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# NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION

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## ASSESSMENT OF OVERSEAS LAW QUALIFICATIONS INFORMATION BROCHURE

[Last Updated 1 October 2011]

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This Brochure is designed for people who have academic legal qualifications from countries or jurisdictions other than New Zealand (ie law graduates), and for people who have been admitted to practise law overseas. People who have such academic legal qualifications, and/or are admitted, must apply to the Council of Legal Education (“the Council”) for an assessment of their qualifications and experience before applying to be admitted in New Zealand. If you hold a New Zealand law degree and are admitted overseas, see section 5.

### 2. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WITH APPLICATION

#### **Application Form**

All applicants must complete the application form in Schedule 1 of this Brochure. You may also attach a covering letter if you wish. Please do not put your application in ringbinders, or send unnecessarily bulky or extraneous material.

#### **Curriculum Vitae**

A curriculum vitae must be included with the application. In this document you should summarise your educational background and qualifications, relevant work experience and in particular your legal experience.

#### **Tertiary Academic Records**

You must include evidence of all tertiary qualifications on which you are relying as part of your application (eg degree certificates), and also academic transcripts. The academic transcripts must show all courses undertaken, and set out the marks and results obtained for each law subject that you wish to have assessed. An explanation of the grading system must be included.

Ideally, all the above material should be provided. However where difficulty is experienced in obtaining documents you should use your discretion as to the importance of each document. Those relating to tertiary legal qualifications are usually the most significant. However evidence of other qualifications may be necessary to support the application, and therefore it is desirable to provide as much evidence as possible. If in doubt please contact the Council.

Please note that the Council will accept certified copies of all documents except your LLB degree academic transcript which must be an original.

### **Law School Handbook**

A copy of the relevant law school handbook or relevant publication showing the structure of the degree, and content and length of each course, should be enclosed with the application. The handbook should relate to the period during which you were studying. For example, if you studied Contract Law in 2002, you should produce the handbook (or relevant extracts) pertaining to Contract Law as it was taught at your law school in 2002. This enables the Council to examine the content of courses at the time that you studied the courses.

If you do not have, or cannot obtain a copy of your law school handbook for the appropriate period, you should arrange for your law school to send photocopies of the title page and relevant pages (degree structure and course descriptions) of the current or relevant Handbook, accompanied by a letter from the Dean of the Law Faculty, or other suitably authorised person, stating the substantial similarity and differences between the current provisions and those that were in force during your studies.

### **Evidence of Professional Experience**

#### *Work Experience*

Applicants who are relying on professional experience must provide supporting evidence of their work experience in the form of letters or references on original firm or organisation letterhead, and signed by the supervising partner or manager. Where an applicant is self-employed or practising independently these documents should be from an independent professional colleague. All such evidence must be in original form.

#### *Order of Admission*

If you have been admitted to practise law overseas please include evidence of admission in the form of an original certificate of admission showing the date of admission and place of admission. The Council will accept a certified copy of that document.

#### *Statement of Good Standing*

You are also required to provide an original certificate of good standing from the relevant professional or registration body, or the body responsible for discipline in all jurisdictions where you have been admitted as a lawyer, confirming

- Your date of admission.
- That you are of good character and repute.
- That there are not pending, and have never been, any proceedings against you for professional or other misconduct.
- Whether or not you are entitled to practise and, if you are not entitled to practice, the reason for this.

The certificate must be received by the Council within three months from the date of issue.

### *Practising Certificate*

You should also include a statement as to whether you held a practising licence in the past five years, or if you have been admitted for fewer than five years, since the time of your admission. Please include a certified copy of your practising licences, including your current practising licence.

### *General Advice on Post Admission Experience*

Admitted applicants should be aware that the length and breadth of post-admission experience may be a relevant consideration in an application in respect of a number of areas, such as imposition of the requirement to undertake additional degree study, the imposition of Legal Ethics, and the imposition of practical legal training requirements. It is therefore desirable for an applicant with post-admission experience to provide detailed information of his or her post-admission experience, including the organisation or place at which the experience was gained, the years in which it was gained, and the nature of the experience.

