

CLARIFICATION ON SPECIFIC AREAS IN THE NEW GUIDELINES

1. Part I, Rule A

Candidates must have a minimum of 3 credits passes at the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or its equivalent. Qualifications which are accepted as equivalent for the purposes of the New Guidelines are:

- (a) GCE 'O' level examinations by the U.K. Boards;
- (b) Unified Examination Certificate;
- (c) Singapore – Cambridge GCE 'O' level; or
- (d) any other qualifications which may be accepted by the Qualifying Board as an equivalent to the SPM.

2. Part I, Rule B(i)

Candidates must have a minimum of 2 principal passes at the Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM) or its equivalent. Qualifications which are accepted as equivalent for the purposes of the New Guidelines are:

- (a) 'A' level (passes at advanced level) by the U.K. Boards;
- (b) Unified Examination Certificate;
- (c) Singapore – Cambridge GCE 'A' level;
- (d) Australian Matriculation Examination; or
- (e) any other qualifications which may be accepted by the Qualifying Board as an equivalent to the STPM.

3. Part I, Rule B(ii)

The minimum of 2 principal passes at the STPM level or its equivalent must be obtained in one and the same sitting of the examination. The emphasis here is on the same sitting of the examination by the one and the same examination Board and NOT on sitting for different examinations of different Boards at the same time. Therefore, it is clear that candidates who take 'A' level examinations in different subjects from DIFFERENT examination boards at the same time DO NOT satisfy this requirement if they do not obtain a minimum of 2 principal passes in any one and the same sittings of the examination from that one Board.

4. Part I, Rules B(ii), C(i), D(iii) and E(ii)

The phrase 'one academic year' refers to the academic curriculum which is equivalent to a years duration.

Under the traditional British education system, the academic year starts in October and ends with the examination in the month of June in the following year. The period from July to September is the summer vacation and the new academic year starts in the following October. Thus, an academic year may be slightly shorter than a calendar year which is 12 months. Under the American semester system, one academic year consists of 2 semesters. Each semester stretching for 6 months with an examination at the end of each semester.

For the purposes of the New Guidelines, an academic year follows the British system. If the semester system is used, one academic year must consists of two semesters where one semester is of six months duration.

5. Part I, Rules D(ii) and D(iii)

To be a qualifying degree under the New Guidelines, the law degree must contain a minimum of 12 law subjects and the 12 law subjects must include 6 core subjects, namely; Law of Contract, Law of Torts, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Land Law and Equity and Trusts.

Each of the said core subjects must be studied for 'one academic year'. Under the semester system each of these subjects must be studied over two semesters which will make up one academic year.

6. Part I, Rule E(ii)

For the purposes of the New Guidelines, the curriculum of the first academic year conducted in Malaysia under a twinning programme must be same as that conducted internally, as its first year curriculum, by the U.K. university which is the twinning partner in the twinning arrangement.

7. Part I, Rule F

Where two or more different and distinct discipline or branches of learning are combined and studied in one degree programme, that degree is a joint degree for the purposes of the New Guidelines.

Under the New Guidelines, joint degrees are not totally unacceptable. Joint degrees are recognised if they are extended for a duration of 5 years or more. The concern here is not on the combination of disciplines but on the time devoted to study each discipline.

Students are free to opt for a number of non-law subjects as long as the law degree contains a minimum of 12 law subjects (including 6 core subjects) as required in Rule D(i).

8. Part I, Rule 1(iii)

For the purposes of the New Guidelines, mature students must have the basic requirement of a minimum 3 credit at SPM level or its equivalent. In lieu of the qualification at the STPM level or its equivalent, they must have a minimum 5 years of proven working experience in the related field. The term 'related field' does not necessarily mean that the work experience must be related to law. It is enough if they have gained some meaningful and beneficial work experience in life after leaving school.

Such students must be declared as suitable to follow the law programme by a special panel comprising of officials of the U.K. admitting universities or institutions acting on behalf of the U.K. universities. The admitting university or institution acting on its behalf is free to determine the composition of the special panel but before an offer is made to such a student, the Qualifying Board must be informed in writing of the student's background and qualifications and reasons for accepting such a student for it to give its approval to such offer.