Training contracts FAQs

Thinking about applying for a training contract with Slade Legal? Taking the next step towards a career in law is an exciting opportunity, and we want to make the application process as straightforward as possible. This page answers some of the most frequently asked questions about our trainee recruitment programme, including eligibility, how to apply, what we're looking for and what you can expect from your training with Slade Legal.

What are your programme dates for 2027?

- **31 January 2027:** Deadline for applications.
- **March 2027:** Invitations for assessment day and interviews to go out to candidates.
- **28 April 2027:** Assessment day and interviews take place.
- **May 2027:** Final recruitment decisions are made and communicated.
- **6 September 2027:** Training contracts commence.

How many positions do you offer each year?

We appoint two trainee solicitors each year.

Do you review applications as they are submitted?

No. All applications will be reviewed once the application deadline has passed.

We recommend submitting your application well in advance of the closing date to allow time to resolve any potential technical issues.

Can I reapply if I've been unsuccessful before?

Yes. We understand that securing a training contract is a competitive process, but an unsuccessful application doesn't mean the opportunity won't be right for you in the future. We welcome applicants to apply again and would encourage you not to be discouraged. Use the experience as an opportunity to build on your skills, gain further experience and strengthen your application. We would be delighted to hear from you again.

What is the recruitment process for a training contract application?

1. Application form
Submit your application form and CV.

2. Assessment day
Our assessment day is an opportunity for us to get to know you better and for you to find out more about Slade Legal, our people and the work we do. It will be an in person day, here with us in Oxfordshire including interviews with a partner and/or department heads.

You can expect a friendly and welcoming environment where we will be looking to understand your skills, strengths, personality and potential.

We will also give you the opportunity to meet members of our team, ask questions and find out more about what it's like to train with Slade Legal.

We want you to feel comfortable being yourself, so there is no need to feel overly nervous. We are interested in getting to know you as an individual and understanding what you could bring to our firm.

I require adjustments during the recruitment process. Who should I contact?

If you require any adjustments or additional support during the application or interview process, please email Slade Legal directly.

We will be happy to discuss your individual requirements and make reasonable adjustments to help ensure you feel comfortable, supported and able to demonstrate your abilities throughout the recruitment process.

EMAIL US >

I am neurodivergent. What support is available?

At Slade Legal, we want all applicants to feel comfortable, supported and able to demonstrate their abilities throughout the recruitment process.

We are happy to discuss individual requirements and make reasonable adjustments where appropriate to help you perform at your best. If you would like to discuss any support or adjustments, please contact us before your interview or assessment day.

We are committed to creating an inclusive and supportive working environment and will also discuss any workplace adjustments you may need as part of your training contract.

Please email Slade Legal directly.

EMAIL US >

SQE and funding

Slade Legal will cover the cost of the SQE2 examination. However, any additional training or preparation courses, textbooks or study materials required to support the trainee's preparation will need to be funded by the trainee. The cost of any resits will also be the responsibility of the trainee.

How are trainee seats allocated?

Trainees at Slade Legal will gain experience across a range of our legal practice areas, helping them develop a broad understanding of the profession and the different services we provide to our clients.

We encourage trainees to discuss their interests and career aspirations with their supervisors when considering their training experience. We aim to provide a varied and rewarding experience while taking into account the needs of the business and the opportunities available within each department.

We encourage all trainees to approach their training with an open mind, making the most of the opportunity to develop new skills, explore different areas of law and discover where their particular strengths and interests lie.

The training programme will consist of four six-month seats, providing experience across different departments and offices. Trainees will complete four of the five available seats: Commercial, Family, Litigation, Private Client and Residential Property. Seat allocations will take into account trainee preferences, available capacity and business needs, with priority given to trainees entering the second year of their training programme.

Do you give preferential treatment to internal applicants?

No. All applicants, whether internal or external, are assessed through the same recruitment process and against the same selection criteria to ensure a fair and consistent approach.