

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), unless the early commencement has been approved by the Board under these Guidelines.

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 approval for the early commencement of PLT if 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 (Revised October 2017), 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>

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.

THE FORM OF AN APPLICATION

An application for approval to commence PLT before completion of an approved academic qualification must be made in the form of a signed statutory declaration, the original of which must be posted to the Board.

The statutory declaration should include:

1. The name of the relevant University and the degree course in which you are enrolled;
2. Confirmation that you have successfully completed all of the units covering the 11 required subjects for admission;
3. Confirmation that you only have one or two electives to complete, and details of the those unit/s including confirmation of enrolment and confirmation of expected completion dates; and
4. Details of the approved practical legal training course that you intend to complete and the proposed commencement and anticipated completion dates.

The applicant should request the law school to email or post an academic transcript of studies completed to date, directly to the Board. An original academic transcript will be accepted, but a transcript received directly from the law school is preferred.

If you have received advanced standing towards completion of any of the units covering the 11 required subjects for admission, please arrange for the Board to receive a transcript directly from the relevant institution if possible, or an original academic transcript, showing the study on which the advanced standing was based.

Policy approved by the Admissions and Registration Committee on 6 February 2019.