

REQUIRED FOR ALL FOREIGN-EDUCATED LAWYERS: ADVANCED EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

I. INTRODUCTION

Section 520.6 of the Rules of the Court of Appeals for the Admission of Attorneys and Counselors at Law (22 NYCRR 520.6) contains the eligibility requirements for applicants who wish to qualify for the New York State bar examination based on the study of law in a foreign country. Rule 520.6 also incorporates by reference provisions from Rule 520.3. Compliance with the requirements of the Rules of the Court of Appeals must be proven to the satisfaction of the Board before an applicant may be permitted to sit for the bar examination. Therefore, applicants should carefully review Rules 520.6 and 520.3 before applying to sit for the New York State bar examination. The full set of rules is set out here:

<https://www.nybarexam.org/foreign/foreignlegaleducation.htm>

II. ADVANCE EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

To establish eligibility for the bar examination, all first-time applicants under Rule 520.6 must request an advance evaluation of their eligibility before they file an application for the bar examination. You will need to create a BOLE Account. Carefully review Rule 520.6 and the information located below before creating a BOLE Account (see BOLE Account in the menu on the homepage). You will need a valid email address and a valid NCBE Number to create a BOLE Account. After you create your BOLE Account you may access the Request for Foreign Evaluation Form by logging into your BOLE account in the Applicant Services Portal and scrolling down to the section for Foreign Evaluation Form. Upon submission of the Request for Foreign Evaluation Form you will be required to submit all of the supporting documentation listed below in Section VI

III. DEADLINES FOR REQUESTING ADVANCE EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY

A. Applicants requiring an LL.M. to qualify for the examination. If you need to “cure” a deficiency in your foreign legal education by completing an LL.M. degree at an approved law school in the United States, you **MUST** seek an Advance Evaluation of Eligibility from the Board. Because of the volume of these applications, their complexity and the frequent need to communicate with these applicants and request more information concerning their eligibility, it can take up to six (6) months from the date of the Board’s receipt of all required documentation for an eligibility decision to be made. While we encourage applicants to seek an evaluation at least one year in advance of taking the bar exam, to ensure that you receive a timely decision on your eligibility, the Board requires that you submit all documentation by the following deadlines:

EXAM	DOCUMENTS	DEADLINE
FEBRUARY	Online Foreign Evaluation AND all Required Foreign Documentation	May 1 of the year preceding the exam you wish to sit.

JULY	Online Foreign Evaluation AND all Required Foreign Documentation	October 1 of the year preceding the exam you wish to sit.
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VII. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

A. Rule 520.6 (b) (1) applicants (i.e., MOST foreign-educated applicants):

1. **Official Transcript(s).** Submit a final, official transcript directly from every law school attended that includes the dates of attendance for each period of study, the courses taken and passed for each period of study, the grades, the number of credits, the degree awarded, and the date the degree was awarded.
2. **Degree Certificate.** If the official transcript does not clearly state the degree awarded and/or the date such degree was awarded, you must also furnish the degree certificate.
3. **Proof of fulfillment of the educational requirements for admission to the practice of law in the foreign country.**
 - (a) If you are admitted to practice law in a foreign country, attach a copy of your admission certificate, OR
 - (b) If you are not admitted to practice law in a foreign country, submit proof of the educational requirements for admission to practice law in your country and proof from the bar admission authorities that you have fulfilled these requirements.
4. **Accreditation.** Submit a written statement from the competent accrediting agency of your foreign government that the law school or schools you attended were recognized by them as qualified and approved throughout your period of study.
5. **LL.M. Certificate of Attendance Form.** Applicants relying on the cure provision must have his or her law school submit the LL.M. Certificate of Attendance Form directly to the State Board of Law Examiners together with an official transcript