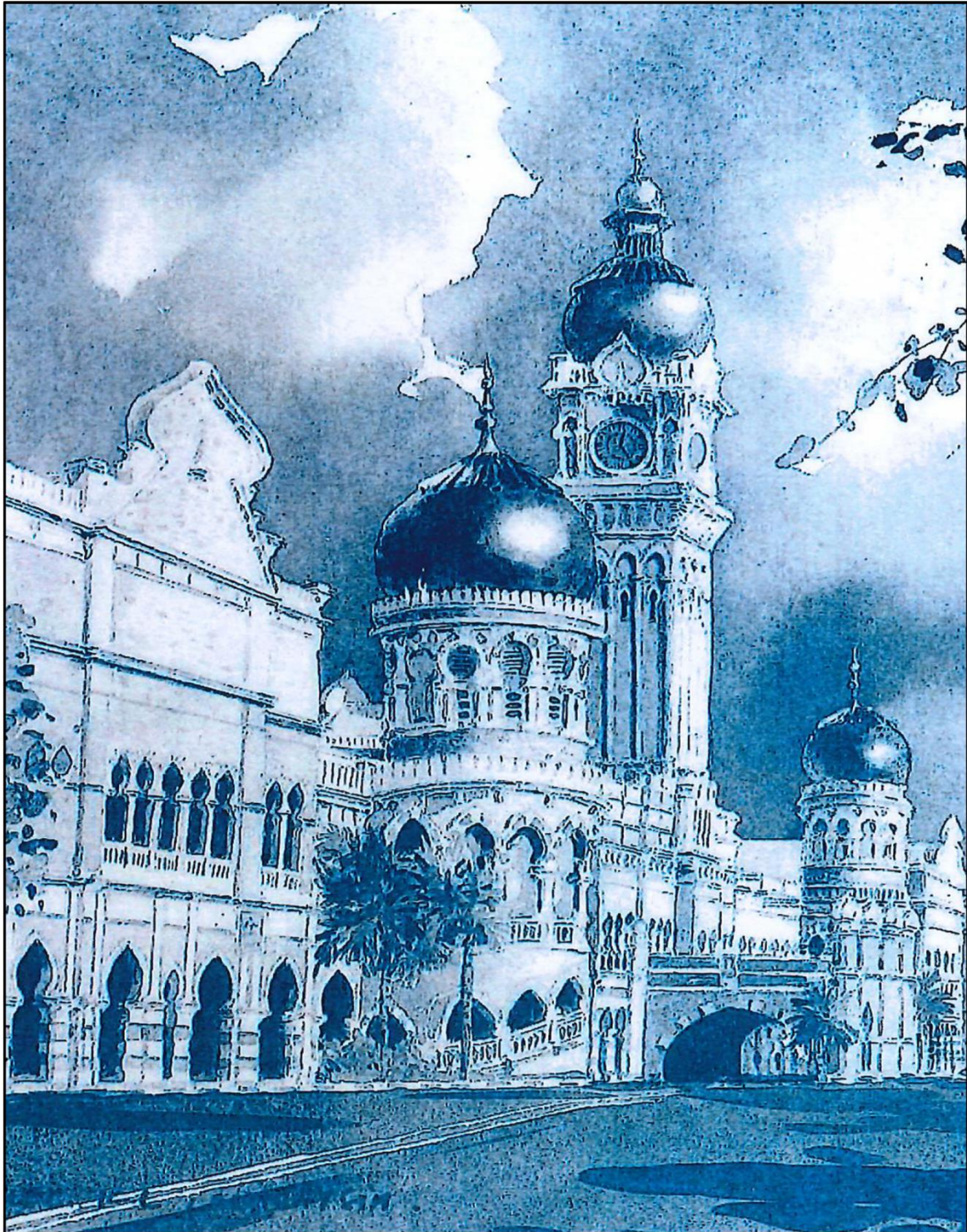




**LEMBAGA KELAYAKAN PROFESION UNDANG-UNDANG MALAYSIA
(LEGAL PROFESSION QUALIFYING BOARD MALAYSIA)**



**NEW GUIDELINES ON QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS
TO QUALIFY TO SIT FOR THE MALAYSIAN CERTIFICATE
IN LEGAL PRACTICE (CLP) EXAMINATION
(FOR LAW DEGREES FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM)**