Applicants should note that ideally post-admission experience will be current, will demonstrate competence over at least three areas of the common law, and will include litigious and non-litigious experience.

### **Certification of Documents**

The certification of documents must be by an independent suitably authorised person, ie a practising lawyer or JP.

### **English Language**

Applicants are required to demonstrate they can communicate effectively in both spoken and written English. Applicants must include evidence of completion of the International English Language Test, or similar language tests, to the required standard within the last 2 years. This documentation may not be required if the applicant can demonstrate English language proficiency by other means, such as by demonstrating that they completed a law degree that was taught in English while residing in an English-speaking country.

### **Translations from Languages other than English**

Documents in a language other than English should be accompanied by a translation from a reliable and/or recognised translation agency, and be independently verified as a true copy of the original document.

Please note that the New Zealand Qualifications Authority has a list of Recognised Translation Services in New Zealand, which can prepare translations, or verify foreign language documents which have already been translated overseas.

You should use your discretion when deciding how much material to have translated. Key material will relate to the degree length and structure, and the content of subjects which may be regarded as equivalent to the core law subjects. If in doubt please contact the Council.

### **Statutory Declaration/Affidavit**

A statutory declaration or affidavit verifying identity and certifying the accuracy and completeness of the above information must be enclosed with the application.

The operative portion of the document should take the following form:-

*I, A.B. of [place of abode and occupation] [solemnly and sincerely declare] or [make oath and say as follows] that I am the person named in the documents submitted in support of my application for assessment of my qualifications for admission as a barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand, and that the information contained in my application is true and includes a complete statement of my academic qualifications and my professional legal experience.*

The remainder of the document should be completed in a form which is binding upon you in the country where you reside, or according to the law of New Zealand. In general this will require that the document is witnessed by a lawyer or Justice of the Peace, or other person authorised to take affidavits or statutory oaths and declarations in the jurisdiction where it is made.

### **Evidence of Identity**

A certified copy of the first two pages of your passport must be enclosed. The passport must be valid. Where you have changed your name in the past, a certified copy of the change of name document (eg the marriage certificate or the change of name registration or declaration) must also be provided.

### **Verification of Qualifications and Experience**

You should be aware that the Council, or its agent, will contact issuing institutions, organisations, and individuals to seek verification of your qualifications and identity. This may include verification of references.

If for any reason verification cannot be achieved, the Council may decline your application for assessment of overseas qualifications, and the assessment fee will not be refunded. You should also be aware that if the relevant body which issued your qualifications delays in responding to the Council's verification request, this will cause delay in the processing of the assessment.

### **Fees and Costs**

#### *Non-Admitted Applicants*

A bank draft or cheque made payable to the New Zealand Council of Legal Education and expressed in New Zealand dollars for the sum of \$1,050.00 must be enclosed. A further \$157.50 must be added if the application is lodged from within New Zealand. This represents 15% Goods and Services Tax (GST).

#### *Admitted Applicants*

A bank draft or cheque made payable to the New Zealand Council of Legal Education and expressed in New Zealand dollars for the sum of \$1,250.00 must be enclosed. A further \$187.50 must be added if the application is lodged from within New Zealand. This represents 15% Good and Services Tax (GST).

In addition admitted practitioners are required to include a second bank draft or cheque for \$100.00 made payable to the New Zealand Law Society for their consultatory services. Please include this second draft or cheque with your application and we will forward the draft or cheque to the NZLS. (Please note that if the application is lodged in New Zealand, the GST component will also have to be added bringing the total to \$115.)

### **Important Matters Relating to Fees and Costs**

You will also be required to pay any costs incurred by either the Council, or its agent, in the process of verifying your qualifications and experience.

Please note that the fees will be increased effective from 1 January 2012. See Schedule 5 for details.

## **3. PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH APPLICATIONS**

After an application is received, it is checked for completeness by Council staff. A letter acknowledging receipt of the application is sent to the applicant. Applicants will be advised if any further material is required.

