

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

**JURIS DOCTOR (JD) PROGRAMME  
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION 2019-2020**

**(1) Eligibility**

To be eligible for admission to the Juris Doctor (JD) programme, 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 of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution 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)).

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 2019, to ensure that they would be able to provide an official final academic transcript to the JD Admissions Committee by the end of July 2019.*

**(2) Application Deadline**

The application deadline for the JD programme is **12:00 noon, Friday, 11 January 2019 (Hong Kong Time)**.

**(3) Completing the Application**

Subsequent to submission of the online application, applicants are required to submit the following supporting documents to complete their applications:

- [1] One photocopy of applicant's HKID card or passport showing personal particulars;
- [2] One personal statement of no more than 600 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] Original or certified copies\* of academic transcript(s) and graduation certificate(s), if applicable (certified translations in English where appropriate);
- [5] Original or certified copy\* of IELTS / TOEFL test score report(s), if required;
- [6] Two letters of reference and standard reference request forms from academic referees (each letter of reference and form must be kept in sealed envelope with referee's signature across the flap); and
- [7] One copy of the applicant's curriculum vitae (optional).

Note: If applicants intend to provide any other documents in addition to those listed above, please be advised to send only certified copies of the documents and list them on the cover sheet for supporting documents for record.

The above supporting documents should be sent by registered mail or by courier, and reach the following address as soon as possible and by **Friday, 18 January 2019**:

**Faculty of Law  
10/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower, The University of Hong Kong  
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong  
(Re: JD Application [Your Name and Application Number here])**

A complete application should include all of these items, except for the academic transcript(s) and IELTS/TOEFL test score report(s), which applicants may choose to instruct the relevant institutions to send directly to us. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all documentations are complete. Failure to complete the documentations may result in delay in considering the application. An application will not be reviewed and acted upon until it is complete.

**[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. To ensure that your documents will reach us in time, please send them to us by registered mail or by courier (instead of ordinary mail). 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.*

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

#### **(4) Translation and Certification Requirements**

Please note that for the above documents marked with \* in (3), the University will only accept originals or copies of the original that have been certified as true copies before a notary public (e.g. Commissioner for Oaths at Public Enquiry Service Centres of Home Affairs Office in Hong Kong). Alternatively, applicants may ask the appropriate official(s) of their home institutions to certify the copies.

*No uncertified photocopies will be accepted.*

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.

#### **(5) Academic Referees**

Applicants are required to submit two letters of reference and standard reference request forms as part of your application. Please provide information of the referees in the application form. 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. The Admissions Committee expects at least one academic reference from each applicant. However, under exceptional circumstances (for instance, an applicant who graduated from university many years ago and is no longer able to obtain an academic reference), the Admissions Committee appreciates that it may be difficult for an applicant to submit an informed academic reference. Under those circumstances, professional references would suffice.

#### **(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](mailto:jdinfo@hku.hk)" and "[tpgadmissions@hku.hk](mailto: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 2019**. 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 2019. 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](mailto: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) 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.

October 2018