Contents

- *INTRODUCTION* 2
- *NEW GUIDELINES*..... 3
- *PART I* 4
- *PART II*..... 9

Introduction

In the past, the requirements to qualify to sit for the Malaysian Certificate in Legal Practice (CLP) Examinations as set by the Legal Profession Qualifying Board of Malaysia (Qualifying Board) had been the same as imposed by the Council of Legal Education (CLE) in England for the Bar Finals Examinations there. The only other criteria not followed by the Qualifying Board was the minimum requirement of a second-class lower division honours degree (2.2).

The requirements imposed by both bodies are closely knitted and necessary in so far as the needs of the respective countries are concerned.

In the Malaysian context, and in view of the recent trends and practices, the Qualifying Board feels that it has to specify its own requirements in order to conform to the new Malaysian needs. Therefore, the Qualifying Board has decided to introduce new guidelines to reflect these needs.

It should be emphasised that these guidelines are not intended to bar any person/ persons to acquire a law degree from any institution of their choice. However, in order for the Qualifying Board to achieve and maintain the required standard for admission into the Malaysian Bar, these new guidelines have become necessary and have to be satisfied by all candidates holding LL.B. or equivalent degrees from the United Kingdom before they are deemed eligible to sit for the CLP examinations with the view of admission to the Malaysian Bar.

The Qualifying Board thought it fit to set these new guidelines for the following reasons:

- (i) changes in emphasis in legal studies in the United Kingdom;
- (ii) insufficient duration in obtaining law degrees;
- (iii) insufficient content of the law degrees;
- (iv) relaxation of the minimum entry requirements;
- (v) midway transfer by candidates from one university to another;
- (vi) relaxation of twinning arrangements;
- (vii) the increase in part-time, external and distance learning modes of study; and
- (viii) foundation courses being too loose resulting in being uncertain, vague and ambiguous.

These new guidelines are introduced after careful study and discussions since 1993. They also take into account of the following:

- (i) a special report commissioned by the Qualifying Board on law degrees in the United Kingdom;
- (ii) visits and discussions the Qualifying Board had with the relevant authorities in the United Kingdom;
- (iii) the memorandum submitted by the Bar Council of Malaysia Special Committee on Legal Education Reform and Qualifications for Entry into the Legal Profession; and
- (iv) the view of the local educational authorities and institutions.

New Guidelines

These guidelines consist of TWO parts:

Part I: Criteria to be satisfied before a law degree is recognised; and

Part II: List of universities and their respective law programmes recognised by the Qualifying Board.

Part I

These guidelines take into account the following criteria, namely—

- (i) achievement at SPM or its equivalent;
- (ii) achievement at STPM level or its equivalent and duration of study at STPM level or its equivalent;
- (iii) duration of study for a law degree;
- (iv) core and non-core subjects;
- (v) twinning arrangements;
- (vi) joint degrees;
- (vii) transfers;
- (viii) part-time, external and distance learning modes of study; and
- (ix) mature student entry.

The new criteria set by the Qualifying Board are as follows and they SHALL come into effect on 1st October 1998.

Rules
<p>A. Achievement at SPM level or its equivalent</p> <p>(i) All candidates must have a minimum of 3 credits which must be obtained in one and the same examination.</p>
<p>B. Achievement at STPM level or its equivalent</p> <p>(i) All candidates must have a minimum of 2 principal passes which must be obtained in one and the same examination; AND</p> <p>(ii) the duration of the STPM course or equivalent SHALL be a minimum of one academic year.</p> <p>(see ‘CLARIFICATION ON SPECIFIC AREAS IN THE NEW GUIDELINES’)</p>

Rules

C. Duration of the law degree

(i) the duration for the law degree SHALL be a minimum of 3 academic years. PROVIDED THAT the duration may be less than 3 academic years BUT SHALL have a total of at least 80 lecture weeks; AND

(ii) In the case of full-time study at a university, the law degree which is obtained must be completed within 6 years of initial registration with that university; BUT

(see '[CLARIFICATION ON SPECIFIC AREAS IN THE NEW GUIDELINES](#)')

(iii) for the LL.B. external London degree, candidates must complete the degree within 4 years upon successful completion of the intermediate examination or a referral thereof.

