

GUIDELINES OF THE ADMISSIONS AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH LAW STUDENTS WILL BE APPROVED TO COMMENCE PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF AN APPROVED ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

Law students are advised that a prospective applicant for admission must complete an approved academic qualification before commencing approved practical legal training (PLT). It is likely that a person who commenced PLT before completing an approved academic qualification will not be eligible to apply for admission in Western Australia, unless the person has written approval from the Legal Practice Board (**Board**) for the early commencement of PLT.

Please refer to the Board's website for further information about approved academic qualifications <https://www.lpbwa.org.au/Becoming-A-Lawyer/Academic-Requirements> and approved PLT <https://www.lpbwa.org.au/Becoming-A-Lawyer/Practical-Legal-Training-Requirements>

The Board will only consider giving written approval for the early commencement of PLT if:

1. The person meets the criteria for the early commencement of PLT set out in the PLT Competency Standards for Entry Level Lawyers (**Competency Standards**) effective from 1 January 2015, as set out below, and published on the website of the Law Admission Consultative Committee. <https://www.lawcouncil.asn.au/resources/law-admissions-consultative-committee/documents-about-present-admission-policies>

and

2. The person successfully demonstrates to the Board that exceptional circumstances exist that makes it impractical for the person to defer commencing the PLT until after the academic qualification has been completed.

1. Criteria for the early commencement of PLT set out in the Competency Standards

The Competency Standards contain the following provision:

3.2 When PLT may be commenced

(a) An applicant may commence PLT:

- (i) in the case of SWT, only after the applicant has completed an academic qualification in law, leading to admission to the legal profession;*
- (ii) in the case of a PLT course that is not integrated with the applicant's academic qualification in law, only after the applicant has completed an academic qualification in law leading to admission to the legal profession, unless the applicant has no more than two academic subjects to complete:*
 - (A) neither of which is one of the Academic Requirements for admission; and*

(B) for which the applicant must be enrolled while undertaking the PLT course,

and the applicant has received the prior permission of the Admitting Authority to commence the PLT course.

2. Exceptional Circumstances

Compliance with the criteria listed in paragraph 1 above is not sufficient for approval to be given. Applications for approval to commence PLT before completion of the academic qualifications will only be considered if the above criteria is met and if there are exceptional circumstances. All applications will be considered on their merits.

THE FORM OF AN APPLICATION

An application for approval to commence PLT before completion of an approved academic qualification should be made in the form of a statutory declaration. An original academic transcript showing the results obtained to date should be attached to the statutory declaration. The statutory declaration should also state:

- The further requirements that must be met to complete the approved academic qualification, and when and how it is anticipated those requirements will be completed.
- The approved practical legal training the applicant intends to complete and the proposed date of commencement.
- A description of the exceptional circumstances that exist.

CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION

Applications will be considered by the Admissions and Registration Committee of the Board. The Admissions and Registration Committee meets approximately monthly. Please email general@lpbwa.com for information about meeting dates and closing dates for agendas.