

ASSESSING ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS UNDER RULES 6A and 7AA or 7B (*Stale Qualifications*)

The following information is to assist applicants seeking assessment of approved academic qualifications and/or approved practical legal training requirements where those qualifications and/or requirements were completed more than five years before applying for admission.

Legislation governing such applications is contained under Rules 6A and 7AA or 7B of the Supreme Court (Admission) Rules 2004 (“the Rules”). The Legal Practitioners Admissions Board (the Board) adopts the Legal Admissions Consultative Committee’s (LACC) stale qualification guidelines implemented in NSW and Victoria in the *Agreed procedure for dealing with Stale Qualification* as policy in considering qualifications to be assessed under Rules 6A and Rule 7AA or 7B.

When applying to the Board for an assessment of academic qualifications and/or practical legal training requirements, an applicant should provide a copy of their transcript evidencing completion of their academic qualifications and/or practical legal training, details explaining the circumstances of the delay in seeking admission following completion of their academic qualifications and/or approved practical legal training requirements, and a copy of their curriculum vitae. In considering an application, the Board may, but is not obliged, to also take into account the ‘*Common Considerations relevant to Stale Qualifications*’ detailed below, such as evidence of any further law related study completed and/or experience within the law.

Any additional academic study or practical legal training the Board may require an applicant to complete is based on an applicant’s unique experience and circumstances on a case by case basis, whilst applying LACC’s stale qualification guidelines which provide the following scale of suggested additional academic qualifications and additional practical legal training requirements that the Board may (or may not) require an applicant to complete:

Additional academic qualifications

Years since completion of law program	Suggested Areas of Knowledge
More than 5 years	Equity, and possibly Research techniques
More than 9 years	Equity, Administrative Law, and possibly Research techniques
More than 12 years	Equity, Administrative Law plus 1 (possibly Evidence), and possibly Research techniques
More than 14 years	Equity, Administrative Law plus 2, and possibly Research techniques
More than 15 years	Equity, Administrative Law plus 3, and possibly Research techniques
More than 16 years	Equity, Administrative Law plus 3, and possibly Research techniques, and any other additional subjects the Board considers appropriate in the circumstances

Additional practical legal training

Years since completion of PLT program	Suggested Skills, Values and Practice areas
More than 5 years	Ethics and Professional Responsibility Lawyers Skills Trust and Office Accounting Work Management and Business skills

More than 7 years	All of the above PLUS – Commercial and Corporate Practice Civil Litigation Practice
More than 9 years	All of the above PLUS – Either Property Law Practice and One Optional Practice Area; or Two Optional Practice Areas
More than 10 years	All

COMMON CONSIDERATIONS RELEVANT TO STALE QUALIFICATIONS

Common considerations which the Board may choose, but is not obliged, to take into account when considering the qualifications of an applicant are:

- (a) the nature and quality of the applicant's previous academic and practical legal training qualifications including the results obtained in any academic or practical legal training subjects undertaken in Australia;
- (b) the length of time since the applicant successfully completed a particular Academic or Practical Legal Training Requirement;
- (c) the applicant's subsequent verifiable experience in the subject matter of a particular Academic or Practical Legal Training Requirement;
- (d) the nature, duration and currency of the applicant's experience in law-related occupations, including experience gained:
 - (i) in working in an Australian jurisdiction, or with Australian lawyers or in Australian law;
 - (ii) in an environment requiring the regular public or objective testing of the applicant's judgement and knowledge of the relevant law;
- (e) whether there have been any significant changes in the relevant law since the applicant completed an Academic or Practical Legal Training Requirement; and
- (f) any other factor that may bear on the currency or relevance of the applicant's knowledge or experience in relation to a particular Academic or Practical Legal Training Requirement.

If you require further information regarding the application process, please email admissions@qls.com.au