

## Finland

(Information provided by the Finnish delegation to the CCBE, December 2011.)

### A. Contact Point

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### B. General information

1.	Legal basis	<a href="#">Act on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications</a> (1093/2007)
2.	Overview of procedural steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The applicant has to send application to the National Board of Education.</li> <li>2. The National Board of Education will carry out an assessment comparing relevant foreign and national qualifications and professional experiences: the Board might ask the applicant to sit an aptitude test (which will be organised by a Finnish university law faculty).</li> <li>3. Once having successfully passed the aptitude test, the applicant may commence the 4-year traineeship (possibility of reduction).</li> <li>4. Upon completion of the traineeship/any relevant exams, the applicant may ask the Bar Association to be registered as a lawyer.</li> </ol>

### C. Processing of application

1.	Information and documents requested from the applicant	<p>The applicant has to enclose any relevant documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Law degree that was obtained in the EU or EEA</li> </ol> <p>If the applicant has acquired work experience in the legal profession in Finland or completed supplementary law studies in Finland, he or she must also enclose the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A detailed account of the aptitude test topics for which the applicant considers the training and work experience to compensate, including a list of work assignments and/or course credits relating to the topic in question</li> <li>b. Copies of employment and study certificates and other documents referred to in the application.</li> </ol> <p>If the original documents are in Danish, English, Icelandic, Norwegian or Swedish there is no requirement to be accompanied with Finnish translations. Any document which is not submitted in the above-mentioned languages will have to be accompanied with authenticated translations.</p>
2.	Submission of application	<p>The applicant must submit a completed and signed application <a href="#">form</a> (see above) accompanied by the necessary appendices to the Finnish National Board of Education.</p> <p>Finnish National Board of Education P.O. Box 380 FIN-00531 Helsinki Tel. +358 40 348 7555 ; Fax + 358 40 348 7865 Email: <a href="mailto:cimoinfo@cimo.fi">cimoinfo@cimo.fi</a>; Website: <a href="http://www.oph.fi/english">http://www.oph.fi/english</a></p>
3.	Application fees	€238 + €10 for delivery
4.	Expected duration of the application processing	Approximately 4 months depending if external expert opinions (for instance further information from the applicant's University) are needed.

### D. Initial assessment of application and possible outcomes

1.	General requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be a citizen of the EU or EEA</li> <li>2. Be a holder of a law degree that was obtained in the EU or EEA.</li> </ol>
2.	Equivalence of relevant knowledge and/or professional qualifications	<p>The National Board of Education will assess on a case-by-case basis:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whether the knowledge and abilities of an applicant corresponds to the knowledge and abilities certified after having completed a study of Finnish Law.</li> <li>2. Whether any professional qualification and/or relevant professional training have been completed.</li> </ol>
3.	Outcome	Depending on previous education and professional experience, the applicant might be required to undertake an aptitude test.

		Previous professional experience and previous knowledge is taken into consideration vis-à-vis the aptitude test and also for the traineeship.
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### E. Steps following initial assessment

1.	Aptitude test	<p>The aptitude test will be implemented by a University faculty offering law degrees. It covers the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Structure and sources of the Finnish legal system;</li> <li>2. Law of obligations;</li> <li>3. Law of property;</li> <li>4. Family and inheritance law;</li> <li>5. Criminal law;</li> <li>6. Procedural law;</li> <li>7. Constitutional law; and</li> <li>8. Administrative law.</li> </ol> <p>As a general rule, the aptitude test will cover all of the above-mentioned topics. Notwithstanding, those who have completed a <i>juris kandidatexamen</i> or <i>juristexamen</i> degree in Sweden, have as a general rule only been required to take the 'structure and sources of the Finnish legal system' topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The test can only be retaken 10 times maximum.</li> <li>• There is no examination Board; the examiner is responsible.</li> <li>• There are possibilities to appeal. Appeals are made to the examiner and wherever necessary to the 'University Legal Protection Board'.</li> <li>• There is a fee of €50 for each test.</li> </ul>
2.	Next stage	After having passed the aptitude test, the applicant if necessary will need to complete the required traineeship.

### F. Normal route to qualify as a lawyer

1.	Academic stage	Legal studies
2.	Traineeship	4 years in the field of judicial administration or in comparable duties (for instance teaching law) requiring legal education, but in any case at least 2 years as an assistant lawyer, public legal counsellor or independent legal practitioner or in other tasks which handle a comparable amount of advocacy.
3.	Bar Examination	<p>After the traineeship, the applicant will need to pass the Bar Examination. This exam consists of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A written test This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional ethics and procedure (available in Finnish)</li> <li>• Procedural law(available in Finnish)</li> <li>• Applicable legislation and rules of conduct (available in Finnish and Swedish)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. 2 day course in Finnish code of conduct and 2 day seminar of procedural skills (18 hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 day course in Finnish code of conduct: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Code of conduct</li> <li>ii. Practice management</li> <li>iii. Core values of the legal profession</li> </ol> </li> <li>• 2 day seminar in procedural skills</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>The cost of the examination is €1500.</p>
4.	Registration as a lawyer	Once completed, the trainee lawyer may now apply for membership to become a fully qualified lawyer.

### G. Statistics

1.	Closed cases	55 applicants were eligible to sit the aptitude test; of which 10 passed and 7 were eventually admitted to the Bar (all 7 were Finnish nationals who had completed their law degree abroad).
2.	Outstanding cases	4 (2 British, 1 Dutch, 1 Romanian)