Frequently Asked Questions – JD

Admissions and Application

Is the JD programme offered on a full-time or part-time basis? Can I join the programme in January?

The JD programme is conducted only on a full-time basis and in Singapore. There is only one intake in August.

Can I apply for the JD if I did not obtain the required Second Class Upper Honours degree, but have a Master of Laws degree and some work experience?

Yes, we can consider such applications. Each application will be assessed carefully on its own merits by the Admissions Committee.

Can I apply for the JD programme if I do not meet the English requirement?

No, we require applicants to have a strong proficiency in English in order to cope with the rigorous curriculum demands. Applicants would need to meet our English requirement in order to apply for the programme. All shortlisted applicants must undergo a written test and interview between February and March.

If my LLB degree is not obtained in an English-medium university, but I have a Masters degree from an English-medium one, can I be exempted from providing an iBT or IELTS score?

Please provide a letter from your current employer/supervisor to confirm your English proficiency. If shortlisted, you must still undergo a written test and interview between February and March.

For further details, please refer here.
I have an LLB degree and plan to apply for the 2-year JD programme. I read that law graduates from a civil law country or a non-gazetted common law university may apply. May I know what does a ‘non-gazetted common law university’ mean?

It refers to a university which teaches common law, such as those in UK, Australia and New Zealand, but is not in the approved list maintained by the Singapore Institute of Legal Education (SILE) set out here.

May I know what is the scope of the interview and test and the assessment criteria, so as to be better prepared?

The interview will be conducted by two faculty members who will be assessing a shortlisted candidate’s analytical ability, competency in spoken English and suitability to embark on the JD programme that may qualify him or her for legal practice in Singapore. Interview questions for admission into the 2-year and 3-year JD programme will be calibrated differently to take into account the candidate’s prior work experience.

The written test for the 3-year JD programme which comprises a hypothetical scenario assumes no legal knowledge, and assesses the candidate's analytical ability and comprehension, and the standard of written English. The written test for the 2-year JD programme assesses the candidate's analytical ability and comprehension, the standard of written English and will require the candidate to draw comparisons of a legal problem with the laws of a jurisdiction that the candidate is familiar with.

Shortlisted candidates should ensure a functional email at all times for communication.

May I know when the interview and test dates are?

The dates for the 2022 interviews and the written test are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviews/Test</th>
<th>Day/Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>Friday, 25 February and Saturday, 26 February 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written test</td>
<td>Saturday, 5 March 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The Faculty reserves the right to make further changes. Please check our website regularly for updates. Only shortlisted candidates will be provided with instructions for the interview and test.
Programme Requirements

Is there a Class of Honours for the JD?

JD students are graded separately from LLB and LLM students. Successful completion of the JD programme leads to the award of the following classes of degrees: JD (Highest Distinction), JD (Distinction), JD (Merit) and JD. For purposes of seeking admission to the Singapore Bar, students must attain at least a JD (Merit) to be considered a Qualified Person under the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules. More details of grading and criteria for award of JD degrees may be found here.

How does the acceleration option work for the JD?

For the 3-year JD comprising 120-124 modular credits (MC) to be completed in six semesters, this may be accelerated in some cases for completion within 2.5 years subject to the approval of Vice Dean (Academic Affairs), who will take into consideration the student’s first year’s exam grades. Under this accelerated option, the balance of the 80 MC will be completed in the remaining three semesters. 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 the candidate’s relevant work experience. The candidates will then have the opportunity to read more elective modules to make up the credits for graduation and successfully complete a total of 91-96 MC for the 2-year JD degree. This means that candidates 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 one-semester overseas student exchange opportunities that are available previously to the Graduate LLB students will be available to the JD students in the 3-year programme; however, the year-long Exchange Plus programme is not available. 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: for example, Criminal Law, Company Law 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.

For further details, please refer here.

Will physical lessons be affected by COVID-19?

The Faculty of Law had been conducting classes online, in-person and in hybrid mode over the last 12 months. We take guidance from the Singapore Government and the university regarding safe-distancing and mask-wearing measures, mode of teaching in line with class size, and make provisions for overseas visiting professors who are unable to travel to Singapore to teach in person. At this point, we are able to conduct classes in person if there are fewer than 50 students in a class.

Practice and Careers

If I am a foreign student, can I practise in Singapore and in my own country when I graduate?

After completing the requirements of practical training and exam for the Singapore bar, you will be able to practise in Singapore. You must pass Part B of the Bar Examinations before you are entitled to serve the Practice Training Period (see Rule 3(1) of the Legal Profession (Practice Training Period) Rules 2009). You will also need to obtain at least a JD (with Merit) from NUS. More information is available on the SILE website.

However, other jurisdictions will have their own requirements for admission and you must enquire or refer to the local bar websites of each jurisdiction for entry requirements and details.
I am a Singapore citizen looking to do the JD programme while continuing to work at my present job. Is it possible?

The JD is a full-time degree programme. While we do not require candidates to resign from their existing jobs to be enrolled, we do not grant extensions for assignments or accord special treatment to candidates who miss classes as a result of employment commitments.

**Scholarships and Financial Matters**

What are the tuition fees like?

Please visit [here](#) for our fee information. The fees will be subject to prevailing Goods & Services Tax (GST). In addition to the tuition fees, there are some mandatory miscellaneous fees payable.

The JD programme is a graduate programme and does not enjoy tuition grant from the Singapore government.

Are there any financial assistance available?

As the JD is a self-financing programme, no Tuition Fee Loan schemes or scholarships are available. Successful applicants are expected to secure their own funding.

*Updated 28 July 2021*