



UNSW
SYDNEY

Practical Legal Training



How to become a practising lawyer



1. Complete your Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or Juris Doctor (JD) degree

The first step on your pathway to practice is to meet the academic requirements for admission. That means you need a completed LLB, JD or equivalent.



2. Complete your Practical Legal Training (PLT) at UNSW

PLT is a requirement for law graduates who seek admission to practice. The training develops skills and values needed for the day-to-day tasks of a legal practitioner, through a combination of coursework and practical experience. You also have the option to start your PLT while finishing your LLB, JD or equivalent under the early start PLT provisions. UNSW PLT graduates are awarded a Graduate Diploma in Legal Professional Practice (GDLPP).



3. Apply for admission to practice

The GDLPP satisfies the educational requirements to be admitted as a lawyer in Australia and New Zealand. Once you have your GDLPP or early completion certificate from UNSW, you can apply to the admitting authority in your jurisdiction, e.g. the Legal Profession Admission Board (LPAB), for a compliance certificate. The admitting authority will assess you for fitness and propriety and issue a compliance certificate on behalf of the Supreme Court to be admitted as a lawyer in Australia or New Zealand.

You can then apply to the Supreme Court to take the oath/affirmation of office and receive your Certificate of Admission.

Once admitted, you apply to the Law Society in your jurisdiction for a Practising Certificate (to practise as a solicitor) or sit the Bar Exam at the Bar Association (to practise as a barrister).

Visit the admitting authority's website in your jurisdiction for further information - e.g. in NSW, visit the Legal Profession Admission Board (LPAB) (lpab.justice.nsw.gov.au) and the Law Society of NSW (lawsociety.com.au) for the latest information on admission to practice.

Why choose UNSW PLT?

A quality Practical Legal Training (PLT) program provides you with unique opportunities to develop both your skills for practice and your professional identity in an engaging and supportive environment as you transition from law student to legal professional. UNSW PLT graduates are awarded a Graduate Diploma in Legal Professional Practice (GDLPP) from a top-ranking law faculty and the only Group of Eight university to offer PLT.



Educational Excellence

Complete your PLT at a law faculty ranked 1st in Sydney, 12th globally* and produces the most employable graduates in Australia.**

*QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2025

**Australian Financial Review (AFR) Top100 Future Leaders Awards, 2020-2025



Quality

Courses developed with subject matter experts from across the profession means you are better prepared for practice.



Flexible

Flexible approaches to learning that enable you to choose where and when you study in our digital pathway to practice.



Unparalleled

Incorporates best-practice emergent educational technologies.



Exceptional Student Experience

Be engaged and learn with mentors while working on simulated files incorporating the latest developments in the profession.



Seamless End-to-end Education

UNSW Law & Justice students can complete all their requirements for practice at UNSW, in a familiar and supportive environment that prioritises student engagement and experience.



Unique Workplace Experience Opportunities

Choose your own placement or gain hands on practical experience at UNSW PLT partners and in-house clinics and centres.



UNSW Law & Justice Careers Service

Access our exclusive careers support services to maximise your employability.



Choose your Adventure

Innovative Practicum streams that can be taken in lieu of Workplace Experience 2.



Experience the Difference

Designed to lead. Build not only your competence but also your confidence in a program that is at the forefront of PLT education. Learn from the profession's leading practitioners in a nurturing and enlivened environment and set yourself apart from the rest.

UNSW PLT at a glance

Law graduates who intend to seek admission to the legal profession will benefit from a distinctive, practice-ready PLT program that develops practical skills and proficiency in the day to day practice of law. The GDLPP is innovatively designed to surpass entry-level professional competency standards.

Program structure

The UNSW PLT program is made up of coursework and workplace experience. You can choose between two formats to complete the program.

Standard GDLPP:

Coursework + Workplace Experience 1 & 2

Suitable for students who want to have their previous workplace experience credited. It also caters for students who have limited or no previous experience.

Immersive workshop
5 days



Immersive

5 days of synchronous workshops.

