



PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COURSE 2022

BESPOKE TRAINING FOR FUTURE LEGAL LEADERS

#becomingasolicitor





PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Joining the solicitor profession provides the opportunity for an unrivalled dynamic, stimulating and varied career. The law permeates every aspect of modern life, from the world of business, finance and technology right through to the most deeply personal employment and family law matters. Being part of the solicitors' profession provides a privileged access to each of these worlds and enables career opportunities that are as diverse and complex as the society the profession serves.

The route to becoming a solicitor involves commitment, examinations and professional training. In return, solicitors enjoy rewarding work and the opportunity to contribute to the community, along with a good starting salary and excellent long-term career prospects.

The new Professional Practice Course (PPC) is a unitary course which brings together into one academic year the entire taught elements of the solicitor training, thus providing significant logistical and practical advantages to trainees and firms. It is designed specifically to equip trainee solicitors with extensive future-focused legal knowledge, innovation and technical skills. The new PPC is built around our four pillars of professional development, namely legal knowledge and analytical thinking; skills; professional responsibility; and psychological development.

The legal sector is facing an era of opportunity as it expands into new and emerging areas of practice and at the same time incorporates technological innovations to deliver cutting edge client service. This new era has emerged against a backdrop of a profound range of evolving social, political, technological, and environmental factors. The reimagined PPC is a unique educational offering, providing essential and modern skills to develop the next generation of solicitors capable of innovating and collaborating together to address current and future global legal needs. By anticipating and responding to these changes and by combining digital technologies with legal services and business acumen, this new PPC offers trainees the skills necessary to be the legal and business leaders of the future.



START DATE

Tuesday
06 September
2022





APPROACH TO LEARNING

To address both the current and future skills needs of the legal sector and allied fields, the new PPC focuses on the employability of the trainee solicitors through instruction on transversal skills and competencies in project management, leadership, enterprise, risk management, collaborative problem solving, change management and innovation.

The programme's distinguished teaching faculty will take trainees through real-life case studies, team-based exercises,

and small group discussions to build a detailed understanding of the tools, methodologies and frameworks needed to succeed in the legal sector.

Our teaching team includes internationally renowned lawyers and industry leaders. From a teaching and learning perspective, we incorporate active learning techniques with a mix of group based and individual course work to ensure trainees hone their analytical, conceptual and critical thinking skills. The new PPC will also make greater use of skills

workshops as well as problem-based and transactional learning.

Interactive small-group tutorials provide opportunities for engagement and encourages peer-to-peer learning through an exchange of thoughts, ideas, and perspectives. Through amplifying their leadership skills and a higher level of peer-to-peer collaboration, trainee solicitors will learn how to leverage innovation to better serve their clients in the ever-changing legal service market.



CORE CURRICULUM

TIMELINE: SEPTEMBER 2022 – APRIL/MAY 2023

The aim of the new PPC is to enable trainees to acquire and develop the knowledge and skills to become a successful solicitor. The syllabus covers the following core subjects:

- **Skills:** which includes a continued focus on such skills as negotiations, research, drafting, advocacy, interviewing and advising and presentation skills; together with an enhanced focus on more general skills such as leadership, project management, office and legal technology, and finance skills
- **Professional responsibility:** which will include enhanced coverage of legal ethics, solicitors' accounts and rules of professional conduct and law firm life
- **Business law**
- **Dispute resolution**
- **Land law**
- **Probate**
- **Family law**
- **Taxation**
- **Psychology of a lawyer**
- **Legal Practice Irish**



ASSESSMENT

Trainees will have the opportunity to engage in multiple modes of formative assessment across the PPC that are capable of evaluating the diverse range of competencies required by an adaptive modern practitioner, including open-book summative assessment and forms of formative assessment.



ADVANCED ELECTIVES

TIMELINE: MAY 2023 – JUNE/JULY 2023*

A programme of advanced electives will be provided (i) by the Law Society, (ii) some will be co-provided and (iii) external advanced electives will also be accredited. To provide guidance to external providers and to ensure consistency across all offerings, the Law Society will publish in good time specific criteria for all advanced electives. Our commitment, as always, is to enhance the skills and career opportunities of trainee solicitors. We strive to do this by providing a diverse range of advanced electives that cover core areas for every solicitor's practice, together with more niche innovative topics including topics outside the strictly legal domain. Trainees will have the opportunity to complete four or more advanced electives as part of their overall legal training.

