

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

JURIS DOCTOR (JD) PROGRAMME

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION 2025-2026**

(1) Eligibility

To be eligible for admission to the Juris Doctor (JD) programme in **August 2025**, 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](#); and
- (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 (Academic): a minimum overall band score of 7.5, with no individual score below 7 or TOEFL: a minimum score of 100 on the internet-based test or a minimum score of 600 on the paper-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 August 2025, his or her English test scores must have been obtained no earlier than 1 August 2023.

Note 2: LSAT, GRE or GMAT score submissions are encouraged, though not mandatory.

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 May 2025, to ensure that they would be able to provide an official final academic transcript to the JD Admissions Committee by the end of July 2025.

(2) Online Application Deadline

(GMT +8) 12:00 noon, Monday, 3 February 2025.

(3) Academic References

Applicants will be asked to provide details of two 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. Academic references will only be accepted from instructors from your previous full-time university degrees. If a non-academic reference is provided, they must have formally and substantially supervised you in a professional context. 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:

- (a) One personal statement of no more than 1000 words; and
- (b) One copy of IELTS / TOEFL test score report(s), if required; and
- (c) One copy of the applicant's curriculum vitae (mandatory); and
- (d) Academic transcript(s) and graduation certificate(s), with certified translations in English where appropriate; and
- (e) If applicable:
 - a) All applicants must submit the following documents if their academic qualification(s) is obtained from an institution in Mainland China. These documents can be applied from the China Higher Education Student Information (學信網). Please also set the validity period of the report as six months or the longest available duration.
 - i) Online Verification Report of Higher Education Qualification Certificate (教育部學歷證書電子註冊備案表) (in both Chinese and English versions); and
 - ii) Online Verification Report of Higher Education Degree Certificate (中國高等教育學位在線驗證報告) (in both Chinese and English versions).

- b) All non-local applicants from mainland China must submit Overseas Credentials Evaluation Report (教育部國外學歷學位認證書) of your overseas qualifications issued by the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE). Please also set the validity period of the report as six months or the longest available duration.

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, Monday, 3 February 2025**

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 thousands 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 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 "tpgadmit@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 potentially invited to attend interviews during **March – April 2025**. 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 2025. 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 2025** and August 2027, 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 2025-26 will only be available after mid-July 2025.

(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, by selection. Students are required to pay composition fees during the exchange period.

[IMPORTANT]

- 1) The Faculty only accepts IELTS/TOEFL score reports if the result is obtained within two years of the application deadline. Please also note that the Faculty does not accept scores from any of the following tests:
 - IELTS Indicator
 - IELTS One Skill Retake
 - TOEFL iBT® Home Edition
 - TOEFL ITP® Plus for China Solution
 - TOEFL Essentials™ Test
 - TOEFL MyBest™ Score Reports
 - Duolingo English Test
 - Pearson Tests of English
 - College English Test 全國大學英語四、六級考試 (CET-4/CET-6)
 - Test for English Majors 全國高等學校英語專業四、八級考試 (TEM-4/TEM-8)

- 2) Applicants may use the following information when applying for an official TOEFL test report via Educational Testing Service (ETS):
 - University Code: 9671
 - School Type: 01 (Graduate School)
 - Department Code: 99 (Undecided)

October 2024