

Guide for Overseas Qualified Lawyers

As an overseas qualified lawyer, you must have your academic qualifications and practical legal training assessed by the Legal Profession Admission Board (LPAB) of NSW before being admitted to the profession to practice law in NSW. You are required to have completed the relevant tertiary course that normally leads to admission to practise law in the jurisdiction of course completion and is substantially equivalent to a three-year full-time (equivalent course that leads to admission to the legal profession in Australia. Once you have been admitted by the LPAB, you can apply for a practising certificate granted by the Law Society of New South Wales.

Steps:

- ☐ Qualifications Assessment through LPAB
- ☐ Assessment of Practical Legal Training (PLT)
 - ☐ Complete competencies if PLT is insufficient
- ☐ Apply for Admissions to the Profession
 - ☐ Take the Oath of Office within 12 months of admission
- ☐ Apply for a Practising Certificate through the Law Society of NSW

Required Documents:

- ☐ Testamur/ official completion certificate
- ☐ Transcripts
- ☐ Descriptions of course and unit content (e.g. course handbooks and unit outlines)
- ☐ Evidence of your Practical legal Training, such as a completion certificate
- ☐ Passport

Essential Information:

- Fees: estimated total to be AUD\$1,690
- Time estimates: 10-12 weeks plus consideration of deadlines and schedules for assessments
- English Language Requirements: English proficiency may be demonstrated by undertaking the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic test and achieving the minimum scores required.

Links:

- Legal Profession Admissions Board: <https://lpab.nsw.gov.au/>
- “Assessment of Qualifications and PLT”, Legal Profession Admissions Board: <https://lpab.nsw.gov.au/admission-overseas-lawyers/assessment-skills-and-qualifications.html>
- Law Society of NSW: <https://www.lawsociety.com.au/>
- IELTS: <https://ielts.org/>