



School of Law

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong



JURIS DOCTOR (JD)

法律博士

Fulfil
Your
Dreams



THE PROGRAMME

Hong Kong's professional law degree at an innovative Law School

- ▀ Graduate entry
- ▀ 2 or 3 years full-time
- ▀ Hong Kong and international law taught by a multicultural faculty
- ▀ Faster route for potential entry to the legal profession
- ▀ Ideal professional degree for leadership positions in commerce, industry, government, media and community service



What is the Juris Doctor (JD)?

The JD is an internationally recognised first law degree issued by numerous universities. It is well established in several common law jurisdictions (Australia, Canada and the United States). Although the award has the word 'Doctor' in its title, this is a traditional usage and it is not generally regarded as equivalent to the PhD degree. The JD is a first law degree for students who are already graduates in a non-law discipline. It leads to the award of a Hong Kong law degree at the postgraduate level. CityUHK was the first law school in Hong Kong to offer a JD degree.

What will I study?

The School offers a taught programme of study tailor-made for students aiming for admission as a solicitor or barrister in Hong Kong after completing the PCLL programme. The programme is also attractive to students who wish to acquire a professional legal qualification that equips them for leadership roles in commerce, industry, government, the media and the non-profit sector.

In order to graduate, a student must complete at least 72 credit units which include the required courses Hong Kong Legal System (3 credit units); and Legal Methods, Research and Writing (3 credit units).*

The remainder of the credit units may be completed from among any of the elective courses offered in the JD, LLM and LLMArbDR programmes. Students who aspire to become a barrister or solicitor in Hong Kong must complete courses that are required for admission to the PCLL programme.

*JD and LLB lectures will be held together in most courses.

JD students have an option to specialize in one of the following areas:

- ▀ Alternative Dispute Resolution
- ▀ Chinese and Comparative Law
- ▀ International Commercial Law



Are there any special features?

- Completion of the CityUHK JD and an LLM at renowned overseas institutions including Georgetown University (USA), University Paris 1 (France) and Université de Fribourg** (Switzerland) via an accelerated path
- CityU JD and MBA option in three years
- Intensive summer course at University College Oxford (UK)
- Legal placement in Hong Kong law firms, banking and international companies, courts in Mainland China and overseas NGOs
- Extensive professional training to sharpen advocacy skills and to participate in international mooted competitions
- Exchange study at an overseas university in Canada, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Korea, Singapore, Sweden, Taiwan, the Netherlands, UK and USA
- Editorial Board membership of the City University of Hong Kong Law Review to sharpen writing and editing skills

How long will it take?

Students will be eligible to graduate with their JD degree after they have completed 72 credit units of study. The semester-length courses are 3 credit units. We encourage JD students to complete the programme in 3 years but they may also study the programme at a quicker pace. The maximum study period is 5 years.



Is it professionally recognised?

Following graduation, students who wish to practise law in Hong Kong will need to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) programme at CityUHK or other Universities that are offering this programme. The JD degree is recognised for the purposes of applying for entry into the PCLL programme.

Am I eligible to apply?

The minimum entry requirements for admission to the JD programme are:

- (i) a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in a non-law discipline; or
a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in law from a non-common law jurisdiction obtained after at least eight semesters of full-time study; and
- (ii) proficiency in English*

English language proficiency requirement

Applicants whose entrance qualification is obtained from an institution where the medium of instruction is not English, must meet the minimum English language proficiency requirement:

- TOEFL score of 100 (internet-based); or
- a band score of 7 or above in IELTS, with no individual score below 6.5; or
- a total score of 550 in the Chinese Mainland's College English Test (Band 6)

(TOEFL, IELTS and CET-6 scores are considered valid for two years. Applicants are required to provide their English test results obtained within the two years preceding the commencement of the University's application period.)

* The English language proficiency requirements are subject to approval.

STUDENT TESTIMONY



OR Hoi Yan Denise

JD Graduate 2019

“The CityUHK JD was an academically challenging but rewarding experience, and I would recommend it wholeheartedly. As a highly regarded JD programme, it is taught by outstanding teachers and experienced practitioners. It unveiled the mysterious common law world to me and provided me with chances to delve into areas of law in great detail. The tutorial system gave students the opportunity to present their own ideas individually or in a group, to discuss and debate contentious points with fellow students, and to receive constructive feedback from tutors. My advocacy and problem-solving skills have been improved as a result. The CityUHK JD, as an internationally respected law programme, has served as an excellent foundation for my further legal studies and future career.”



CHAN Jeffrey Cheuk-fai

JD Graduate 2020

“The CityUHK School of Law served as an important catalyst for my development as an aspirant lawyer. From the law school's reputable mooted programme to the renowned CityU Law Review Committee, there are a myriad of programmes to push students to hone their craft in preparation for their future practice. There is no shortage of opportunities available to students; one only needs to grasp them. With that said, my experience at CityUHK would not have been as remarkable as it was but for my unforgettable peers and the kind professors who went above and beyond for our sake. I have no doubt that the bonds that I have forged here will last a lifetime.”

CONTACT US / JD Programme Team

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