



Index Reference :

Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

CIRCULAR 21-54 (SD)

1 February 2021

OVERSEAS LAWYERS QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION 2021 INFORMATION PACKAGE

Opening Date for Applications:

1 February 2021

Deadline to Submit Applications:

- For applicants applying for a resit of any Head(s) of the 2020 Examination in the 2021 Examination: 30 April 2021
- For all other applicants: 15 March 2021

I. Application for the 2021 Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

1. The Information Package for the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination (“the Examination”) in 2021 (“the 2021 Information Package”) is available on the website of the Law Society (“Society”) at www.hklawsoc.org.hk.
2. All application forms, Forms A must be submitted by **MONDAY, 15 MARCH 2021** except for applicants applying for a resit of any Head(s) of the 2020 Examination in the 2021 Examination. Candidates applying for a resit of any Head(s) of the 2020 Examination in the 2021 Examination must submit their applications by **FRIDAY, 30 APRIL 2021**.
3. The 2021 Information Package has been updated with the following major amendments:

(i) Part I – Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

Section C

- *Paragraph 2 – Application Form*

The closing date for receipt of application forms (Form A) for applicants except those who are applying for a resit of any Head(s) of the 2020 Examination in the 2021 Examination is MONDAY, 15 MARCH 2021. All information and documents in support of the application to sit the 2021 Examination and/or all information and documents in support of the application for exemption should be provided with the Form A by 15 March 2021. If, for good reason(s), the information and supporting documents are not provided by 15 March 2021, they must be provided by Friday, 30 April 2021.

For applicants who are applying for a resit of any Head(s) of the 2020 Examination in the 2021 Examination, the closing date for the receipt of Form A is FRIDAY, 30 APRIL 2021. All information and documents in support of the application to resit and/or all information and documents in support of the application for exemption must be provided with the Form A by 30 April 2021.

For an applicant who is not one of those applying for a resit of any Head(s) of the 2020 Examination in the 2021 Examination, if the applicant fails to provide all documents in support of an application for exemption by 30 April 2021 but has submitted the Form A by 15 March 2021, the applicant will not be eligible to apply for any exemption but may be eligible to sit the 2021 Examination.

For an applicant who is applying for a resit of any Head(s) of the 2020 Examination in the 2021 Examination, if the applicant fails to provide all documents in support of an application for exemption by 30 April 2021 but has submitted the Form A by 30 April 2021, the applicant will not be eligible to apply for any exemption but may be eligible to resit the 2021 Examination.

Section F – Guidelines for exemption from sitting all or parts of the Examination

- ***Paragraph 1(a)***

Remarks in Notes (1)(i)

If an applicant's statutory training period has been reduced by the regulatory authority as a result of pre-training experience recognized by such regulatory authority 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-training experience is comparable to the training required for admission and/or is relevant experience in the practice of law and that documentary evidence in addition to the recognition of such pre-training experience by the regulatory authority of the applicant's jurisdiction of admission must be provided.

Section G – Form A

- ***Paragraph K***

To enable the Law Society to consider whether an applicant's practice experience can be recognized as "experience in the practice of law" for the purposes of the Examination, the verification of practice and experience provided by the applicant's employer should include the law(s) of the jurisdiction(s) the applicant practised or practises. If the applicant claims experience in the practice of law as a registered foreign lawyer in Hong Kong and the applicant has less than 2 years of post-qualification experience in the full-time practice of foreign law, the employer's verification letter should also include the name of the supervising partner, his or her jurisdiction(s) of admission and the law(s) of the jurisdiction(s) which the supervising partner practises.

II. Enquiries

To align with the guidelines and recommendations of the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health, the HKSAR Government, and to reduce the risk of transmission of novel coronavirus infection, all enquiries relating to the applications for the 2021 Examination must be made either by e-mail to adrg2@hklawsoc.org.hk and OLQEAppln@hklawsoc.org.hk or by telephone on telephone number 2846 0523. As a measure of infection control, the Law Society will not receive requests for face-to-face consultation on enquiries under the current exceptional circumstances.