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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

L.D.B.4/2013

COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION ORDINANCE

(Chapter 276)

RULES made by the Incorporated Council of Legal Education with the concurrence of the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under section 7 of the Incorporated Council of Legal Education Ordinance (Chapter 276).

Incorporated Council of Legal Education
(Signed for and on behalf of the
Incorporated Council of Legal Education).

Colombo,
15th May, 2023.

RULES

1. Rules made under section 7 of the Council of Legal Education Ordinance (Chapter 276) as amended from time to time, are hereby further amended as follows:-



(1) by the repeal of rule 23 and the substitution therefor of the following rule :-

“23. (1) A person shall not be admitted to the Sri Lanka Law College to qualify himself as an Attorney-At-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka unless such person –

- (a) is a citizen of Sri Lanka;
- (b) has completed his seventeenth year of age at the time of making the application; and
- (c) has submitted a certificate of good character acceptable to the Council.

(2) There shall be a General Entrance Examination or a Special Entrance Examination as the case may be, conducted in respect of any year by the Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka under the guidance of the Council for the purpose of admitting students for a course of study at the Sri Lanka Law College enabling such persons to qualify themselves as Attorneys-At-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka as provided hereinafter.

(3) Any person who fulfils the requirements specified in sub rule (1) of this rule shall be eligible to submit an application to the Sri Lanka Law College to sit the General Entrance Examination held in respect of any year, if such person,

- (b) possesses the qualification of having obtained two credit passes and one simple pass at one and the same sitting at :-
 - (i) the Sri Lanka General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination conducted by the Department of Examinations; or
 - (ii) the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination, United Kingdom; or
 - (iii) any other Examination within the criteria of recognizing Advanced Level qualifications referred to in sub paragraphs (i) or (ii) of paragraph (a) of this sub rule as recommended by the Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka; and
- (b) possess a Credit pass in the English Language and a Credit pass in the Sinhala or Tamil Language, obtained at the Sri Lanka General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination or National Certificate of General Education Examination or an examination recognized by the Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka as equal to the above examinations.

(4)(a) Any person who is eligible under sub rule (1) and (3) and who has obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B) from any university established or deemed to be established under the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 where the university admission is determined based on the Z-score or any other criteria, adopted by the University Grants Commission for the time being at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination shall be exempted from the General and Special Entrance Examinations and the Preliminary and Intermediate Examinations conducted by the Sri Lanka Law College and shall be directly admitted to the Sri Lanka Law College to sit the Final Examination conducted by the Sri Lanka Law College to qualify himself as an Attorney-At-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka

(b) Any person who is eligible under sub rule (1) and (3) and who has obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B) from the Open University of Sri Lanka or the Kotelawala Defence University shall, at the discretion of the Council, be entitled to the exemption referred to in paragraph (a) of this sub rule or to the exemption referred to in Rule 75(2)(a). The Council may, from time to time, subject to the provisions of sub rule (5) review its decision to grant such exemption.

(5) The Council may, from time to time issue directives to the Open University of Sri Lanka or the Kotelawala Defence University as the case may be, stipulating conditions as may be necessary for the said institutions to have and maintain the standards required for the exemption granted under paragraph (b) of sub rule (4).

(6) Any person who is eligible under sub rule (1) and (3) and who has obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B) from the following degree awarding institutions, may be eligible to be admitted to the Sri Lanka Law College to qualify himself as an Attorney-At-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka if such person has sat and passed the Special Entrance Examination referred to in sub rule (2) of this rule:-

- (a) an institution recognized as a Degree Awarding Institute in Sri Lanka under section 25A of the Universities Act, No.16 of 1978 ; or
- (b) an institution recognized by the Council having done an evaluation for recognizing such institutions in accordance with such criteria as may be specified by the Council;

(7) Any person who is eligible under sub rule (1) and (3) and who has obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B) from a university established outside Sri Lanka, being -

- (a) a recognized university in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand ; or
- (b) a university which shall fall within the top one hundred (100) universities in the stream of Law in terms of the Quacquarelli Symond (QS) World University Ranking or any other ranking recognized by the Council as the case may be within any one year during the term of study of such graduate,

and which university may from time to time be evaluated and recognized by the Council in accordance with a criteria specified by the Council for recognizing such universities, may be eligible to be admitted to the Sri Lanka Law College to qualify himself as an Attorney- At -Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka if such person has sat for and passed the Special Entrance Examination:

Provided however that, in the case of a person who has obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B) from a university referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), such person shall be permitted to sit the Special Entrance Examination referred to in sub rule (2) of this rule, only if the degree awarded by such universities is a Qualifying Law Degree (QLD) or a degree which enables such graduate to enter the Bar and practice as an Attorney-At-Law in the relevant jurisdiction.

