Become the Lawyer you want to be

A successful career in a demanding profession requires comprehensive training. The Juris Doctor prepares you with the knowledge and skills necessary to become the Lawyer you want to be and that the world needs.

The Juris Doctor (JD) is a postgraduate qualifying degree which leads to admission to practice law in the state of Western Australia. By choosing to study the JD at the University of Western Australia you will:

- Benefit from UWA Law School’s long standing and deep links with the legal profession which contribute to consistently high rates of employment for our graduates.
- Learn from the very best of the legal profession and academic staff recognised nationally for excellence in teaching and research.
- Have the opportunity to participate in practical skill building programs, including mooting (legal advocacy) competitions and internships.
- Study and build lifelong friendships with a talented, diverse and vibrant cohort of future leaders.
- Enter the competitive graduate market with an edge, armed with both an undergraduate degree and the prestigious JD qualification.
- Join the ranks of nationally and internationally renowned UWA Law School graduates including: Rhodes Scholars; members of the Judiciary and legal profession; as well as leaders at the highest level of business and government.

A world-class qualification

- UWA is in the top 1% of World Universities, currently ranked 87th in the Academic Ranking of World Universities.
- UWA’s Law School is Western Australia’s first Law School with over 85 years of academic excellence.
- UWA’s Law School is ranked in the world top 100 Law Schools in the QS ranking of world universities.
- The UWA JD is formally recognised in Singapore as an accredited pathway to practice.
- Six of Australia’s High Court Judges studied at UWA Law School.
Course structure

Designed to prepare you for the careers of the future

All qualifying law degrees are required to cover a significant body of fundamental legal knowledge. As a postgraduate qualification the JD teaches these core units at a higher level than undergraduate law degrees, ensuring you are thoroughly prepared for the demands of a career in law.

The JD requires three years of full time study to complete and consists of 24 units totalling 144 points. It can be undertaken part time however a minimum of two units must be taken per semester whilst undertaking core units.

Unit sequence

**Year One**
- S1 LAWS4101 Legal Process*
- S1 LAWS4102 Criminal Law
- S1 LAWS4103 Contract
- S1 LAWS4104 Property
- S2 LAWS5106 Legal Theory and Ethics
- S2 LAWS4106 Torts
- S2 LAWS4107 Land Law
- S2 LAWS4108 Foundations of Public Law
- *Intensive Unit

**Year Two**
- S1 LAWS5101 Constitutional Law
- S1 LAWS4105 Dispute Resolution
- S1 LAWS5201 Equity and Trusts
- S2 LAWS5106 Remedies
- S2 LAWS5102 Administrative Law
- Plus two option units

**Year Three**
- S1 LAWS5107 Evidence
- S1 LAWS5108 Commercial Practice
- S2 LAWS5113 Procedure
- Plus five option units

Legal Process Intensive

In order to establish a core body of theoretical and skills based knowledge at the commencement of the JD, the Legal Process Unit is delivered intensively. Intensive classes are delivered full time over a condensed timeframe. Legal Process will be delivered Monday to Friday for the first two weeks of semester one.

Option Units

Year two and three provide students with the opportunity to undertake option units from a range of subjects including:
- Legal Internship
- Forensic Advocacy
- Health Law and Policy
- Environmental Law
- Indigenous Peoples in International and Comparative Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- Mining and Energy Law
- Family Law
- Negotiation and Mediation
- Legal Research Units

Course details

- Intake: February Only
- Fee Type: Commonwealth supported (HECS available)
- Places: Approximately 350 places available for all applicants per year
- Duration: 3 years full-time; 6 years part-time

Mooting

Mooting is the oral presentation of a legal issue or problem against opposing counsel and before a judge. It is the closest experience that you can have to appearing in court whilst at university.

All students enrolled in the JD program participate in a moot as part of the core unit Foundations of Public Law (LAWS4108).

UWA Law students may also have the opportunity to participate in a number of mooting competitions including the prestigious Jessup International Moot. UWA’s Jessup Moot teams have had remarkable success, representing Australia in the international rounds in 1995-1997, 2001-2003, 2005, 2009-2011 and 2013-2015. UWA won the international Jessup Cup in 2003 and was international runners-up in 1995 and 2002.

