

# **Specialist Accreditation Scheme**

# **Data and Digital Economy Law Information Guide for Specialists**

This Guide is for specialists on how to maintain their specialist accreditation in Data and Digital Economy Law.

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## 1. Definitions

- 1.1. *Data and Digital Economy (D2E) legal practice.* This is the practice of law relating to “online platforms, and activities that owe their existence to such platforms”, Including “all activities that use digitised data”.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.2. *Specialist.* A legal professional who is either an Accredited Specialist or a Senior Accredited Specialist.

## 2. What this Guide Covers

- 2.1 The Specialist Accreditation Scheme attempts to apply the same reaccreditation framework, as set out in the Information Guide for Specialists - General, across all practice areas.
- 2.2 In cases where there are deviations from the said reaccreditation framework for a particular practice area, a separate Guide for that practice area will state those deviations.

<sup>1</sup> “Measuring the digital economy”, International Monetary Fund, February 2018, para. 6, p. 7  
<file:///C:/Users/gillianchee/Downloads/022818MeasuringDigitalEconomy.pdf>.

2.3 Specialists should read both the Information Guide for Specialists – General and this Guide.

2.4 This Guide covers the said deviations for reaccreditation in Data and Digital Economy Law.

### **3. Maintaining Accreditation – Criteria**

#### **Accredited Specialist**

##### **Substantial Involvement**

3.1 For legal practitioners: In the 2 years prior to application for reaccreditation, Accredited Specialists must have been engaged in full-time practice in D2E law by dedicating **per year a minimum 450 hours to 1 core and 1 specialism**.

3.2 For inhouse counsel: In the 2 years prior to application for reaccreditation, Accredited Specialists must have been engaged in full-time legal work, i.e. work that is a permanent and ongoing feature of their role, in **1 core and 1 specialism** within their organisation(s) **a year**.

##### **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

3.3 In the 2 years prior to application for reaccreditation, Accredited Specialists must have accumulated at least **6 public and/or private CPD points** a year in the practice area for which specialist reaccreditation is sought, 3 of which must be public CPD points.

3.4 Accredited Specialist in Data and Digital Economy (D2E) Law must complete one D2E skills module from a list of curated and SAL-approved programmes which will be identified in consultation with the D2E selection panel and the Specialist Accreditation Board.

3.5 The D2E skills module must be completed within the first year of accreditation and reaccreditation. If a module is CPD accredited, then completion of the module may also count towards accumulation of CPD points for that year.

3.6 The D2E skills module may not be taken more than once.

#### **Senior Accredited Specialist**

##### **Substantial Involvement**

3.7 For legal practitioners, in the 2 years prior to application for reaccreditation, Senior Accredited Specialists must have been engaged in full-time practice in D2E law by dedicating **per year a minimum 650 hours to 1 core and 1 specialism**.

3.8 For inhouse counsel, in the 2 years prior to application for reaccreditation, Senior Accredited Specialists must have been engaged in full-time legal work, i.e. work that is a permanent and ongoing feature of their role, in **1 core and 1 specialism** within their organisation(s) **a year**.

**Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

- 3.9 For legal practitioners, in the 2 years prior to application for reaccreditation, must have accumulated at least **6 public and/or private CPD points a year** in this specialisation, 3 of which must be public CPD points.
- 3.10 For inhouse counsel, in the 2 years prior to application for reaccreditation, Senior Accredited Specialists must have **undertaken the equivalent of at least 6 public and/or private CPD points a year** in this specialisation, 3 of which must be public CPD points, e.g. by:
- a. attaining a relevant educational graduate qualification or professional certification, e.g. certification from IAPP
  - b. conducting workshops, webinars, seminars and training courses, CPD events
  - c. contributing to journals, articles, books, consultation papers, and other forms of publications, etc
  - d. sitting on a formal organisational committee