(8) The Council shall in respect of each academic year, determine the percentage or the number of students who shall be admitted to the Sri Lanka Law College having being successful at the Entrance Examinations referred to in sub rule (2) and in the order of merit based on their performance at such Entrance Examinations and the number of vacancies as determined from time to time by the Council:

Provided however, a candidate who has obtained in respect of both the papers referred to in sub rule (10), a mark which is less than fifty *per centum* for each paper shall not be selected for admission.

(9) Every application to sit for the General Entrance Examination or Special Entrance Examination, shall be submitted in such form as shall be determined by the Council for such purpose. Every such application shall be made on or before such date as shall be determined by the Council to be the date of closing of applications and shall be accompanied by a receipt in proof of payment of the fee as shall be determined by the Council. The fee shall not in any event be refunded.

(10) (a) A candidate sitting for the General Entrance Examination referred to in sub rule (2) shall be required to sit for and pass written question papers in –

- (i) Sinhala Language or Tamil Language or English Language as the case may be; and
- (ii) General Knowledge and General Intelligence.

- (b) A candidate may opt to answer the General Knowledge and General Intelligence paper referred to in sub paragraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of this sub rule in the Sinhala, Tamil or English medium. If he opts to answer the General Knowledge and General Intelligence paper in either Sinhala medium or the Tamil medium, he shall be required to sit the English Language Paper referred to in sub paragraph (i) of paragraph (a) of this sub rule. If he opts to answer the General Knowledge and General Intelligence paper in the English Language, he shall be required to sit for either the Sinhala Language or the Tamil Language Paper.
- (c) The General Entrance Examination for admissions to any academic year shall be held as far as practically possible, in the month of June immediately preceding that academic year as may be fixed by the Principal of the Sri Lanka Law College.
- (d) The syllabus for the language paper at the General Entrance Examination shall be –
- (i) an essay, the main object being to test the candidate's power of thought, expression and arrangement;
 - (ii) precise writing, paraphrasing;
 - (iii) syntax, vocabulary, synonyms and antonyms, figurative and idiomatic usage.
- (e) the time allocated to answer each paper at the said Examination shall be three hours.

(11) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in sub rule (1), a person shall not be admitted to qualify as an Attorney-At -Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka if it appears that by reason of employment or otherwise he is unable to attend lectures as required by rule 21 or is unable to comply with the provisions of rule 36 relating to period of apprenticeship.

(12) The following provisions shall apply in respect of the Special Entrance Examination -

- (a) a graduate referred to in sub rule (6) and (7) shall be required to sit for the Special Entrance Examination conducted by the Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka held under the directions of the Council. The Council shall from time to time appoint a panel of teachers, in the relevant subjects referred to in paragraph (b), at the Sri Lanka Law College in order to design the curriculum and other relevant factors relating to the said special entrance examination to be conducted by the Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka;
- (b) the Council shall from time to time, determine the subjects in law in which such candidate shall be examined at such Special Entrance Examination;
- (c) in order to be selected for admission to the Sri Lanka Law College a candidate shall satisfy the cutoff mark and be selected in order of merit, based on the marks obtained at the said Special Entrance Examination and the existing number of vacancies as determined by the Council from time to time:

Provided however, the number of candidates to be selected, as far as practically possible shall not exceed the number admitted to the Sri Lanka Law College under the General Entrance Examination referred to in sub rule (2);

- (d) the Special Entrance Examination shall be held during a specified month as determined by the Council, of the year preceding the year of entry to the Sri Lanka Law College.”.
- (2) immediately after rule 28 thereof, by the insertion of the following new rule :-

“ 28A. All courses conducted at the Sri Lanka Law College shall be conducted in the English Medium.”

