

5 STEPS TO QUALIFYING FOR ADMISSION TO THE SINGAPORE BAR THROUGH STUDYING IN AN OVERSEAS SCHEDULED UNIVERSITY

- Be a Singapore citizen or permanent resident.
- Attend at approved Overseas Scheduled Universities (OSUs) in the UK (Rule 8, QP Rules); Australia and New Zealand (Rule 9, QP Rules); or the USA (Rule 9A, QP Rules).
- Obtain law degree corresponding to the OSU specified in the schedules to the QP Rules.
- Graduate with at least lower 2nd class honours (for UK OSUs) or in the top 70% of cohort (for other OSUs).
- The degree programme must be undertaken full-time, as an internal candidate and over at least 3 academic years.
- No twinning programme, combined or dual degrees, external degrees or accelerated degrees.
- Exemptions may be sought from the Minister for Law if any of the criteria is/are not met.^①

01

Obtain a recognised law degree from an Overseas Scheduled University

- Relevant Legal Training or Relevant Legal Practice or Work (collectively, RLT) may be done in Singapore or overseas. (Refer to Rule 2, QP Rules for definitions of acceptable RLT.)
- 6 months of RLT (in 1 or more law practices or listed companies, as applicable) to be undertaken within a continuous period of 8 months.
- RLT may only commence after passing the final examination for the recognised law degree.
- RLT may be undertaken before, concurrently with or after taking the Part A Bar Exams.
- Approval need not be obtained from the SILE prior to undertaking RLT.

02

Undertake 6 months of Relevant Legal Training/Practice/Work

- The Part A Bar Exams is a conversion examination for graduates from OSUs.
- There will be 2 sessions of the exams each year: Session 1 in April/May and Session 2 in October/November.
- Candidates sitting for Session 1 may opt for the optional Part A Bar Course, which typically starts in January, and spans about 3 months.

03

Pass Part A Bar Exams

Register with SILE as a Qualified Person

- Attendance at the Part B Bar Course, which immediately precedes the Part B Bar Exams, is compulsory.
- Typically conducted from July to December each year.

04

Undertake Part B Bar Course and Pass Part B Bar Exams

- The Practice Training Period (PTP) refers to a period of supervised training in relation to the practice of Singapore law under a practice training contract with a Singapore law practice in Singapore. (Rules 14-17, Admission Rules.)
- 6 months of PTP to be served within a continuous period of 8 months and may be served in more than 1 Singapore law practice.
- May be served before the Part B Bar Course if the practice trainee can complete the 6-month period before the commencement of the course.
- The SILE's approval must be obtained before commencement of the Practice Training Period. (Rule 24, Admission Rules.)

05

Undertake 6 months of Practice Training Period

Apply for Admission to the Singapore Bar

Important notes:

① More information can be found at <https://www.mlaw.gov.sg/content/minlaw/en/practising-as-a-lawyer/applications-to-the-minister-for-law-for-exemption.html>.

* This infographic is presented for reference only, and is not a substitute for the applicable legislation. For admission to the Singapore Bar, refer to the Legal Profession Act, the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules [QP Rules] and Legal Profession (Admission) Rules 2011 [Admission Rules]. The above does not cover the service of practice training period through working as a Legal Service Officer or working under the supervision of legal officers in approved statutory bodies. For more information, visit www.sile.edu.sg.

** The flow diagram presented in this infographic shows the typical pathway for a Singapore citizen or permanent resident who graduates from a UK OSU, or from an Australian OSU in the middle of the year, having gained admission to the recognised degree on or after 1 October 2015.

*** The information in this infographic is correct as at 8 December 2015.