

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF JURIS DOCTOR (JD)

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the JD curriculum in the academic year 2025-2026 and thereafter.

(See also [General Regulations](#) and [Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula](#).)

JD1. Eligibility for Admission

To be eligible for admission to the degree of Juris Doctor, a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b)
 - (i) hold a degree in a non-law subject with at least second class honours or equivalent awarded by a recognised university; or
 - (ii) hold a law degree from a non-common law jurisdiction with at least second class honours or equivalent awarded by a recognised university.
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JD2. Language Requirement

Applicants who do not have a degree awarded by an institution with English as the medium of instruction shall be required to take either IELTS or TOEFL for admission to the curriculum:

- (a) IELTS (Academic): a minimum overall band score of 7.5, with no individual score below 7.0; or
 - (b) TOEFL: a minimum score of 100 on the internet-based test, or a minimum score of 600 on the paper-based test.
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JD3. Qualifying Examination

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.
 - (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he or she has satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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JD4. Period of Study

- (a) The curriculum for the degree of Juris Doctor shall normally require two academic years of full-time study, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester including summer semester.
 - (b) Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three academic years, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
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JD5. Completion of the Curriculum

To complete the curriculum for the degree of Juris Doctor, a candidate shall:

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) follow instruction and attend classes as required, and complete all coursework requirements; and
 - (c) subject to JD6, pass courses totalling at least 144 credits in value in the manner specified below:
 - 84 credits of compulsory courses; and
 - 6 credits of capstone course; and
 - 54 credits of electives.
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JD6. Advanced Standing

- (a) The Board of the Faculty of Law may grant advanced standing to a candidate for up to 12 credits of courses in recognition of an equivalent course or equivalent courses completed successfully in another degree curriculum, where such a course is or such courses are completed no more than 5 years prior to the candidate's commencement of the JD curriculum. Advanced standing will not be granted for the capstone course.
 - (b) Where advanced standing credits are granted, the Board of the Faculty of Law shall specify from which course or courses the candidate is exempted in the curriculum. Advanced standing credits shall not be included in the calculation of the cumulative GPA, but the credits may be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
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JD7. Exemption

- (a) The Board of the Faculty of Law may grant exemption to a candidate for up to 12 credits of courses in recognition of an equivalent course or equivalent courses completed successfully in another degree programme, where such a course is or such courses are completed no more than 5 years prior to the candidate's commencement of the JD curriculum.
 - (b) Where an exemption is granted, the Board of the Faculty of Law shall specify from which course or courses the candidate is exempted in the curriculum. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.
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JD8. Selection of Courses

- (a) A candidate shall select his or her courses in accordance with the recommended sequence of the curriculum during the course selection period as specified by the University. Such selection shall be subject to approval by the Board of the Faculty of Law. Changes to the selection of courses may be made, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, during the add/drop period of respective semesters, and such changes shall not be reflected in the transcript of the candidate. Requests for changes after the respective add/drop period shall not normally be considered.
 - (b) Withdrawal from courses beyond the designated add/drop period will not be permitted, except for medical reasons and with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law. Withdrawal without permission will result in a fail grade in the relevant course(s).
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JD9. Dissertation

- (a) A candidate shall submit the title of his or her dissertation by a date to be specified in the final year of study. The dissertation shall be presented for examination by a date to be specified by the Faculty of Law.
 - (b) Under exceptional circumstances a candidate may apply to the Board of the Faculty of Law for an extension of the deadline by which the dissertation must be presented for examination.
 - (c) The candidate shall submit a statement certifying that the dissertation represents his or her own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may require an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.
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JD10. Progression in Curriculum

- (a) Candidates shall normally be required to undertake a combination of courses and study requirements as prescribed in these regulations and the syllabus, and in the manner as specified below, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
 - (i) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 30 credits nor more than 42 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester), except in the last semester of study when candidates may be required to take fewer than 30 credits to satisfy the outstanding curriculum requirements.
 - (ii) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty of Law may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load (66 credits in Year 1 and 78 credits in Year 2) provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 216 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in JD4(b).
- (b) Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curriculum of the candidates during their candidature at the University.
- (c) Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty of Law, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:
 - (i) failed to complete successfully 42 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters, or
 - (ii) failed to achieve an average semester GPA of 1.30 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
 - (iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in JD4(b).

