**CONVERSION INFORMATION FOR LAWYERS WISHING TO RELOCATE TO AUSTRALIA – AUGUST 2018**

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%3A%5CUsers%5CJackie%5CDocuments%5CUNE%5C2017%5Cfor%20prospective%20students%5Clatest%20info%20January%202016.doc); [www.ozimmigration.com](http://www.ozimmigration.com) and www.pathwaylawyers.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. In fact, David Dadic from PathwayLawyers can assist you with other services (even obtaining text books from UNE and getting them to you). He is also a past student of UNE who did his ‘conversion’ a few years ago and has a wealth of experience).

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. The LPAB now require original university certificates and transcripts – no longer just certified or notarised ones – and they don’t return them. (I have been told by some students that the LPAB will save the originals and you can collect them when you are in Sydney to organise your admission).

The Board made the policy that all applicants are required to provide their original academic transcript for assessment and the Board will retain their transcript to avoid any forgery in future.

Please note that as the transcript can be re-issued by the university, the Board made this policy since January 2017. However, the certificate of admission and degree certificates can be certified by notary public. (from the LPAB)

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 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, and Constitutional Law. On the odd occasion I have had a client who has been required to do Legal Ethics and 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 and 2019 will most probably be the same as in previous years:

Semester 1 (March-June): LAW220 **Constitutional Law**

 LAW340 **Equity and Trusts**

Semester 2 (July-Oct): LAW320 Legal Ethics

 LAW282 **Real Property**

LAW400 Administrative Law

Semester 3 (Nov–Feb): LAW220 **Constitutional Law**

 LAW400 Administrative Law

(The underlined ones are the ‘usual’ ones)

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.

You pay for each semester as you enrol and you can pay by credit card. The 2018 non-award single subject fee is $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.

**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** [**http://www.unelifecampusbooks.com.au/**](http://www.unelifecampusbooks.com.au/) **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. There have been issues with the bookshop as they have been using our postal service and not DHL but they are looking at a process to enable students to get their books timeously. e-books are also being considered but nothing confirmed yet. So we await further details …. I suggest you try to get books from a friend or relative in Australia and get them to send them to you or try to get from a past student in South Africa. Or contact David at** [**www.pathwaylawyers.com**](http://www.pathwaylawyers.com)**.**

* 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.

Hope this helps!

Regards

Jackie

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