

Now in session

**SMU's
Juris Doctor
law degree**





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Message From Dean

Greetings from School of Law at the Singapore Management University!

In the English pattern, Law has been studied as an undergraduate degree like History or Chemistry. In the North American pattern it is not studied until a degree has first been obtained in another subject. Singapore Management University now follows both paths side by side.

SMU's J.D. programme is aimed at those who have a degree in another discipline but now realise that they would like to study law seriously. It includes the whole of the law content of the LL.B. degree.

This is an exciting development. There are real opportunities in the legal profession for those who have degrees both in law and another subject.

Professor Michael Furmston

Dean

School of Law



Message from the Programme Director

The School of Law at Singapore Management University is building a strong reputation in offering a legal education that is responsive to the challenges of the 21st century. An innovative curriculum combined with creative, interactive teaching has shaped undergraduate law teaching since the Law School's inception in 2007. In 2009, the School embarked on a new venture: offering graduate law studies to students who have undergraduate degrees in other disciplines and to students who have studied law in civil law countries and in other jurisdictions. Our goal is to prepare students for a diverse range of roles in the legal profession.

The Juris Doctor (J.D.) programme provides graduate students with an opportunity to be part of SMU's exciting programme in legal education. J.D. students add experience and diversity to the classroom and they will add experience and diversity to Singapore's legal profession.

The SMU School of Law emphasises the teaching of law in context (particularly the context of business), as well as interactive teaching in which students develop strong analytical, problem-solving, policy-analysis, and comparative law skills so important to today's legal professions.

J.D. students bring interdisciplinary insights to the classroom - contributing knowledge and analytical perspectives from a variety of fields of study. Given the high quality of our undergraduate students and the depth of background of our J.D. students, strong synergies are developing between the LL.B. and J.D. programmes.

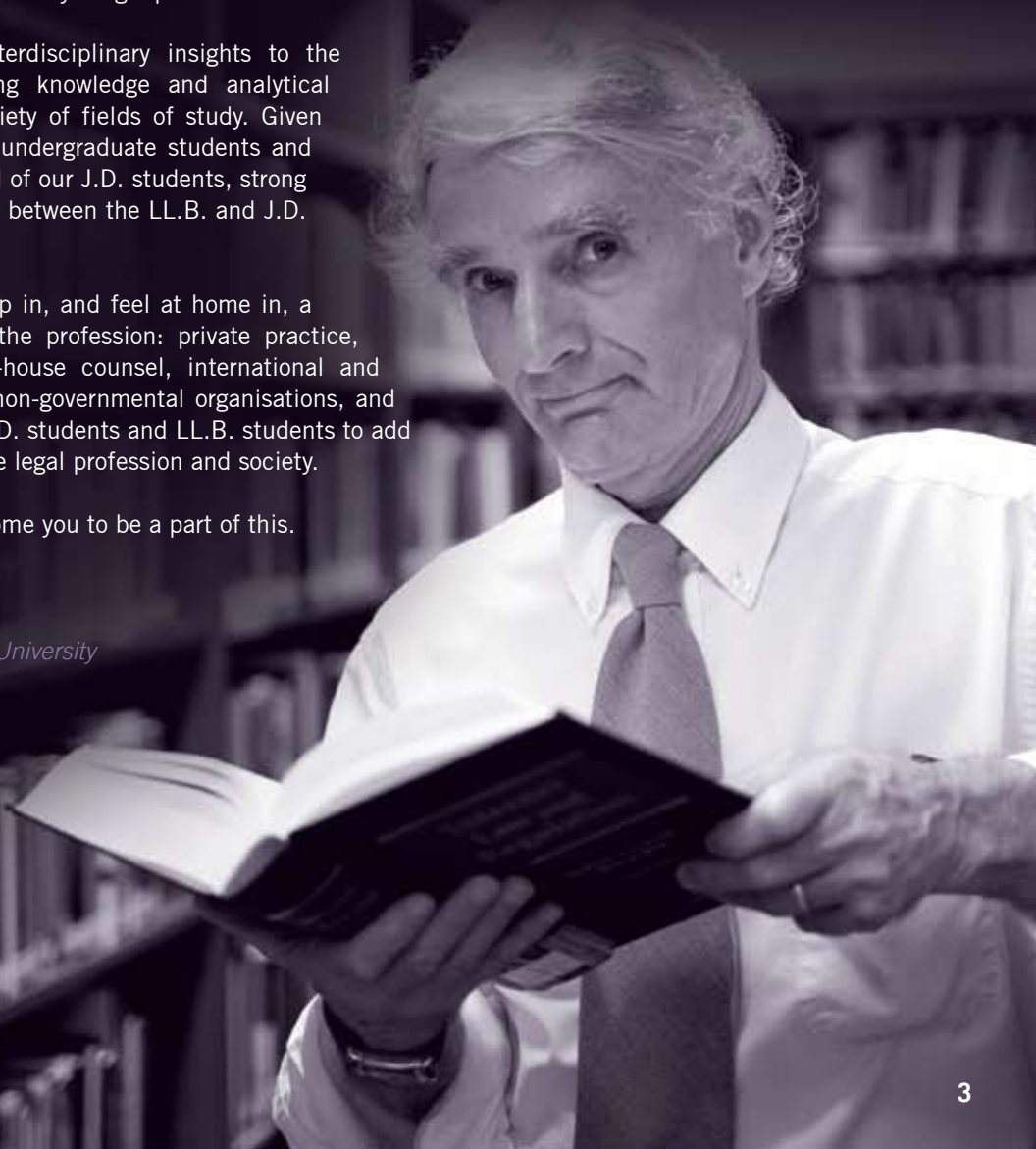
Our students will end up in, and feel at home in, a variety of roles within the profession: private practice, government service, in-house counsel, international and regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, and others. We expect our J.D. students and LL.B. students to add considerable value to the legal profession and society.