JD11. Assessment

- (a) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and the courses will be assessed with a wide variety of methods, including (but not exclusively) traditional examinations, research papers, class performance and take-home examinations. A candidate shall pass a course if the Board of

Examiners is satisfied by the candidate's performance in the assessment. Only passed courses will earn credits.

- (b) Candidates suspended under Statute XXXI shall not be allowed to take, present themselves for, and participate in any assessments during the period of suspension, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate.
 - (c) Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.
 - (d) Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner:
 - (i) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
 - (ii) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
 - (iii) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
 - (iv) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.
 - (e) Where candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for re-assessment/re-examination/re-submission/assessment in an alternative course under (d) above, the new grade obtained together with the previous F grade shall be recorded on the transcript and be included in the calculation of the semester GPA, year GPA and the cumulative GPA.
 - (f) Where a candidate has failed to present a satisfactory dissertation, the Board of Examiners may permit the candidate, subject to his or her performance in other examinations, to either revise the dissertation and re-present it, or present a new dissertation, for examination within a specified period determined by the Board of Examiners.
 - (g) The maximum number of attempts for a particular course or requirement, including retakes and re-examinations, is three.
 - (h) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.
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JD12. Absence from an Examination

Candidates who are unable through illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the First Semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

JD13. Grading System

Individual courses shall be graded in accordance with TPG9 (a) or (c) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula as determined by the Board of Examiners.

JD14. Requirements for Graduation

Subject to JD6, to be eligible for the award of the degree of Juris Doctor, candidates shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, and pass courses not fewer than 144 credits in value within the maximum period of registration, which shall include the successful completion of a capstone course as specified in the syllabuses of the curriculum.

JD15. Award of Degrees

- (a) The degree of Juris Doctor shall be awarded in five divisions in accordance with UG9 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula:

First Class Honours
Second Class Honours Division One
Second Class Honours Division Two
Third Class Honours
Pass

- (b) The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Cumulative GPA scores, with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying equal weighting:

Class of honours	CGPA range
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)
<i>Division One</i>	3.00 – 3.59
<i>Division Two</i>	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

- (c) In exceptional cases honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Cumulative GPA and the Board of Examiners for the degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Cumulative GPA falls below the range stipulated in (b) above of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.
 - (d) A pass list of successful candidates shall be posted on Faculty notice boards.
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SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF JURIS DOCTOR

1. Candidates are required to complete a total of 144 credits, including a capstone course within two academic years¹:

First year (66 credits)

<u>Course code</u>	<u>Course title</u>	<u>Credits</u>
JDOC1001	Law of contract I	6
JDOC1002	Law of contract II	6
JDOC1003	Criminal law I	6
JDOC1004	Criminal law II	6
JDOC1005	Law of tort I	6
JDOC1006	Law of tort II	6
JDOC1007	Legal system and legal research ²	6
JDOC1009	Constitutional law	6
JDOC1010	Commercial law	6
JDOC3093	Administrative law	6
JDOCxxxx	Electives (<i>See also 2(a) and (b) below</i>)	6

Second year (78 credits)

<u>Course code</u>	<u>Course title</u>	<u>Credits</u>
JDOCxxxx	Capstone course (<i>See also 3 below</i>)	6
JDOC2001	Equity and trusts I	6
JDOC2002	Equity and trusts II	6
JDOC2003	Land law I	6
JDOC2004	Land law II	6
JDOCxxxx	Electives (<i>See also 2(a) and (b) below</i>)	48

2. There are 54 credits of electives in total.
 - (a) Candidates with no substantial background in Chinese Law must take one 6-credit elective course listed under “Chinese Law electives”.
 - (b) To proceed to the PCLL, candidates will need to devote 12 elective credits to PCLL prerequisites. They are:

¹ An ‘academic year’ comprises two regular semesters, with dates as prescribed by the Senate each year. The Faculty of Law may organise ‘January semester’ and ‘June (summer) semester’ in addition to the two regular semesters.

² JDOC1007 Legal system and legal research shall be taught as an intensive course during the induction period in August. It shall be graded with pass/fail and shall not be counted in the calculation of the cumulative GPA (CGPA).