The application is then referred to the Council's Credits Consultant and Credits Committee for a comprehensive assessment of the applicant's qualifications and experience.

In the case of an application from an overseas law graduate, the applicant is advised of the result of the application in a letter of assessment, after the necessary requirements have been determined by the Council. Where an applicant has been admitted overseas, the same process is followed, except that the Council's preliminary assessment is provided to the New Zealand Law Society for its comments, which the Council will consider prior to making the final determination. The Council will then notify an admitted applicant of its determination in the usual way.

If, following receipt of your letter of assessment, you realise that there may be further relevant information, you may apply to have the assessment reviewed. In those circumstances you should make an application to the Council. A fee of \$250 (plus GST if applicable) must accompany the application.

## **4. ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

### **Introduction**

The following summary is designed to give a general indication of the process used when assessing applications. Applicants should note that each application is decided on its merits after a thorough examination of the applicant's documents. The summary is applicable as appropriate to applications from both law graduates and admitted practitioners.

The overseas qualifications provisions in the Professional Examinations in Law Regulations 2008 anticipate that there will be an adequate assessment of an applicant's "academic" fitness to practise law in New Zealand. The assessment compares an applicant's knowledge and skills to those required of a New Zealand graduate seeking admission. The requirements should generally be no less demanding than they are for New Zealand trained lawyers. In the final analysis, the Council must be satisfied that the applicant has knowledge of the law, and the practice of law in this country, to a sufficient degree to be able to appropriately advise a member of the public. It follows that the Council's assessment process involves a detailed analysis of an applicant's tertiary academic qualifications, and of the nature and extent of an applicant's professional training and experience, as measured against the regulatory requirement for degree equivalence. The Council also considers an applicant's proficiency in the English language.

### **Degree Equivalence**

An applicant is *prima facie* required to have completed the equivalent of the New Zealand four year bachelor of laws degree (LLB). At least three years full-time study of law subjects should have been undertaken by the applicant, and non-law courses comparable to those undertaken by a New Zealand law graduate should also have been included in the degree.

As mentioned above, the applicant's academic transcript must show all courses undertaken, and must set out the marks and results obtained for each law subject that the applicant wishes to have assessed. In assessing degree equivalence, credit will not necessarily be given for subjects passed with less than a mark of 50% unless the Council is satisfied that the mark is equivalent to a pass grade at a New Zealand University.

Where because of the above, or because an applicant's degree is not, in terms of length or breadth, broadly the equivalent of the New Zealand law degree the applicant may be required to sit New Zealand University degree courses to broaden their degree.

This may involve completion of law elective degree subjects which are to be undertaken at one of the six New Zealand University Law Schools. (The Council may from time to time approve courses from other Universities.) See Schedule 2 for information on the Law Schools in New Zealand. Occasionally non-law degree courses may be required. These may be undertaken at any New Zealand universities.

Applicants with post-admission experience should note that this is a relevant consideration in determining the need for electives, and if the post-admission experience is sufficiently lengthy and broad, it may obviate or lessen the need for the applicant to study additional electives.

### **Subject Equivalence**

An applicant should have included in his or her degree, and passed, courses that broadly cover the content of the compulsory New Zealand Council of Legal Education LLB subjects. Currently these subjects are Legal System, Contract, Torts, Public Law, Criminal Law, and Property Law. (Property Law includes Land Law, Equity and Succession. It is

taught as a full Property Law course at some Universities, and as separate subjects of Land Law and Equity and Succession at other Universities.)

If an applicant has completed a course that is found to adequately correspond with any of the above subjects, the applicant may receive a credit in that subject, or part of that subject. Otherwise the applicant will usually be required to undertake that subject, or part of that subject, at a New Zealand Law School University. See Schedule 2 for information on the Law Schools in New Zealand.

The corollary of receiving a credit in that core subject (ie of not having to sit the subject at a New Zealand University) is that the applicant will generally have to sit the corresponding part of the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination. See section 6 for information on the NZLP Examination.

