

Careers within Roythornes

Roythornes is a commercial practice with a strong focus on agriculture and rural estates, the food sector and commercial property. We have ambitious plans for growth, but to realise them we need the right people. We see our trainees as our future partners, so if you are looking to start your career in a supportive environment, with high profile and good quality work, we have plenty to offer.

Since its beginnings in Lincolnshire over 75 years ago, Roythornes has developed beyond its historic East Midlands heartland. We act for clients across the country and sit comfortably among the UK's top 200 law firms. Our people work out of four offices: Spalding, Peterborough, Nottingham and Newmarket.



We take an active, hands-on and long-term approach, getting to know our clients and their businesses over many years. That means we can anticipate and deal with complex and challenging issues that really matter - not just to the success of the businesses themselves but to the wellbeing of the families that depend on them.

Many of our 23 partners trained with us. That has been one of the keys to our success and we aim to continue to grow organically, while bringing in additional expertise where needed to meet our strategic goals.

Your training with us will be led by the partners. They take a practical, positive approach to nurturing new talent and will give you the chance to take on responsibility quickly.

As you would expect, we are looking for people with proven intellectual ability, a commercial approach, excellent interpersonal skills and, most of all, the drive to exceed our clients' expectations. In return, we offer competitive salaries and the chance to grow with us.

We regularly feature in the Legal 500, in particular for our skills in the agricultural sector, where we have been a consistently 'first tier' firm. Other teams are also mentioned for their work, including our commercial property team: **"Roythornes is a 'ten-out-of-ten' firm for property matters. (Legal 500 2012)"**

We also feature in the Lex 100 as one of the top 100 places in the UK to train to be a lawyer. <http://www.lex100.com/index.php/roythornes-llp>



A great emphasis is placed on development of individuals and giving them room to grow. Our commitment to the future is total, and our recently launched in house 'agri-academy', a two year training programme, is ensuring that the knowledge of some of our most experienced people is passed throughout the firm.

Planning for your future

Routes to becoming a Solicitor

There are currently 3 routes to becoming a solicitor:

- **The law graduate route**
- **The non-law graduate route**
- **The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) route**



The law graduate route

The majority of solicitors qualify by this route. The key stages are:

- Degree in law (3 years)
- Legal Practice Course (1 year)
- Practice-based training incorporating a Professional Skills Course (2 years) minimum

Degree in Law

Your law degree will usually involve studying the following foundation subjects:

- Obligations including contract, restitution and tort
- Criminal law
- Equity and the law of trusts
- Law of European Union
- Property law
- Public law including constitutional, administrative and human rights

Legal Practice Course (LPC)

After your degree you then must take the Legal Practice Course, which ensures you have the skills you need to work in a solicitor's office. You can take this stage as a full or part-time course. For full-time courses, you should apply to the Legal Practice Course Central Applications Board. For part-time courses, you should contact the academic institutions direct.

Practice-based training

Before qualifying, you will need to undertake practice-based training which can be undertaken full-time over two years or part-time over a longer period.

Most training is undertaken in private practice, but you can train within local and central government, commerce and industry, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Magistrates' Court Service. Competition for practice-based training is great and you should start applying in the second year of your undergraduate studies.

Practice-based training enables you to apply the skills and knowledge you have gained. You may have the opportunity to handle your own cases, see clients and carry out many of the responsibilities of a solicitor. Your work will be closely supervised and regularly reviewed.

During this training you will also undertake a formal Professional Skills Course.

Admission to the roll

Once you have successfully completed your degree, Legal Practice Course, Professional Skills Course and practice-based training, you can apply to the roll of solicitors in England and Wales, which entitles you to practice as a solicitor.

The non-law graduate route

About 20% of solicitors qualify via the non-law graduate route. The key stages you will pass through are:

- Degree in any subject (3 years)
- Common Professional Examination/Graduate Diploma in Law (1 year)
- Legal Practice Course (1 year)
- Practice-based training incorporating a Professional Skills Course (2 years)

Degree in any subject

If you take this route, you must have an honours degree or equivalent qualification.

Common Professional Examination or Graduate Diploma in Law

This course prepares you for the Legal Practice Course and covers the foundation subjects. You may be able to apply to the Law Society for exemption if you have previously studied some law at university.

The Common Professional Examination/Graduate Diploma in Law offered by many academic institutions as a one-year full-time or two-year part-time course or by distance learning over two years.

Applying for a course

Your application for the Common Professional Examination/Graduate Diploma in Law will be assessed on academic merit. Lists of institutions offering the courses and entry criteria are available from your careers advisor.

Places on full-time courses are allocated through the Central Applications Board and application forms are available from the Board. For part-time courses, contact the academic institution direct.

Legal Practice Course

After your degree you will have to take the Legal Practice Course, which ensures you have the skills you need to work in a solicitor's office. You can take this stage as a full or part-time course, you should apply to the Legal Practice Course Central Applications Board. For part-time courses, you should contact the academic institutions direct.

Admission to the roll

Once you have successfully completed the academic stage, the Legal Practice Course, the Professional Skills Course and the practice-based training, you can apply to the Master of the Rolls to be added to the Roll of solicitors in England and Wales, which entitles you to practise as a solicitor.



The CILEx route

This route is based on exams set and authorised by CILEx (Chartered Institute of Legal Executives).

Qualification by the CILEx route is normally longer than the other routes because it is designed to enable you to study while working.

The key stages you will pass through on your route to qualification are:

- CILEx examinations undertaken while you are working under the supervision of a solicitor or CILEx Fellow
- Legal Practice Course
- Professional Skills Course

CILEx examinations

To qualify for the CILEx route, you will need 4 GCSEs (including English Language) or equivalent. If you are already employed in the legal profession, you can simply apply to take the CILEx Professional Diploma in Law level 3 when you feel you are ready. Alternatively, if you are not working in the legal profession, you can enrol as a student member of the institute and take the CILEx Professional Diploma in Law Level 3 before applying for employment.

The CILEx route takes a minimum of 5 years and will involve working and training under the supervision of a solicitor for two years after gaining membership. During the 5 years you will have to take the CILEx Higher Professional Diploma in Law Level 6 examinations. After the 5 year period you can apply to become an CILEx Fellow and then move on to the next stage - the Legal Practice Course.

For further information refer to www.lawsociety.org.uk and www.cilex.org.uk

Contact us

For recruitment and further advice please contact our HR Department on 01775 842501 or email us at recruitment@roythornes.co.uk. If you would like to apply for a position within the firm please send your CV and a covering letter to: HR Department, Roythornes, Enterprise Way, Pinchbeck, Spalding PE11 3YR.



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www.roythornes.co.uk

twitter.com/roythornes

Spalding
Enterprise Way
Pinchbeck
Spalding
PE11 3YR
01775 842500

Peterborough
Deans Court
10 Minster Precincts
Peterborough
PE1 1XS
01733 558585

Nottingham
14 Park Row
Nottingham
NG1 6GR
0115 948 4555

Newmarket
Agriculture House
Willie Snaith Road
Newmarket
CB8 7SN
01638 561320