qualifying Law Degree ("QLD") or a CPE / GDL qualification.

You will no longer be issued by the SRA with a CAST demonstrating this fact.

If you are a law graduate, it is now your responsibility to satisfy Nottingham Trent University that you possess a QLD. Suitable evidence might be your original transcript of marks or your degree certificate. However, if neither of these states explicitly that your degree is a QLD, you must obtain a letter from your awarding institution to confirm this fact.

If you are in any doubt about the status of your law degree, please check with your awarding institution for written confirmation of the same.

You will be required to produce evidence of the status of your law degree to Nottingham Trent University on enrolment, so please ensure that you take steps to obtain suitable evidence as soon as possible. Failure to provide such evidence may result in your having to withdraw from the course, due to ineligibility, with a corresponding loss of fees already paid.

If you hold a CPE or GDL award, you will need to produce evidence of your award on enrolment.

It may be the case, however, that you were awarded a CAST under the previous regime; if so, you will already have suitable confirmation of completion of the academic stage.

2. Student Enrolment

You no longer need to enrol as a student member of the SRA before enrolling on the LPC. This means that issues relating to your character and suitability to be a solicitor will not automatically be addressed by the SRA at this point, but at a later stage.

Please note the following guidance from the SRA about this:

"We do, however, require disclosure to us of issues relating to character and suitability before a trainee commences a period of recognised training, and again on admission as a solicitor. If an individual does have character and suitability issues to assess, they should apply to us at least six months before they start training, to avoid any delays. Training cannot commence until the assessment has taken place.

Students who have character and suitability issues may want an early assessment, before they embark on the CPE or LPC, and we have retained the power to undertake these early assessments."

Therefore, if you believe that you have any issues which may affect your admission onto a training contract or as a solicitor, we would strongly recommend that you raise them as a matter of priority with the SRA under the early assessment regime described above **before enrolling on the LPC.**

Nottingham Trent University cannot accept responsibility for any loss you may suffer if you subsequently discover, either during or after your LPC, that character or suitability issues will prevent your admission either onto a training contract or onto the roll of solicitors.

Nottingham Law School