### **Legal Ethics**

An applicant should have completed a course in legal ethics and professional responsibility. Any applicant who has not completed such a course may be required to do so. It should be noted that the New Zealand Legal Ethics course is a discrete, tertiary level course and applicants will generally be required to have completed an equivalent tertiary level course, or to have sufficient relevant post-admission experience to obviate the requirement for Legal Ethics. If required, the course must be undertaken at a New Zealand Law School University. However, occasionally the Council may approve a substitute degree level course to be undertaken at an overseas University. See Schedule 2 for information on the Law Schools in New Zealand.

### **Professional Training and Experience**

An assessment is made by the Council of the scope of any courses or practical training that an applicant may have completed, and of the applicant's post-admission experience. The basic principle is that an applicant must either demonstrate that he or she has undertaken a substantially similar skills based training course to that provided in New Zealand, or that he or she has sufficient relevant post-admission experience to compensate for being unable to fulfil that requirement. See section 7 for information on the Professional Legal Studies Course.

Pre-admission experience is sometimes advanced by non-admitted applicants as a basis for an exemption, but pre-admission experience by a New Zealand law graduate does not qualify that New Zealand graduate for an exemption from the Professional Legal Studies Course. Therefore the Council has typically applied the same rule to overseas applicants.

### **English Language**

The English language requirement is designed to ensure that persons from countries where English is not the primary language can demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the English language to cope with communication in New Zealand. Applicants must satisfy the Council that they can communicate effectively in both spoken and written English by one of the following means:

- (a) satisfying the Council that within the last 2 years they have completed the International English Language Testing System (“**IELTS**”) test obtaining minimum scores of 7.5 for each of writing, speaking, reading and listening;

- (b) satisfying the Council that they completed a law degree that was taught in English while residing in an English-speaking country; or
- (c) otherwise satisfying the Council that the applicant's proficiency in the English language is comparable to the proficiency demonstrated by completing the IELTS within the minimum scores set out in paragraph (a) above.

An applicant must meet the cost of undertaking the IELTS test, if applicable, or of otherwise satisfying the Council that the applicant has the requisite proficiency in the English language.

## **5. NEW ZEALAND DEGREE HOLDERS ADMITTED OVERSEAS**

An applicant who holds a New Zealand LLB or LLB (Honours) but has been admitted overseas is not required to apply under the full overseas admission system. Such an applicant should apply to the Council to have his or her particular situation assessed. This will involve an analysis of the practical legal training courses undertaken by the applicant, and consideration of the applicant's post-admission experience. The purpose is to see whether the practical legal training requirements have already been satisfied. The Council will also check whether the applicant has completed a satisfactory Legal Ethics course, or has sufficient relevant post-admission experience to obviate the need for this requirement.

There is no application form. However, you should provide a covering letter, an original or certified copy of your order of admission showing where and when you were admitted, an original certificate of good standing, certified copies of practising certificates where applicable, original work references, and other documentary evidence of any post-admission experience. Your certificate of standing must be current to three months. You will also be required to provide an original or certified copy of your New Zealand degree certificate, and an original academic transcript, in order to ensure that the necessary academic requirements have been met. You will also have to provide a certified copy of a valid passport, a statutory declaration or affidavit verifying identity, and provide a statement authorising the Council or its agent to verify your qualifications. (See section 2 **Tertiary Academic Records Evidence of Professional Experience**, and **Statutory Declaration/Affidavit** for guidance.) After the Council has considered your application, a letter of assessment will be sent to you by the Council.

A fee of \$600 (plus GST if applicable) must accompany your application.

If, following receipt of your letter of assessment, you realise that there may be further relevant information, you may apply to have the assessment reviewed. In those circumstances you should make an application to the Council. A fee of \$150 (plus GST if applicable) must accompany the application.

## **6. NEW ZEALAND LAW AND PRACTICE EXAMINATION**

Where an applicant receives a credit in one of the compulsory New Zealand Council of Legal Education LLB subjects, the applicant will normally be required to sit the corresponding Part of the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination (NZLP Examination) run by the Council.

