

The Legal Profession Admission Board examinations offer an accessible and affordable pathway into legal practice in New South Wales. Sydney University's Law Extension Committee provides tuition to the Board's students.

Many enquiries received by the Board and the Law Extension Committee are answered in this book, so please read it carefully.

THE LEGAL PROFESSION ADMISSION BOARD

The Legal Profession Admission Board performs various functions associated with the admission of lawyers in New South Wales. Once admitted as a lawyer, a person may apply to the Law Society of NSW or the Bar Association of NSW for a practising certificate as either a solicitor or barrister.

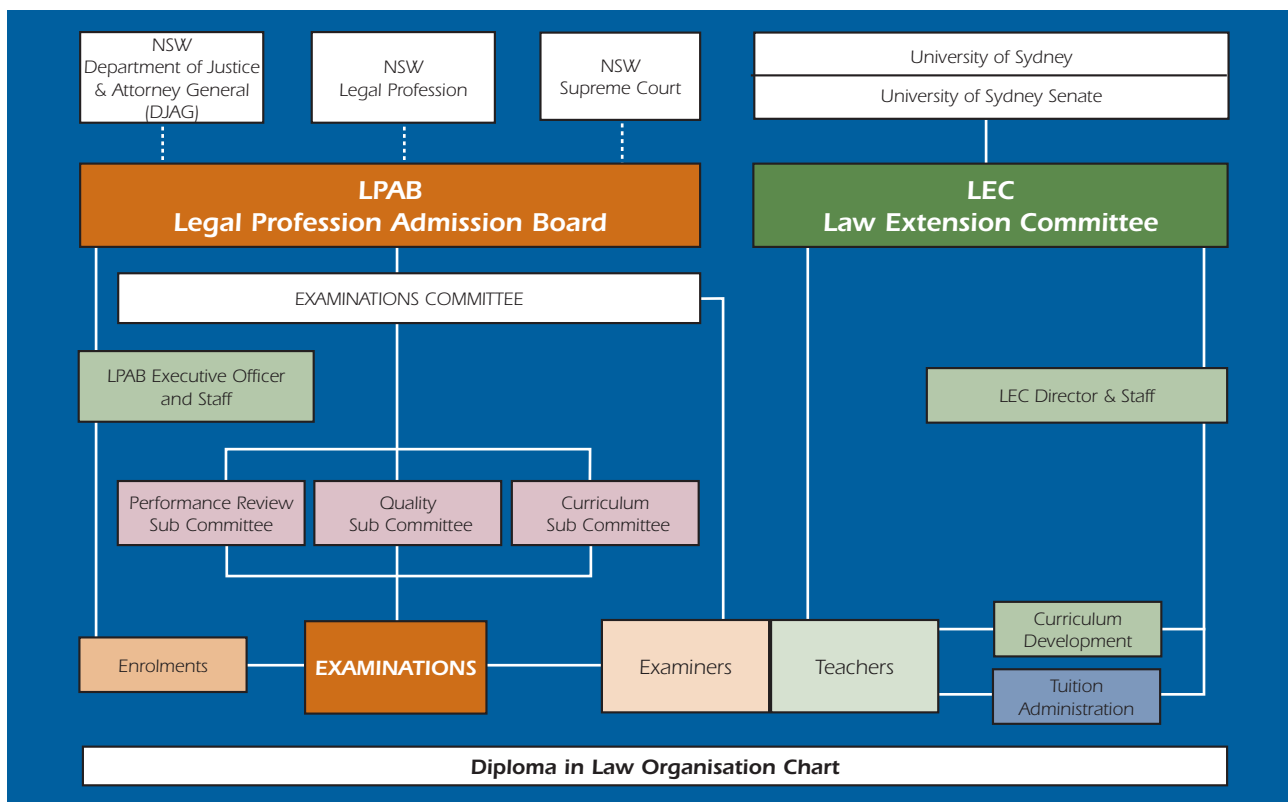
The Board sets its examinations and deals with all applications relating to them and to admission.

THE LAW EXTENSION COMMITTEE

The Law Extension Committee was established by the Senate of the University of Sydney in 1964. The Committee's function is to provide legal education for students undertaking the Legal Profession Admission Board examinations. The Committee is appointed by the University Senate and comprises members and nominees proposed by the University, the Chief Justice of New South Wales, the NSW Bar Association, the Law Society and the Faculty of Law.

Lectures are given by practitioners and university teachers. Weekend schools are also offered each session, primarily for external students.

The aim of the Committee is to provide affordable and accessible legal education in support of the Board's examinations. The program is not able to offer all the services and individual attention of a comprehensive campus, and is suited to students with motivation and initiative. There is a strong orientation towards education for legal practice.



Introduction

ORIGINS AND BACKGROUND OF THE BOARD'S EXAMS

From 1848, before Australian universities offered law degrees, the Supreme Court of New South Wales set examinations for admission to the profession. This tradition has been continued by the admission boards, allowing people to study law, in the country as well as the city, and to become lawyers in circumstances where it might not have been possible otherwise. The Board is not a degree-granting body, and, unlike a university, does not offer personal supervision or facilities for research. Emphasis in the Board's curriculum is on its practical, professional orientation.

The Board's Students-at-Law are not students of the University of Sydney. You enrol for examinations with the Legal Profession Admission Board. You must undertake the Law Extension Committee's educational program in each subject you take, but your enrolment is with the Board, you sit for the Board's examinations and, if successful, you will be awarded the Board's Diploma in Law.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

The fundamental aim of the course is to provide a readily accessible legal education and a flexible means of entry to the legal profession. The program is academically rigorous, but emphasis is placed on performance in the course rather than on high entry requirements.