We encourage and welcome you to be a part of this.

Professor David Smith

J.D. Programme Director

Singapore Management University



The Programme

BACKGROUND

In August 2006, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Law appointed The Honourable Justice V K Rajah to chair a committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the legal services sector. The committee issued the “Report of the Committee to Develop the Singapore Legal Sector” in September 2007. The report recommended, amongst other things, diversifying law schools’ admission criteria to give more opportunity for admission to mature and second career students who manifest an aptitude and passion for the law. In 2009, SMU launched the J.D. programme.

The J.D. Programme targets:

- Local non-law graduates who hold university degrees in other disciplines;
- Foreign non-law graduates who hold university degrees in other disciplines;
- Foreign law graduates from law schools in civil law countries;
- Foreign law graduates from other non-gazetted universities in the common law countries.

TEACHING APPROACH

The J.D. programme bears SMU’s hallmarks of holistic learning and active seminar-style teaching. Students engage in a substantial amount of pre-class preparatory reading and thinking, and participate actively in class discussion. Our experience is that the interactive/ participative learning environment at the School of Law helps develop confidence and analytical and presentation skills – attributes which are essential for excelling in the legal and corporate worlds.

Classes are kept small and a multi-faceted approach to course assessment is adopted. This includes class participation, oral and written presentations, and group work. The end-of-term written examination (usually open book) typically accounts for a maximum of 50% of the final grade in a course. A significant amount of time is devoted to group work and presentations.

Occasionally lawyers from practice, government and the judiciary are invited to participate in classroom teaching. This provides our students with the opportunity to integrate practical expertise with theory and doctrine.





J.D. CURRICULUM

SMU's J.D. curriculum is endorsed by Singapore's Board of Legal Education and the Ministry of Law. It comprises a mix of compulsory law courses and law electives. A law internship and community service are also required.

AWARD OF THE JURIS DOCTOR (J.D.) DEGREE

The J.D. programme is an honours programme. The honours categories are: J.D. (merit), J.D. (high merit), J.D. cum laude (with distinction), J.D. magna cum laude (with high distinction) and J.D. summa cum laude (with highest distinction).

Students will qualify for legal practice in Singapore (admitted as Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore) if they attain a GPA of at least 3.00 in the courses leading to the J.D. degree, and have completed the five-month Practical Law Course and a six-month Training Contract with a law firm.

Law Core (21 course units)	+	Law Electives (4 course units)
Internship and Community Service		

The J.D. programme follows the same academic calendar/grading scheme as the LL.B. programme. (The academic year begins in mid-August). Students are expected to complete the programme within 3 years of full-time study. The programme may be accelerated in some cases for completion within 2 to 2.5 years subject to the approval of the J.D. Committee, which will take into consideration their first term's exam grades.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Students are required to complete a total of 25 course units (cu) of law courses (each course carries 1 unit unless stated otherwise), a 10-week internship programme, and 80 hours of community service before graduation.