<u>Course code</u>	<u>Course title</u>	<u>Credits</u>
JDOC3015	Company law	6
JDOC3102	Evidence	6

3. Candidates must choose one capstone course from the list below (each carries 6 credits):

JDOC6205	Clinical legal education ³
JDOC1011	Dissertation
JDOC3058	International moot competition ³
JDOC3059	Jessup international law moot court competition ³
JDOC6242	Public interest clinic ³

4. The “Chinese Law electives” and general elective courses listed in this syllabus will not necessarily be offered every year; from time to time, depending on the exigencies of staffing, additional courses may be offered. Candidates should always check the Faculty’s website for the most up-to-date information when choosing their courses.

5. The “Chinese Law electives” (each carries 6 credits) are listed as follows:

JDOC6025	China company law
JDOC6343	China data protection law
JDOC6139	China information technology and electronic commerce law
JDOC6212	China intellectual property law
JDOC6185	China investment law
JDOC6186	China trade law
JDOC6003	Civil and commercial law in the People's Republic of China
JDOC6264	Competition law and policy in China
JDOC6335	Constitutional and administrative law in the PRC
JDOC6171	Corruption: China in comparative perspective
JDOC6114	Cross-border legal relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong (in Putonghua)
JDOC6307	Hong Kong National Security Law in comparative perspective
JDOC6070	Human rights in the People’s Republic of China
JDOC6008	Introduction to Chinese law and legal system
JDOC6336	Law and corporate finance in China
JDOC6110	Law and regulation of banking and insurance in the People’s Republic of China
JDOC6308	Law and society in China
JDOC6340	Legal pluralism in Hong Kong
JDOC6165	PRC economic law
JDOC6047	PRC property law
JDOC6048	PRC security and insolvency law
JDOC6225	PRC shipping law (in Putonghua)
JDOC6201	PRC taxation law and policy
JDOC6167	PRC tort law

³ This course shall be graded with pass/fail and shall not be counted in the calculation of the cumulative GPA (CGPA).

6. General elective courses (each carries 6 credits) are listed as follows:

JDOC6329	Admiralty law and practice
JDOC6243	Advanced intellectual property law
JDOC6022	Advanced research methodology
JDOC6332	Advanced topics in maritime law
JDOC6304	AI and competition law
JDOC6333	AI and private law
JDOC6183	Animal law
JDOC6241	Arbitration award writing
JDOC6138	Arbitration law
JDOC6058	Armed conflict, humanitarian law and human rights
JDOC6334	Artificial intelligence and digital governance
JDOC6024	Banking law
JDOC6271	Bioethics foundations
JDOC6153	Business and human rights
JDOC6172	Carriage of goods by sea
JDOC3097	Civil procedure
JDOC6124	Communications law
JDOC6238	Comparative arbitration in Asia
JDOC6156	Comparative constitutional law
JDOC6279	Comparative corporate law and theories
JDOC6209	Comparative family law
JDOC6150	Comparative law
JDOC6251	Comparative property law
JDOC6187	Competition law and intellectual property
JDOC6154	Competition law I
JDOC6155	Competition law II
JDOC6194	Competition law in the digital economy
JDOC6101	Competition, mergers and acquisitions
JDOC6257	Compliance for listed companies
JDOC6245	Compliance in the Hong Kong securities industry
JDOC6141	Contemporary issues of comparative platform governance
JDOC6223	Copyright and creativity
JDOC6082	Corporate governance and shareholder remedies
JDOC6002	Credit and security law
JDOC3099	Criminal procedure
JDOC6084	Cross-border insolvency law
JDOC6127	Current issues in financial law
JDOC6060	Current issues in human rights
JDOC6087	Current issues in insolvency law
JDOC6117	Data protection, cyber security and crime
JDOC6088	Derivatives: law and regulation
JDOC6325	Digital transformation of legal services
JDOC6300	Digitalisation: health, law and policy
JDOC6090	Economic foundations of competition law
JDOC6062	Economic, social and cultural rights

