

**APPLICATIONS UNDER REGULATION 8(5)
of the
SOLICITORS ADMISSION AND TRAINING REGULATIONS 1988
(as amended)**

Regulation 8(5): Special Qualification and or Experience.

We enclose an extract of the Regulation, together with a copy of the EF4 Application Form Under Regulation 8(5). We also attach a copy of the judgement in the case of *Burns*. We would refer to page 6 where the then Lord Chief Justice stated that

"it should require a truly exceptional case to be established before [the Society] should allow registration under Regulation 8(5)."

The Education Committee no longer asks that applicants under Regulation 8(5) have attained 30 years of age.

Core Law Subjects

Please note if you do not have the Core Law Subjects you will be required to successfully complete these subjects before starting a course at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS).

Details of the Core Subjects and entrance requirements can be found on the IPLS website, as follows:

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/InstituteofProfessionalLegalStudies/Admissions/>

Closing Date for Applications

Any person who wishes to make such application with a view to admission to the solicitors' vocational training course at the Institute commencing in January 2025 (apprenticeship starting September 2024) will have to lodge an application with the Society no later than **Friday 12th April 2024 at 5:00pm**.

Any applications received after this date and/or time will be considered for the next vocational training course for solicitors, which would be due to start in **January 2026** (apprenticeship starting **September 2025**).

Further Notes

Once applications are received, the applications are added to the agenda for the next available Education Committee meeting. The papers are considered by the Committee. You may be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee for interview.

If your application is successful and you are "recommended" as a student under Regulation 8(5) you will follow the same training as other apprentices, namely an integrated course at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies combined with in-office training. You have the option of a three-year apprenticeship – attending the Institute course on a part time basis and taking two years to complete it. It is three years in total.

If your application is unsuccessful you may apply to the Appellate Committee of the Society to review the decision of the Education Committee.

Payment

A fee of £150 should be paid by BACS. Please note this payment must be made in sterling, not its equivalent in another currency. The bank details are below:

Name: The Law Society of Northern Ireland

Bank: Danske Bank

Sort Code: 95-01-21

Account no: 00388025

Please send a remittance to accounts@lawsoc-ni.org and registration@lawsoc-ni.org when you have made the transfer.

Please ensure you use the following reference format: ADMISSIONS_YOURNAME Your application cannot be processed until payment has been received.