



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

# Practical Legal Training

A progressive pathway to practice



# 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 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 commencement 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 NSW. Once you have your GDLPP or early completion certificate from UNSW, you can apply to the Legal Profession Admission Board (LPAB) for a compliance certificate. The LPAB 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 any Australian state or territory.

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 of NSW for a Practising Certificate (to practise as a solicitor) or sit the Bar Exam at the NSW Bar Association (to practise as a barrister).

Visit the Legal Profession Admission Board (LPAB) ([lpab.justice.nsw.gov.au](http://lpab.justice.nsw.gov.au)) and the Law Society of NSW ([lawsociety.com.au](http://lawsociety.com.au)) for the latest information on admission to practice.

# Why choose UNSW PLT?

Practical Legal Training (PLT) is an essential requirement for Law graduates who seek admission to the legal profession. UNSW PLT program graduates are awarded a Graduate Diploma in Legal Professional Practice (GDLPP) from a top-ranking law faculty and a leader in progressive and rigorous legal education and research.



## Educational Excellence

Ranked 13th law faculty in the world\*

\*QS World University Rankings by Subject, 2021



## Quality

Courses developed with subject matter experts from across the profession



## Flexible

Choose where and when you study in our digital pathway to practice



## Unparalleled

Incorporates best-practice emergent educational technologies



## Exceptional Student Experience

Students love the engaging learning experiences based on simulated files incorporating the latest developments in the profession



## Seamless End-to-end Education

UNSW Law students can now complete all their requirements for practice at the only GO8 university providing PLT. Complete your PLT in a familiar and supportive environment that prioritises student engagement and experience



## Unique Workplace Experience Opportunities

Gain hands on practical experience at UNSW PLT partners and in-house clinics and centres



## UNSW Law & Justice Careers Service

Exclusive service that enhances and maximises your employability



## Experience the Difference

Designed to lead. Build your competence and confidence as you learn from the profession's leading practitioners in a nurturing and enlivened environment



## Choose your Adventure

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

# UNSW PLT at a glance

Law graduates who intend to seek admission to the legal profession will benefit from the UNSW Graduate Diploma in Legal Professional Practice (GDLPP) qualification. Our distinctive, practice-ready PLT program 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. In Term 1, 2022 UNSW will continue to offer PLT 100% online.

### 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



**Onsite**

5 days of synchronous workshops. In T1 2022, the first three days will be held online and students can choose between attending the last two days onsite (COVID-19 restrictions dependent) or continuing online.

**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



**Onsite**

5 days of synchronous workshops. In T1 2022, the first three days will be held online and students can choose between attending the last two days onsite (COVID-19 restrictions dependent) or continuing online.

**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)

Our program begins in O-Week each term, with a compulsory five-day immersive series of workshops from Wednesday to Sunday (starting on 9 February 2022 in Term 1, 2022). In Term 1, 2022, these workshops will be delivered entirely online. This immersive week will include specially designed activities and seminars with introductions to core practice areas and skills.

## 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:



### 1. Skills in Practice

Lawyer's skills, problem solving, work management, business skills, wellbeing and legal project management.



### 2. Values in Practice

Ethics and professional responsibility, trust and office accounting.



### 3. Litigation Practice

Skills, values and competencies for civil litigation practice.



### 4. Transactional Practice

Property practice and commercial and corporate practice.

Choose **2 elective** practice areas from:

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

Transform your knowledge and skills into real-life practice with the 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 work experience in a law or law-related work environment, under the supervision of a practising lawyer.

These are your workplace experience options:



**Workplace Experience 1**  
20 days

+



**Workplace Experience 2**  
20 days

OR



**Practicum**

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

> [law.unsw.edu.au/plt](http://law.unsw.edu.au/plt)

## Workplace Experience 1

- > 20 days of workplace experience
- > You can undertake workplace experience at one or a range of firms/ 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
- > You can undertake workplace experience at one or a range of firms/ 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 if it is completed within two years of commencing PLT, or within two years of the completion of your online 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.



"The UNSW PLT program has brought together legal industry leaders, asked what it is they would like to see more of in their graduate lawyers, and put those skills into a program. I cannot recommend it highly enough: it is innovative, engaging, provides fantastic professional development and networking opportunities, and you get to learn the skills to practice from practitioner-mentors who currently use those same skills every day"

**Abbey Cooper**  
UNSW PLT graduate

## Fees & FAQs

	Program components	Domestic	International
<b>Standard GDLPP</b>	4 x 6 UOC core courses 2 x 3 UOC electives Workplace Exp 1 (no fee) – 6 UOC Workplace Exp 2 (no fee) – 6 UOC	<b>\$10,800</b> (for 30 UOC)	<b>\$13,800</b> (for 30 UOC)
<b>GDLPP with Practicum</b>	4 x 6 UOC core courses 2 x 3 UOC electives Workplace Exp 1 (no fee) – 6 UOC Practicum (fee) – 6 UOC	<b>\$12,960</b> (for 36 UOC)	<b>\$16,560</b> (for 36 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 Term 1, 2022 timetable on the following [link](#).

### Will there be exams?

No. The UNSW PLT is seeking to give you the competence and confidence to practice by giving you the opportunity to practise and demonstrate your skills by completing components of a simulated file. You will receive feedback from legal practitioner mentors on this 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?

We have two intakes every year, February (Term 1) and September (Term 3). The PLT program begins with a 5-day immersive workshop held during O-Week (from Wednesday to Sunday), which provides a solid foundation and is instrumental for 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](https://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](mailto:plt@unsw.edu.au)

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

Information correct as of December, 2021.

# Contact us

## UNSW PLT Team

[plt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:plt@unsw.edu.au)

**Ask a question:** [unsw.edu.au/ask](https://unsw.edu.au/ask)

**Call:** 1300 UNI NSW (1300 864 679)

**Visit:** [degrees.unsw.edu.au/practical-legal-training](https://degrees.unsw.edu.au/practical-legal-training)

## UNSW Law & Justice

UNSW Sydney NSW 2052

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