ILLUSTRATIVE 3-YEAR PROGRAMME (CU = COURSE UNIT)

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Term 1: Aug – Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Law 1 Criminal Law (1.5 cu) Legal Research & Writing Legal System, Legal Method & Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Law Law of Property (1.5 cu) Comparative Legal Systems Commercial Conflict of Laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elective 2 Elective 3 Elective 4 Legal Theory & Philosophy
Winter Break: Dec			
Term 2 : Jan – Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Law 2 Law of Torts (1.5 cu) Law of Business Organisations Constitutional & Admin Law (1.5 cu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Analysis of Law Law & Regulation Law of Equity & Trusts (1.5 cu) Law of Evidence & Civil Procedure (1.5 cu) 	Internship (10 weeks)
Summer Term 3A: Apr – May (5 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethics & Social Responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elective 1 	
Summer Term 3B: Jun – Jul (5 weeks)	Community Service (80 hours)		

ILLUSTRATIVE 2.5-YEAR PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Term 1: Aug – Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract Law 1 • Criminal Law (1.5 cu) • Legal Research & Writing • Legal System, Legal Method & Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Law • Law of Property (1.5 cu) • Comparative Legal Systems • Commercial Conflict of Laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective 2 • Elective 3 • Elective 4 • Legal Theory & Philosophy
Winter Break: Dec	Community Service (80 hours)		
Term 2 : Jan – Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract Law 2 • Law of Torts (1.5 cu) • Law of Business Organisations • Constitutional & Admin Law (1.5 cu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Analysis of Law • Law & Regulation • Law of Equity & Trusts (1.5 cu) • Law of Evidence & Civil Procedure (1.5 cu) 	
Summer Term 3A: Apr – May (5 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics & Social Responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective 1 	
Summer Term 3B: Jun – Jul (5 weeks)	Internship (5 weeks)	Internship (5 weeks)	

ILLUSTRATIVE 2-YEAR PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
Term 1: Aug – Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract Law 1 • Criminal Law (1.5 cu) • Legal Research & Writing • Legal System, Legal Method & Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Law • Law of Property (1.5 cu) • Comparative Legal Systems • Commercial Conflict of Laws • Legal Theory & Philosophy
Winter Break: Dec	Community Service (80 hours)	
Term 2 : Jan – Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract Law 2 • Law of Torts (1.5 cu) • Law of Business Organisations • Constitutional & Admin Law (1.5 cu) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Analysis of Law • Law & Regulation • Law of Equity & Trusts (1.5 cu) • Law of Evidence & Civil Procedure (1.5 cu) • Elective 4
Summer Term 3A: Apr – May (5 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics & Social Responsibility + Elective 1 	Internship (5 weeks)
Summer Term 3B: Jun – Jul (5 weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective 2 + Elective 3 	Internship (5 weeks)

Law Electives (Illustrative) (choose 4*)

- Advocacy
- Banking Law
- Biotechnology & the Law
- Chinese Contract Law
- Chinese Foreign Investment Law
- Comparative Law of Sales
- Complex International Litigation
- Competition Law
- Corporate Crime
- Corporate Insolvency Law
- Family Law
- Financial & Securities Regulation
- Foreign Direct Investment Law & Practice
- Information Technology & the Law
- Insurance Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- International and Comparative Criminal Justice
- International Commercial Arbitration
- International Moots
- International Patent Law and Policy
- Islamic Commercial Law
- Jurisprudence: Modern & Critical Theories of Law
- Law and Development
- Law and Policy of Ethnic Relations in Singapore
- Law of Confidential Information, Trade Secrets and Privacy
- Law of Mergers & Acquisitions
- Negotiation & Mediation for Lawyers
- Personal Property
- Public International Law
- Shipping & Admiralty Law
- Tax Law
- Trade & Investment Law
- Transportation Law
- WTO : Law and Policy
- Directed Research

**The above list of electives may change from time to time.*

J.D. GPA

With reference to Rule 5A of the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules, J.D. students must have attained a GPA of at least 3.00 in the courses leading to the J.D. degree in order to practise law in Singapore.

Since J.D students are allowed to take up additional courses for their personal interest, SMU will compute a new and separate GPA to track only courses leading to the J.D. degree in order to meet this requirement. The GPA, called J.D. GPA, will be reflected in the SMU transcript accordingly, in addition to the existing Cumulative GPA. The J.D. GPA will henceforth be the determining GPA (at least 3.00) for qualification to practise law in Singapore.

The J.D. GPA will be computed for you at the end of each term, within one week from the official release of results. You may view your J.D. GPA by generating the unofficial transcript via OASIS > Study > Examinations & Results > View Unofficial Transcript.

