**CONVERSION INFORMATION FOR LAWYERS WISHING TO RELOCATE**

**TO AUSTRALIA AND/OR NEW ZEALAND (JUNE 2020)**

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

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.  ([netmigration.co.za](http://www.networkmigration.co.za); [acnconsultants.co.za](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CJackie%5CDocuments%5CUNE%5C2017%5Cfor%20prospective%20students%5Clatest%20info%20January%202016.doc); [ozimmigration.com](http://ozimmigration.com); four-corners.com.au and pathwaylawyers.com) It is quite a complicated process so it is far better for you to use the services of a migration agent. These are registered agencies and I can recommend their services. In fact, David Dadic from Pathway Lawyers can assist you with other services (even assisting with couriering text-books once ordered and paid for by you). He is also a past student of UNE who did his ‘conversion’ a few years ago and has a wealth of experience). He is also ‘knows’ the ‘ropes’ to get to NZ.

Cost for the assessment through LPAB in New South Wales: approx. $310 for each of form 16 and 17 – you can pay by credit card. The LPAB now requires original university certificates and transcripts – no longer just certified or notarised ones – and they don’t return them. (The LPAB will save the originals and you can collect them when you are in Sydney to organise your admission). 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 and Charles Sturt University can handle the academic ones; the College of Law handles the practical ones

In essence all the states follow the same procedure, but it is better to be assessed and complete the studies in one state and as both the University of New England and Charles Sturt University (in NSW) offer the academic subjects via distance education) it makes sense to use NSW. Generally, you will have to do will **have to do 3 academic subjects** – once again dependent on your degree – only the Legal Board can determine this – a migration agent cannot, nor can I. Generally, the subjects are Property, Equity & Trusts, and Constitutional Law. On the odd occasion I have had a client who has been required to do Legal Ethics and/or Administrative Law. Generally, those with a Bachelor of Laws degree have to do the three – those with a B. Proc seem to have to do 4 subjects.

* The process is this: UNE and/or CSU 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. 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 and CSU are 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 enrol with either UNE or CSU depending on your needs (or you can do a combination of both) once you return the required forms to me (UNE/CSU application form; certified copy of marriage cert – if required; certified copy of degree transcript or Legal Board assessment letter and certified copy of passport) and email them to me on jmwcomp@global.co.za. I do not charge you for this service as the universities give me a small commission for each enrolment. The university also arranges your exam venues in South Africa. For Gauteng students I generally arrange the venue in Johannesburg. Sometimes an exam is offered online and this will generally become more the norm in the future.

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| The offerings in 2020 are as follows:  |  |
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|   | **T1** | **T2** | **T3** |
| **CSU** | Property Law LAW216 | Constitutional Law LAW308 | Property Law LAW216 |
|  | Equity & Trusts LAW218 |   |   |
|  | Administrative Law LAW311\* |   |   |
|   | Professional Legal Conduct LAW309\* |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
| **UNE** | Constitutional Law LAW399 | Equity & Trusts LAW340 |   |
|  | Property Law LAW283 | Administrative Law LAW400\* |   |
|   |   | Legal Ethics LAW320\* |   |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | \* rarely required |  |  |

**Please go through NSW as once admitted you can practise in any state in Australia.**

You pay for each subject/s per semester directly to the university (**never to me**) once you receive an offer and you can pay using GlobalPay by credit card or EFT.

2020 CSU per subject tuition fees = $3250.

2020 UNE per subject tuition fees = $3612

There are sometimes students’ services fees and exam fees for written exams. When exams are offered online there is no fee. Books are extra.

Exams are usually arranged in the fortnight prior to the end of the semester – the dates are set by the university 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 the university grants this.

UNE Session dates for 2020:

T1: 2 March – 19 June with exams from 9 June to 19 June

T2: 29 June – 16 Oct with exams from 6 October to 16 October

T3: 26 October – 26 Feb 2021 with exams from 8 Feb 2021 – 26 Feb 2021 (but no non-award subjects in T3)

CSU Session dates for 2020:

T1: 2 March – 19 June with exams from 8 to 19 June

T2: 13 July – 30 October with exams from 19 to 30 October

T3: 16 November – 12 February 2021 with exams from 8 to 12 February 2021

Once I have submitted your papers to UNE/CSU, you will receive an offer to study. Once you accept your offer and pay the appropriate tuition fee, you will be enrolled.  Generally, once enrolled you can then download study material as and when it becomes available.

Ordering of textbooks can be done through UNE’s bookshop link [www.unelifecampusbooks.com.au/](http://www.unelifecampusbooks.com.au/) but there is no option to request a delivery by courier. The bookshop uses the normal postal service from Australia, and not DHL, so delivery to South Africa is rather difficult. I suggest you try to get books from a friend or relative in Australia and get them to send them to you via DHL or try to get from a past student in South Africa. Or contact David Dadic (a past UNE student who is in Sydney) at www.pathwaylawyers.com and if they are paid for and sent to his address, he will arrange for them to be sent via DHL and invoice you accordingly. David can also provide you with expert advice regarding job opportunities etc.

The CSU textbooks required for each of your enrolled subjects can also be found via the Student

Portal Textbooks (http://student.csu.edu.au/study/study-essentials/textbooks) page.

There is also an option to obtain e-Books – which apparently you can download and print a number of pages each day – then copy to Word and print. You cannot use electronic devices in written exams. The websites for books and eBooks are

<https://legal.thomsonreuters.com.au/> and <https://store.lexisnexis.com.au>

With the Covid-19 situation, all UNE and CSU exams this year 2020, will be held online so e-books are the way to go as you can use them in an online exam! The universities will inform us regarding 2021 exams – but if the situation remains as is, then it may be that 2021 exams will also be online. Nothing confirmed for 2021 at this stage.

My nephew’s wife lives in Sydney and she is also prepared to receive books you have ordered and paid for. She will then invoice you the DHL fee and a small handling fee and then they will be sent with DHL to a physical address in South Africa. Her name is Karen Welch and I can organise that with her.

* 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 (St Leonards, Sydney) subjects are less expensive, and the study sessions are shorter than the university’s semesters – you enrol online – www.collaw.edu.au – each subject costs approx $1300 and you also do them by distance education – but I usually get to organise your exams and venue if you are Gauteng. Send email to support@collaw.edu.au with your form 17 assessment letter so they can register you for the correct single subjects
* 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. NSW has proved to be far less cumbersome from many aspects.

My personal circumstances:

1. I am semi-retired; have a home office where I live - a retirement village in Bedfordview adjacent to the exam venue for Gauteng-based students
2. I am still extremely active - teach and work in a couple of schools so often not available during the day but I do the university work over weekends and after hours. I hope to continue my outside work but with the Covid-19 situation the teaching may have to be suspended
3. I do not charge any fees – I receive a small commission from UNE and CSU for all students I register and with the Covid-19 situation this could become my only income so the more students I can enrol the happier I will be so please do recommend my services – I will be most grateful
4. I have been an agent for Charles Sturt University and the University of New England for over 20 years

Jackie Welch

SA Rep for UNE and CSU, Australia

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**June 2020**