

ADMISSIONS AND REGISTRATIONS INFORMATION

Lawyers who have been admitted to practice in Australia

A lawyer admitted in any Australian jurisdiction is eligible to apply for a Western Australian practising certificate and is not required to be admitted to the Supreme Court of Western Australia (**Supreme Court**). Refer to Part 5 of the [Legal Profession Act 2008 \(Act\)](#) and the practising certificate area of the Board's website.

Lawyers who have been admitted to practice in New Zealand

New Zealand admitted lawyers are eligible to apply for admission in Western Australia pursuant to the *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (WA) Act 2008 (TTMRA)*. Application must be made directly to the Supreme Court. Refer to 10.1.3 of the Consolidated Practice Directions of the Supreme Court.

(www.supremecourt.wa.gov.au/content/procedure/practicedirections.aspx)

Practitioners currently certificated in New Zealand are also eligible to apply for a practising certificate in Western Australia pursuant to the TTMRA. Refer to the practising certificate area of the Board's website or email general@jpbwa.com for further information.

Overseas admitted practitioners seeking to apply for registration as a Foreign Lawyer

Refer to Part 8 of the Act and [LPB Form 11](#) on the Board's website. Registered foreign lawyers are only entitled to practice foreign law and are not entitled to practice Australian law. Overseas admitted practitioners who wish to practise Australian law must gain admission in Australia. Refer to the information below.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In Australia, the legal profession is regulated independently by each State and Territory. Applicants will generally apply for admission in the State or Territory in which they intend to practice. Applicants for admission in Western Australia are referred to Part 4 of the [Legal Profession Act 2008](#), the [Legal Profession \(Admission\) Rules 2009](#) and the [approved forms](#).

In assessing an applicant's eligibility for admission, the Legal Practice Board (Board) has regard to the *Uniform Admission Rules 2008 (UAR)*. In assessing the eligibility for admission of an overseas admitted or qualified applicant, the Board has regard to the *Uniform Principles for Assessing Qualifications of Overseas Applicants for Admission to the Australian Legal Profession (Uniform Principles)*. The UAR and the Uniform Principles are published on the following website (www.lawcouncil.asn.au/lacc/documents/information_home.cfm).

The following general information is provided as a guide only. Please refer to the legislation, approved forms, the UAR and the Uniform Principles for more detailed information.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

(Section 21 of the Act)

To be eligible for admission an applicant must attain approved academic qualifications or corresponding academic qualifications AND satisfactorily complete approved practical legal training requirements or corresponding practical legal training requirements.

- 1. Approved Academic Qualifications and Corresponding Academic Qualifications** (refer to section 21 of the Act and rules 5 and 6 of the Admission Rules).

Western Australia Academic Qualifications:

As listed in Admission Rule 5, the following Western Australian qualifications meet the academic requirements for admission in Western Australia:

Edith Cowan University	Bachelor of Laws
Murdoch University	Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor
The University of Notre Dame	Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor

Australian Academic Qualifications:

If an academic qualification obtained in an Australian jurisdiction qualifies the applicant for admission in that Australian jurisdiction, it is likely the Board will be satisfied that the applicant holds “corresponding academic qualifications” as prescribed in s21(1) of the Act and no assessment or further academic studies will be required.

Academic Qualifications obtained Overseas

In accordance with the Uniform Principles, an applicant is not eligible to apply to the Board for assessment of an overseas legal qualification UNLESS the person has been admitted to practice overseas, or is eligible to be admitted to practice overseas (i.e. both academic requirements and practical legal training requirements for admission overseas have been completed. UK qualified applicants who have not completed a training contract or pupillage, may apply for assessment if they have completed a Legal Practice Course or Bar Vocational Course.) An applicant who holds an overseas legal qualification who has not been admitted to practice, or who is not eligible to be admitted to practice overseas should contact an approved [Western Australian university](#) for information on how to attain a Western Australian academic qualification (refer above). It will be a matter for the university to determine what, if any, exemptions will be granted on the basis of studies completed overseas.