This Examination is a six Part self-taught course following a comprehensive prescription. It is generally held twice a year. It covers the areas of Legal System/Public Law (Part I),

Contract Law (Part II), Criminal Law (Part III), Property Law (Part IV), Torts (Part V), and Equity and Succession (Part VI). Each Examination is of 90 minutes duration. The Examination is administered and conducted from the Council's offices in Wellington. The Examination may be sat in one of the Law Schools in New Zealand, or at one approved venue in the United Kingdom.

The purpose of the Examination is to test the applicant's knowledge of the New Zealand law in the above areas and in particular the distinct features of New Zealand law. It should be noted that New Zealand law has diverged from the common law in a number of significant respects, for example the Treaty of Waitangi, the Contract Law regime and the Accident Compensation regime. The NZLP Examination is designed to test an applicant's knowledge of these types of areas. In other words the NZLP Examination is intended to provide a bridge between the legal knowledge of persons educated overseas, and the relevant law in New Zealand.

The nature of the NZLP Examination and its relationship to credits in the core law subjects needs to be clearly understood by applicants. Some applicants (generally from similar jurisdictions overseas) credited with a pass in a degree course in a compulsory subject have felt they have been "exempted" from subject requirements, including the NZLP Examination. However, such a person has only been "exempted" from the requirement to pass a degree course in that subject, because that person has covered the core common law principles in their overseas degree. The person must, in lieu, demonstrate their awareness of how New Zealand law and practice in that area has tended to differ from the law in the similar jurisdiction overseas. In other words, while some applicants may have been exempted from the requirement to pass a degree course in Tort law because of their overseas degree, they must be able to show by passing Part V of the NZLP Examination that they are aware of relevant aspects of Tort law which are largely unique to New Zealand, in order that they can appropriately advise members of the public who may consult them.

It follows that persons from non-common law jurisdictions will generally not be credited with the core law subjects, and will need to study these subjects at a New Zealand University. Such applicants would not therefore be required to undertake the NZLP Examination.

The decision as to which Parts of the NZLP Examination must be passed depends on the compulsory degree subject credits. Thus the decision to give a credit for the Criminal Law course (or courses) passed by the applicant overseas will normally lead to the requirement that the applicant pass Criminal Law (Part III) of NZLP Examination. From time to time, especially in Property Law, only a partial pass in the Property Law degree requirements will be specified (eg Succession) because an applicant may have covered all other aspects adequately. In such cases the requirement to pass Part VI of the NZLP Examination will stand, as there are other aspects of New Zealand Property Law which the applicant must become acquainted with, and will not do so through the partial degree course requirement. (The full Property Law course corresponds with Parts IV and VI of the NZLP Examination.)

Exemptions from Parts of the NZLP Examination are rare. However, exemptions are sometimes granted where an applicant has been teaching or tutoring for a period of time in one of the core law subjects at a New Zealand University, or where an applicant has attained extensive work experience in a core law area in New Zealand.

An applicant will not be eligible to enrol in the NZLP Examination until a formal application for an assessment of the applicant's legal qualifications has been received by the Council. Applicants are also advised to wait until they receive a formal letter of assessment in response to their application before sitting a Part or Parts of the NZLP Examination in case that requirement is rendered unnecessary by the imposition of degree requirements. An applicant who proceeds to sit the NZLP Examination before the official assessment result is notified does so at the applicant's risk, and the successful results in a Part or Parts of the Examination will not alter any subsequent requirement to complete New Zealand University degree subjects.

Details regarding the NZLP Examination, including a course prescription, may be obtained from the Council. A table of fees for the Examination is found in Schedule 6 to this Brochure.

## **7. PROFESSIONAL LEGAL STUDIES COURSE**

There are currently two providers of the Professional Legal Studies Course. The Institute of Professional Legal Studies provides two part face-to-face, part distance delivered courses. The College of Law New Zealand provides a part face-to-face, part distance delivered course. You may choose which course you wish to undertake, and the provider with whom you wish to train.

An overseas applicant will not be eligible to enrol in any of the Institute's courses, or the College's courses, until he or she has

- completed the degree study requirements (if any) imposed by the Council
- completed the Parts of the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination (if any) imposed by the Council.

