

Law

For any legal job, you need to be careful, logical and accurate. You should have a good memory and be able to think quickly.

There are at least 25,000 legal services professionals in Scotland, including 12,000 practising solicitors, 450 practising advocates and around 350 practising solicitor advocates. There are around 5,000 practising paralegals, with 650 of these accredited by the Law Society of Scotland (a voluntary accreditation). The Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service employs 1,800 people in roles that support the legal system, including court officers and administrative assistants and officers.

What areas can I work in?

Sectors in this career area include professional law, legal support services and patent work.

There is a range of jobs at different levels, from administrative posts such as court officer, through to professional roles such as solicitor or patent attorney.

Law degrees are also suitable for employment in other career areas, for example business management.

To see the routes to getting into each of these sectors, take a look at our [Career Pathway](#).

What kind of companies can I work for?

Companies you may work for include:

- legal firms
- the Scottish Court Service
- the Civil Service
- local government
- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)
- Faculty of Advocates
- public bodies, such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

What's the job market like?

According to Prospects and AGCAS, 50.7% of law graduates from the academic year 2018/19 went on to full time employment within fifteen months of graduating, whilst 11.5% went on to further study. The main legal professions require law graduates to complete further study before qualifying, which explains the fairly high percentage for further study.

The numbers of practising solicitors are expected to rise by 2.4% between 2018 and 2023, according to EMSI UK data. This, coupled with the increasing use of paralegals, legal executives and technicians, indicate that the legal sector in Scotland is still thriving with possible growth in the future.

Competition for traineeships to become a solicitor is strong.

Facts and figures

- Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service are introducing an additional 16 criminal courts using a share of £50 million awarded by the Scottish Government to the justice sector in 2021-22.
- The Scottish Solicitors Bar Association was launched on 7th April 2021.
- Of some 8,100 solicitors in private practice in Scotland, over 5,000 work in firms with ten or fewer partners.

Want to find out more?

The [Law Society of Scotland](#) website has an Education and Careers section with lots of useful information.

The [Scottish Paralegal Association](#) website has information on qualifying in this area.

Sources

- What do graduates do? Prospects in association with AGCAS (2020/21)
- [Competition and Markets Authority - Legal Services in Scotland Report](#) (March 2020)
- [The Law Society](#) website (2020/21)
- [Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service](#) (Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20) (March 2020)
- [Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service](#) (Business Plan 2021-22) (2021)
- Robertson Review (February 2021)