



Index Reference:

**Overseas Lawyers
Qualification
Examination**

CIRCULAR 26-87 (SD)

5 February 2026

**26-87 (SD) OVERSEAS LAWYERS QUALIFICATION
EXAMINATION
2026 INFORMATION PACKAGE**

Opening Date for Applications: **Thursday, 5 February 2026**

Deadline to Submit Applications: **Friday, 20 March 2026**

I. Applications for the 2026 Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

1. The Information Package for the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination (“the Examination”) in 2026 (“[2026 Information Package](#)”) and the Application Form (“Application Form”) are available on the website of the Law Society at www.hklawsoc.org.hk.
2. Kindly note that for the 2026 Examination, applicants may elect to submit the **online Application Form or paper-based Application Form**. In either case, applicants are required to submit all supporting documents and information and effect payment of an application fee of HK\$6,600 by **Friday, 20 March 2026**.
3. The 2026 Information Package has been updated with the following major amendments:

(i) Part I – Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

Section C – Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination Information

(Both online Application Form and paper-based Application Form are available at the [Law Society’s website](#))



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If an applicant wishes to submit his application via online Application Form, he will pay the application fee of HK\$6,600 via online payment options including but not limited to credit/debit cards (VISA, Mastercard, Union Pay), Faster Payment System (FPS), Alipay, WeChat Pay. Details of online payment options and procedures will be provided during the online submission process.

Alternatively, if an applicant wishes to submit the paper-based Application Form, he will have to pay the requisite fee by cheque, bank draft or cashier order payable to “The Law Society of Hong Kong” as online payment options are not available for submission of paper-based Application Form.

As the Application Form contains a statutory declaration pursuant to the provisions of the Oaths and Declarations Ordinance (Cap.11, Laws of Hong Kong) (i.e. Item 30 in the Application Form), an applicant is strongly reminded to return the original Application Form with the duly executed statutory declaration together with all supporting documents to the Department of Standards and Development **on or before 20 March 2026** for processing the application no matter an applicant is submitting the online Application Form or paper-based Application Form.

Mode of examination for 2026 Examination

The written Heads of the 2026 Examination (i.e. Heads I, II, III, IV and VI) (collectively, “Written Heads” and each, a “Written Head”) will be conducted **in a computer-based format**. An applicant is required to bring his own laptop computer to the Examination venue to take the Examination. An applicant has to pre-install the prescribed computer software for the computer-based Examination (“Lockdown Brower”) in his laptop computer prior to the Examination. Details of the installation and operation of the Lockdown Brower (including the taking of a practice examination) will be provided to candidates in due course.

A review of the Law Society’s decision under section 9 of the Overseas Lawyers (Qualification for Admission) Rules (“OLQE Rules”)

The application fee of HK\$3,000 can be made by cheque, bank draft or cashier order payable to “The Law Society of Hong Kong” or by online payment options, details of which will be provided to applicants in due course.

Procedure for registration to sit the 2026 Examination

Candidates can pay the registration fee in accordance with the Overseas Lawyers (Qualification for Admission) (Fees) Rules by cheque, bank draft or cashier order payable to “The Law Society of Hong Kong” or by online payment options, details of which will be provided to candidates in due course.



Withdrawal from sitting the Examination

If an applicant is unable to take the Examination after he has been issued a Section 3(2) Certificate issued under the OLQE Rules (“Section 3(2) Certificate”) but before he has registered his intention to sit the Examination, he may apply by letter, before the expiry of the Section 3(2) Certificate, for an extension of its validity period to enable him to take the next sitting. The application fee of HK\$1,500 can be paid by cheque, bank draft or cashier order payable to “The Law Society of Hong Kong” or by online payment options, details of which will be provided to applicants in due course.

Computers/calculators, mobile phones etc.

As the Written Heads of the Examination (i.e. Heads I, II, III, IV, VI) will be conducted **in a computer-based format**, an applicant is required to bring his own laptop computer to the Examination venue to take the Examination. He has to pre-install the Lockdown Browser in his laptop computer prior to the Examination. Details of the installation and operation of the Lockdown Browser will be provided to candidates in due course. He may also bring and use a silent and non-programmable calculator in the Examination. He is strongly advised not to bring any electronic/communication devices other than the laptop computer required for him to take the Examination (e.g. tablet, i-watches, smart watches, PDA, mobile phones, pagers, ear phones, ear pieces) into the Examination. If an applicant has brought along any of such devices, he must turn it off (including the alarm function) and put it under his seat in a position clearly visible to the invigilators. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

Candidates with incapacities or disabilities

Any candidate who is incapable to take computer-based Examination or suffers from a disability necessitating special requirements to sit the computer-based Examination should make an application in writing addressed to the Director of Standards and Development **not less than six weeks** prior to the commencement date of the Examination (on or before 11 September 2026):

- advising the nature of the incapacity or disability and its effect in relation to ability to sit the computer-based Examination;
- including a medical report/certificate in support; and
- specifying the special requirements requested.



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The application will be considered by the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination Committee.

A candidate is required to provide reason(s) for any application made after the deadline of 11 September 2026. The Law Society reserves the right not to consider any late applications.

Application for review of applicant's script

The application fee of HK\$3,000 per Head for a review of the answer(s)/script(s) by the Chief Examiners can be paid by cheque, bank draft or cashier order payable to "The Law Society of Hong Kong" or by online payment options, details of which will be provided to applicants in due course.

Section F-Guidelines for Exemption from sitting all or parts of the Examination

Meaning of "experience in the practice of law"

If an applicant's pre-admission experience such as in-house experience has been recognized by the regulatory authority as equivalent to the completion of statutory training period and as satisfying the admission criteria in the applicant's jurisdiction of admission, the applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Law Society that such pre-admission experience is comparable to the training required for admission and/or is relevant experience in the practice of law and that documentary evidence of attaining relevant experience in addition to the recognition of such pre-admission experience by the regulatory authority of the applicant's jurisdiction of admission must be provided.

Section G-Application Form

In view of the introduction of online Application Form and online payment options, the Personal Information Collection Statement in the Application Form has been revised. Consequential amendments to Items 29 and 30 of the Application Form have also been revised.

II. Enquiries

All enquiries relating to the applications for the 2026 Examination may be made by email to OLQEAppln@hklawsoc.org.hk or by call to +852 2805 9103.