An applicant may undertake the Legal Ethics course (if required) either before, concurrently with, or after completion of the Professional Legal Studies Course.

Contact details for the two providers of the course are contained in Schedule 3 to this Brochure.

## **8. STALE QUALIFICATIONS**

The Council has imposed restrictions on the currency of qualifications and completion certificates. In any case where a "qualification for admission" is more than 10 years old at the time that a candidate for admission applies to the Council for a completion certificate, staleness provisions will apply, and the candidate for admission will be required to make a stale qualification application. The Council will assess the qualification, and may, in its discretion, impose further study or training on the candidate. Please note that there is a fee of \$150 (plus GST if applicable) for this application.

In the case of overseas graduates and lawyers a "qualification for admission" means any determination issued to a person in relation to an application for assessment, or any degree subject, Part or Parts of the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination, Legal Ethics

course, practical legal training course, or English requirement prescribed by the Council pursuant to that determination.

The effect of this requirement is that qualifications may have become stale prior to application for a completion certificate, and in such cases, the Council has a discretion to impose further study such as degree courses, or to require passing of the relevant Part or Parts of the New Zealand Law and Practice Examination, or a Legal Ethics course, or the Professional Legal Studies Course to refresh the stale qualification.

## **9. GENERAL**

### **Contact Details**

Please send your completed application to the Chief Executive, New Zealand Council of Legal Education, PO Box 5671, Wellington, Attention Senior Legal Officer.

### **Processing Time for Applications**

Applications are processed as expeditiously as possible, but an application will typically take sixteen weeks to consider, and occasionally a longer time may be required depending on the nature of the application and the number of cases under consideration. Delays will be inevitable if poor quality or insufficient information has been provided by the applicant, or if the relevant body which issued the applicant's qualifications delays in responding to the Council's, or its agent's, verification request. Admitted practitioners are reminded that consultation takes place with the NZLS and time must be allowed for this process.

### **Completion Certificates**

After an applicant has successfully completed all the requirements prescribed by the Council, an applicant may apply to the Chief Executive of the Council for a completion certificate. If you require further information about completion certificates please contact the Council. An application form for the certificate is on the Council's website at [www.nzcle.org.nz](http://www.nzcle.org.nz). Please ensure that you use the application form for overseas law graduates and practitioners.

### **Return of Documents**

Applicants should note that the Council does not return any documentation to an applicant, unless specifically requested.

### **Further Information**

For further general information see Schedule 4 to this Brochure and the Council's website at [www.nzcle.org.nz](http://www.nzcle.org.nz).

### **Chief Executive**

[Brochure Updated 1 October 2011]

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## SCHEDULE 1

### Application for Assessment of Overseas Qualifications

#### Section A: Details – Please Print Clearly

<b>Name*</b>			
	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Middle Name(s)</b>
<b>Other Names Used</b>			
	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Middle Name(s)</b>
<b>Title</b>			
<b>Date of Birth</b>			
<b>Nationality</b>			
<p>* If you have used other names, especially when your name is different to the one that appears on your qualifications or references please enclose an original or certified copy of your marriage certificate, a change of name declaration or registration, or a statutory declaration explaining the difference.</p>			
<b>Home Address</b>			
<b>Correspondence Address</b>			
<b>Work Address</b>			
<p>Please complete (where appropriate) all addresses and keep the Council informed of any changes after the application and before the completion of the assessment</p>			
<p>Please tick your preferred contact address</p>			
<b>Home</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Correspondence</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Work</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Daytime telephone Number</b>	<input type="text"/>		<b>Fax Number</b>
			<input type="text"/>
<b>Mobile Number</b>	<input type="text"/>		<b>Email Address</b>
			<input type="text"/>

## Section B: Checklist

Please tick to show that you have enclosed the following documents if applicable. State NA if not applicable.

