



## Extended U.S. Bar Prep FAQs

### 1. What is a U.S. bar examination?

A U.S. bar examination is the licensing examination for aspiring attorneys in the United States. While the United States has national, federal law, each state respectively is governed by its own state laws and jurisdiction. Thus, there are different state bar examinations to qualify into.

### 2. Which states allow foreign-qualified lawyers and overseas law graduates qualify?

New York and California have a relatively open-door policy for foreign attorneys and law graduates to allow them to sit their bar examinations without attending U.S. law school.

#### New York Bar qualification

### 3. What are the eligibility requirements for New York?

To be eligible for the New York bar exam, foreign applicants must have studied a three-year or four-year full-time, on-campus, qualifying common law degree. For example, an English/Irish law degree is accepted by the New York Board of Law Examiners. The curriculum needs to be on campus and amount to 166 European Credit Transfer System credits.

If a foreign applicant has completed a civil law degree, then they will need to have completed a one-year, full-time LLM in the United States at an ABA-accredited law school. The LLM does need to fulfil certain classes, subjects, and credits to be eligible for the bar exam.

Law degrees from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are not accepted. These applicants will also need to complete the one-year LLM in the United States to cure the deficiency to be eligible for the New York bar exam.

Ghanaian law degrees are not eligible for NY unless they complete the one-year professional course to qualify in Ghana.

### 4. What if a student has completed the conversion route: non-law undergraduate degree, Graduate Diploma in Law and the LPC/BPC/SQE?

Unfortunately, those candidates are not eligible for the New York bar exam. The New York Board has a ruling whereby applicants who have completed the GDL and the LPC or the BPTC must first qualify as solicitors or barristers by way of a training contract or pupillage. The applicant must then complete a one-year LLM in the United States at an accredited law school to be eligible for the New York bar exam.

## 5. What are the admission requirements to qualify into New York?

To qualify as a New York attorney, you need to pass the following:

- The New York Bar Exam.
- The MPRE – Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (2-hour multiple choice test on legal ethics).
- The NYLC and NYLE – New York Law Course and New York Law Exam (online 2-hour multiple-choice test on New York state law).
- 50 hours of supervised pro bono work. This can be conducted in any jurisdiction in the world so long as it is supervised by a practicing lawyer in that jurisdiction.
- Skills-based competency requirement. This is a new requirement for new law graduates who started their degrees after August 2016. Candidates will need to evidence 6 months of legal work, paid or non-paid.

## 6. What is the New York Bar Exam/Uniform Bar Exam?

The New York bar exam (Uniform Bar Exam). The two-day New York bar exam is offered twice a year during the last week of February and last week of July. It's administered only in New York, requiring an international candidate to travel to the United States to sit the exam.

There are seven core Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) subjects tested: Constitutional Law, Contracts/Sales, Criminal Law/Procedure, Evidence, Federal Civil Procedure, Real Property and Torts. In addition, the New York bar exam's Multistate Essay Exam (MEE) subjects cover: Business Associations, Conflict of Laws, Family Law, Trusts and Estates and the Uniform Commercial Code (Secured Transactions).

Day One of the bar exam consists of a morning session: two 90-minute Multistate Performance Tests (MPTs) and an afternoon session: six 30-minute essay questions that could be drawn from any MEE subject. Day two of the exam consists of: 200 multiple-choice questions testing the seven core MBE subjects (100 questions in the morning and 100 questions in the afternoon).

The New York State Bar Association weighs the MBE portion 50%, the written MEE portion 30% and MPTs 20%. A combined passing score of 266 is required.

## 7. Why should a foreign candidate consider the New York Bar Exam qualification?

New York is the biggest and most profitable legal market in the world, by quite a significant distance. Many of the high-end transactions, dispute or capital raising is based on either English law or New York law. At the end of the day, it depends on your career trajectory. If you have a global mindset and a huge ambition, a New York qualification will help you open more possibilities in the future. Moreover, if you are working for a global law firm, there is always a possibility for you to relocate to its New York office.

## **8. What are the exam fees?**

- The New York Bar Exam requires foreign applicants to register and pay \$750 (or \$850 if using a laptop for the written portion of the exam).
- The MPRE costs \$150, payable to the National Conference of Bar Examiners.
- The NYLE costs \$27, payable to the New York Board of Law Examiners.

## **California Bar qualification**

### **9. What are the eligibility requirements for California?**

Generally, any qualified lawyer in good standing anywhere in the world is eligible to sit the California bar exam. So long as the attorney can produce a certificate of good standing and a home jurisdiction practice certificate, the California bar exam is available. In addition, an international law student may become eligible for the California bar by completing a one-year LL.M. at a law school approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) or accredited by the state of California. In practice, this means completing an LL.M. in the United States. Equally, an online LLM from a U.S. law school is also eligible for the California bar exam.

### **10. What are the admission requirements to qualify into California?**

To qualify as a California attorney, you need to pass:

- The California bar exam; and
- The MPRE

### **11. What is the California Bar Exam?**

The California Bar Exam is a 12.5-hour exam. It tests applicants on national and CA-specific state law. Day one of the exam comprises 5 60-minute essays, and one Performance Test.

The state-specific tested essay subjects are: Business Associations, Civil Procedure, Community Property, Professional Responsibility, Remedies, and Wills and Succession.

Day two of the exam consists of the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) that tests seven core subjects (100 questions in the morning, followed by 100 questions in the afternoon).