(see '[PENGUMUMAN](#)' dated 28 September 2010)

D. Subjects

(i) the law degree shall contain a minimum of 12 law subjects; AND

(ii) the 12 law subjects, shall include the following 6 core subjects:

- (a) Law of Contracts;
- (b) Law of Torts;
- (c) Constitutional Law;
- (d) Criminal Law;
- (e) Land Law; and
- (f) Equity and Trusts;

(iii) each of the core-subjects as in (ii) above, shall be studied for the duration of one academic year; AND

(iv) candidates must pass all the core subjects mentioned in (ii) above.

(see '[A STATEMENT ON SIX CORE SUBJECTS](#)' dated 17 June 2005)

Rules

E. Twinning programmes

Such programmes are recognised provided they satisfy the following criteria:

- (i) the twinning arrangement shall consist of one academic year study in Malaysia followed by at least two academic years of study in the United Kingdom (U.K.); AND
- (ii) the curriculum of the one academic year study in Malaysia shall be the same as that conducted internally by that U.K. university which is the twinning partner in the arrangement and SHALL be validated annually and supervised by the same U.K. university;
- (iii) any law programme of less than 3 years duration recognised by the Qualifying Board shall be wholly pursued in the U.K. only.

(see [‘PRESS STATEMENT NO. 1/98 – TWINNING PROGRAMMES’](#) dated 7 March 1998)

F. Joint degrees

Such degrees are NOT recognised. An example of such a degree would be where law is combined with another discipline.

EXCEPT where such a degree is extended for a duration of 5 years or more.

(see [‘CLARIFICATION ON SPECIFIC AREAS IN THE NEW GUIDELINES’](#))

Rules

G. Transfers

- (i) A law degree from any University or Law College is NOT recognised for admission to the Bar if the student was in the first place a failed student from another law school who had obtained transfer to his present college from which he graduates with a LL.B. degree and who was not required to commence the course afresh.
- (ii) Where a student has failed a part of his course or obtained only a conditional pass in any university and subsequently transfers his studies to another university where he is provided credit for any part of the course which he has passed and is allowed to move to the next year of study without being required to pass the complete examination diet in the original university, his final law degree is NOT accepted as a qualification to sit for the CLP Examination and for admission to the Bar. This does not include a failed student who commences his course afresh at a different university after failure at his original university and thereafter successfully completes his course.

H. Part-time, external and distance learning modes of study

Generally, the Qualifying Board has not been satisfied with most part-time, external and distance learning modes of study. After careful examination of these modes of study the Qualifying Board has decided to recognise only the University of London external law degree.

(see '[PRESS RELEASE](#)' dated 26 December 2001)

Rules

I. Mature student entry

- (i) IN LIMITED CASES, mature students may be admitted to pursue a law degree;
- (ii) Such students shall have a minimum of 3 credits at SPM level or its equivalent; AND
- (iii) Such students SHALL possess a minimum of 5 years of proven working experience in the related field; AND
- (iv) Such students must be declared as suitable and proficient to follow the law programme by a special panel comprising of officials of the admitting university in concurrence with the Qualifying Board.

(see [‘CLARIFICATION ON SPECIFIC AREAS IN THE NEW GUIDELINES’](#))

Part II

Taking into account all factors the Qualifying Board hereby declares that effective 1 October 1998, only the universities and their respective law courses as listed below will be recognised for purposes of undertaking the CLP course and with the view of admission to the Malaysian Bar.

