



SRI LANKA LAW COLLEGE NOTICE

GUIDELINES FOR 2023 APPLICATIONS FOR THE ADMISSION TO SRI LANKA LAW COLLEGE TO QUALIFY AS AN ATTORNEY AT LAW OF THE SUPREME COURT OF SRI LANKA

1. All Applicants must satisfy the following requirements without any exception.
 - a. A Citizen of Sri Lanka at the time of the Application
 - b. 17 Years of age at the time of the Application
 - c. Certificate of Good Character acceptable to the Incorporated Council of Legal Education
 - d. A Credit Pass in the English Language at the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination
 - e. A Credit Pass in either Sinhala or Tamil Language at the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination
2. Applicants under the General Entrance Examination must satisfy the following requirements.
 - a. At least two Credit Passes and one Simple Pass obtained at one and the same sitting at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination
 - b. Pass the General Entrance Examination and qualify within the merit based list for the particular year as determined by the Council for the General Entrance Examination held for such Year
 - c. The requirements applicable for all Applicants in Guideline 1

Note to Applicants – Any Applicant submitting equivalent qualifications to the said General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination and/or General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination are strongly recommended to submit all relevant particulars of such qualification for the assessment purposes.

3. Applicants under Rule 23(4)(a) holding a Bachelor of Laws from a University under the Universities Act must satisfy the following requirements:

- a. A Bachelor of Laws obtained from a University established under the Universities Act No.16 of 1978 as amended where the criteria for admission to the University is based on 'Z Score ' or other criteria adopted by the University Grants Commission based on the GCE Advanced Level Examination
- b. The following Universities are within the classification for Rule 23(4)(a):
 - i. University of Colombo
 - ii. University of Jaffna
 - iii. University of Peradeniya
- c. An Applicant who satisfies the Incorporated Council of Legal Education of the above is entitled to the following:
 - i. Exemption from requirement to sit and qualify under the General Entrance Examination or Special Entrance Examination
 - ii. Exemption from having to sit and pass the Preliminary and Intermediate Examinations at the Sri Lanka Law College
 - iii. Entitlement to sit for the Final Examination at the Sri Lanka Law College

Note to Applicants – However, the applicants come under the Universities listed under 3 (b) may require to complete certain subjects directed by the Incorporated Council of Legal Education.

- d. At least two Credit Passes and one Simple Pass obtained at one and the same sitting at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination
 - e. The requirements applicable for all Applicants in Guideline 1
 - f. Universities specified under Rule 23(4)(a) are not subject to any of the Transitional Provisions and such Applicants entry criteria is exclusively governed by Rule 23(4)(a).
4. Applicants Under Rule 23(4)(b) holding a Bachelor of Laws from the Open University of Sri Lanka or the Kotelawala Defence University must satisfy the Council of Legal Education of the following:
- a. A Bachelor of Laws from the Open University of Sri Lanka or the Kotelawala Defence University
 - b. At least two Credit Passes and one Simple Pass obtained at one and the same sitting at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination (This is subject only to the Transitional Provisions as explained subsequently)
 - c. The requirements applicable for all Applicants in Guideline 1
 - d. An Applicant who satisfies the Council as to the above is entitled to the following:

- i. Exemption from requirement to sit and qualify under the General Entrance Examination or Special Entrance Examination
- ii. Exemption from having to sit and pass the Preliminary and Intermediate Examinations at the Sri Lanka Law College
- iii. Entitlement to sit for the Final Examination at the Sri Lanka Law College

Note to Applicants – However, the applicants come under the Universities listed under 4 (a) may require to complete certain subjects directed by the Incorporated Council of Legal Education.

- e. For the Academic Year 2023 the Incorporated Council of Legal Education has decided to grant the exemption under Rule 23 (5) for the Open University of Sri Lanka and the Kotelawala Defence University. The continuation of this exemption is at the discretion of the Council.
- f. Applicability of Transitional Provisions:
 - i. Any Applicant who has been awarded Bachelor of Laws from the Open University of Sri Lanka or the Kotelawala Defence University before the end of the 2025 Academic Year of the Sri Lanka Law College

AND

- ii. Has commenced such Applicants course of study at the Open University of Sri Lanka or the Kotelawala Defence University prior to the 30th December 2020 (i.e any date prior to the 29th December 2020 including the 29th December 2020)

shall be entitled to be admitted to the Sri Lanka Law College for Admission under Rule 23(4)(b) with all entitlements above even if such person does not possess two credit passes and one simple pass in General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination in the least as required in Rule 23(3).

