JURIS DOCTOR
SINGAPORE’S PREMIER PROFESSIONAL GRADUATE LAW DEGREE
NUS Law

The National University of Singapore Faculty of Law (NUS Law) is widely regarded as Asia’s leading law school. Staffed by an outstanding permanent faculty diverse in origin and qualifications, NUS Law is dedicated to building a vibrant community and creating an environment that facilitates critical thinking and reflection on the fundamental legal issues confronting our interconnected world. Located in Singapore, which for more than a century has been a commercial hub at the crossroads of Asia, NUS Law is very much Asia’s Global Law School.

Since 1957 the School’s curriculum has been infused with perspectives from other jurisdictions and disciplines. This tradition has accelerated in recent years, providing a legal education that is comparative, international and multidisciplinary. NUS Law hosts many visiting faculty and students from every continent, offering a lively, cosmopolitan atmosphere both inside and outside the classroom. The strength of the NUS Law curriculum lies in the broad and diverse range of subjects it offers. In addition to a rigorous core curriculum, students can choose from more than a hundred electives in areas such as Asian legal studies and comparative law, commercial law, IP and technology law, law and society, legal theory, maritime law, and public and private international law.

Source: Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings by Subject 2020: Law

NUS Law is the

#1 Law School in Asia

#12 Law School in the World

Source: Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings by Subject 2020: Law
Dean’s Message

As Asia’s global law school, NUS Law combines tradition and innovation. Tradition reflects more than six decades of rigorous education and research that has shaped Singapore’s legal system and produced most of its leading lawyers. Innovation embraces an openness to new ideas and to the world, with an outward looking academic programme that welcomes lawyers from across the region and the planet.

Our new Juris Doctor (JD) degree reflects the best of these qualities. It offers a degree that is recognised globally from the most highly-regarded law school in Asia, including a pathway to practice in its most dynamic and open economy. With bespoke courses for graduate students as well as the breadth of a curriculum with more than a hundred electives to choose from, you will be able to craft a degree that suits your needs and interests, preparing you for wherever your career takes you.

You will be taught by experts in the field, sitting beside future leaders of the profession — joining an alumni network that includes the top legal officers in Singapore as well as partners in major law firms from Shanghai to Hong Kong, and from New York to London.

Graduate school should be about more than just study, though. NUS Law enjoys a beautiful campus that is adjacent to Singapore’s first UNESCO World Heritage site, the Botanic Gardens. There are opportunities for leadership and for service, including student clubs and pro bono opportunities.

Whatever your reason for considering a graduate degree, I hope you will take the time to explore where the NUS Law JD could take you.

Simon Chesterman
Dean and Professor of Law
National University of Singapore
“In addition to a world-class compulsory core curriculum, NUS Law offers over 100 elective subjects each year in fields as diverse as aviation law, entertainment law, international commercial arbitration, mergers & acquisitions and human rights in Asia.”

**Professor David Tan**  
Vice Dean (Academic Affairs)  
Head (Intellectual Property), EW Barker Centre for Law & Business  
Deputy Director, Centre for Technology, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence & the Law
Juris Doctor Programme

The Juris Doctor degree, commonly known as a JD, is a graduate law degree that may lead to qualification for the practice of law in Singapore.

At the NUS, the JD programme comprises:
(i) A 2-year single graduate degree programme for candidates holding a basic law degree from another jurisdiction; and
(ii) A 3-year single graduate degree programme for candidates holding a non-law degree.

The 3-year JD will replace the Graduate LLB (GLB) programme, and it can be completed in 2.5 years in exceptional circumstances.

Why a JD at NUS?
You would most likely want to read a JD if you want to practise law in Singapore, subject to the “Qualified Person” requirements imposed by the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules. NUS Law is ranked the #12 law school in the world, and #1 in Asia by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) 2020. We offer a comprehensive range of specialisations in areas such as Corporate & Financial Services Law, Intellectual Property & Technology Law and International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution, taught by over 70 full-time faculty members and over two dozen adjunct faculty members.

Each year, a number of visiting professors from some of the top universities in the world, including Harvard, Yale, Oxford, Cambridge, the LSE, Melbourne, Seoul National University and University of Hong Kong among many others, also offer elective modules taught intensively over three weeks, thus increasing the richness of your academic experience at NUS Law.

Structure
The JD, whether in the 2-year or 3-year programme, is made up of a number of prescribed compulsory modules and elective modules which may be chosen from a number of specialisation clusters.

The Compulsory modules aim to:
 i. give an understanding of the basic law modules and general principles;
 ii. provide training in the basic skills essential for every lawyer, including analysis, research, writing, advocacy and problem-solving; and
 iii. give an appreciation of the role of law and lawyers in their own society and in the global community to better equip a lawyer to deal with the challenges of globalisation.