Full time Degrees

Universities	Degree Awarded	Title of Degree
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NOTE:

[The original list of 66 universities and their qualifications which appeared in the New Guidelines](#) as issued on 18 March 1995 was reviewed by the Board and a new list of 30 universities was issued vide '[PRESS RELEASE - NEW LIST OF RECOGNISED LAW DEGREES \(LL.B\) FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM](#)' dated 5 December 1999 as follows:

**“ PRESS RELEASE
New List of Recognised Law Degrees (LL.B.) from
the United Kingdom**

On 18 March 1995 the Legal Profession Qualifying Board, Malaysia (Qualifying Board) issued the New Guidelines on qualifications and requirements to qualify to sit for the Malaysian Certificate in Legal Practice (CLP) examination for law degrees from the United Kingdom. Those Guidelines declared, effective from 1 October 1998, sixty-six universities in the United Kingdom and their respective law courses as being recognised for purposes of undertaking the CLP course with a view of admission to the Malaysian Bar. The Board also recognised the external law degree programme of the University of London.

Since then, the Board has undertaken a complete study of the law degrees offered by the various universities in the United Kingdom which has necessitated a review of the said list of universities and the qualifications and has decided that with effect from 1 January 2001:

- (a) only thirty law degrees from universities and institutions from the United Kingdom as listed in the attached Appendix will be recognised for the purposes of the CLP course;*
- (b) not to recognise any law degree programmes of less than three years duration in the study of law; and*
- (c) to discontinue recognition of any external law degree programme from overseas.*

The decision of the Board in reviewing the list of universities and their qualifications will not affect those candidates who have already registered for the law degree programmes before 1 January 2001 in any of the universities now omitted from the list published on 18 March 1995 including the external law degree programme of University of London.

A New Guideline incorporating the foregoing decisions will be issued by the Qualifying Board in due course.

sgd
 Dated: 5 December 1999 (TAN SRI DATUK SERI MOHTAR BIN ABDULLAH)
 Chairman
 Legal Profession Qualifying Board
 Malaysia

APPENDIX

Universities	Degree Awarded	Title of Degree
Full-time Degrees		
1. University of Birmingham	LL.B	Law
2. University of Bristol	LL.B	Law
3. University of Cambridge	BA	Law Tripos
4. University of East Anglia	LL.B	Law
5. University of Essex	LL.B	Law
6. University of Exeter	LL.B	Law
7. University of Hertfordshire	LL.B	Law
8. University of Hull	LL.B	Law
9. University of Leeds	LL.B	Law
10. University of Leicester	LL.B	Law
11. University of Liverpool	LL.B	Law
University of London:		
12. King's College	LL.B	Law
13. London School of Economic and Political Science	LL.B	Law
14. Queen Mary & Westfield College	LL.B	Law
15. School of Oriental & African Studies	LL.B	Law
16. University College	LL.B	Law

17. University of Manchester	LL.B	Law
18. University of Northumbria at Newcastle	LL.B	Law
19. University of Nottingham	LL.B	Law
20. Nottingham Trent University	LL.B	Law
21. Oxford Brookes University	LL.B	Law
22. University of Oxford	BA	Jurisprudence
23. Queen's University Belfast	LL.B	Law (must have taken English Land Law option)
24. University of Reading	LL.B	Law
25. University of Sheffield	LL.B	Law
26. University of Southampton	LL.B	Law
27. University College of Wales, Aberystwyth	LL.B	Law
28. University of Wales, Cardiff	LL.B	Law
29. University of Warwick	LL.B	Law
30. University of West of England in Bristol	LL.B	Law

External Degrees	Degree Awarded	Title of Degree
1. University of London	LL.B	Law

Law programmes not listed above including Senior Status Law Degrees and the Common Professional Examination (CPE) are not recognised for the purposes of sitting for the CLP Examinations and admission to the Malaysian Bar. Fresh applications for recognition may be considered from time to time by the Qualifying Board from universities and/or degrees not included in the list above.

Candidates who have already commenced their courses and do not satisfy the prerequisites declared and/or their courses are not listed and they are unable to complete their courses by the effective date as above may appeal to the Qualifying Board for entry.

These guidelines were issued by the Qualifying Board on the 18 March 1995.