Overseas qualified applicants who have been admitted, or are eligible to be admitted, overseas

An applicant who is admitted in New Zealand is entitled to apply for registration pursuant to the *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (WA) Act 2008* (TTMRA). (Refer above).

Other applicants who have been admitted, or who are eligible to be admitted overseas may lodge [Form A8](#) for assessment of their academic qualifications. In assessing an application the Board will have regard to the Uniform Principles. The Board will issue an assessment statement outlining the further academic study that is required.

Most overseas admitted applicants, and all overseas qualified applicants who are eligible to be admitted overseas, will be required to complete practical legal training in Western Australia (refer below) following completion of the further academic study. An applicant who is eligible to seek exemption from some components of practical legal training requirements may lodge a [Form A9](#). (Eligibility requirements are outlined in Form A9 and the Uniform Principles).

All overseas qualified applicants will be required to satisfy the English Language Testing Requirements outlined in the Uniform Principles.

2. Approved practical legal training requirements and corresponding practical legal training requirements (refer to section 21 of the Act and Admission Rules 7 and 9)

All applicants for admission will be required to complete either:

Twelve months articles of clerkship (refer to Part 3 of the Admission Rules and [Forms A1, A2 and A3](#)). The Law Society of WA (www.lawsocietywa.asn.au) runs a recruitment program and advisory service for articulated clerks. The term of articles does not commence until the articles of clerkship have been formally registered by the Board.

OR

The College of Law Western Australian Practical Legal Training Course
(<http://www.collaw.edu.au/>)

Practical legal training completed elsewhere in Australia, that meets admission requirements in that Australian jurisdiction, is likely to be accepted as “corresponding practical legal training” as prescribed in s21(1) of the Act and no assessment or further practical legal training is likely to be required.

Some overseas admitted applicants may be eligible to apply for exemption from components of practical legal training requirements. Eligibility requirements are set out in the Uniform Principles. Eligible applicants may lodge a Form A9.

SUITABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

(Refer sections 22 and 23 of the Act)

The Supreme Court must be satisfied that an applicant for admission is both eligible for admission and a fit and proper person to be admitted to the legal profession. For this purpose, the Supreme Court will usually rely on the advice of the Board. The Board will consider whether an applicant is a fit and proper person to be admitted when it considers the Application for Admission ([Form A10](#)). However, a person who is concerned that a matter may affect their suitability for admission, e.g. they may be subject to a conviction, may apply for an early declaration of suitability. ([Form A15](#))

FORMAL APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

(Refer to s25 to 33 of the Act and Part 2 of the Admission Rules)

1. An applicant for admission **must file a Motion Paper with the Supreme Court at least 2 months prior to the proposed admission date.** Further information, including the proforma motion paper, admission ceremony dates, and latest filing dates are published in the FAQ's section of the Supreme Court website under "Admissions" (www.supremecourt.wa.gov.au).
2. **Within 2 days of filing the motion paper at the Supreme Court** the applicant must file a [Form A10](#) with the Board. A copy of the motion paper filed at the Court must be attached to the Form A10, along with supporting documentation such as a police certificate, evidence of academic qualifications, etc. It is therefore suggested that an applicant collates the supporting documentation for Form A10 before lodging a motion with the Court.
3. Following receipt of the notices of application, the Board will place the required advertisements.
4. At least 7 days prior to the admission ceremony, the Board will file a compliance certificate for all eligible applicants with the Court. A copy of the compliance certificate, will be provided to the applicant. In the event the Board is not satisfied that the applicant is eligible for admission, both the Court and the applicant will be issued with an information notice.
5. Subject to the provisions of Part 5 of the Act, an admitted lawyer is not entitled to engage in legal practice unless they hold a current practising certificate.
6. The restricted legal practice requirements of section 50 of the Act apply to all Australian legal practitioners.

If, after referring to the above information and associated links, you have further queries, please contact:

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