THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LAW

JURIS DOCTOR (JD) PROGRAMME

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION 2021-2022

(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 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 2021, his or her English test scores must have been obtained no earlier than 1 September 2019.

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 2021, to ensure that they would be able to provide an official final academic transcript to the JD Admissions Committee by the end of July 2021.
(2) **Online Application Deadline**

*(GMT +8) 12:00 noon, Friday, 22 January 2021.*

(3) **Academic References**

Applicants will be asked to provide details of two academic referees, including their institutional email addresses, in the online 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.

Note 2: A reference request will be sent to the referees by email when the online reference system is ready in December 2020.

(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 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 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] One copy of IELTS / TOEFL test score report(s), if required; and

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) 5:00 pm, Friday, 29 January 2021:*

[https://hku.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eKgRy69WKUdfx2t](https://hku.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eKgRy69WKUdfx2t)
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.

[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 2021. 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 if the prevailing situation of Covid-19 permits it. 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 2021. 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](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.

November 2020