



# New Options for Law Graduates

## Information for Law Graduates

On 1 July 2008, Victoria introduced new admission requirements for law graduates. As a result, Traineeships have replaced Articled Clerkships.

Trainees (law graduates) must cover national competencies through either Practical Legal Training or during a Traineeship. Traineeships include completing compulsory competencies with an approved external provider.

At the conclusion of the Traineeship, supervisors must confirm that all requisite competencies have been covered in the Traineeship plan. If a firm cannot provide training in a particular competency, the Trainee will need to undertake supplementary

training with an approved external provider, or through a secondment to another firm.

The College of Law Victoria, in conjunction with the Law Institute of Victoria, will offer the Trainee Admission Program (TAP) to assist both law graduates and firms meet these new requirements. The TAP offers approved training in the compulsory competency areas, as well as training in all other competencies.

The College will continue to offer Practical Legal Training (PLT) for law graduates as an alternative path to admission in Victoria.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the options for Admission?

From 1 July 2008, law graduates seeking admission to practise in Victoria need to complete either:

- Supervised Workplace Training through a Traineeship\* and compulsory external training; or
- a Practical Legal Training (PLT) course with an approved provider such as the College

### What are the "National Competency Standards"?

The National Competency Standards are core practical skills, practice areas and values which each law graduate must achieve before being eligible for admission to practice:

- Lawyer's Skills
- Ethics and Professional Responsibility
- Work Management and Business Skills
- Problem Solving
- Civil Litigation Practice
- Trust and Office Accounting
- Property Law Practice
- Commercial and Corporate Practice

and one of:

- Administrative Law Practice
- Criminal Law Practice
- Family Law Practice

and one of:

- Employment & Industrial Relations Practice
- Planning & Environmental Law Practice
- Consumer Law Practice
- Wills and Estates Practice

### Which Competency Standards must be completed externally?

- Ethics and Professional Responsibility
- Lawyer's Skills
- Risk Management

### What will this training cost?

The cost will vary for each Trainee, depending on which competencies are required.

The basic cost for the compulsory external training is \$2,900.

\*12 months' legal placement in a law firm



## Can law firms teach Competency Standards during the Traineeship?

The compulsory competencies must be completed externally to the Supervised Workplace Training. Firms may teach the remaining competencies provided they have the necessary expertise in each area, otherwise training can be undertaken by secondment to another firm or through an approved training provider.

Before the Trainee can be admitted to practise, the supervisor will be required to make an affidavit that the Trainee has satisfactorily completed all the Competency Standards.

## When can I undertake these competencies?

The College will offer several intakes throughout the year for training in external and other competencies. For further information on course dates please visit [www.collaw.edu.au](http://www.collaw.edu.au)

## What does Practical Legal Training with The College of Law Victoria involve?

In the College's Professional Program Online (PPO), graduates are taught primarily online, with some onsite skills sessions, and also complete 15 weeks of work experience in a law firm. Full and part-time options are available and up to eight (8) weeks credit may be given for work experience gained while an undergraduate.

If you undertake the PPO part-time while working in a law firm, you can complete both the Coursework and Work Experience components simultaneously.

Graduates undertaking the College's PPO course could be eligible for admission to practise as a first year solicitor in as little as seven (7) months.

The fee for Australian citizens and permanent residents in 2009 is \$6,850. Law graduates who pay their own fees can apply for a Commonwealth FEE-HELP loan to assist with the cost of their PLT.

## If I decide to do my PLT with The College of Law Victoria, when can I start?

There are seven (7) start dates throughout the year with full and part-time options. Full course dates, including onsite skill sessions, are available on our website.

## Does the College find a work experience placement for me?

No, you are responsible for finding your work experience placement however the College does offer an employment register for graduates as well as a free online legal jobs board where employers advertise both work experience and graduate positions.

## What kind of work experience do I have to do?

The legal work required for the work experience placement is generic. You are not required to cover any specific areas of law. Work experience can be undertaken in a firm, community legal centre, government legal department or a similar legal environment.

For more information see the College's Handbook at [www.collaw.edu.au](http://www.collaw.edu.au)

### I would like to know more about my options. Please send me:

- More information about the Trainee Admission Program (TAP)
- A 2009 Practical Legal Training Handbook

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ P/Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

University: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected year of completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous legal work experience / summer clerkship?  Yes  No Where: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Return this form to Student Services:

Ph: 1300 856 111

Fax: 1300 888 023

PO Box 2, St Leonards, NSW 1590