

A Step by Step Guide to becoming a Manx Advocate

First Step - Before University

You cannot qualify as a Manx advocate without an honours degree, but there is no need to study A level law (unless it is an entry requirement of your chosen university). As far as selection of A levels is concerned, the best advice is to study those subjects you most enjoy and in which you are therefore likely to achieve good grades. As regards choosing a university, Cains does not have a particular policy about any university or type of institution.

Second Step - University and Conversion Course

Law Degree

A law degree can cover a wide range of law-related subjects including ethics, criminology and jurisprudence; it may also be combined with other subjects such as languages or economics. Contrary to popular belief, it is not necessary to study law at university in order to qualify as an advocate, but a law degree should exempt you from one of the later stages of qualification. Check that the law degree you wish to study is a qualifying course covering the seven core subjects and legal research skills. The Law Society of England and Wales offers detailed guidance on qualifying degrees on its website www.sra.org.uk/students.

Non-law Degree

Many lawyers choose to study an honours degree in a field other than law and then complete a conversion course (the common professional examination or the graduate diploma in law). Several lawyers at Cains have chosen this route by studying subjects as diverse as Anthropology, History, Spanish and Biology. At Cains we value the contributions made by individuals with diverse educational backgrounds. As with a law degree, it is your final classification that is most important. Remember that the non-law degree route will involve extra study, time and expense, because of the requirement to complete the conversion course.

First Class Honours Required?

The Isle of Man Law Society's minimum entry requirement to become an advocate is a second class honours degree. Cains normally recruits individuals who either excel academically and have at least a 2.1 or who can offer additional skills or relevant experience.

Non-law Degree Conversion Course

The common professional examination (CPE) (or the graduate diploma in law) is a conversion course for students with an honours degree in any non-law subject. It is an intensive course covering the seven core subjects, namely: contract, tort, constitutional and administrative law, European Union law, criminal law, land law and trust law. It is possible to study this course part time or by distance learning. More information about the CPE course is available from the Central Applications Board (www.lawcabs.ac.uk).

Grants

The Isle of Man Government may provide funding for both course fees and maintenance grants subject to status and residency requirements. Further information is available from the Isle of Man Government Department of Education (www.gov.im). Cains may be willing to provide some financial assistance to students that have accepted a training contract with us.

Third Step - Professional Training

Prior to entering articles, all students must undertake a legal vocational course. This requirement can be fulfilled either by taking the Legal Practice Course (also known as the Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice), which is compulsory for all prospective English Solicitors or the Bar Vocational Course, which is the training necessary for prospective English Barristers. This choice of routes reflects the fused nature of the profession in the Isle of Man. Both courses last one academic year, although the Legal Practice Course can be studied part-time over a longer period. Details about the Legal Practice Course are available from the Law Society of England and Wales – www.sra.org.uk/students/lpc and the Bar Council of England and Wales can supply information about the Bar Vocational Course www.barcouncil.org.uk.



Fourth Step - Articles and Manx Bar Examinations

Finally, following completion of a legal vocational course it is necessary to undertake two years' articles with an advocate. This period of articles is equivalent to a training contract for solicitors in England or a pupillage for barristers. During this period it is necessary to pass the 5 heads of the Manx Bar examinations, namely; Accounts, Civil Practice, Criminal Practice, Constitutional and Land and Company Law, Financial Services Law and Taxation. An exemption from the Accounts examination is available for students who have studied the Legal Practice Course. The examinations are held biannually in May and November and, save for any extenuating circumstances, trainees have a maximum of three attempts in which to pass the exams. Solicitors of the Supreme Court of England and Wales and members of the Bar of England and Wales who have been practising or admitted for three years may qualify as an advocate after a period of articles of only one year. They are not exempt from the Manx Bar examinations. Study notes are available within Cains which have been prepared by previous students and updated. Our extensive library and IT system, which contains local legislation, case reports and precedent database, is continually updated by our in-house librarian. Most importantly, Cains operates an "open door" policy so that trainees can draw on the knowledge, support and guidance of senior lawyers. Additionally, the Isle of Man Law Society and the Young Lawyers' Association arrange a programme of talks, lectures and moots for trainees. Cains offer a generous eight weeks' paid

study leave prior to the examinations.