The course is designed to be especially suitable for part-time students, including country residents. Many find previous study to be advantageous; and also work experience, particularly in a law-related area.

Students need to possess initiative and a strong motivation to study for the Board's examinations, as the amount of individual attention and the on-campus support provided in undergraduate university courses are not available.

EXAMINATIONS

Assessment is currently by examination in each subject. There is at least one compulsory assignment in each subject. The pass mark in all examinations is 50%. A pass is determined by achievement in the examination, and is not influenced by pass rates.

The Board appoints an Examiner and a Revising Examiner in each subject. The Examiner sets the

examination according to the Board's syllabus, which is reflected in the Subject Guide prepared by the Examiner in consultation with the Law Extension Committee. The Examiner is usually the Committee's teacher in the subject. When the examination is set, it is reviewed by the Revising Examiner.

Any failed paper achieving a mark of 40% or above is marked again by the Revising Examiner. After marks have been published the Board does not re-mark examination papers under any circumstances. If, however, students have any questions concerning their examination they may organise to meet with the Examiner to discuss their paper in more detail. Please see page 44 for more information.

STUDY PROGRAM

In each session the full program of subjects is offered. Except in special circumstances, students may not attempt more than two subjects in each session for the first two years of their course, and from then, up to three subjects per session.

If you have previous successful study experience and compatible work and other commitments, the study pattern on the opposite page represents an efficient and properly sequenced approach. If you have not engaged in intensive study recently you might choose to begin with only the first subject, Legal Institutions.

The amount of study time you need to allocate to each subject is difficult to estimate, but in very general terms you should anticipate more than three hours of study for each hour of teaching time.

Additional time is required for assignment preparation. Check your individual subject guides for their due dates. Don't under estimate the workload, particularly if you are working full time or have not undertaken formal studies for many years, have not studied a law subject previously, are managing a family or if English is a second language.

Students are encouraged to consider their time constraints carefully and consider whether it would be advisable to commence with one subject.

SUGGESTED SEQUENCE

FIRST YEAR

Session 1

01 Legal Institutions

02 Criminal Law and Procedure

Carefully assess your capacity to undertake the workload. Unless you have previous successful study experience and compatible work and other commitments, consider starting with Legal Institutions alone, ensuring compliance with Rule 64. See page 13.

Session 2

03 Torts

04 Contracts

SECOND YEAR

Session 1

05 Real Property

06 Australian Constitutional Law

Session 2

07 Equity

08 Commercial Transactions

THIRD YEAR

Session 1

09 Administrative Law

10 Law of Associations

11 Evidence

Session 2

12 Taxation and Revenue Law

13 Succession

Elective 1

FOURTH YEAR

Session 1

14 Conveyancing

15 Practice and Procedure

Elective 2

Session 2

17 Legal Ethics

24 Jurisprudence

Elective 3

WHAT NOW?

Feedback from students over many sessions suggests that one of the most common questions when you enrol, receive your enrolment package and study guide and purchase your texts is the question "what do I do now?" Your first task is to plan a study strategy. In this program you must take the initiative in doing this, and no one approach will suit all. Below are some suggestions we hope you find useful.

The first item relates to studying for exams. Since assessment is primarily by examination, your practical objective is to pass each examination. Your immediate objective is to develop an approach to learning which lets you enjoy your study and process the information in ways that make sense to you.

The foundation of study and good practice is built on active, thorough research. Law has quickly embraced electronic technology, and the Law Extension Committee is utilising the vast data capacities of the internet in maintaining a comprehensive website to assist students in research and in communicating with fellow students.

STUDYING FOR EXAMS

Successful students often treat exams as briefs, and approach them as forensic challenges. They pull subjects apart, make sure they understand the components, and then put them back together. They continually seek a clearer grasp of the main concepts in each area. Students are advised that sole reliance on past examination papers as a means of study is educationally unsound.

During exams they exercise simple but unbending discipline. Managing time is critical. No less important are careful reading and re-reading of the instructions and questions. They don't shy away from what they are unsure of, or pretend part of a question does not exist. They test their understanding against the facts put before them. They know it is better to attempt the actual question than invent one they feel more confident about.

RESEARCHING FOR ASSIGNMENTS

Students are required to complete satisfactorily one or more assignments in the Law Extension Committee's course to be eligible to sit the Board's examinations in

Introduction

those subjects.

A key element of studying law is learning how to research, and the Committee sets written assignments to help develop your legal research skills. Two basic elements in legal research are finding material, and analysing it. In finding material you have to know what to look for, where to look, and how to look.

Legal matters are accompanied by a significant amount of documentation and electronic management of that information has progressed very quickly. What this means is that familiarity with internet-based legal materials is a necessity. Researching the law on the web is a necessary skill. What the future will bring will be more sophisticated search engines, easier navigation, and a far greater volume of information. Learning how to retrieve and organise data is a critical part of the study of law.

For these reasons the Committee is encouraging students to make full use of its website. As well as providing an efficient means of obtaining an increasingly wide range of support materials, it also hones your skills in legal research.

AWARD OF THE DIPLOMA IN LAW

Upon successful completion of the required number of the Board's examinations, students are notified by the Board that they are eligible to receive a Diploma in Law and invited to attend a graduation ceremony held each year, usually in July.

The ceremony is conducted in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney and the diplomas are presented by the Presiding Member of the Legal Profession Admission Board. Teachers, examiners, members of the Board and members of the Law Extension Committee make up the official party. It is customary to have an "occasional address" by an eminent person associated with the profession of law.

Graduating students are usually able to invite up to three guests to attend the ceremony. Academic dress is not worn. The ceremony is usually followed by refreshments in the University's MacLaurin Hall.

For more information about graduation ceremonies, please contact the Board on (02) 9338 3506.



University of Sydney, Great Hall