



Plan and address your learning and development

Updated 9 August 2022

You have a [competence requirement](https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/competence-statement/) [https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/competence-statement/], to take responsibility for your personal learning and development.

How you choose to plan and address your needs can depend on things like:

- your preferred learning style
- the nature of your practice
- your professional goals
- requirements or opportunities from your employer if you have one.

You can use our [learning and development template](https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/templates/) [https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/templates/] to record:

- the activities you plan to complete to address your learning and development needs
- what you want to achieve from each activity
- your timescales for completing each activity.

Our template also includes an example of the steps a solicitor could take to address a learning and development need. Other examples could include:

- Meeting your competence requirement to maintain an adequate and up-to-date understanding of relevant law, policy and practice by setting aside time (eg weekly or monthly) to complete self-study (eg of newsletters, law journals and blogs).
- Acquiring knowledge about a new or evolving issue in your area(s) of practice by attending an event about it.
- Completing training to improve a technical legal skill such as advocacy.
- Completing training to develop or strengthen other skills or attributes, such as behaving inclusively and dealing effectively with people who are vulnerable.
- Completing a secondment to a different department, practice area, office or organisation to acquire new knowledge or skills and diversify your practice.
- Finding a mentor to help meet your professional goals.
- Observing more experienced lawyers practise a specific skill to improve your understanding of how to provide it to a high standard.



- Taking part in initiatives run by a professional network to develop your knowledge or skills in a particular area.
- Attending regular meetings with colleagues to discuss developments in your area(s) of practice and share knowledge and good practice.
- Forming an informal reflective discussion group with a colleague or small group of colleagues, to help meet your competence requirement to learn from other people.
- Taking part in development initiatives run by your employer if you have one.