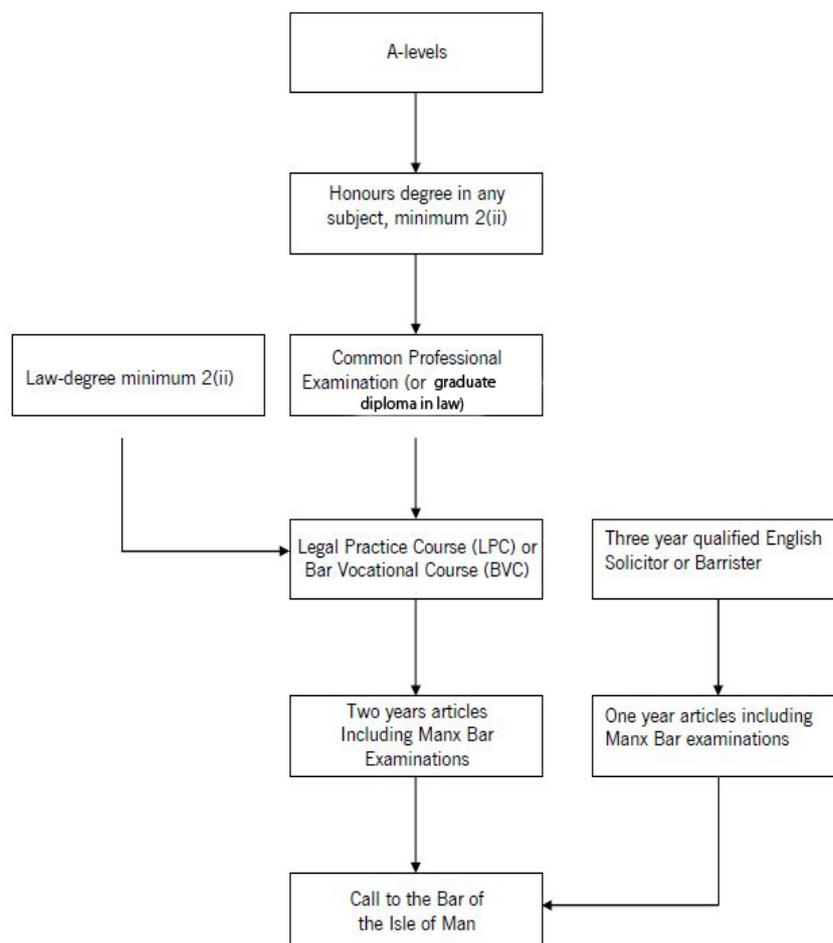
Applying for Articles

It is advisable to apply early for articles as places are in demand. Cains normally recruits students during the penultimate year of their degree, although we will consider later applications from exceptional students. Cains prefers to offer applicants a period of work experience prior to making any offers as it allows individuals to get a feel for the firm and vice versa before decisions are made.

Further Information

The diagram below has been produced as an aid to those seeking general information with respect to qualifying to practice law in the Isle of Man. It serves as a starting point. Further questions about becoming an advocate should be addressed to the Isle of Man Law Society (see www.iomlawsociety.co.im). If you have further questions about a training contract with Cains or wish to apply for articles please contact Richard Vanderplank, personnel director.

Most common routes to qualification





Cains

Cains is a leading international Isle of Man law and professional services group incorporated in the Isle of Man with offices also in London and Singapore. Its legal side is expert in advising clients in the fields of international banking and financial services, cross border restructuring and insolvency, commercial real estate structures, space and satellite, shipping and capital markets. Cains acts for a broad range of clients including governments, multi-national corporations, financial institutions, regulatory bodies and family offices. Cains also has a strong track record of working in partnership with leading global law firms to effect international transactions for clients.

Cains has received various prestigious awards in recognition of its provision of legal services of the highest standards to its international clients and is the exclusive Isle of Man member of Lex Mundi, the world's leading association of international law firms.

Cains Fiduciaries Limited

Cains Fiduciaries is licensed by the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Authority to provide trust and corporate services to collective investment schemes. Cains Fiduciaries provides administration services to many of the world's largest and best known financial and commercial institutions in respect of structures established in the Isle of Man, the BVI and elsewhere. The value of assets under management and administration by Cains Fiduciaries is materially in excess of US\$12.5 billion.

Cains Accounting Services Limited

Cains Accounting Services include qualified chartered and certified accountants who have extensive experience in the accounting services industry and provide accountancy services to international property funds structured as exempt schemes, family offices and sovereign wealth funds participating in private equity structures.

For more information please contact:

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www.cains.com

This document does not constitute legal advice. It is summary in nature; reference should be made to the detailed provisions of the relevant law and legislation. Professional advice should be sought in relation to specific circumstances and matters.

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