



# Lawyers training systems in the EU

## Scotland

Information provided by: **Faculty of Advocates**

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### DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM FOR LAWYERS in Scotland

#### 1. Access to the Profession

Higher education / university education	YES
A law degree is compulsory	YES
Steps to becoming a fully-fledged lawyer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration with the Bar</li> <li>• Examination (Organised by the Bar)</li> <li>• Assessment of candidate by the Bar or by a committee established by the Bar</li> <li>• Completion of an induction period</li> </ul>
Alternative routes to the profession:	<p>NO</p> <p>One can only become an advocate having first been a solicitor.</p>

#### 2. Training during induction period

Is there an induction period?	YES	Legal basis: <a href="#">Regulation as to Intrans</a> (published by the Faculty of Advocates)
Compulsory	YES	Set length: 9 months

Types of structures responsible for organising induction training	The Scottish Bar	
Form of induction training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticeship supervised by a private practice</li> <li>• Apprenticeship supervised by the Scottish Bar</li> <li>• Training on legal professional skills</li> <li>• Practical instruction known as <b>devilling</b>, during which Intrants benefit from intensive structured training in the special skills of advocacy</li> </ul> <p>See also <a href="#">Regulations as to Intrants</a></p>	
Entrance exam / check before induction period	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check/verification of diploma (submit a copy of LLB degree transcript)</li> <li>• Entrance exam</li> <li>• Others (check academic transcripts, references from 2 people, criminal convictions, covering letter for matriculation as an Ingrant)</li> </ul>
Set curriculum during induction period	YES	<b>Subjects covered:</b> Evidence, practice and protocol, advocacy skills
Specificities regarding EU law and linguistic training:	No EU law sessions No linguistic training	
Induction period divided into different stages	YES Intrants follow compulsory courses and assessments in advocacy skills, as well as civil and criminal practical training with members of the Bar.	
Post-induction period assessment / exam	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through written exams</li> <li>• Through oral exams</li> </ul>
<b>3. Continuous training system</b>		
Differentiation between continuous training / specialisation training	NO	
Obligations regarding continuous training	YES	Compulsory training obligations as stated in the internal regulations of the Scottish Bar (All practising members are required to complete a minimum of <b>10 hours of accredited continuing professional development (CPD)</b> in each calendar year, by attendance at courses, conferences, symposia and similar events organised by training providers accredited for the purpose by the Director of Training & Education.)

		<p>Legal basis:</p> <p>Continuing Professional Development Scheme (CPD):</p> <p><a href="http://www.advocates.org.uk/profession/devscheme.html">http://www.advocates.org.uk/profession/devscheme.html</a></p>
Obligations regarding specialization training	NO	There is no specialisation scheme for Scottish Advocates.
Obligations regarding learning foreign languages	No obligations	
Obligations regarding EU law content in relation to continuous / specialization training?	No obligations	
<b>4. Accreditation systems and training providers</b>		
Possibility for accreditation	<p>YES (only for CPD training)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• of training courses</li> <li>• of national training providers</li> <li>• of training providers from all member states</li> </ul>	
Number of training providers offering continuous training activities	Between 21 and 50	
Type of training providers developing accredited continuous training activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Bar</li> <li>• Accredited private commercial training provider (incl. law firms)</li> <li>• Accredited private or public non-for profit training provider (incl. universities, foundations)</li> <li>• Non-accredited private commercial training provider</li> <li>• Non-accredited private or public non-for-profit training provider</li> </ul>	
Number of training providers organizing training in preparation for specialization	Between 21 and 50	
Type of training providers developing accredited training activities in preparation for specialization	Not applicable	

Activities and methods		
Type of training activities accepted under the obligations of continuous or specialization training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending face to face training sessions</li> <li>• Completing distance training sessions</li> <li>• Completing e-learning modules</li> <li>• Watching a webinar</li> <li>• Attending training conferences</li> <li>• Participating in training activities as trainer or teacher</li> <li>• Writing/Publishing</li> </ul>	Participation in training activities in another Member States: Yes, it may count towards continuous training obligations.
5. Supervision of training activities		
Organizations involved in supervising continuous training activities	YES	The <b>Scottish Bar</b> is engaged in the supervision or assessment of accredited courses in continuous training
Supervision process	<p>The supervision process includes assessment of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality of contents</li> <li>• The quality of training methods</li> </ul> <p>Regarding <b>CPD</b> training, practising advocates must declare that they have completed a <b>minimum of 10 hours</b> of accredited <b>continuing professional development (CPD)</b> in each calendar year (see above “Obligations regarding continuous training”)</p>	
Organizations involved in supervising training activities towards specialization	N/A	There are no formal specialisations for advocates in Scotland.
Supervision process	Not applicable	
6. National reform of training system		
No reform plans at this time.		

Source: Pilot Project – European Judicial Training: “Lot 2 – Study on the state of play of lawyers training in EU law”, carried out by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) and the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)