

Transferring qualifications

Whether you wish to continue in your profession or train for a new one in the UK, we strongly recommend you consult the [UK Centre for Professional Qualifications \(UKCPQ\)](#) website in advance to understand if any Professional Qualifications are necessary. The UKCPQ maintains a listing of professions and if they are regulated or a protected title, they will also give you the contact details and membership pages for the institution.

Please note that some instances different areas of the UK have different regulators with different entry requirements, please check your relevant area.

List of UK regulated professions and their regulators

[List of regulated professions.](#)

[Transferring International Qualifications to the UK: A Guide for Refugees and Asylum Seekers](#)

The UK body which defines how different international qualifications compare to UK qualifications is called UK ENIC (National Information Centre). You can pay a fee of £49.50 + VAT to get a Statement of Comparability of your qualifications, which may be useful to show to employers or professional bodies.

Industry Skills: [Industry Skills Statements](#)

The qualification services are paid for (apart from Teachers)

[International Degree and Qualification Equivalents](#)

International Degree and Qualification Equivalents, and how the degree grades compare to the UK's grading scale (might be important when creating a CV)

For information before degree level, see [The UCAS Tariff](#) or [A-Level Equivalent Guide](#)

Translating International Career-Specific Qualifications

As a guide, here are some examples of careers which need accreditation and specific qualifications, and what you must do to practice them in the UK.

Law/Solicitor

To practice law as a solicitor in the UK, you will need to take a Solicitor's Qualifying Examination (SQE) to certify in the UK, but you do not need to retrain. You can read more on the Law Society website.

In the UK, qualified lawyers can be either solicitors or barristers, but other countries may not distinguish these roles, or have these titles.

The professional body supporting solicitors in England and Wales is the **Law Society**. They have created a webpage describing the options available to Ukrainian lawyers and law firms in the UK [here](#).

Basically, you can practise law in the UK according to your professional title in Ukraine, with some exceptions around what you can do. This page also explains what you need to do to achieve the recognised qualification of 'solicitor' in England and Wales, according to the regulatory body for solicitors, the **Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)**.

The Law Society also holds [regular career clinics](#) which you can book a place on and advertises job vacancies (details also given on the page mentioned above). Email careers@lawsociety.org.uk to book your place.

They recorded a [webinar](#) in November 2022 covering how to transition into a law career in the UK for Ukrainian lawyers. You will need to register to access the viewing.

For solicitors in England and Wales, the regulatory body is the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). If you already have a law qualification, this page describes how you can become a solicitor [here](#).

Essentially, there are qualifying exams called SQE1 and SQE2. Some jurisdictions' qualifications have been assessed to see if they are eligible for an exemption. At this moment, it seems that Ukraine is not one of the jurisdictions assessed ([see here](#)). However, depending on your experience, you may still be eligible for exemptions from these exams. The topics that the exams cover are given on [this page](#). If you believe your qualifications but this is quite a detailed and lengthy process. The SRA suggest emailing eqsqa@sra.org.uk in the first place to get more information on how to proceed in your circumstances.

Contact details:

- Solicitors Regulation Authority (England and Wales): 0370 606 2555 or eqsqa@sra.org.uk
- Law Society (England and Wales): international@lawsociety.org.uk.
- For information about Law Society career clinics, contact rita.oscar@lawsociety.org.uk

Law Society Jobs Fair (September 2022)

The Law Society recently held a jobs fair specifically for Ukrainian refugees where several organisations were present. Some contact details are provided below:

Law-related firms that are hiring (either law firms, recruitment firms or law-related products and services):

- Blue Pencil Legal Recruitment: Mark Hazleton – mark@bluepencil-legal.com
- Flex Legal: Kate Gaskell kate.Gaskell@f-lex.co.uk and Zaia Ndokera – zaia.ndokera@f-lex.co.uk
- Eversheds Sutherland: Kelly Brown – kellybrown@eversheds-sutherland.com
- Slaughter and May: Jonathan Clarke – jonathan.clarke@slaughterandmay.com

- Dentons: Ben Daniels, Sophie Lynch, Jackie Hanlon – ben.daniels@dentons.com
sophie.lynch@dentons.com jackie.hanlon@dentons.com
- Cleveland & Co: David Balchin – dbalchin@cleveland-co.com
- Lexis Nexis: James Harper – james.harper@lexisnexis.co.uk
- Obelisk Support: Laura Vosper – l.vosper@obelisksupport.com
- Elevate: Paul Shephard – paul.shephard@elevateservices.com

Corporate firms with law departments that are hiring:

- Deutsche Bank: Amanda Gill – amanda.gill@db.com
- Shell: Helen Savory – helen.savory@shell.com
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: Giel Hoogeboom – hoogebog@ebrd.com

The Bar Council Lawyers Bar Council Ukraine support Ukraine@BarCouncil.org.uk

Carolyn Entwistle (She/Her)

Director of Services

289-293 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HZ

Direct Line: 020 7611 1455 (ext 863), Switchboard: 020 7242 0082

Teaching

The UK government website provides information on how to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in the UK. For some, this will mean carrying out an accredited teacher training programme, or, if you already have a degree, you may only have to carry out an assessment to gain your QTS.