Online coursework
19 weeks



Online coursework

19 weeks of online courses

+

Work experience 1
20 days



Workplace Experience 1

Work experience 2
20 days



Workplace Experience 2

Standard GDLPP + Practicum:

Coursework + Workplace Experience 1 + Practicum

Ideal for students who have no workplace experience or if they wish to add further specialised skills, knowledge and/ or experience to their PLT qualification.

Immersive workshop
5 Days



Immersive

5 days of synchronous workshops.

Online Coursework
19 Weeks



Online coursework

19 weeks of online courses

+

Work Experience 1
20 Days



Workplace Experience 1

Practicum
20 Days



Practicum

Coursework

Immersive workshop (five days)

The Immersive, a student favourite, includes specially designed activities that engage you from the very first week.

Our program begins in O-Week in February (Term 1) and September (Term 3), with a compulsory five-day immersive series of workshops from Monday to Friday. Students can choose between attending the last two days onsite or continuing online.

Online coursework (19 weeks)

The online coursework is completed over 19 weeks. The program consists of four compulsory core courses and two elective practice areas.

The core courses are:

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1. Skills in Practice

Lawyer's skills, problem solving, work management, business skills, wellbeing and legal project management.
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2. Values in Practice

Ethics and professional responsibility, trust and office accounting.
- 

3. Litigation Practice

Skills, values and competencies for civil litigation practice.
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4. Transactional Practice

Property practice and commercial and corporate practice.

Choose **2 elective** practice areas from:

- > Administrative Law Practice
- > Banking and Finance Practice
- > Criminal Law Practice
- > Family Law Practice
- > Employment and Industrial Relations Practice
- > Consumer Law Practice
- > Wills and Estates Practice

GDLPP's workplace experiences and practicum. Interact with practising lawyers, colleagues, and clients to apply, test and reflect on your coursework.

UNSW PLT students undertake workplace experience in a law or law-related work environment, under the supervision of a practising lawyer.

These are your workplace experience options:



You can start your workplace experience while still studying your law degree and apply to have your experience recognised in our PLT program. Recognition may be obtained for workplace experience in a variety of legal environments, including:

- > Law firms (including clerkships, internships and paralegal work)
- > Community legal centres
- > Government legal departments
- > Company legal departments
- > Judges' Associateships
- > Assisting Tribunal members
- > Legal Aid
- > UNSW Law & Justice in-house clinics and centres

Your workplace experience must meet the eligibility criteria to earn recognition. For more information, visit unsw.to/plt

Workplace Experience 1

- > 20 days of workplace experience
- > Choose your own placement or apply to undertake workplace experience at a range of UNSW partner clinics and organisations
- > You have up to 2 years to complete Workplace Experience 1 from the commencement of PLT coursework (it can be completed whilst undertaking PLT coursework or after)
- > Requires the submission of student and supervisor declarations

If you've undertaken workplace experience within the last two years, you can apply to have up to five days recognised towards Workplace Experience 1 – so you can complete the placement in less time after coursework commences.



Workplace Experience 2

- > 20 days of workplace experience
- > Choose your own placement or apply to undertake workplace experience at a range of UNSW partner clinics and organisations
- > You can undertake Workplace Experience 2 placements overseas, in a legal or law-related workplace, as long as you have Faculty approval
- > Requires the submission of supervisor and student declarations, and reflective tasks

You can have 20 days of workplace experience recognised and credited towards your PLT if it is completed within two years of commencing PLT, or within two years of the completion of your coursework.



Practicum

The Practicum gives you opportunities for additional specialised experience, skills, and knowledge, with guidance from UNSW. It also supports students who find it difficult to accrue enough workplace experience to complete the PLT program.

The Practicum currently has four streams: Adaptive Lawyering and Leadership, Technology and Innovation, Social Justice and Impact, and Commercial Law and Enterprise. Once your stream is chosen, you will work through training modules and a project to increase your skills with the support of a Practicum Mentor.

Complete the Practicum with your project documentation and reflective tasks.