(i)	Application Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii)	Curriculum Vitae	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii)	Tertiary Academic Records	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv)	Law School Handbook	<input type="checkbox"/>
(v)	Evidence of Professional Experience	<input type="checkbox"/>
(vi)	IELTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
(vii)	Other evidence of English language proficiency (Please state the nature of that evidence)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(viii)	Official Translations of all Documents not in English	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ix)	Statutory Declaration or Affidavit	<input type="checkbox"/>
(x)	Marriage Certificate or Statutory Declaration if Name is Different from Document	<input type="checkbox"/>
(xi)	Marriage Certificate or Statutory Declaration if Name is Different from Documents	<input type="checkbox"/>
(xii)	Certified Copy of First Two Pages of Passport	<input type="checkbox"/>
(xiii)	Fee	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please note: The Council, or its agent, will contact issuing institutions to seek verification of qualifications and references and of your passport and identity, and may seek verification of other documentation. Your application may be declined if the verification cannot be achieved, and the assessment fee will not be refunded. The verification may also delay the process of the assessment if the issuing body delays in responding to the Council's, or its agent's, verification request.**

## Section C: Authorization and Signature

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand that the New Zealand Council of Legal Education, or its agent, will seek verification of my overseas qualifications and identity, and this may extend to references, and I authorise any such verification checks to be made. I also authorise those issuing institutions to release to the Council, or its agent, such information as is required to undertake those verification checks for the purpose of verifying those documents and my identity and satisfying the Council that the information I have provided in respect of this application is true and correct in all respects.

Signed

Date

**Section D: Address to Which Application is to be Sent**

Send your completed application and cheque to:  
The Chief Executive  
New Zealand Council of Legal Education  
PO Box 5671  
**WELLINGTON**

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Received


## SCHEDULE 2

### The Law Schools in New Zealand

There are currently six Universities in New Zealand which offer Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Laws (Honours) degrees approved by the Council of Legal Education. They are the University of Auckland, the University of Waikato, the Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Canterbury, the University of Otago and the AUT University.

The Auckland, Wellington, Waikato and AUT Universities are situated in the North Island of New Zealand. The Canterbury and Otago Universities are situated in the South Island.

Applicants who are required to undertake core law subjects, optional subjects, or Legal Ethics must do so at one of the above Universities. Non-law subjects may also be undertaken at these Universities, or at any other New Zealand University. It is not possible to undertake study of any core law subject, optional law subject, or Legal Ethics, by distance at any of the above Universities.

Applicants should also note that some of the core subjects have limited enrolment numbers and the Universities are not necessarily always able to give special consideration to the requirements of overseas graduates and practitioners.

#### *Contact Details*

University of Auckland  
Faculty of Law  
Private Bag 92019  
AUCKLAND 1142  
**Fax: 09 373 7473**

**Email:** [lawreception@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:lawreception@auckland.ac.nz)  
**Website:** [www.law.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.law.auckland.ac.nz)

University of Waikato  
Faculty of Law  
Private Bag 3105  
HAMILTON 3240  
**Fax: 07 838 4417**

**Email:** [lawrecp@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:lawrecp@waikato.ac.nz)  
**Website:** [www.waikato.ac.nz/law](http://www.waikato.ac.nz/law)

Victoria University of Wellington  
Faculty of Law  
PO Box 600  
WELLINGTON 6140  
**Fax: 04 463 6365**

**Email:** [law-enquiries@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:law-enquiries@vuw.ac.nz)  
**Website:** [www.victoria.ac.nz/law](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/law)

University of Canterbury  
Faculty of Law  
Private Bag 4800  
CHRISTCHURCH 8140  
**Fax: 03 364 2757**

**Email:** [law-enquiries@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:law-enquiries@canterbury.ac.nz)  
**Website:** [www.laws.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.laws.canterbury.ac.nz)

University of Otago  
Faculty of Law  
PO Box 56  
DUNEDIN 9054  
**Fax: 03 479 8855**

**Email:** [law@otago.ac.nz](mailto:law@otago.ac.nz)  
**Website:** [www.otago.ac.nz/law](http://www.otago.ac.nz/law)

AUT University  
Faculty of Law  
Private Bag 92006  
AUCKLAND 1142  
**Fax: 09 921 9976**

**Email:** [mike.french@aut.ac.nz](mailto:mike.french@aut.ac.nz)  
**Website:** [www.aut.ac.nz](http://www.aut.ac.nz)

## **SCHEDULE 3**

### **Providers of the Professional Legal Studies Course**

The **Institute of Professional Legal Studies** provides

- a 13 week part face-to-face, part distance-delivered course, and
- a 19 week part face-to-face, part distance-delivered course.