Get a statement of comparability (if you are a teacher – it is free of charge)

[Statement of Comparability](#)

Early Years teachers: [Early Years Services \(ecctis.com\)](http://ecctis.com)

Academics

The organisation CARA (Council for At-Risk Academics) has some details for academics fleeing the invasion [here](#)

They work in partnership with the British Academy, who are offering funded fellowships through their Researchers At Risk Fellowships programme. See [this page](#) for more details.

Dentistry

According to the British Dentistry Journal, if you are from outside the EU, you will usually have to sit the General Dentistry Council's Overseas Registration Exam (ORE) and demonstrate your proficiency in English, too. This will allow you to qualify to be part of the GDC and then practice in the UK. The regulatory body for dentists and dental care professionals such as dental nurses is the **General Dental Council (GDC)**, and the

corresponding association for professionals is the **British Dental Association (BDA)**. You need to be registered with the GDC to practise in the UK.

The GDC has information for refugee dental professionals [here](#).

On [this page](#), you can find a link to a questionnaire which will help you determine the route to registration depending on whether you are a dentist or a dental care professional.

Ukraine is not on the (very short) list of automatically recognised countries for dentists so the route will involve the Overseas Registration Exam. You need to apply to see if you are eligible to take the exam, and evidence of clinical experience and the relevant IELTS qualification will be needed.

There is no exam for dental care professionals, but the relevant IELTS qualification is still needed. Your application is then assessed, which can take several months.

The British Dental Association is offering **free membership** to refugees. Membership will provide access to some dental resources such as books (which can be sent by post), information and advice sheets, journals, newsletters, continuing professional development courses online and in person, contact with colleagues through local groups of dentists, and a mental health support service if needed.

Contact details:

- General Dental Council: 020 7167 6000
- British Dental Association: 020 7935 0875 (Head Office) or enquiries@bda.org .
Membership enquiries: membership@bda.org.

[This page](#) also has links to organisations that can help refugees, such as [Dental Mentors](#)

Further information is also available [here](#)

Doctors: The British Medical Association is the supporting professional body for doctors. This [webpage](#) summarises the steps required by the GMC to be licensed to practise as a doctor in the UK

Basically, the steps are:

- Get the relevant IELTS qualification
- Pass the PLAB Tests (which test your ability to apply your knowledge to the care of patients)
- Do a clinical attachment

Once you have passed all three stages, you can apply for your licence to practise from the GMC and then apply for jobs as a doctor in the UK.

To help doctors who have arrived as refugees, the BMA have also launched the

BMA Refugee Doctors Initiative (the link to download an application form to join the initiative is also given on the page mentioned above). The initiative provides access to BMA resources and support in understanding the process required to practise in the UK.

Getting through the required stages can be expensive. Financial support may be available from charities associated with the [BMA](#)

Contact details:

- General Medical Council: 0161 923 6602
- British Medical Association: 0300 123 1233 (select the 'membership' option) or support@bma.org.uk
- BMA Charities Trust Fund: info@bmacharities.org.uk

Further information is also available [here](#)

The Refugee Council have partnered with the NHS to create the 'Building Bridges' programme to support health professionals in qualifying to practise in the UK: [Building Bridges](#)

If you want to work in healthcare but not yet at the level of your qualifications, there are other opportunities in the NHS that you could consider. See [here](#) for more information

OET – Occupation English Test

A qualification for **medically trained people** wanting to practice in the UK.

OET is the international English language test that assesses the language communication skills of healthcare professionals who seek to register and practise in an English-speaking environment. OET has been developed specifically for 12 healthcare professions. The test simulates real workplace tasks and test relevant language skills for each profession.

Dentistry, Dietetics, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Radiography, Speech Pathology, Veterinary Science

Construction

If you have a construction related qualification that was awarded outside of the UK and is not currently recognised by CSCS you should contact [Ecctis](#) to [apply for an Industry Skills Statement](#).