### **12. Why should a foreign candidate consider the California Bar Exam qualification?**

California is a strong jurisdiction for practicing lawyers who specialise in intellectual property, fintech law, privacy and data protection, sports, and entertainment law for example. Many lawyers who practice in these areas usually sit the California bar exam, as it

complements their existing practices. Some lawyers work for West-coast based firms, which makes California a compelling jurisdiction to qualify into.

### 13. What are the exam fees?

- The CA Bar exam fee is \$667.
- The MPRE costs \$150, payable to the National Conference of Bar Examiners.
- The Moral Character Determination costs \$551.

## Extended U.S. Bar Prep

### 14. Why should students select BARBRI for U.S. bar preparation?

BARBRI's extended bar prep programme is the only programme tailored for foreign trained students. We use a multi-million-dollar tech platform that no other provider can offer. We provide a longer programme, 6 and 10-months in duration. The degree of support is far greater, and we have a design team constantly updating and developing the programme. We also have a global reach from regional offices around the world, and a contract with top-tier U.S. law professors. We also have dedicated subject matter experts to develop the course outlines and lecture handouts.

### 15. What course options do BARBRI provide for U.S. bar prep students?

BARBRI provides 2 course options for U.S. bar prep:

<b>Extended Bar Prep</b> Part-time course   6- or 10-month	<b>Traditional Bar Review</b> Full-time course   8-10 week
<p>Study for a UBE state, including New York or California</p> <hr/> <p>100% online or blended classroom options in select countries</p> <hr/> <p><b>Best for:</b></p> <p>Candidates without a J.D. from a U.S. law school looking for the most comprehensive bar prep or students who want more study time &amp; flexibility</p> <p><a href="#">Course Details &amp; Enrollment</a></p>	<p>Study for any U.S. state exam, including the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE)</p> <hr/> <p>100% online, classroom options across the U.S. or both</p> <hr/> <p><b>Best for:</b></p> <p>Candidates with a J.D. from a U.S. law school looking for the quickest, most efficient &amp; effective course to pass any U.S. state bar exam</p> <p><a href="#">Course Details &amp; Enrollment</a></p>

## **16. What are the course features and benefits?**

Upon enrolment of the extended bar review programme, we deliver the set of hardcopy books, Law Master Study Keys, and instant online access to the U.S. foundations in law. This is to catch up on information that most U.S. law students learn during their J.D. programme.

Then, course work assigned through the online [BARBRI Personal Study Plan](#) (PSP) that is focused on what is most likely to be tested on the actual examination.

Lectures in substantive law taught by top U.S. law professors that are examination-driven so you get what you need to know in each subject.

Full Multistate (MBE) simulation that allows you to do a complete timed exam and submit it to BARBRI for grading. The simulation shows you where you are on [the bar exam curve](#) with enough time to modify your study before the actual exam.

BARBRI's MBE Success Learning Path that includes thousands of [multiple-choice practice questions](#).

Directed Essay Grading starting with Essay Architect, our exclusive online instruction platform that takes you through a series of steps to learn to critically read bar exam questions, enhance the speed of your essay writing and construct strong, winning answers. Essay Architect provides immediate feedback to build your essay writing skills quickly.

Then, we assign a carefully selected series of past bar exam essays and performance tests for grading and feedback from trained bar exam writing experts.

Receive a [personal 1:1 Learning Coach](#) who is a qualified U.S. attorney to help guide you. Your personal mentor assists with eligibility, your application, course navigation, study strategies, and schedule modifications if needed. They have access to your progress report to help them know where you excel and where you most need additional study.

More flexible, weekly PSP. Your PSP is used by your mentor to see your activities and milestones, tailor studies and what lectures you should watch based on your progress and provide encouraging messages to keep you on track.

Structure, accountability, support, and success are what the extended bar prep programmes are about. Overall, you will get a deep-dive into heavily tested exam topics in U.S. law and areas of most difficulty for foreign student.

## **17. Why should a foreign candidate/U.S. LLM student select Extended U.S. Bar Prep over the traditional 8/10-week traditional programme?**

LLM students in the States come from a variety of jurisdictions and continents, including civil law countries such as many European nations and Central and South America for example. Many LLM and foreign students find they need more time and preparation to prepare for a U.S. bar exam.

That's why the BARBRI Extended U.S. Bar Prep course is designed to be flexible to allow you to study for the bar while staying on top of your other commitments. Yes, it is possible to coordinate earning your LL.M. degree with preparing for the U.S. bar exam.

Look at it this way, if you choose to take the extended course you will still have plenty of time to catch up on your bar prep after graduation. And because a large chunk of the work will have been done already, your study schedule won't be so intense. You will have more time to focus on practicing essays, multiple-choice questions and performance tests, and to do reviews.

You are also assigned a personal Learning Coach who is a U.S. qualified attorney with bar exam coaching and teaching experience. Your mentor is with you throughout your bar exam preparation to schedule one-on-one, bi-weekly check-ins, or meetings to see how you are progressing with your studies. He/she will conduct livestream workshops, provide tips, and help you with any problem areas including customizing your course to better fit your schedule if necessary.

There are also more graded essay questions on the extended bar review programme and one more mock exam that the U.S. students do not do.

## Travel/visa

### **18. Do I need a particular travel visa required for the U.S. bar exams?**

There is no visa required to travel to the United States to sit for a U.S. bar exam. Just travelling on a normal tourist visa is sufficient.

## Post-bar qualification

### **19. Can a candidate practice in the United States when they qualify in California or New York?**

Yes, is the short answer. However, qualification as an attorney in the United States does not amount to the right to work in the United States. For those who wish to relocate to New York and practice after New York qualification (and for California after California qualification) require a firm or employer to sponsor their work visa.