



**HOW TO
BECOME
A LAWYER**





THE PATHWAY TO ADMISSION

How does someone become a lawyer in Australia? What qualifications do they need?

Here's a few straightforward answers to these questions.

In order to be admitted as a lawyer in Australia, a person needs to satisfy three requirements:

01

Completed a law degree or equivalent course

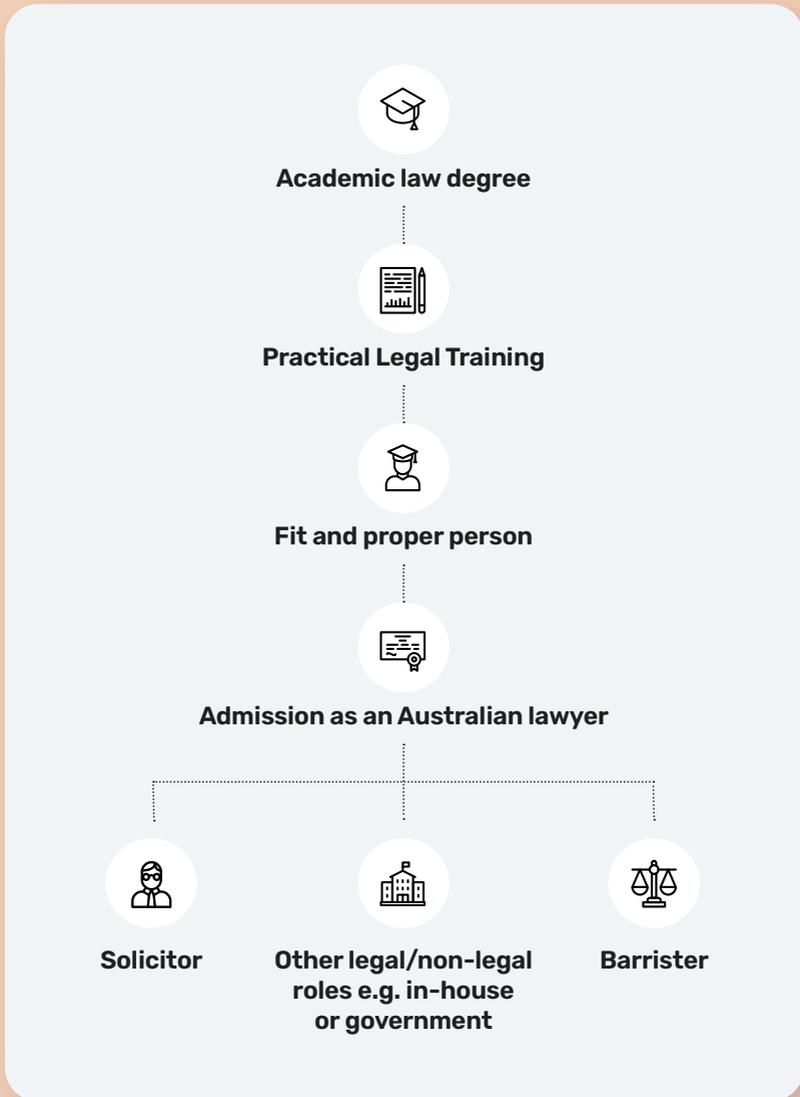
02

Undertaken a Practical Legal Training (PLT) program, which results in the award of the Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice

03

Is a fit and proper person.

CAREER PATHWAY



ACADEMIC LAW DEGREE

There are key areas of knowledge a student needs to pass to obtain a Law degree, they are known as the **'Priestley 11'**:

- Administrative law
- Civil Procedure
- Company Law
- Constitutional Law
- Contracts
- Criminal Law and Procedures
- Equity (including Trusts)
- Evidence
- Professional Conduct (including Basic Trust Accounting)
- Property, both Real (including Torrens System Land) and Personal
- Torts

Beyond these basic requirements, individual Law Schools choose their own compulsory subjects and offer a broad range of elective courses.

PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING

Practical Legal Training is completed after a university law degree – a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or Juris Doctor (JD) or equivalent qualification.

Why? A Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor gives the theoretical understanding of the law and fulfils only part of the criteria for admission to legal practice, as set forth by the Law Admissions Consultative Committee (LACC).

PLT is all about developing the practical skills and knowledge needed to practice as a junior lawyer.

It is the combination of coursework that teaches the nuts and bolts of working in a firm or organisation as a professional lawyer and work experience under an approved senior practitioner.

The College of Law Program contains three components:

