

From: [Samuel Eaton](#)
To: [LSCSubmissions](#)
Subject: Submission – Proposal for Independent Study and Admission Examination Pathway
Date: Wednesday, 28 May 2025 12:28:58 PM

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Dear Secretariat,

Please find below my submission in response to the Draft Revised Accreditation Standards for Australian Law Courses (March 2025).

Submission: Recognition of Independent Study and National Admission Examination

I propose that the Accreditation Standards incorporate an alternative admission pathway recognising independent legal study, assessed through a centrally administered national examination, similar in purpose and rigour to the US Bar Exam.

This would allow capable applicants--regardless of course attendance or study duration--to demonstrate that they have attained the Prescribed Areas of Knowledge through self-directed learning, practical experience, or other non-traditional routes.

Such a model aligns with Australia's legal education principles of fairness, equity, and access, ensuring admission to the legal profession is based on demonstrated competence rather than mode of study alone.

To ensure adequate communication and professional readiness, I also recommend that candidates via this pathway be required to meet a minimum IELTS score of 7.0 in Reading and Writing, and 8.0 in Listening and Speaking.

Proposed inclusion:

“An applicant may be deemed to have met the Prescribed Areas of Knowledge if they pass a national admission examination administered under standards equivalent to accredited law courses, and demonstrate appropriate English language proficiency.”

This would preserve professional integrity while promoting a more inclusive, flexible, and merit-based framework for legal admission in Australia.

Kind regards,
Samuel Eaton

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From: [Samuel Eaton](#)
To: [LSCSubmissions](#)
Subject: Submission: Specialist Instruction for the Prescribed Areas of Knowledge (Priestley 11)
Date: Friday, 30 May 2025 8:21:28 AM

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Dear Secretariat,

Please find below my submission in response to the *Draft Revised Accreditation Standards for Australian Law Courses (March 2025)*.

Submission: Specialist Instruction for the Prescribed Areas of Knowledge (Priestley 11)

I submit that the *Prescribed Areas of Knowledge*—the foundational subjects required for legal admission in Australia—must be taught and assessed by practising or former solicitors or barristers with demonstrated experience in the relevant field.

The delivery of these critical subjects by academics who lack current or prior legal practice experience risks divorcing legal education from its professional and practical roots. While legal theory is important, instruction in the *Priestley 11* subjects must prioritise practical application, doctrinal clarity, and current legal practice. Academics without practice experience often approach the material philosophically, rather than equipping students with the practical legal reasoning and problem-solving skills expected in professional settings.

To protect the integrity and utility of Australian legal education, I propose the following inclusion in the Accreditation Standards:

“All Prescribed Areas of Knowledge must be taught and assessed by legal practitioners who are currently or formerly admitted solicitors or barristers, with demonstrated experience or expertise in the relevant area of law.”

This requirement would ensure that graduates are properly prepared for legal practice, that legal instruction remains professionally anchored, and that the Prescribed Areas of Knowledge serve their intended vocational function.

Kind regards,
Samuel Eaton

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