The Elective modules allow students to pursue their interest in a particular field of law from a broad and diverse range, including Asian Legal Studies, Civil Law, Corporate & Financial Services Law, Intellectual Property & Technology Law, International & Comparative Law, International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution, Maritime Law, Private Law, Law & Society and Research & Skills.
Programme Requirements

The programme requirements are designated Modular Credits (MC) – most 4 MC or 5 MC modules have 36 classroom contact hours per semester, typically 3 hours per week for 12 weeks. Most 8 MC modules have 72 classroom contact hours; these modules may be taught in one semester (e.g. Law of Torts, Criminal Law, Company Law) or over an academic year (e.g. Law of Contract).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2-year JD</th>
<th>3-year JD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Requirements</td>
<td>91-96 Modular Credits (MC)</td>
<td>120-124 Modular Credits (MC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Requirements</td>
<td>Law graduates from a civil law country or a non-gazetted common law university with at least a Cum Laude or Second Class Upper Honours degree</td>
<td>A university degree in any non-law discipline with at least a Cum Laude or Second Class Upper Honours degree</td>
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<td>Admissions written test and interview</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based) or 100 (internet-based) or IELTS score of 7.5</td>
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How does the acceleration option work for the JD?

For the 3-year JD comprising 120-124 MC, this may be accelerated in some cases for completion within 2.5 years subject to the approval of Vice Dean (Academic Affairs), which will take into consideration the student's first year's exam grades. Instead of reading 20 MC per semester for 6 semesters, they can read 24-25 MC per semester for 5 semesters to meet 120-124 MC. There is no acceleration option for the 2-year JD.

Can I be exempted from certain compulsory modules in the 2-year JD programme?

Yes. Exemptions from certain compulsory modules will be determined by Vice Dean (Academic Affairs) on a case-by-case basis taking into account considerations such as subjects previously studied in the candidate's previous law degree and relevant work experience. The candidates will then have the opportunity to read more elective modules to make up the credits and successfully complete a total of 91-96 MC for the 2-year JD degree. This means that you will have more elective space to read modules in our specialisation clusters such as Asian Legal Studies, Civil Law, Corporate & Financial Services Law, Intellectual Property & Technology Law, International & Comparative Law, International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution Maritime Law, and Private Law.

Are there student exchange opportunities in the JD programme?

The same overseas student exchange opportunities that are available to the current GLB students will be available to the JD students in the 3-year programme. Overseas student exchange will not be available in either the accelerated JD programme or the 2-year JD programme.

How is the JD taught?

As far as possible, the JD cohort will be taught in one section for the seminar-style compulsory modules: Criminal Law, Introduction to Legal Theory, Company Law, Legal Systems of Asia and Equity & Trusts. For compulsory modules taught in lecture-tutorial style, the JD students will attend the same lectures as the LLB students, but will be placed in separate tutorial group(s) from the LLB students: Torts, Contract, Property, Constitutional & Administrative Law and Evidence. In some compulsory and skills-based modules, they will be mingled with the LLB Students: Singapore Law in Context, Legal Analysis, Research & Communication, Trial Advocacy/Corporate Deals, and Pro Bono Service.

For the elective modules, the JD students will be integrated into the same class with the LLB and LLM students, but will be graded separately from the LLB and LLM students.
“I look forward to coming to NUS each year. The student body is wonderfully cosmopolitan. I’m glad that many students have kept in touch over the years and some have even visited me in Oxford.”

Professor Mindy Chen-Wishart
Dean, Faculty of Law, Oxford University
## Curriculum and Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Year Two</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory modules</td>
<td>• Criminal Law</td>
<td>• Company Law</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Law of Contract</td>
<td>• Constitutional &amp; Administrative Law</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Law of Torts</td>
<td>• Equity &amp; Trusts</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Legal Analysis, Research &amp; Communication</td>
<td>• Evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Principles of Property Law</td>
<td>• Legal Systems of Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pro Bono Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective modules</td>
<td>You have the flexibility to craft your own menu of elective modules in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year One (5-10 MC*) and Year Two (5-15 MC*) from the areas listed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>below.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Asian Legal Studies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Civil Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Corporate &amp; Financial Services Law</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Intellectual Property &amp; Technology Law</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• International &amp; Comparative Law</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• International Arbitration &amp; Dispute Resolution</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Maritime Law</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Private Law</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Law &amp; Society</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Skills</td>
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* Students can apply for waiver of certain compulsory modules on a case-by-case basis and read specialised elective modules relevant to their areas of legal practice.
### 3-year JD Curriculum (120-124 MC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Year Two</th>
<th>Year Three</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory modules</td>
<td>• Criminal Law</td>
<td>• Company Law</td>
<td>• Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Introduction to Legal Theory</td>
<td>• Constitutional &amp; Administrative Law</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Law of Contract</td>
<td>• Corporate Deals or Trial Advocacy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Law of Torts</td>
<td>• Equity &amp; Trusts</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Legal Analysis, Research &amp; Communication</td>
<td>• Legal Systems of Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Singapore Law in Context</td>
<td>• Principles of Property Law</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pro Bono Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective modules</td>
<td>You have the flexibility to craft your own menu of elective modules in Year Three (32-36 MC) from the areas listed below.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Asian Legal Studies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Civil Law</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Corporate &amp; Financial Services Law</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• International Arbitration &amp; Dispute Resolution</td>
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<td>• Maritime Law</td>
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<td>• Private Law</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Law &amp; Society</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Research</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Skills</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“Returning to teach at my alma mater is always a joy. The faculty and students embody the critical qualities of excellence, integrity and humanity. I’m thrilled to see that nestled at NUS Law is a vibrant community committed to nurturing talent and igniting potential.”

