

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LAW**

JURIS DOCTOR (JD) PROGRAMME

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION 2024-2025**

(1) Eligibility

To be eligible for admission to the Juris Doctor (JD) programme in August 2024, an applicant shall satisfy both the University Admission Requirements and the Programme Specific Requirements as listed below:

- (a) shall comply with the [General Regulations](#) and [Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula](#);
- (b)(i) shall hold a Bachelor's degree in a non-law subject with at least second class honours of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; or
(ii) shall hold a law degree from a non-common law jurisdiction with at least second class honours or a qualification of equivalent standard from an institution comparable to this University accepted for this purpose; and
- (c) a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong where the language of instruction and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy an additional English language requirement by taking either IELTS (a minimum overall band score of 7.5, with no individual score below 6.5, and a minimum band score of 7.0 in the academic writing module) or TOEFL (a minimum score of 100 (internet-based test)).

Note 1: The TOEFL or IELTS result must be obtained no more than two years prior to the expected date of entry to the JD programme. For example, if an applicant is submitting his or her application for entry in September 2024, his or her English test scores must have been obtained no earlier than 1 September 2022.

An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

[IMPORTANT]

Applicants studying in the final year of their undergraduate or postgraduate degree are suggested that they should complete all courses of their existing programme, including the thesis/dissertation, by the end of June 2024, to ensure that they would be able to provide an official final academic transcript to the JD Admissions Committee by the end of July 2024.

(2) Online Application Deadline

(GMT +8) 12:00 noon, Saturday, 27 January 2024.

(3) Academic References

Applicants will be asked to provide details of two academic referees, including their institutional email addresses, in the online application report. At least one of the referees should be able to comment knowledgeably on the applicant's academic performance and on his/her ability to pursue postgraduate work in law. Application without BOTH reference letters will not be considered.

Your referees will have 14 days to complete the reference report for you. They will receive a reminder email 7 days before the deadline if the reference report has not been completed by then.

Please note that it takes time for your referees to prepare a reference report. We would suggest you contact your referees at your earliest convenience to allow them sufficient time to write the reports for you.

(4) Completing the Application

Subsequent to submission of the online application, applicants are required to submit a scanned or soft copy of the following supporting documents (in PDF) to complete their applications:

- [1] Academic transcript(s) and graduation certificate(s), if applicable (with certified translations in English where appropriate);
- [2] One personal statement of no more than 1000 words;
- [3] One writing sample, which should be an assignment or coursework submitted during undergraduate or postgraduate study, and of no more than 10 double-spaced pages (font size 12);
- [4] One copy of IELTS / TOEFL test score report(s), if required; and
- [5] One copy of the applicant's curriculum vitae (mandatory).

Note 3: The Admissions Committee may, if deemed necessary, request you to provide the original or certified copies of your supporting documents for review and record.

Note 4: All documents, once submitted, will not be returned, and will be destroyed if the application is unsuccessful.

The above supporting documents should be uploaded to the following website as soon as possible and by **(GMT +8) 12:00 noon, Saturday, 27 January 2024:**

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all documentations are complete. Failure to complete the documentations may result in delay in consideration of the application. An application will not be reviewed and acted upon until it is complete.

Please make sure that sufficient postage is provided when you send us your supporting documents by post or courier service (e.g. EMS, DHL, SF Express etc.). For mail with postage underpaid, we shall return the mail to senders and will not pay for the shortage. Such actions may delay the processing of the application concerned.

[IMPORTANT]

We receive hundreds of application packs, academic transcripts, reference letters and IELTS/TOEFL test score results etc. during the admissions period, and we seek your understanding that we are unable to check/confirm whether all of your supporting documents are received. If the Admissions Committee finds that any of your supporting documents are missing, we may contact you by email. Your understanding would be greatly appreciated.

(5) Translation Requirements

Transcripts, diplomas, and other submitted documents which are not in English should be accompanied by a certified translation in English. Certified translation may be provided by applicants' home institutions.

(6) Contact Details

Applicants may be contacted by email or phone during the application review process. Please make sure the contact details provided are up-to-date.

Applicants are advised to add "jdinfo@hku.hk" and "tpgadmissions@hku.hk" to their address book or safe senders list to prevent our emails from being filtered as junk emails.

(7) Interview

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend interviews during **March – April 2024**. Depending on the location and the availability of the applicant, he/she may be asked to attend an in-person or a phone/video interview. Applicants who are located in Hong Kong will be asked to attend an in-person interview. Applicants who are located outside Hong Kong will be asked to attend either, where possible, a video-conference interview, or a phone interview.

(8) Application Result

Most applicants will receive a decision by the end of April 2024. Admitted applicants will be required to accept the offer and pay the non-refundable deposit within ten days.

For applicants who have received admission offers from other programmes that would expire prior to our usual notification time, they may request the Admissions Committee at

jdinfo@hku.hk for an expedited review with documentary proof of an offer from another programme. The Admissions Committee reserves the right not to entertain such request.

(9) Financial Assistance

The JD programme is a self-funded postgraduate programme. Students who meet Hong Kong residency requirements are eligible to apply for a government loan at the Student Finance Office (SFO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency. Please visit <http://www.wfsfaa.gov.hk/sfo> for details and assistance.

(10) Teaching mode

The JD programme is a 2-year programme between August 2024 and August 2026, which consisted of four regular semesters and two summer semesters of full-time legal education. All courses will only be conducted face-to-face and generally scheduled on weekdays or occasionally on weekends. There is individual or group assignments and examinations during the intensive courses structure. Schedule of classes for the academic year 2024-25 will only be available after mid-July 2024.

(11) Exchange Opportunities

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and the University of Pennsylvania Law School (Penn Law) have established a joint degree (JD-LLM) student exchange programme. The joint degree exchange programme will be operated on a reciprocal basis. Each year, a maximum of two JD students each from Penn Law and HKU, who have completed at least two years of studies, may spend their third year at the partner institution and complete a Master of Laws (LLM) programme within one year.

November 2023