01 Coursework

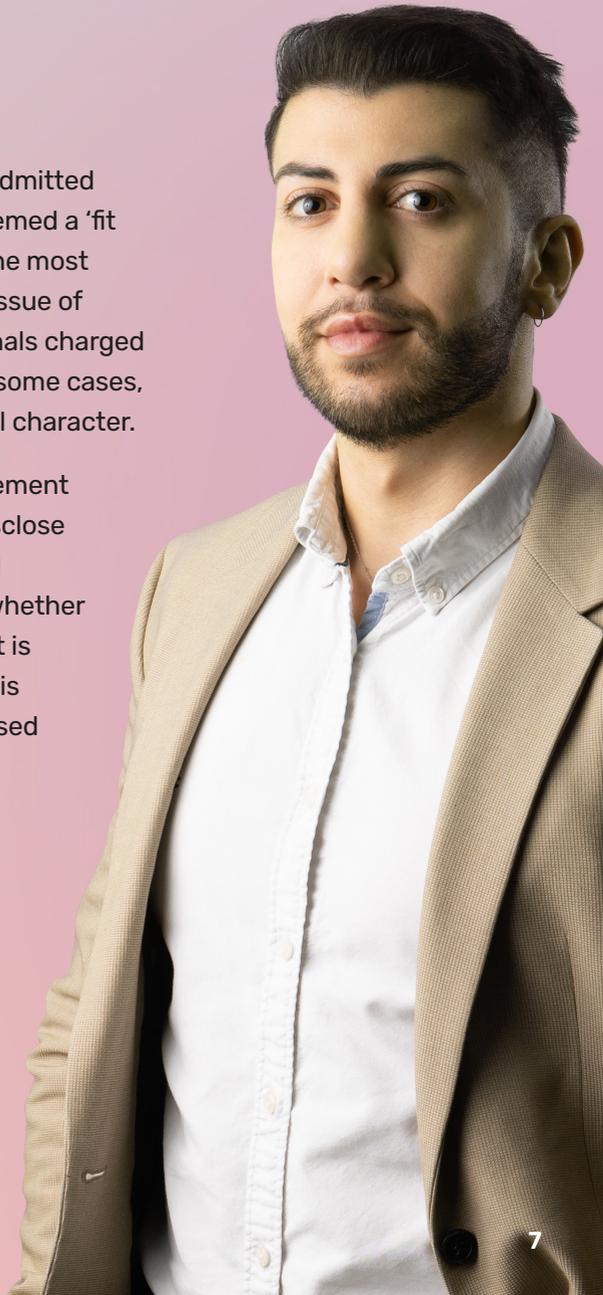
02 Work Experience

03 Continuing Professional Education

FIT AND PROPER PERSON

Of the three requirements to be admitted as a lawyer in Australia, being deemed a 'fit and proper person' might seem the most mystifying. Essentially this is an issue of ethics – ensuring legal professionals charged with interpreting, arguing and in some cases, drafting the law are of good moral character.

The 'fit and proper person' requirement imposes a duty on a person to disclose any criminal, academic or general misconduct that may reflect on whether they are a fit and proper person. It is quite a broad requirement, and it is worth looking into the rules imposed by the admitting authority.



APPLY FOR ADMISSION

To practise law in Australia, a person needs to apply for admission to the Supreme Court of the state or territory they wish to practice in.

Each state and territory in Australia has different requirements and processes for admission. The process usually includes providing evidence of academic and Practical Legal Training qualifications and disclosing details of any conduct that may reflect on whether a person is a fit and proper.

For detailed information on the admission process, contact the local admitting authority:

- **ACT** – Legal Practitioners Admission Board
- **New South Wales** – Legal Profession Admission Board
- **Northern Territory** – Legal Practitioners Admission Board
- **Queensland** – Queensland Legal Practitioners Admission Board
- **South Australia** – Legal Practitioners Education and Admission Council
- **Tasmania** – Board of Legal Education
- **Victoria** – The Victorian Legal Admissions Board
- **Western Australia** – Legal Practice Board

ADMISSION CEREMONY

If an application for admission has been successful, admittees attend an admission ceremony.

At the ceremony, admittees will:

- take an oath of office or make an affirmation of office
- sign the Supreme Court Roll
- receive your Certificate of Admission

At the ceremony, an admittees admission will need to be 'moved' by a person who is:

- currently on the Supreme Court Roll (whether or not the person holds a current practising certificate), or
- an Australian legal practitioner, provided he or she holds a current practising certificate



PRACTISING CERTIFICATE

Before a person can practise as a solicitor, in addition to being admitted to the legal profession, they also need to hold a practising certificate.

A practising certificate is basically a licence which allows a solicitor to provide legal services.

Below is a list of the organisations which issue practising certificates in Australia:

- **ACT** – The Law Society of the Australian Capital Territory
- **New South Wales** – The Law Society of New South Wales
- **Northern Territory**– The Law Society of Northern Territory
- **Queensland** – Queensland Law Society
- **South Australia**– The Law Society of South Australia
- **Tasmania** – The Law Society of Tasmania
- **Victoria**– Victorian Legal Services Board + Commissioner
- **Western Australia**– The Legal Services Board of Western Australia

Once a person has received a practicing certificate in one Australian state or territory, they are able to practice local law in any other Australian state or territory without needing to apply for an additional practising certificate.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Lawyers need to undertake CPD (Continuing Professional Development) or MCLE (Mandatory Continuing Legal Education) to keep their practising certificate. The rules vary between the states and territories.

The College of Law offers a range of CPD courses to satisfy the MCLE requirements of lawyers renewing their practicing certificates. Learn more at collaw.edu.au/CPD

WHERE'S NEXT?

The College of Law is Australasia's leading provider of practice-focused legal education, with over 100,000 alumni. We offer flexible, practical programs to enhance legal careers, prioritising the practical application of law. Enrolment is simple, and we tailor education to fit your lifestyle. We work within the profession, for the profession—alongside you and for you.

To find out more about our courses:



Practical Legal Training call +61 2 9965 7078 or 1300 856 111

Postgraduate, CPD and Short courses call +61 2 9965 7111



Email enrolments@collaw.edu.au