Please note the following:

- The existing grading policies will continue to apply (e.g. repeat for better grades will not be used for computation of J.D. GPA).

- The current Cumulative GPA (CGPA) will continue to be used for determining the cum laude/ merit awards. Therefore, there may be situations where a student achieves a Merit award ($CGPA \geq 3.00 < 3.20$) for the J.D. degree due to the additional courses or courses from his or her non-law courses, but fails to achieve the minimum J.D. GPA of 3.00 to practise law (i.e. the J.D. GPA is lower than the CGPA).



Internships And Community Service

Students are required to undertake a 10-week compulsory internship with either:

- A law firm, or
- The legal department of a Government-linked Corporation / Multi-national Corporation, or
- A public sector regulatory body

The internship will acquaint the student with the practical workings of the legal system and the realities of law practice in the private and public sectors. The

internship may also have an overseas component, as is the case of the KhattarWong Solicitors' Regional Training Programme.

Students also perform 80 hours of community service attachment at a Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO) or an organization involved in pro-bono and legal aid work.

The Law School has partnered with the following law firms and organisations for internships and is currently in the process of negotiating with other firms.

List of Current Partner Law Firms / Organisations

CORPORATIONS (LEGAL DEPARTMENT)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESPN Star Sports • Financial Industry Disputes Resolution Centre Ltd • GE HealthCare • LexisNexis Singapore • Monsanto Singapore Co (Pte) Ltd • Oberthur Technologies • Siemens Pte Ltd (FIDReC), Hong Leong Finance Limited • Singapore Petroleum Company • Symantec • Tellabs Asia Pacific Pte Ltd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rajah & Tann LLP • Ramdas & Wong Singapore • Rodyk & Davidson LLP • Stamford Law Corporation • Shook Lin & Bok LLP • Tan Kok Quan Partnership • Tan Rajah & Cheah (TRC) • TSMP Law Corporation • WongPartnership LLP • Wong Tan & Molly Lim LLC
BANK	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UBS AG 	
LOCAL LAW FIRMS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen & Gledhill LLP • Ang & Partners • ATMD Bird & Bird LLP • Colin Ng & Partners LLP • David Lim & Partners • Donaldson & Burkinshaw • Drew & Napier LLC • Gurbani & Co • Harry Elias Partnership • KhattarWong • Lee & Lee 	JOINT-LAW VENTURE FIRMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baker & McKenzie.Wong & Leow • Linklaters Allen & Gledhill Pte Ltd
OFF-SHORE LAW FIRMS (BASED IN SINGAPORE)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen & Overy LLP • AV & P Legal, Solicitors • Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP • Bryan Cave LLP • Conyers Dill & Pearman • Cotty Vivant Marchisio & Lauzeral • Deacons Singapore Ltd • Duane Morris LLP • Holman Fenwick Willan • Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH • Morrison & Foerster LLP • Norton Rose (Asia) LLP



- O'Melveny & Myers LLP
- Watson Farley & Williams LLP
- White & Case LLP

OVERSEAS LAW FIRMS

Brussels

- FratiniVergano

India

- AZB & Partners (Mumbai)
- Bharucha & Partners (Mumbai)
- Luthra & Luthra Law Offices (Mumbai and Delhi)

China

- KhattarWong (Shanghai)

Malaysia

- Raslan Loong (Kuala Lumpur)

Hong Kong

- Clyde & Co
- Norton Rose LLP

Middle East

- WongPartnership

United States

- Duane Morris LLP (New York City)

GOVERNMENT

- Legal Aid Bureau Internship Programme
- Ministry of Law Internship Programme
- Singapore Academy of Law Litigation Internship Programme
- Singapore Legal Service
- The Law Society of Singapore Internship Programme
- The Subordinate Courts of Singapore Internship Programme
- The Supreme Court of Singapore Internship Programme

NGOs

- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (Delhi, India)

OTHERS

- Senior Counsel Forum

For more information on the list of partner firms for internships, please visit our website at <http://www.law.smu.edu.sg/gates/students/internship.asp>



The J.D.s

Drawn from various educational and professional backgrounds, our first cohort of J.D. students includes recent university graduates and those with professional experience. Collectively possessing a wide range of expertise across disciplines – including, for example, logistics, medicine, engineering, education and the public sector – students benefit from sharing their knowledge and experience. Class discussion is encouraged by our seminar-style teaching.