You may choose to undertake either of these courses.

The IPLS has a website address [www.ipls.org.nz](http://www.ipls.org.nz) and can be contacted on [iplsnat@ipls.org.nz](mailto:iplsnat@ipls.org.nz).

The **College of Law** provides

- an 18 week part face-to-face, part distance-delivered course.

The College has a website address [www.collaw.ac.nz](http://www.collaw.ac.nz) and can be contacted on [enquiries@collaw.ac.nz](mailto:enquiries@collaw.ac.nz).

## **SCHEDULE 4**

### **General Information**

#### **Employment Opportunities**

The Council is frequently asked about the employment opportunities available to overseas law graduates and practitioners.

It is not within the Council's role to advise specifically on these matters, but it is suggested that applicants who wish to find out more about the area should contact a New Zealand recruitment agency specialising in legal placements. Applicants may also wish to contact the human resource departments of law firms, or other organisations. Job opportunities are also advertised in the Law Society's Lawtalk magazine, and applicants may place advertisements in that publication. Details relating to that publication are found on the Law Society's website [www.lawsociety.org.nz](http://www.lawsociety.org.nz).

#### **Immigration**

The Council is frequently asked about immigration matters. Again, it is not within the Council's role to advise on these matters. Applicants who wish to obtain information on such matters, including residency and permits, should contact the New Zealand Immigration Service, whose contact details can be found on its website [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)

Applicants may also wish to contact the New Zealand Embassy or High Commission in their home country.

#### **New Zealand Qualifications Authority Assessments**

Assessments of qualifications are made by NZQA for immigration purposes, not admission purposes. Applicants who wish to be admitted to the profession in New Zealand are required to have their qualifications assessed by the Council of Legal Education.

#### **Legal Executives**

Legal Executives who have qualified in that role in the United Kingdom are eligible to have their legal executive qualification assessed for the purposes of admission in New Zealand.

For information on working as a legal executive in New Zealand applicants should contact the New Zealand Institute of Legal Executives Inc, whose contact details can be found on its website [www.nzile.org.nz](http://www.nzile.org.nz).

#### **Further Information**

For general information on the profession in New Zealand, please see the New Zealand Law Society website [www.lawsociety.org.nz](http://www.lawsociety.org.nz).

**SCHEDULE 5**  
**Table of Prescribed Fees**

<b>Application</b>	<b>Fee (exclusive of GST)</b>	<b>Fee with GST</b>	<b>New fee From 1 Jan 2012</b>
Application for Assessment of Law Qualifications (Overseas Law Graduate)	\$1050.00	\$1207.50	\$1155.00  (plus GST if applicable)
Application for Assessment of Law Qualifications (Overseas Law Practitioner)	\$1250.00	\$1437.50	\$1375.00  (plus GST if applicable)
Review	\$250.00	\$287.50	
NZ Degree Holder Admitted Overseas	\$600.00	\$690.00	
Review	\$150.00	\$172.50	
Stale Qualification Assessment	\$150.00	\$172.50	
Completion Certificate (Overseas Applicant)	\$40.00	\$46.00	
Expired Completion Certificate	NIL	NIL	

**SCHEDULE 6**  
**Table of Prescribed Fees**  
**New Zealand Law and Practice Examination**

<b>NZLP Examination</b>	<b>Fee (exclusive of GST)</b>	<b>Fee with GST</b>	<b>New Fee From 1 Jan 2012</b>
Per Part	\$350.00	\$402.50	\$385.00 (plus GST if applicable)
Overseas Surcharge	\$80.00	N/A	\$88.00