MONASH

EST. 1964

**JD INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FAQ – CLERKSHIPS**

1. **Can I still do clerkships if one of my student visa requirements is to not work during study periods?**

As long as you are not currently enrolled in a course (ie subject), you can complete a clerkship. The easiest way to work around this is to complete a clerkship after you have finished core units. With electives, you are essentially able to pick your own schedule and work around any conflicts. I completed my clerkship in January/February after the Christmas break and was not enrolled in a course until March, which is how I did not breach any of my visa conditions.

1. **How can I do a clerkship if my visa only allows me to work 20 hours per week?**

You are permitted to work more than 20-hours per week during “off-periods”, which is when you are not enrolled in a course. An off-period is not when you finish class but is after all assignments are completed and handed in. For LLBs, this is usually the summer holidays or other breaks, but it is more complicated to determine for JDs since we do not have any large breaks in our courses. In my opinion, the best option is to complete a clerkship when you are in electives and can create your own schedule.

1. **The clerkship applications ask for an ATAR score, but I didn’t complete high school in Australia and therefore don’t have one. What do I do?**

I found this confusing too, I usually just put a 0 when the webpage required it.

1. **Did you find that firms were reluctant to take on an international student?**

Unfortunately, yes. I was lucky enough to get a couple of interviews, but I received a lot of rejections much earlier than domestic students. During the application process, some firm websites would not let you continue with the application without stating you were a permanent resident or citizen.

I would recommend compiling a list of all the firms that accept international students and to not bother applying for the firms who do not accept international students.