Adjunct Associate Professor Gerardine Goh Escolar
Class of 2002
First Secretary / Diplomat Lawyer
Permanent Bureau, Hague Conference on Private International Law
Admissions

The application period will commence on 1 October and end on 1 December for the August intake in the following year. For detailed information on how to apply, please visit https://law.nus.edu.sg/admissions/app_periods_forms.html.

Admission Requirements

Admission Criteria

Prospective applicants should possess the following academic qualifications to be considered for admission:

- For the 3-year JD programme: A university degree in any non-law discipline with at least a Cum Laude or Second Class Upper Honours degree or its equivalent.
- For the 2-year JD programme: Law graduates from a civil law country or a non-gazetted common law university with at least a Cum Laude or Second Class Upper Honours degree or its equivalent.

Those completing their first degree by early July of the year of admission (August intake) may also apply.

English requirement

Applicants whose university degree is from English-medium institutions in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States will not be required to submit proof of English language proficiency. All others will be required to submit a minimum TOEFL iBT Total score of 100 or minimum IELTS (Academic) overall band score of 7.5. If your degree was conducted entirely in the English medium and you wish to seek a waiver of this requirement, please submit your request together with supporting documents, and it will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(Note: In view of COVID-19, TOEFL iBT® Special Home Edition, TOEFL ITP® Plus (with a score of at least 627) for China and IELTS indicator (with the same scores as the standard IELTS test) will be accepted in the interim until testing centres reopen.)

Other requirements

Two academic referees will be required. Two recommendation letters from the employer can be accepted as an alternative if the applicants have left school for some years. The referee reports or recommendation letters are to be submitted together with the online application.

All applicants should furnish (i) a personal statement; and (ii) a one to two-page curriculum vitae, setting out their educational history and work experiences (if any).

Written Test and Interview

All shortlisted applicants must undergo an interview and a written test. The interview and test will be conducted between February and March. Details will be provided to shortlisted applicants.

More details are available at https://law.nus.edu.sg/admissions/admin_requirements.html.

Tuition Fees

The table below reflects the tuition fees for Academic Year 2021/2022 intake. Please refer to updates/notes at https://law.nus.edu.sg/admissions/fees.html.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Programme Tuition fees (includes GST)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-year JD programme</td>
<td>S$60,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-year JD programme</td>
<td>S$80,035</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Careers and Internships

Centre for Future-ready Graduates

NUS Law graduates follow a wide variety of career paths. Many take positions in leading firms in Singapore and around the world; others go on to occupy senior positions in government. Still others devote themselves to public service, or pursue higher degrees and join the world of academia. The Centre for Future-ready Graduates (CFG) at NUS Law is set up to equip students with Future-ready skills to transit smoothly to their careers of choice after graduation.

CFG@Law organises a number of events throughout the academic year, including The Practice of Law Networking Event for freshmen, the Law Careers Fair as well as weekly Careers Lunchtime Talks and industry-specific Panel Discussions. The Centre also manages the NUS TalentConnect – an online platform for Law students, alumni and employers to share and access internships, fellowships, Practice Training Contracts and other permanent job opportunities.

 CFG@Law fosters networking with alumni and co-ordinates the Law Alumni Mentor Programme (LAMP). It also promotes close contacts with industry partners, by inviting them for various initiatives.

Internships

NUS Law encourages our students to acquaint themselves with legal work through vacation internships with local and foreign law firms, companies and institutions, the Legal Service and other government authorities. Around 85 to 90% of students do an internship during their time at NUS Law and there is no lack of internship opportunities available. As such, NUS Law has made a conscious decision not to make internships a compulsory part of the curriculum, preferring to give our students the flexibility to use their vacation time to pursue other interests, including doing voluntary work.