JDOC6126	e-Finance: law, compliance and technology challenges
JDOC6210	Energy law
JDOC6249	Entertainment law
JDOC6063	Equality and non-discrimination
JDOC6303	EU financial regulation and technology
JDOC6174	Family mediation
JDOC6282	Financial crime: governance, risk and compliance
JDOC6222	Financial dispute resolution: Hong Kong and international perspectives
JDOC6287	FinTech finance
JDOC6149	Healthcare law
JDOC6005	Hong Kong intellectual property law
JDOC6034	Human rights in Hong Kong
JDOC6068	Human rights: history, theory and politics
JDOC6107	Insurance law
JDOC6195	Intellectual property and competition in the digital economy
JDOC6120	Intellectual property and information technology
JDOC6188	Intellectual property policy and practice
JDOC6140	Intellectual property, innovation and development
JDOC6132	International and comparative intellectual property law
JDOC6072	International and regional protection of human rights
JDOC6099	International commercial arbitration
JDOC6321	International commercial litigation
JDOC6206	International corporate finance
JDOC6036	International criminal law
JDOC6007	International dispute settlement
JDOC6133	International economic law
JDOC6037	International environmental law
JDOC6294	International investment: structuring, protecting, and resolving related disputes
JDOC6182	International organizations
JDOC6073	International protection of refugees and displaced persons
JDOC6057	International securities law
JDOC6096	International tax and tax planning
JDOC6170	Internet and social media law and policy
JDOC6280	Introduction to artificial intelligence and law
JDOC6288	Introduction to European Union law
JDOC6227	Introduction to private international law (conflict of laws)
JDOC6295	Issues in consumer law: theory and policy
JDOC6231	Justice
JDOC6230	Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration
JDOC6239	Law and regulation of private banking and wealth management
JDOC6197	Law and social theory
JDOC6299	Law and wealth management
JDOC6313	Law as data
JDOC6178	Law, economics, regulation and development
JDOC6301	Law, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship (LITE) – postgraduate internship

JDOC6256	Law of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing and compliance issues
JDOC6283	Law of international civil aviation and aircraft finance
JDOC6055	Law of international finance
JDOC6327	Law of marine insurance
JDOC6260	Law of state immunity and sovereign debt
JDOC6342	Law of the sea
JDOC6265	Law, regulation and compliance for insurance industry in Hong Kong
JDOC6312	Legal and regulatory aspects of financial risk management
JDOC6323	Legal concepts and practical application in financial transactions
JDOC6285	Legal data science
JDOC6302	LITE lab: emerging technology and business models (postgraduate)
JDOC6181	Management and commercialization of intellectual property
JDOC6328	Maritime arbitration
JDOC6131	Media law
JDOC6324	Mediation advocacy
JDOC6272	Medical law and ethics
JDOC6337	Medical malpractice
JDOC6247	Medico-legal issues
JDOC6291	Mental disability and the law
JDOC6224	Mergers and acquisitions
JDOC6179	Multiculturalism and the law
JDOC6075	National protection of human rights
JDOC6163	Negotiation: settlement and advocacy
JDOC6219	Patent law
JDOC6196	Preventative law: approaches to conflict prevention and resolution
JDOC6164	Principles of family law
JDOC6046	Privacy and data protection
JDOC6298	Private equity and venture capital: law and practice
JDOC6098	Project finance
JDOC6318	Public health ethics and law
JDOC6109	Public international law
JDOC6093	Regulation of financial markets
JDOC6314	Regulatory aspects of ESG and sustainable finance
JDOC6338	Regulatory ecosystem of artificial intelligence and advanced technology
JDOC6144	Rights and remedies in the criminal process
JDOC6305	Sanctions: law and practice
JDOC6049	Securities regulation I
JDOC6244	Securities regulation II
JDOC6076	Seminar in human rights research
JDOC6215	Seminar on human rights and constitutionalism in Asia
JDOC6330	Shipping finance law
JDOC6331	Shipping management and law
JDOC6341	Sports law

JDOC6311	Sustainability and competition law
JDOC6274	The beginning and end of life
JDOC6306	The economic analysis of law
JDOC6275	The legal foundations of global health and development
JDOC6322	The private law of cooperative institutions
JDOC6250	The regulation of biomedical research
JDOC6315	Theories and methods on law and society
JDOC6326	Topics in technology law
JDOC6200	Trademark law
JDOC6339	Transitional justice
JDOC6316	Transnational criminal law
JDOC6270	Understanding health systems: ethical and legal dimensions
JDOC6102	White collar crime: law and practice
JDOC6211	World trade law, policy and business

NOTE: Not all courses will be offered in any given year. For actual courses available, please refer to annual course offerings.
