**CONVERSION INFORMATION FOR LAWYERS WISHING TO RELOCATE TO AUSTRALIA – NOVEMBER 2017**

Herewith some information for you - if you need any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Basically:

You need to have your academic and practical qualifications assessed by the NSW Legal Profession Admission Board using forms 16 and 17 - you can do this yourself or you can have a registered migration agent do it for you.  ([www.netmigration.co.za](http://www.networkmigration.co.za), [acnconsultants.co.za](file:///C:\Users\Jackie\Documents\UNE\2017\for%20prospective%20students\latest%20info%20January%202016.doc) and [www.ozimmigration.com](http://www.ozimmigration.com)) It is quite a complicated process so it is far better for you to use the services of a migration agent. These agencies are registered and I can recommend their services.

Cost for the assessment through LPAB in New South Wales: approx $280 for each of form 16 and 17 – you can pay by credit card.

Information about the assessment through the Legal Profession Admission Board can be obtained from their website:

<http://www.lpab.justice.nsw.gov.au/>

* The assessment results will then determine exactly which academic and which practical subjects are required to be admitted to the Bar. University of New England handles the academic ones; the College of Law handles the practical ones

There have been huge changes since April 2008 regarding the academic requirements. In essence all the States follow the same procedures but it is important to be assessed and complete the studies in one state and as University of New England (in NSW) offers the academic subjects via distance education) it makes sense to use NSW. Generally, you will have to do will **have to do 3 or 4 academic subjects** – once again dependent on the content of your degree and your experience – only the Legal Board can determine this – a migration agent cannot, nor can I. These subjects are Real Property, Equity & Trusts, Constitutional Law, and sometimes Legal Ethics. On the odd occasion I have had a client who has to do Administrative Law.

* The process is this: UNE will enrol you for these academic subjects (called non-award subjects) before the assessment results are returned from the Legal Board but you must have the results back before the College of Law will enrol you. So you can get on with the academic studies meanwhile, awaiting the results from the Legal Board. Once you know the practical requirements please enrol with the College of Law as you can do the studies simultaneously, if you have the time and strength! You will have to do the IELTS test for the Legal Board at some stage; UNE is not worried about it now. If you are female and married, you must also include your marriage certificate if your degree was completed in your maiden name. I will get you enrolled with the University of New England once you return the required forms to me (UNE application form; marriage cert – if required; copy of degree or Legal Board assessment letter and copy of ID) and email them to me on jmwcomp@global.co.za. I do not charge you for this service as the university gives me a small commission for each enrolment. The university also arranges your exam venues in South Africa. For Gauteng students I arrange the venue in Johannesburg.
* The offerings in 2018 will most probably be the same as in previous years:

Semester 1 (5 March-18 June): LAW220 Constitutional Law

LAW340 Equity and Trusts

Semester 2 (9 July-19 Oct): LAW320 Legal Ethics (only sometimes)

LAW282 Real Property

LAW400 Administrative Law (only sometimes) and also offered in Semester 3

If the LPAB assessment has not been done (the form 16) I suggest you enrol for LAW220, LAW340 (1st semester) and LAW282 (2nd semester). These seem to be the subjects that all South African lawyers have to do.

The 2017 non-award single subject cost was $2725 – you pay for each semester as you enrol and you can pay by credit card. The 2018 non-award single subject fee will be $2975.There is an exam fee of $200 per subject. Books are extra. The subjects are equivalent to 2nd and 3rd year level subjects.

Exams are usually arranged in the fortnight prior to the end of the semester – the dates are set by UNE and cannot be changed. Supplementary exams are only granted if a student misses an exam for medical reasons and full documentation has to be submitted before UNE grants this.

Once I have submitted your papers to UNE they will make you an Offer to Study. Once you accept your offer and pay the appropriate fees, you will need to officially enrol in your proposed UNE course and units.  You will receive an email from UNE providing instructions to assist you in completing this enrolment process.  Please read the attached online enrolment instructions provided very carefully.

In order to complete your enrolment you may also need to refer to the following UNE websites:

1. Applying for your UNE Student ID Card – go to [http://my.une.edu.au](http://my.une.edu.au/) and access the MyInfo tab
2. The UNE Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) provides a HELP CD and this is accessed online at <http://www.une.edu.au/tlc/students/publications/helpbook.pdf>
3. Course information to help you select units for your enrolment – go to <http://www.une.edu.au/for/current-students/course-information/> and access the relevant Faculty/course booklet.  You may also need to consult the Schedule of Units at <http://www.une.edu.au/courses/> which lists the individual units that are available each year.

**Please note that until you have actually completed the enrolment process, you will not be officially enrolled at UNE.**

**Ordering of textbooks can be done through UNE’s bookshop link and you can request courier delivery (at a cost of course) to ensure they reach you in time for the start of a semester – and don’t forget to provide a physical address in this case.**

* Remember that you cannot submit migration papers, if you are the main applicant, until the academic subjects are behind you and you must do the IELTS test through the British Council regardless of whether you are English-speaking or not
* The College of Law subjects are less expensive and the study sessions are shorter than the university’s semesters – you enrol online – www.collaw.edu.au – subjects costs approx $1300 and you do them by distance education – but I usually get to organise your exams and venue if you are Gauteng
* Once you are admitted to the Bar in Australia you can move anywhere in Australia or even to New Zealand if you want. The reason why I use NSW for studies is that the services provided by the institutions are excellent and not all Australian universities can offer non-award law subjects via distance education.
* I can also send you all the necessary forms and the latest documentation from the Legal Board if you require these.

Hope this helps!

Regards

Jackie

SA Rep for UNE and CSU, Australia

jmwcomp@global.co.za

082 412 9903

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