- (3) in rule 30 thereof, by the substitution, for the words “a University of Ceylon established or deemed to have been established by or under any written law and in existence on the day prior to the coming into operation of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 or of the University of Colombo Sri Lanka,” of the words “any university established or deemed to be established under the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 where the university admission is determined based on the Z-score or any other criteria, adopted by the University Grants Commission for the time being at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination,”;
- (4) in rule 31 thereof, by the substitution, for the words “ a University of Ceylon,” of the words “any university established or deemed to be established under the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 where the university admission is determined based on the Z-score or any other criteria, adopted by the University Grants Commission for the time being at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination,”;
- (5) in rule 32 thereof, by the repeal of paragraph (A) thereof;
- (6) by the insertion immediately after rule 32 thereof, of the following new rule 32A:-

“ 32A. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in rule 30, 31 and 32, a graduate referred to in sub rule (6) and (7) of rule 23, who has been successful at the Special Entrance Examination referred to in rule 23(2) and (12) may at any time after his admission as a student of the Sri Lanka Law College upon payment of all fees due, be admitted to the Final Examination, subject to other relevant conditions as determined by the Council.”

- (7) in rule 51 thereof, by the substitution for the words “ in Rule 23 (1) E” of the words “ in sub rule (3) (b) of rule 23”;
- (8) by the amendment of rule 75 as follows:-
 - (a) by the substitution in sub rule (1) (a) thereof, for the words “a University of Ceylon established or deemed to have been established by or under any written law and in existence on the day prior to the coming into operation of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, or of the University of Colombo Sri Lanka,” of the words “any university established or deemed to be established under the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 where the university admission is determined based on the Z-score or any other criteria, adopted by the University Grants Commission for the time being at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination,”;
 - (b) by the substitution, in sub rule (2)(a) thereof, for the words “ A graduate of the Faculty of Law of the University of Sri Lanka or the Open University” of the words “Subject to the provisions of sub rules (4)(b) and (5) of rule 23, a graduate of the Faculty of Law of the Open University of Sri Lanka or the Kotelawala Defence University”;
 - (c) by the substitution, in sub rule (2)(b) thereof, for the words “the University of Sri Lanka or of the Open University of Sri Lanka ” of the words “any university established or deemed to be established under the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 where the university admission is determined based on the Z-score or any other criteria, adopted by the University Grants Commission for the time being at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination or of the Open University of Sri Lanka or the Kotelawala Defence University”;
 - (d) by the substitution in sub rule (2) (c) thereof, for the words “the University of Sri Lanka” of the words “any university established or deemed to be established under the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 where the university admission is determined based on the Z-score or any other criteria, adopted by the University Grants Commission for the time being at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination”;
 - (e) by the repeal of the definition of “University of Sri Lanka” and the substitution therefor of the following :-

“In these Rules-

“Kotelawala Defence University” means the Sir John Kotelawala Defence University established under section 2 of the Sir John Kotelawala Defence Academy Act, No.68 of 1981;

“Open University or Open University of Sri Lanka” means the Open University of Sri Lanka established under section 23 of the Universities Act, No.16 of 1978;

“Qualifying Law Degree (QLD)” means an entry qualification to Bar examinations to enter the Bar and practice as an Attorney-At-Law in the relevant jurisdiction.”

(9) Schedule II thereof is hereby amended as follows:-

- (a) by the substitution, in the Alternatives of Form A *in lieu* of the prescribed Form, for the words “(University of Colombo/ Open University of Sri Lanka)” of the words “ (Name of the relevant University)”;
- (b) by the substitution, in the Alternatives of Form B *in lieu* of the prescribed Form, for the words “(University of Colombo/ Open University of Sri Lanka)” of the words “ (Name of the relevant University)”;

2. Transitional Provisions

- (a) A student who had been enrolled or has undertaken a course of study leading to the Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B) at a university recognized by the Council on or before 30 December, 2020 shall be allowed to complete the said course of study and seek entry to the Sri Lanka Law College without sitting for the Special Entrance Examination referred to in rule 23 (2), provided that such student complete his Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B) on or before the end of the academic year 2025;
- (b) The benefit provided for in paragraph (a) shall be available upon a student providing proof to the satisfaction of the Council of such enrollment to a course of study leading to the Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B) at a university recognized by the Council and not at an institution which undertakes such courses of study for a university;
- (c) A graduate from the Open University of Sri Lanka or Kotelawala Defence University who had undertaken a course of study leading to the Bachelor of Laws Degree (LL.B) on or after 30 December, 2020 shall, without the requirement of two credit passes and one simple pass in terms of rule 23 (3), be entitled to be admitted to the Sri Lanka Law College, provided he has obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree (LL.B) on or before the end of the academic year 2025 of the Sri Lanka Law College .

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