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.

THE LEGAL PROFESSION ADMISSION BOARD

The Legal Profession Admission Board (LPAB) 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.

Students intending to sit the LPAB’s exams must submit an Application for Enrolment and pay the necessary fees to the LPAB (refer to page 13-14).

Students intending to undertake tuition with the LEC must register online using the LEC’s Webcampus (refer page 23).

THE LAW EXTENSION COMMITTEE

The Law Extension Committee (LEC) was established by the Senate of the University of Sydney in 1964. The LEC’s function is to provide legal education for students undertaking the Legal Profession Admission Board examinations. The LEC 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 lecturers. Weekend schools are also offered each session, primarily for external students.

The aim of the LEC 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.
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.

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 until they have passed or been exempted from eight compulsory subjects, 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 underestimate 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.

A student – at – law needs to possess a strong comprehension of both written and oral English in order to successfully undertake the Board’s exams.

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

EXAMINATIONS

Assessment is by examination and assignment, which together comprise the Board’s examinations. There is at least one compulsory assignment in each subject. The pass mark in all subjects 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 lecturer in the subject. When the examination is set, it is reviewed by the Revising Examiner.

The papers of any student achieving a total mark of 40% - 49% are marked again by the Revising Examiner.
AWARD OF THE DIPLOMA IN LAW

Upon successful completion of the Board’s examinations, save those from which he/she has been exempted, a student is notified by the Board that he/she is eligible to receive a Diploma in Law and invited to attend a graduation ceremony held each year, usually in June or July. Graduating students will also receive an academic transcript at no cost which will be posted a few weeks after results are published.

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. Lecturers, 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 followed by refreshments in a University venue, usually MacLaurin Hall.

For more information about graduation ceremonies, please contact the Board on (02) 9338 3506, or visit our website www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lpab

SUGGESTED STUDY SEQUENCE

FIRST YEAR

Session 1
01 Legal Institutions
02 Criminal Law and Procedure

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

The first eleven subjects are to be taken in order

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