

LAW ADMISSIONS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
ACCREDITING SUBJECTS IN OVERSEAS LAW COURSES

Australian Admitting Authorities apply Uniform Principles for Assessing the Qualifications of Overseas Applicants for Admission to the Australian Legal Profession. These Uniform Principles are set in the Documents about Present Admission Policies on this web-page. They apply to both academic and practical legal training qualifications.

The *academic* qualifications of each applicant for admission are assessed against the areas of knowledge which all Australian applicants must acquire during a recognised tertiary law course, before seeking admission to the legal profession.

Each applicant, as part of such a law course, must have successfully completed a course of study in each of the following areas of academic knowledge (**Prescribed Subjects**):

- Criminal law and procedure;
- Torts;
- Contracts;
- Property;
- Equity;
- Company law;
- Administrative law;
- Federal and State Constitutional law;
- Civil procedure;
- Evidence;
- Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

Every applicant (other than a qualified applicant or practitioner from New Zealand) will be required to undertake further academic studies in Australia in Federal and State Constitutional law.

Whether an applicant will be required to undertake more of the Prescribed Subjects in Australia before becoming eligible to apply for admission in Australia, depends on the applicant's previous academic studies and where they were undertaken.

The common requirements for graduates from other countries are set out in Schedule 2 to the Uniform Principles referred to above.

If your law school is in a country where applicants are commonly required to undertake subjects comparable to some or all of the Prescribed Subjects, it may be possible to arrange for one or more subjects in your course to be accredited for admission purposes in Australian jurisdictions. Your graduates will then usually receive credit for the Prescribed Subjects for which your law school is accredited in that jurisdiction. They will thus be required to do fewer of the Prescribed Subjects in Australia than might otherwise be required.

Applications seeking accreditation should deal with each of the matters set out below and be supported by appropriate additional materials, where possible. Applications may be sent to:

The Secretary
Law Admissions Consultative Committee
Law Council of Australia Limited
GPO Box 1989
CANBERRA ACT 2601

An application will usually be processed by the Law Admissions Consultative Committee within six weeks after it is received. The Committee will then make a recommendation to the various Admitting Authorities in Australia, who must ultimately decide whether a particular subject will be accredited for admission purposes in that jurisdiction.

It is likely to be a condition of accreditation that the relevant Dean will report any significant change to any of the matters dealt with in an application which occurs during a period of accreditation.

You might be asked to supply further information to assist in accrediting your law school subjects, or to maintain their accreditation.

Please set out the following information in your application for accreditation.

1. MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Describe the particular mission and objectives of your law school in relation to its teaching and research activities and its role in your community and legal profession.

2. GOVERNANCE

Describe your law school's structural relationship with any other institutions, such as a University or Law Admitting Authority.

To what extent is your law school autonomous with respect to:

- curriculum design and content;
- teaching methods;
- appointment of teaching staff;
- library and IT resources; and
- budgetary matters?

3. DURATION OF YOUR LAW COURSE

Set out the usual period over which a full-time student, who succeeds at the first attempt at each subject, will complete the law course.

4. CURRICULUM DESIGN

How is the curriculum for the law course designed and how it is taught. To what degree may it be studied on-line?

What are the type and size of classes?

5. CURRICULUM CONTENT

Generally describe the scope of your law school curriculum.

For those of the following subjects for which you seek accreditation, please supply a list of prescribed books and any teaching materials provided to students:

- Criminal law and procedure;
- Torts;
- Contracts;
- Property;
- Equity;
- Company law;
- Civil procedure;
- Evidence;
- Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

6. ASSESSMENT METHODS AND STANDARDS

Describe how the performance of students in each of the subjects listed in item 5 for which you seek accreditation is assessed; the usual assessment tasks (examination, test, assignment); and the marking criteria employed.

7. **ACADEMIC STAFF**

How many teachers does your law school employ? What are their typical qualifications, and teaching, research and other duties? How many full-time, part-time or casual employees do you have?

8. **LAW LIBRARY AND LEGAL RESOURCES**

Generally explain what library and other learning resources are available to students and staff; the nature of the collection; and the range of available reference, instructional, bibliographic and other services provided by the law school's library and other resource centres.
