The new Diploma in Legal Practice, which began in October, marks the beginning of a new training regime for solicitors in Scotland. These changes will affect everybody – whether as an employer, a trainer, a student or a trainee.

The changes are the result of six years of consultation with the profession and universities. The aim is to provide students and trainees with a thorough grounding in the wide variety of skills which are needed to meet the demands of a legal career, to ensure that training standards are consistent across firms and to provide greater levels of support throughout the training process.

**PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE COURSE – 2002 ONWARDS**

First Professional Competence Course to be held in 2002 for trainees.

To be taken at a university or other approved training centre. Three-week course. Syllabus to focus on commercial awareness, client relations, risk management and effective legal communication skills. Trainees given opportunity to develop their skills in the context of particular areas of experience.

**THE TRAINEESHIP – 2001 ONWARDS**

Trainees complete logbooks during traineeship, to be reviewed on a quarterly basis with trainer. Logbooks to be monitored by the Society before taking Test of Professional Competence. Logbook style can be viewed on Society’s website at [http://www.lawscot.org.uk](http://www.lawscot.org.uk)

**TEST OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE – 2003 ONWARDS**

Aimed at ensuring solicitors are competent to enter the profession. Final format still under discussion, but will focus on competence rather than knowledge of black letter law.

**ADMISSION AS A MEMBER OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND**

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**NEW DIPLOMA IN LEGAL PRACTICE – OCTOBER 2000**

A more practical and skills-orientated course. Added focus on management. 26-weeks long. Reduced student-staff ratio means more focused tuition.

**TRANSCITIONAL DIPLOMA – OCTOBER 1999-JUNE 2000**

These diplomates will not be affected by the new training regime.

**TRADITIONAL ROUTE**

**NEW TRAINING**

**TRAINES**