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Headline: List of UK law schools recognised for admission to Singapore Bar narrows

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Eight schools were dropped from an initial list of 19 schools in UK Overseas Scheduled Universities recognised for purposes of admission to the Singapore Bar.



(Photo: Ministry of Law website)

SINGAPORE: The list of universities in the United Kingdom, recognised for purposes for admission to the Singapore Bar has narrowed, announced the Ministry of Law in a news release on Tuesday (Feb 24).

The ministry said after its first review of the list of Overseas Scheduled Universities eligible for the law practice in Singapore, the Singapore Institute of Legal Education (SILE) OSU Review Committee recommended that the list be trimmed from 19 to 11 UK law schools.

The recommended list of UK OSU universities is as follows:

- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge

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- University of Durham
- King's College, London, University of London
- London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London
- Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London
- University College, University of London
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- University of Warwick

The eight universities dropped from the list are:

- University of Exeter
- University of Leeds
- University of Leicester
- University of Liverpool
- School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
- University of Manchester
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton

Based on estimates TODAY obtained from Contact Singapore that the fourth Committee on the Supply of Lawyers cited in its 2013 report, the eight schools accounted for 30 per cent, or 221, of the 729 Singaporean law graduates from the UK in the past three years.

The review committee also recommended that two New Zealand universities on the list of OSUs - the University of Auckland and Victoria University of Wellington - should be retained.

The Ministry of Law said it has accepted the recommendations and will implement them from the Academic Year 2016/2017 onwards.

"In implementing the revised list, transitional provisions will be put in place to ensure that Singaporean citizens and permanent residents who have secured a place before the relevant cut-off date in any of the UK OSUs omitted from the list are not adversely affected by the change," the Law Ministry said. The ministry and SILE are still working out the provisions, TODAY reported.

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SILE said the publicly available rankings of the universities were considered in the process of the review and were obtained from "reputable broadsheets" in the UK - namely The Times Good University Guide, The Guardian University Guide and the Complete University Guide.

Written representations from the universities were also evaluated.

The committee includes representatives nominated by the Attorney-General, the President of the Law Society of Singapore, and the Deans of the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law and the Singapore Management University School of Law.