For clarity

- this would mean that if any person possessing a Bachelor of Laws from the Open University of Sri Lanka or the Kotelawala Defence University who has commenced their course of study on or after the 30th December 2020 must satisfy the requirement for two credit passes and one simple pass in General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination in the least as required in Rule 23(3) to apply for Admission under Rule 23(4)(b).
- this would mean that if any person possessing a Bachelor of Laws from the Open University of Sri Lanka or the Kotelawala Defence University awarded after the 2025 Academic Year of the Sri Lanka Law College must satisfy the requirement for two credit passes and one simple pass in the least as required in Rule 23(3) to apply for Admission under Rule 23(4)(b).

In the event such Applicant is unable to obtain admission under Rule 23(4)(b) such Applicant can gain admission by another avenue requiring the passing of the General Entrance Examination or the Special Entrance Examination.

5. Application under Rule 23(6) for persons holding a Bachelor of Laws from a Degree Awarding Institute must satisfy the Council of Legal Education of the following
- a. A Bachelor of Laws from a Degree Awarding Institute in Sri Lanka under Section 25A of the Universities Act No.16 of 1978

OR

The Council of Legal Education recognize the following Degree Awarding Institutes for the 2023 Academic Year for purposes of Rule 23(6)(b)

Note to Applicants – The Incorporated Council of Legal has not recognized any Institution for the 2023 Academic Year for purposes of Rule 23(6) (b) to date.

- b. At least two Credit Passes and one Simple Pass obtained at one and the same sitting at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination
 - c. The requirements applicable for all Applicants in Guideline 1
 - d. Pass the Special Entrance Examination and qualify within the merit based list for the particular year as determined by the Council for the Special Entrance Examination held for such Year
6. Applicants under Rule 23(7) who have obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree from a University outside Sri Lanka must satisfy the Council of the following:
- a. A Bachelor of Laws Degree from a University outside Sri Lanka being one of the following
 - The Council of Legal Education recognizes the following Universities under Rule 23(7)(a).
 - I. United States
 - II. United Kingdom
 - III. Canada
 - IV. Australia
 - V. Singapore
 - VI. New Zealand
 - Any University falling within the top 100 Universities in the stream of Law under the Quacquarelli Symond (QS) World University Ranking System which is the guideline adopted from the Academic Year 2023
 - b. At least two Credit Passes and one Simple Pass obtained at one and the same sitting at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination.
 - c. The requirements applicable for all Applicants in Guideline 1.

- d. Pass the Special Entrance Examination and qualify within the merit based list for the particular year as determined by the Council for the Special Entrance Examination held for such Year.
- e. Proof that the Bachelor of Law Degree awarded to the Applicant shall enable the applicant to apply for admission to the Bar and practice as a legal practitioner in the relevant Jurisdiction.

For clarity Applicants are recommended to obtain a Letter from the Awarding University with reference to the Degree Awarded to the Applicant that such Degree awarded to the Applicant enables the applicant to apply for admission to the Bar and practice as a legal practitioner in the relevant Jurisdiction.

Applicants are also recommended to obtain further documentation such as a confirmation from the relevant Bar or Bar Admissions Registry as appropriate of the relevant Jurisdiction that the Degree Awarded to the Applicant enables the applicant to apply for admission to the Bar and practice as a legal practitioner in the relevant Jurisdiction.

- f. Applicability of Transitional Provisions:
 - i. Any Applicant who has been awarded Bachelor of Laws from at a University outside of Sri Lanka as specified above before the end of the 2025 Academic Year of the Sri Lanka Law College

AND

- ii. Has commenced such Applicants course of study at a University outside of Sri Lanka prior to the 30th December 2020 (i.e any date prior to the 29th December 2020 including the 29th December 2020)

AND

- iii. Which Bachelor of Laws Degree was recognized by the Council of Legal Education for admission to Sri Lanka Law College prior to the 30th December 2020 (i.e any date prior to the 29th December 2020 including the 29th December 2020)

shall be entitled to be admitted to the Sri Lanka Law College for Admission under Rule 23(7) without needing such Applicant to pass and qualify under the Special Entrance Examination.

For clarity

- this would mean that if any person possessing a Bachelor of Laws University outside of Sri Lanka who has commenced their course of study on or after the 30th December 2020 pass and qualify under the Special Entrance Examination for admission under Rule 23(7)

- this would mean that if any applicant possessing a Bachelor of Laws outside of Sri Lanka awarded after the 2025 Academic Year of the Sri Lanka Law College must pass and qualify under the Special Entrance Examination for admission under Rule 23(7)
- this would mean that if any Bachelor of Laws Degree from a University outside of Sri Lanka was not recognized by the Council of Legal Education prior to the 30th December 2020 (i.e any date prior to the 29th December 2020 including the 29th December 2020) then such applicant must pass and qualify under the Special Entrance Examination for admission under Rule 23(7)

The Council of Legal Education has the power to call upon any Applicant seeking the application of the Transitional Provisions under 3(a) to provide satisfactory proof that it is not to be granted the transitional provision exemption for the reason stipulated under 3(b).

Dr Athula Pathinayake
Principal
Sri Lanka Law College
January 9, 2023