Connection to the legal profession

As Western Australia's oldest Law School, the school counts amongst its alumni solicitors, barristers, Queen's Counsel, Senior Counsel and judges who remain connected to the school through activities including guest lectures and the internship and mooting programs.

JD students also have the opportunity to undertake volunteer work with the Law Society of Western Australia's Law Access pro-bono legal service located within the UWA Law School precinct.

Blackstone Society

The Blackstone Society is UWA's student society for Law Students. The society focuses on the student experience on campus and runs a range of events across careers, equity, wellness and competition portfolios.

It addition, the Blackstone Society hosts a wide range of exciting and very popular social events as well as legal skill building competitions in areas such as mooting, client interview and witness examination.

The option to internationalise your study

Students of the JD have the opportunity to complete some of their study abroad. UWA Law School has direct exchange opportunities with partner universities in a range of countries. Partner universities include:
- Uppsala University, Sweden
- Renmin University Law School and Zhejiang University, China
- University of British Columbia, Canada

"The opportunities to pursue my interests, both within and outside of the curriculum, were what really made the JD. Academic staff were always willing to support research projects, and hands on experiences like mooting and negotiation presented a great opportunity to get a taste of post qualification practice."

A postgraduate law degree from UWA meant entering practice with solid grounding in law and practice and allowed me to hit the ground running. The strong collegiate environment of UWA law carried on into practice. Your classmates become your colleagues and the journey starts all over again."

Adam Rompotis (centre)
Law Graduate - King & Wood Mallesons

Please note: Units available are subject to change at any time, for a full list of available units access the unit handbook at handbooks.uwa.edu.au
Entry pathways

**Direct**

A limited number of direct entry places will be given to highly qualified students commencing an undergraduate course at UWA.

The minimum ATAR for consideration is 97; though the final cutoff score may be higher and will be determined when the reserved places are filled. The selection process will be based entirely on the applicant’s ATAR score.

Taking up a direct place is conditional on a student maintaining a minimum grade point average of 5.5 during their undergraduate degree.

**Standard**

To be considered for admission to the JD an applicant must have completed a bachelor’s degree with a UWA equivalent grade point average of at least 5.5 across all completed tertiary studies.

Applicants must also have a Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score, from an LSAT test taken within the last 5 years. UWA is a registered LSAT test centre and administers the tests as well as preparation sessions throughout the year. For a more detailed description of what to expect in the LSAT visit lsac.org/jd

**Indigenous**

Entry requirements for the UWA JD via the Indigenous Pathway:

- UWA direct entry pathway students with a completed bachelor’s degree and a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 5.0 (out of 7.0); or
- Indigenous students who have completed the Advanced Diploma in Indigenous Legal Studies with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 5.5 (out of 7.0); or
- Indigenous graduates with a bachelor’s degree, or an equivalent qualification as recognised by UWA can also apply by completing the School of Indigenous Studies Law Admissions Test.

Admission for Indigenous applicants will be awarded to the highest ranked applicants who fall within the Indigenous student quota of 20 places per year.

For information on Indigenous pathways to the JD visit sis.uwa.edu.au/courses/law

**Equity and Diversity**

To be considered for entry into the course via this pathway, an applicant must have:

- held a protection, refugee or humanitarian visa within 7 years prior to applying for admission to this course; or
- experienced significant personal, medical, social, educational, cultural or financial disadvantage or hardship, including any disadvantage or hardship resulting from an applicant’s sexual orientation or gender identity; and
- a bachelor’s degree, or an equivalent qualification as recognised by UWA; and
- the equivalent of a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 5.5 (out of 7.0), across all completed tertiary studies; or
- the equivalent of a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 5.0 (out of 7.0), across all completed tertiary studies; and a satisfactory Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score as determined by the JD selection committee.

Admission under the Equity and Diversity pathway will be awarded in the first instance to applicants satisfying the first three pathways above and then the highest ranked applicants of the remaining pathways. The student quota for this pathway is a maximum of 20 places per year.

**English language requirements**

A minimum IELTS overall score of 7.5 is required for entry to the JD, with a minimum of 7.5 in the Reading and Writing bands and 7.0 in the Listening and Speaking bands. For students below these levels English language pathway programs are available.

**Faculty of Law**

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