The following is a list of vacation internship partners:

**Law Firms**

- A. W. Law LLC
- Actus Legal LLP
- Advocatus Law LLP
- AEI Legal LLC
- Allen & Gledhill LLP
- Allen & Overy LLP (Singapore Office)
- Angeline Suparto Law Corporation
- Aptus Law Corporation
- Asia Practice LLP
- Baker & McKenzie.Wong & Leow
- Bernard Rada & Lee Law Corporation
- Cairnhill Law LLC
- Chan Neo LLP
- Christopher Bridges
- Clifford Chance Pte Ltd
- Clifford Law LLP
- Clyde & Co Classis Singapore
- Colin Ng & Partners
- Continental Law LLP
- Cotty Vivant Marchision & Lauzeral
- CTLC Law Corporation
- David Lim & Partners LLP
- Davinder Singh Chambers LLC
- Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP
- DLA Piper Singapore Pte Ltd
- Drew & Napier LLC
- Foxwood LLC
- Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
- fsLAW LLC
- GLS Law Firm Pte Ltd
- Gunderson Dettmer
- Gurbani & Co
- Helmsman LLC
- Herbert Smith Freehills LLP
- Hill Dickinson LLP (Singapore Office)
- HJM Asia Law & Co LLC
- Jay Law Corporation
- JurisAsia LLC
- Joo Toon LLC
- Josephine Chong LLC
- K Prasad & Co
- Kelvin Chia Partnership
- Kim & Co
- Lee & Lee
- Law Connect LLC
- Lee Shergill LLP
- Linklaters Singapore Pte Ltd
- Low Yeap Toh & Goon
- Luther LLP
- Mahmood Gaznavi & Partners
- Malkin & Maxwell LLP
- Michael Hwang Chambers
- Mirandah Law LLP
- Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC
- Myintsoe & Selvaraj
- Oliver Quek & Associates
- O’Melveny & Myers LLP
- Ong Tay & Partners
- Oon & Bazul LLP
- Parwani & Co
- Pinnacle Law LLC
- Pinsent Masons MPillay

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### Government Bodies
- A*STAR
- Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore
- Intellectual Property Office of Singapore
- Land Transport Authority

### Legal Service
- Singapore Legal Service Programme

### Corporations
- Aberdeen Asset Management
- Aggreko (Singapore) Pte Ltd
- Amadeus GDS Singapore Pte Ltd
- American International Group, Inc. (AIG)
- BBC Worldwide
- BP Singapore Pte Ltd
- Bunge Ltd
- ByteDance (Singapore)
- Canon Singapore Pte Ltd
- Capgemini Singapore
- Citi
- Danone Asia Pte Ltd
- Dri-Quip Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
- Epsilon Telecommunication Pte Ltd
- Fox International Channels
- GE Capital Aviation Service (GECAS)
- GE Money
- Gemalto Pte Ltd
- General Electric
- Google Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
- GuocoLand Management Pte Ltd
- Harley-Davidson Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
- Hewlett Packard (HP)
- Institute of Chemical and Engineering Sciences
- JP Morgan Chase Bank

### Public Interest Organisations
- International Court of Justice
- Permanent Court of Arbitration (Singapore Office)

### Other
- National Arts Council
- National Environment Agency
- Singapore Academy of Law
- Singapore Sports Council
- Tyto LLC
- White & Case LLP
- WongPartnership LLP
- Yeo-Leong & Peh LLC
- Yuen Law LLC
- Y S Chung Law Corporation
- Klook Travel
- Lazada South East Asia Pte Ltd
- LinkedIn Singapore Pte Ltd
- Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd
- Merck Pte Ltd
- Merz Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
- NBCUniversal
- NTUC Income Insurance Co-operative Limited
- Orica International Pte Ltd
- Pavilion Capital International Pte Ltd
- PayPal Private Limited
- PetroChina International (Singapore) Pte Ltd
- RCI Asia-Pacific Pte Ltd
- Rolls-Royce Singapore Pte Ltd
- Silverdale Capital Services Pte Ltd
- Singapore Petroleum Company Limited
- Singapore Post Limited
- SMRT
- Standard Chartered Bank
- Stratech Systems Limited
- Symantec
- Tellabs, Inc
- Unilever Singapore
- Vopak Asia Pte Ltd
- The World Bank: ICSID
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
“NUS Law provides you with a solid foundation to craft your own career, on your terms. The curriculum is rigorous and challenging, and the faculty is truly excellent. I’ve definitely gained not just a set of practical skills, but a way of seeing – after all, the law structures our relationships with one another, whether private or public, commercial or personal.”

Natalee Ho
Class of 2020
Graduate LLB alumna
Practice Trainee, Drew & Napier
“NUS Law aims to produce leaders who can be successful in whatever path they choose. You have an important decision to make. Choose well.”

Simon Chesterman
Dean and Professor of Law
National University of Singapore