Workplace Experience Checklist

[Click here](#) to make sure you have everything you need for Workplace Experience.

"Completing the UNSW PLT program was a significant turning point in my legal career. Prior to starting the GDLPP, I was contemplating leaving the law altogether and had I not known about a program like this, I would not have started my PLT at all. What drew me to the UNSW program was the promise of a more personal, well-rounded experience, and it certainly delivered! Highlights for me were the focus on values and healthy lawyering, the Administrative Law elective and the Employment Law elective - all very practical, engaging and important. I'm now working in a legal role part-time and loving it, thanks to the brilliant introduction I received during my PLT."

Charlotte Smee
UNSW PLT graduate



Fees & FAQs

*The indicative fees listed below are based on an estimated average and are for tuition only, other fees and charges are not included.
Fees are subject to annual review (or when required) by the University and may vary accordingly.

	Program components	Domestic	International
Standard GDLPP	4 x 6 UOC core courses	\$11,000*	\$16,500*
	2 x 3 UOC electives	(for 30 UOC)	(for 30 UOC)
	Workplace Exp 1 (no fee) – 6 UOC		
	Workplace Exp 2 (no fee) – 6 UOC		
GDLPP with Practicum	4 x 6 UOC core courses	\$13,500*	\$19,500*
	2 x 3 UOC electives	(for 36 UOC)	(for 36 UOC)
	Workplace Exp 1 (no fee) – 6 UOC		
	Practicum (fee) – 6 UOC		

Will I have a qualification after completing my PLT?

Yes, you will be awarded a Graduate Diploma in Legal Professional Practice (GDLPP), which satisfies the PLT requirements to apply for admission as a lawyer.

When do I need to pay my fees?

You can choose to pay upfront, or on the census date for each course. You may be eligible for FEE-HELP.

What are the entry requirements?

You will need a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or a Juris Doctor (JD), or an equivalent qualification from an Australian university or tertiary institution.

Applicants with overseas qualifications are required to have their qualifications assessed by the Legal Profession Admission Board (LPAB) before admission into the GDLPP.

What does the PLT timetable look like?

Please check the [2025 PLT timetable](#) for more information.

Will there be exams?

No, there are no exams, essays or group assessments. The assessments are the tasks you can expect to do in your first few years of practice. The GDLPP seeks to equip you with the competence and confidence for practice by providing you the opportunity to practise and demonstrate your skills as you complete components of a simulated file. You will receive feedback from legal practitioner mentors on your work and be provided with the opportunity to re-do your work (as you would in practice) until you reach a competent standard.

Can I start PLT while finishing my law degree?

Yes, if you have completed all Priestley 11 core courses/subjects and have no more than 2 electives remaining to complete in your LLB/JD or equivalent qualification, you can seek the approval of the Legal Profession Admission Board (LPAB) to start your PLT early.

When can I start and when will I finish?

We have two intakes every year, February (Term 1) and September (Term 3). Start your PLT coursework in February, complete your workplace experience and be eligible for admission in August/September. Start in September, complete your coursework and workplace experience and be eligible for admission in March/April. The PLT program begins with a 5-day immersive workshop held during O-Week (from Monday to Friday) provides a solid foundation and is instrumental in facilitating students' success for the remainder of the program.

How can I apply?

Go straight to UNSW Apply Online (Program Code: 5213). We can't wait to welcome you to our connected cohort!

> applyonline.unsw.edu.au/login

I still have questions about UNSW PLT

If you need further assistance, please contact the UNSW PLT team via plt@unsw.edu.au or book a one on one meeting to chat with the Director in a PLT consultation: [BOOK NOW](#)

You can also find detailed application information in this comprehensive [UNSW PLT application & enrolment guide](#).

Information correct as of April, 2025.

Contact us

UNSW PLT Team

plt@unsw.edu.au

Ask a question: unsw.edu.au/ask

Call: 1300 UNI NSW (1300 864 679)

Visit: degrees.unsw.edu.au/practical-legal-training

UNSW Law & Justice

UNSW Sydney NSW 2052

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