THE JURIS DOCTOR ENTERING CLASS OF 2009

Class Size	28
Average Age	30 years
Average Work Experience	6.5 years
Male / Female	64% / 36%





Making The Grade

To be considered for admission to the J.D. programme, an applicant must have a Cum Laude or Second Class Upper Honours degree qualification, or an equivalent level of achievement.

International Applicants

English Language Proficiency

An international applicant whose undergraduate or graduate education was not in English is required to sit for the TOEFL/IELTS or SAT 1 test. The minimum TOEFL score and IELTS band are as follows:

- TOEFL (Paper-based): 550
- TOEFL (Computer-based) : 213
- TOEFL (Internet-based): 79 - 80
- IELTS: Overall band 6.5

For the SAT English language test, a total score of more than 1300 with at least 700 for the Verbal component (old SAT format) or a total score of more than 1900 with a combined score of 1400 for Critical Reading and Writing components (new SAT format) is required.

Submitting An Application

Applications should be made online at http://www.law.smu.edu.sg/jd/programme/online_application.asp/. Hard copies of the supporting documents should be posted to the J.D. Programme Office in order for the applications to be valid.

Supporting documents include:

- Identification Documents
- Transcripts
- Curriculum Vitae
- Written essays (2)
- Degree Certificate
- Recommendation forms (2)
- TOEFL / IELTS or SAT*

**If your undergraduate or graduate education was not in English*

Shortlisted applicants will be required to undergo an interview and write a brief essay on an assigned topic.

Tuition Fees

Please refer to http://www.law.smu.edu.sg/jd/programme/admissions_and_fees.asp for details on fees and payment.

Deadlines

Please refer to http://www.law.smu.edu.sg/jd/programme/online_application.asp/ for application deadlines.

The Faculty

The international experience of our Law Faculty is reflected in their CVs which can be assessed by <http://www.law.smu.edu.sg/faculty/index.asp>. Faculty members hold postgraduate degrees from renowned universities worldwide such as Harvard and Oxford. The diversity in legal research and teaching is apparent from the list of publications of the faculty and the spectrum of courses being offered in various areas of the law.

The faculty community is a closely-knit and collegial one, and we share the values of integrity, scholarship and humanity. The faculty are also very actively involved in service within the university, the legal fraternity and society.

Advisory Board Members: Leaders In The Legal Profession

The School of Law Advisory Board was established in January 2007. Profiles of the Members of the Board – all leaders in the legal profession, can be found at http://www.law.smu.edu.sg/about_school/advisory_board.asp

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My undergraduate qualification is less than your required 2nd class upper, but I have a Masters degree and good work experience. Can I apply?

We are looking for outstanding candidates who meet our admissions criteria of either a cum laude or a 2nd class upper. However, candidates with significant achievement such as having an outstanding further degree and/or outstanding work experience that could contribute to the class and legal profession will be considered by the Admissions Committee.

I have a 2nd class upper honours degree done externally. Am I still eligible to apply for the J.D. programme?

Yes, candidates with 2nd class upper honours in an external degree can apply.

Will the classes be held together with the undergraduates?

Apart from electives, J.D. classes will usually not be held with the undergraduates.

I have taken a law degree/law modules before. Can I be exempted from certain courses in the J.D. programme?

Generally, exemptions will not be granted. However, an SMU graduate who has completed an SMU Law School module with a prefix "LAW" in his or her undergraduate SMU degree studies may be exempted from the course, subject to approval of the School.

Under what circumstances would a student be allowed to complete the programme in 2 years?

Acceleration of the programme is subject to the School's advice and approval. A student

will also need to consider his or her ability to manage an increased load every term, including the vacation period. Students must also be mindful of the required overall GPA. A minimum of 3.00 is needed to qualify for practice.

Will the J.D. programme be offered as a part-time or evening programme?

At the moment we are not scheduling a part-time or evening programme.

In which countries will graduates of this programme be able to practise?

A graduate of the SMU J.D. programme will be able to practise in Singapore after completing the requirements of practical training and exam for the Singapore bar. Admission to other bars (legal professions) depends on the requirements of each jurisdiction, just as with the LL.B. degree.

One would have to look at the particular bar entry requirements for a particular country or state. In Canada and the U.S., admission to the bar is governed by each province or state. Since Canada and the U.S. are J.D. jurisdictions, a J.D. degree may be treated more favourably than an LL.B. degree but there may still be some additional course requirements (such as taking a local property law or constitutional law course). The local bar websites of each jurisdiction will provide specific details.

Are scholarships and financial aid available?

Please refer to <http://www.law.smu.edu.sg/jd/scholarships&awards.asp> for more information.

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