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**Overseas Lawyers Qualification
Examination**

CIRCULAR 24-66 (SD)

1 February 2024

**24-66 (SD) OVERSEAS LAWYERS QUALIFICATION
EXAMINATION
2024 INFORMATION PACKAGE**

Opening Date for Applications:

Thursday, 1 February 2024

Deadline to Submit Applications:

Friday, 22 March 2024

I. Applications for the 2024 Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

1. The Information Package for the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination (“the Examination”) in 2024 (“2024 Information Package”) and the on-line Application Form (“Application Form”) are available on the website of the Law Society at www.hklawsoc.org.hk.
2. The Application Form, all supporting documents and information as well as application fee of HK\$6,600 must be submitted by **Friday, 22 March 2024**.
3. The 2024 Information Package has been updated with the following major amendments:

(i) Part I – Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

Section C – Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination Information

• ***Paragraph 1 – Requirements for post-admission experience***

Applicants must demonstrate that they have already gained the necessary experience at the time when they submit their applications. No prospective application will be accepted. The cut-off date for calculation of experience



is the date of the application to sit or the application for exemption, as the case may be (“the cut-off date”).

- ***Paragraph 2 – Application Form***

In order to qualify to sit or be exempt from sitting the Examination, an applicant must complete the Application Form and submit it to the Department of Standards and Development with all necessary documents and information. The application fee is HK\$6,600.00, which is non-refundable.

In the event of late submission of the Application Forms, all supporting documents and information after the deadline, **requests from the Law Society for additional documents shall in no event be regarded as an implied extension of the deadline.** The purpose of the requests is for the administration of the application, i.e. to validate that an applicant is eligible to sit the Examination notwithstanding that he or she may no longer be eligible to apply for any exemption(s).

An applicant is reminded that no matter whether the supporting documents are simple in nature or not or whether they are material or not to the application, it should not be justifications for the failure to submit them in time.

- ***Paragraph 27 – Increase of the fees payable under the Overseas Lawyers (Qualification for Admission) (Fees) Rules (“Rules”) with effect from 4 January 2024***

The Law Society has increased the fees payable for applications and examinations made under the Rules as follows:

- (a) Application fee for Section 3 (2) certificate (eligibility for qualification for admission and eligibility to take or be exempt from taking the Examination) has been increased from HK\$3,300 to HK\$6,600;
- (b) Application fee for extension of validity period of Section 3 (2) Certificate has been increased from HK\$750 to HK\$1,500;
- (c) Fee for taking the Examination:
 - (i) For any one subject, the fee has been increased from HK\$5,500 to HK\$11,000; and
 - (ii) For each additional subject, the fee has been increased from HK\$1,100 to HK\$2,200.



- (d) Application fee for review of the Law Society's decision under Section 3 (2) of the Overseas Lawyers (Qualification for Admission) Rules has been increased from HK\$1,500 to HK\$3,000.

Section F– Guidelines for Exemption from sitting all or parts of the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

An applicant is advised to read these Guidelines carefully before he or she submits the application. It is the responsibility of the applicants to comply with these Guidelines and the deadline. Reasons will not be given to the applicants whose applications fail to comply with these Guidelines and/or the deadline.

Section G– Application Form (On-line Application Form is available at [Law Society website](#))

An applicant must read the Application Form carefully. Failure to follow the instructions precisely will result in his or her application being rejected.

An applicant must also provide the supporting documents and information together with his or her Application Form within the time limit. Failure to provide the required documents and information, or failure to provide such documents and information within the time limit may result in his or her application being rejected.

- ***Paragraph I***

The application fee is HK\$6,600.00.

(ii) **Part II – Admission**

Section J – Procedure for Admission after passing the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

- ***Paragraph 4 – Motion Papers***

An applicant must serve a sealed copy of the motion paper and a certified copy of the Form 3 on the Law Society and the Secretary for Justice at the same time as the papers are filed at the Court.



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II. Enquiries

All enquiries relating to the applications for the 2024 Examination must be made either by e-mail to adrg1@hklawsoc.org.hk and OLQEAppln@hklawsoc.org.hk or by telephone on telephone number +852 2805 9103.