



DOCTOR OF LEGAL SCIENCE STRUCTURE AND CREDIT PROTOCOL

Contact Officer	Associate Dean (Research)
Date First Approved	20 May 2015
Approval Authority	Law Executive
Date of Next Review	21 April 2022

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1. Under the Australian Quality Framework (AQF), the Doctor of Legal Science ('SJD') is a Level 10 Doctoral Degree (the same level as the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)). This protocol introduces flexibility into how the SJD may be structured.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this protocol, the following words/phrases have the meaning attributed to them below:

Executive Dean ('ED') or delegate The Executive Dean ('ED') or delegate of the Faculty of Law.

3. THE PROTOCOL

Where the candidate holds no LLM degree:

- 3.1. Subject to the qualifications for admission into the SJD degree program, a candidate who holds no LLM degree may receive an SJD degree if he or she successfully completes:
- 3.1.1. 6 x 10 CP LLM coursework subjects; and
 - 3.1.2. a thesis of 50,000 -70,000 words.¹
- 3.2. Unless an exemption is granted by the Executive Dean ('ED') or delegate, one of the coursework subjects under (a) above must be Advanced Legal Reasoning, Research and Writing, and international candidates will be encouraged to complete the JD version of Australian Legal System in their first semester, especially if the candidate's law degree is not common-law based.
- 3.3. Candidates may receive credit of up to two coursework subjects for prior LLM studies by coursework at Bond or another recognised tertiary educational institution. A candidate may apply for enrolment in the SJD after completing a minimum of three LLM coursework subjects, whether at Bond or at another recognised tertiary educational institution, provided that she or he has achieved a CPA of at least 75 per cent in those subjects.
- 3.4. A candidate who completes the six coursework subjects under (a) above may elect to continue to complete the two further subjects to obtain the LLM and stop there, or else continue toward completion of the SJD.

¹ The word count **includes** footnotes but **excludes** front matter, bibliography, and in some cases, the appendices. By way of comparison, the PhD thesis word count limit is 80,000-100,000 words **including** footnotes but **excluding** front matter, bibliography, and in some cases, the appendices. The LLM (Res) thesis word count limit is up to 50,000 words **including** footnotes but **excluding** front matter, bibliography, and in some cases, the appendices.

Where the candidate holds a LLM degree:

- 3.5.** Subject to the qualifications for admission into the SJD degree program, a candidate who already holds an LLM degree from a recognised tertiary educational institution may receive an SJD degree if he or she successfully completes:²
- 3.5.1.** a thesis of 80,000 – 100,000 words ; or
 - 3.5.2.** 1 x 10 CP LLM coursework subject and a thesis of 75,000 – 95,000 words; or
 - 3.5.3.** 2 x 10 CP LLM coursework subjects and a thesis of 70,000 – 90,000 words; or
 - 3.5.4.** 3 x 10 CP LLM coursework subjects and a thesis of 65,000 – 85,000 words; or
 - 3.5.5.** 4 x 10 CP LLM coursework subjects and a thesis of 60,000 – 80,000 words; or
 - 3.5.6.** 5 x 10 CP LLM coursework subjects and a thesis of 55,000 – 75,000 words; or
 - 3.5.7.** 6 x 10 CP LLM coursework subjects and a thesis of 50,000 – 70,000 words.
- 3.6.** Unless an exemption is granted by the ED or delegate, one of the coursework subjects under options (b)–(g) above must be Advanced Legal Reasoning, Research and Writing (undertaken in the first year of his or her enrolment), and international candidates will be encouraged to complete the JD version of Australian Legal System in their first semester, especially if the candidate’s law degree is not common-law based.
- 3.7.** Where the ED or delegate is unsure about a candidate’s prior research experience, he or she may require the candidate to undertake a minimum of three LLM coursework subjects (including Advanced Legal Reasoning and Writing in the first semester of the candidate’s enrolment), and then a thesis of 65,000 – 85,000 words.
- 3.8.** No candidate may enrol under option (a) above unless the candidate has completed an LLM by research or the ED or delegate is satisfied that the candidate would meet the qualifications for entry into the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program.

Transition:

- 3.9.** Unless the ED or delegate approves otherwise, a candidate enrolled in the SJD program of study at the date of commencement of this protocol will complete under the old rules. New 10 CP LLM subjects will be accepted as equivalent to the old 15 CP LLM subjects. Candidates enrolling after the commencement of this protocol will fall under the new model.

Individual Study:

- 3.10.** A student may complete up to two coursework subjects by two individual studies provided the Faculty requirements for undertaking individual studies have been met, subject to the approval of the ED or delegate, unless the credit sought from two completed individual studies accounts for more than 50% of the total coursework component for the SJD program undertaken.

4. RELATED POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS

LAW 2.03 Individual Study in Law Protocol.

5. RELATED GUIDELINES AND FORMS

Nil

² All word counts **include** footnotes but **exclude** front matter, bibliography, and in some cases, the appendices.

6. MODIFICATION HISTORY

Date	Sections	Details
20 May 2015	All	Date of Approval
20 May 2016	All	Date of last amendment
21 April 2020	All	Date of last review
21 April 2022	All	Date of next review