Advanced electives can also be trainee led, with for example trainees having the scope to request that specific law and even non-law related activities such as participating in moot and skills competitions, publishing a substantive piece of legal research or participating in a public legal education initiative, to be approved as an advanced elective. The criteria for approval of such trainee led advanced electives will be the same as all other advanced electives (see above) and also trainees can request to rely on any number of such advanced electives.

Advanced electives can be completed immediately following the completion of the compulsory element of the PPC, or, alternatively, some or all of the advanced electives can be completed during the in-office training period. Certification will be provided for each advanced elective completed. While non-LSI advanced electives are permitted, the trainee needs to make sure that the elective/provider has been accredited by LSI for that purpose.

A list of advanced electives will be available to trainees on enrolment to the PPC.

** Alternative timeframes will apply for those undertaking the new PPC Hybrid, which will commence in December 2022.*

NEW PPC: LIST OF POTENTIAL ADVANCED ELECTIVES

- Advanced Dispute Resolution
- Advanced Legal Practice Irish
- Advanced Probate & Tax
- Aviation, Leasing & Finance
- Banking Law
- Business Awareness
- Capital Markets for Lawyers
- Child Law
- Clinical Negligence & Claim Resolution
- Company Secretarial
- Commercial Contracts
- Communication Skills
- Commercial & Complex Property Transactions
- Corporate Transactions
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Criminal Litigation
- Data Protection
- Disability Law
- District Court Advocacy
- Employment Law
- Enforcement for Public Bodies
- Environmental Law & Climate Change
- Finance for Lawyers
- Financial Services Regulation
- Future of Lawyering in the Digital World
- Human Rights
- Investment Funds
- Insolvency
- The Post-Pandemic Lawyer: Developing yourself from the Inside Out
- Presentation Skills
- Project Management
- Sports Law



IN-OFFICE TRAINING

The two years (24 months) of in-office training continues as a vital and essential vocational component of the overall training to become a solicitor. The in-office training period commences 14 days after the last exam on core curriculum of the new PPC. During this period, the training solicitor is required to provide the trainee solicitor with experience in three distinct areas of law to include both contentious and non-contentious matters. The knowledge of the solicitor's profession, its governance and ethical standards combined with the practical skills gained in the new PPC will be directly applied during the subsequent traineeship. Solicitors who take on the important role of training solicitor play a key part in the solicitor training process and help the trainee solicitors relate to the profession they are aspiring to enter. Trainee solicitors will continue to be entitled to potentially benefit from four months' credit for in-office training occurring prior to commencing the PPC. (Enhanced credit period of an additional five months' credit for in-office training occurring during the PPC Hybrid will continue to potentially apply for those trainee solicitors undertaking the PPC Hybrid option.)





DISABILITY SUPPORTS & SERVICES

We are committed to providing an equal opportunities learning environment, which meets the specific and diverse needs of all of our learners. The needs of the student population are varied, and the supports are tailored to each student. No one size fits all, and a variety of suites of services are available, based on trainee needs. This includes support for trainees with visual impairments and the use of technology tools for students who have found it difficult to take notes due to dysgraphia, dyspraxia, or dyslexia. With regards to assessment, trainees with disabilities are supplied with the resources they need to allow them to properly showcase their knowledge and skills, and to ensure that their disability does not have an impact on exam performance.

Further information on disability support and services is available on our website:
www.lawsociety.ie/becomingasolicitor



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The criteria for entry to the PPC is as follows:

- Passed the Final Examination – First Part (FE1).
- Secured a suitable (practising) solicitor to act as a training solicitor.



FEES & FUNDING

Core Course (from September to April/May) provisional fee: €10,500

Advanced electives provisional fee:

The provisional fee for advanced electives undertaken with the Law Society is €600 for each course. However trainees choosing to take multiple advanced electives with the Law Society will benefit from discounts.

Fee Structure	1 Advanced Elective	2 Advanced Electives	3 Advanced Electives	4 Advanced Electives
Advanced Elective Fee(€600 each)	€600	€1,200	€1,800	€2,400
Discount	€0	€132	€306	€744
Percentage Discount	0%	11.0%	17.0%	31.0%
Advanced Elective Fees including Discount	€600	€1,068	€1,494	€1,656

You can also apply for the following funding:

- Access Scholarship
- Bursary Scheme
- Dublin Solicitors Bar Associations Grant
- Small Practice Traineeship Grant

Further information on funding and support is available on our website:

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Distinguished School

Recognised by Apple as a distinguished school for continuous innovation in learning, teaching, and the school environment.