



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Pathway to **practice**

HIGH SCHOOL



Complete Legal Studies

This will most likely be your first introduction to the Australian legal system. Topics covered consist of:

Core modules: The Legal System, The Individual and the Law, The Law in Practice, Crime and Human Rights.

Elective modules: Consumers, Global environment and protection, Family, Indigenous peoples, Shelter, Workplace and World order.

Didn't meet your ATAR requirements?

If you didn't obtain the ATAR requirements for your chosen university, don't panic! There are a number of other options open to you such as:

- TAFE
- A registered training provider (RTO)
- Graduate entry courses – the completion of a (non-legal) undergraduate degree before completing a postgraduate Juris Doctor degree.
- Legal Profession Admission Board Diploma in Law

In addition to your studies, you can engage in a number of extra-circular activities such as the **Law Society of NSW high school programs** or work experience at legal organisations.



Complete an accredited Australian law course

- Bachelor of Laws (LLB)
- Juris Doctor (JD) (Postgraduate)
- Diploma in Law

These courses are usually **completed over 4–5 years full-time study** and consist of compulsory and elective areas of knowledge. Core subjects, referred to as the ‘Priestly 11’, include: Criminal Law, Torts, Contracts, Property, Equity, Company Law, Administrative Law, Federal and State Constitutional Law, Civil Dispute Resolution, Evidence and Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

Clerkship Program

A legal clerkship is a great way to gain experience across a number of practice areas and departments in private practice firms. They are usually open to students in their penultimate year and **completed across 4–15 weeks** during summer however this varies across firms.

Graduate Program

Graduate positions are usually offered to students in their final year or those who have recently completed their studies. Most private practice firms, in-house legal teams and government departments host graduate programs, however these graduates are often sourced directly from their previous pool of clerks or interns. Graduate programs typically last **12–24 months** and consist of a number of rotations which include a learning and development program.

In addition to your studies, you can **sign up for complimentary student membership of the Law Society of NSW** to enjoy our range of events, publications and resources designed to support you throughout your studies and transition into the profession.



Complete an accredited Practical Legal Training (PLT) course

Completion of an accredited PLT course is a mandatory requirement for admission following your university degree and results in the attainment of a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice. Whilst your university degree lays the theoretical foundations, PLT is focused on teaching the day-to-day practical legal knowledge and skills you'll need as a lawyer. This can be **completed on a full time or part time basis lasting between 6 and 12 months.**

- **Coursework:** must cover a number of compulsory skills and practice areas with the option to select additional electives. Compulsory topics include: Lawyers Skills, Problem Solving, Work Management and Business Skills, Trust and Office Accounting, Civil Litigation Practice, Commercial and Corporate Practice, Property Law Practice, Ethics and Professional Responsibility.
- **Work experience:** this is approximately 75 working days. If you have previously completed work in a firm, this can be counted towards your practical requirement hours in PLT.

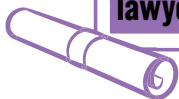
ADMISSION



Apply to the Legal Profession Admission Board (LPAB) for a compliance certificate

- Once you have completed your PLT, in order to be admitted as an Australian lawyer you must apply to the Legal Profession Admission Board (LPAB) for a compliance certificate. If approved, you must attend an admission ceremony at the Supreme Court of NSW where you will take the oath/affirmation of office and sign the Supreme Court Roll for admission as an Australian lawyer.
- Your admission must be 'moved' by a person who is currently on the Supreme Court Roll in NSW, or an Australian legal practitioner, provided they hold a current practising certificate.

**Congratulations,
you are officially
an Australian
lawyer!**





Apply to the Law Society of NSW for the grant of an Australian Practising Certificate (PC)

In order to commence practising as a solicitor following your admission, you will need to apply to the Law Society of NSW for the grant of an Australian Practising Certificate (PC).

Complete the required period of Supervised Legal Practice (SLP)

Your first PC will be subject to various conditions, including a statutory condition that you engage in supervised legal practice only, until you have completed the required period of supervised legal practice (SLP), and have applied for and had this condition removed from your PC. The required period of supervised legal practice for most solicitors is **2 years of full-time practice, or the equivalent worked on a part time basis**. You may be supervised by a person who holds an unsupervised PC and is authorised to supervise others.

Possible career pathways include

- Private practice as an employee of a law practice
- Government departments as a government legal practitioner
- In-House legal teams as a corporate legal practitioner
- Community Legal Centers as either an employee of a law practice or volunteer solicitor
- Rural, regional and remote legal practice

Once admitted, you can advance from a student member to a **solicitor or associate member of the Law Society of NSW**. By joining, you become part of our community of over 35,000 members from across NSW and gain access to a range of exclusive events, program, resources and services to support you throughout your career and help you grow into the best lawyer you can be.

THE LAW SOCIETY OF NSW

From statutory obligations to representative functions, the Law Society's responsibilities are numerous, as are the interests we seek to serve. Our initiatives are focused on the following areas:

- **Enhance the profession's voice** – We act as the voice of the legal profession, representing the interests of more than 35,000 members. We encourage debate and actively drive law reform issues through policy submissions and open dialogue with governments, parliamentary bodies, the courts and the Attorney-General's Department.
- **Regulate the profession** – Endowed with co-regulatory duties with the Office of the Legal Services Commissioner, we set and enforce professional standards, license solicitors to practise, investigate complaints and administer discipline to ensure that both the community and the profession are properly served by ethical and responsible solicitors.
- **Guide the profession** – We provide confidential guidance to solicitors about all aspects of the Legal Profession Uniform Law and its associated legislation. To complement assistance across sensitive ethical and compliance issues, we also help solicitors comply with their professional development obligations.
- **Unite the profession** – We unite the profession, helping members across the state stay in touch with legal developments and with fellow solicitors through a range of publications, networking opportunities and regional law societies.
- **Support members** – We provide a wide range of services to our members to assist them in their professional and personal lives so they can provide better service to their clients and uphold the integrity of the profession.
- **Connect the profession and the community** – We ensure the general public has appropriate access to justice and can be easily connected to members of the profession when they require legal advice.



Find out more about us, and our community programs on our website.



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