

Faculty of Law

LLD – Doctor of Laws



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG

FACULTY OF LAW



**Our Future
Reimagined**

Purpose of the qualification

The purpose of this qualification is to let students demonstrate an ability to make an own, distinctive and novel contribution to the corpus of knowledge on a particular subject of legal study.

Rules of access

General

- i. The minimum entry requirement is an LLM degree at NQF level 8 or 9 and a minimum number of credits of 892. Candidates for admission to doctoral degrees in general need to have obtained their previous degree with an average mark of at least 65%.
- ii. The Board of the Faculty may require students to submit to an oral examination on set study material to demonstrate their competence for doctoral research before they are admitted to the qualification.
- iii. The relevant Head of Department may permit an applicant to register as a student for purposes of receiving guidance with, and use the facilities of the University for, the preparation of a research proposal. This does not create an expectation that the student will be admitted to doctoral studies and such registration is provisional pending the approval of the admission of the student by the Board of the Faculty of Law. The Board of the Faculty of Law approves the admission of the student and recommends to the Senate Higher Degrees Committee of the University the title of the thesis and the supervisor(s) on the basis of - academic merit of the student; - prior qualifications obtained by the student; - the merit of the research proposal submitted to the Board; and - the availability and competence of a member of faculty to promote the study.

Recognition of prior learning

Through recognition of prior learning, a student may gain access, or advanced placement, or recognition of status, on condition that he/she continues his/her studies at this University. For more information refer to the Faculty Regulations booklet available online, www.uj.ac.za/law.

Assessment

General

- i. Integrated assessment, focusing on the achievement of the exit-level outcomes, will be done.
- ii. Students are assessed on
 - their ability to demonstrate an interpretative, problem-sensitive understanding-based on research of stated law and scholarly writings – of the fundamental legal principles underlying the subject-matter of the thesis;
 - an ability to communicate this understanding accurately, systematically and lucidly; and

- the competency to utilise this understanding to develop these principles into theoretical constructs applied to areas of knowledge not yet explored or integrated into the relevant field of law, and thereby to generate novel solutions to recognised problems.
- iii. Assessment, therefore, strongly focuses on
 - an exhibition of specialised knowledge and
 - the ability of students to make an own, distinctive and original contribution to the knowledge on the subject of study.
 - iv. Assessment is based on the principles of continuous and regular assessment and complete and prompt feedback.
 - v. Assessment consists of two components: formative assessment and summative assessment .

Formative assessment practices

- i. Formative assessment is aimed at the development of a life-long learning culture based on continuous self-study and at the preparation of students for writing a quality thesis.
- ii. In the course of the writing of the thesis, the student is required to take part in a number of seminar discussions on subjects relating to the research topic. The purpose is to give the student an opportunity to present and defend the research proposal to assess the student's understanding of the field of study and his/her ability to communicate effectively on problem areas and issues related to the research topic and to encourage peer and self-assessment. In addition, the student is stimulated and encouraged by his/her participation in discourse on the field of study and, particularly, the thesis. The student must present the results of the research projects and simultaneously justify the originality of the thesis in a final seminar discussion.
- iii. Throughout, regular meetings between students and their promoters take place during which all aspects pertaining to the preparation for the oral examination, the research topic, the conducting of the research, and the writing and finalisation of the thesis are discussed.
- iv. The promoter assesses the student continuously and, equally important, guides him/her through the process.

Summative assessment

- i. As part of the requirements for completion of the degree a formal oral examination must be passed before the student formally embarks on the writing of the thesis. The oral examination serves to assess the student's ability to engage in the type of research, and the writing of the thesis, required for this qualification.
The candidate may be exempted from the examination by the Board of the Faculty of Law on the ground of the candidate having passed oral or written examinations in respect of a previously obtained qualification which adequately assessed the candidate's ability to engage in the type of research to be undertaken and the writing of the thesis.

- ii. Summative assessment is finalised when the final thesis is assessed as provided for in the Academic Regulations and the Higher Degrees and Postgraduate Assessment Policy.
- iii. Each assessor must submit a written report, assessing the substantive content and the formal presentation of the thesis.
The qualification is obtained if the thesis is accepted.
- v. As a further demonstration of the student's ability in this regard, the student is required to submit a publishable article based on the thesis that may, at the discretion of the study leader, be submitted for publication in a law journal under the name of the student or the names of both the student and the study leader.

Pass requirements

To obtain the qualification, the thesis must be accepted.

Curriculum

- i. The minimum period of study for the LLD degree is two years.
- ii. The maximum period of study for the LLD degree is four years. Extension of this period will only be entertained in exceptional circumstances and will be dealt with in accordance with the Higher Degrees and Postgraduate Studies Policy.
- iii. The curriculum comprises a thesis, being an original contribution to the knowledge of and insight into the subject.
- iv. The student must also submit a publishable article based on his/her thesis that may, at the discretion of the promoter, be submitted for publication in a law journal under the authorship of the student or both the student and the promoter.
- v. The LLD degree is offered in the following specialisation fields:

a	Administrative Law
b	Civil Procedural Law
c	Constitutional Law
d	Criminal Law
e	Criminal Procedural Law
f	Human Rights
g	Indigenous Law
h	International Law

i	Interpretation of Statutes
j	Jurisprudence
k	Law of Evidence
l	Mercantile Law
m	Private International Law
n	Private Law
o	Roman Law
p	Social Security Law

For further information and enquiries regarding entry requirements, closing dates and the application procedure, as well as the substance of the coursework, contact the faculty:

Auckland Park Kingsway Campus

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