

| Juris Doctor

كلية القانون
College of Law

جامعة حمد بن خليفة
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY



Juris Doctor

The Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree is a unique model of graduate legal education designed to meet the needs of Qatar and the Middle East. The J.D. is the first-of-its-kind graduate law degree in the MENA region; courses are taught in English, preparing graduates to work in the international legal market.

A J.D. differs from an undergraduate law degree in that it is specifically designed for individuals who already hold an undergraduate degree, regardless of the field of study, including law. The J.D. curriculum is tailored to meet students at their current academic and professional level, ensuring accessibility for those from diverse educational backgrounds. The varied experiences of our J.D. cohorts create a dynamic and enriching peer learning environment that is greater than the sum of its parts. Our student body includes individuals from a wide range of professions, such as medical doctors, engineers, architects, healthcare professionals, teachers, and recent graduates, all contributing to a vibrant and multidisciplinary community.

The College of Law's J.D. curriculum is consistent with the best curricula offered internationally. The J.D. was created through strategic partnership with Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. The J.D. equips graduates with a high level of legal knowledge and complementary research, writing, and advocacy skills. The focus on skills training enables our graduates to make the most of a wide range of career options in the public sector, private corporations, law firms, international organizations, and academia.

The American Bar Association, the governing body of US lawyers, has passed the following resolution about the J.D. degree: "Whereas, the acquisition of a Doctor of

Jurisprudence degree requires from 84 to 90 semester hours of post baccalaureate study and the Doctor of Philosophy degree usually requires 60 semester hours of post baccalaureate study along with the writing of a dissertation, the two degrees shall be considered as equivalent degrees for educational employment purposes." J.D. graduates are also well-positioned to undertake further legal studies in the United States and other countries in Europe. Recent J.D. graduates have pursued or are pursuing LL.M. degrees at Duke University School of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Harvard Law School, New York University School of Law, and The Graduate Institute, Geneva.

So far, two have become licensed to practice law in Qatar, three J.D. graduates have become licensed to practice law in New York after completing the LL.M. degree at a US law school, one graduate is now an Ontario Licensed Lawyer and another graduate who pursued licensing in the New South Wales Bar is now practicing in Australia.

In short, our J.D. graduates rise to the top as they have combined previous university education and training with three years of rigorous, interdisciplinary legal education.





Graduates of this program will be equipped to:

- ▶ Exhibit comprehensive knowledge of the common, civil, and Shari'a legal traditions and how they apply to the practice of law within public, international, and private sectors.
- ▶ Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of substantive and procedural issues of certain domestic systems and the international system.
- ▶ Make use of legal doctrine to conduct comparative analysis of multiple systems and formulate reasoned analysis of contemporary legal issues.
- ▶ Test research abilities to shape new policy in a comparative and international legal context.
- ▶ Demonstrate effective communication skills and superior knowledge of professional responsibility issues and can decisively identify the appropriate course of action in a given situation.

Program Focus

The first year and a half (Part I) of the program focuses on the foundations for lawyering, while the second year and a half (Part II) applies and elaborates on the legal principles from Part I to major sectors that are vital to Qatar and the region.

The courses in Part I, foundations for lawyering, develop the student's understanding of legal doctrine in key subjects. They also develop analytical and reasoning skills so that the student can articulate the relevant principles and apply them to real-world problems. Taught from a comparative perspective, the courses in Part I examine the different legal systems that converge in global legal practice with a focus on identifying common themes and points

of departure. Part I also trains students on how to navigate from one system to another, depending on the exigencies of the transnational transactions they will be required to manage during their professional careers.

During Part II, students apply and further develop their foundational skills in sectors that are vital to Qatar and the region. These areas include energy, healthcare, global economic law and governance, construction & infrastructure development, media, and sports.

Accompanying the dynamic curriculum is a robust array of co-curricular activities designed to enhance the student learning experience. These include regular talks by leading experts, who provide valuable insights into contemporary legal issues. Additionally, student moot court competitions offer a vital platform for developing advocacy and analytical skills. In these competitions, students argue simulated cases before courts or arbitral tribunals, honing their legal expertise in a practical context. The College of Law has proudly fielded teams in prestigious international competitions, such as the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, and the Europa Competition. Demonstrating its commitment to excellence, the college hosted its first international moot in 2019, the Cybersecurity Moot Competition, which welcomed ten teams from around the world. Notably, the college achieved significant victories in recent years, winning the Dubai International Financial Centre's Digital Economy Moot in 2022 and the Space Law Moot in 2024.

Curriculum

Study Plan:

Year 1

Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
LAW 601	Law and Global Legal Systems	2
LAW 652	Injury Law/Torts	4
LAW 651	Contract Law	4
LAW 650	Property Law	4
LAW 667	Legal Analysis, Writing and Research I	2
Total Credits		16

Year 2

Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
LAW 665	Administrative Law	4
LAW 659	Commercial Law	4
LAW 666	Criminal Law and Procedure	4
LAW 669	Legal Analysis, Writing and Research III	2
Total Credits		14

Summer Semester

Code	Course Name	Credits
LAW 721	Qatari Criminal Law: Substance & Procedure	2
LAW 722	Legal Aspects of the Qatari Administrative State	2

Year 3

All courses in the third year are Electives except for LAW 753 Healthcare Law.

Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
LAW 752	Construction & Infrastructure Development	3
LAW 750	Energy Law	3
LAW 753	Healthcare Law	3
LAW 760/765	Sports Law, or Media and Cultural Law	3
LAW 763	Law, Technology and Intellectual Property I	2
Total Credits		14

Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
LAW 653	Constitutional Law	4
LAW 654	International Law	4
LAW 655	Business Associations	4
LAW 668	Legal Analysis, Writing and Research II	2
Total Credits		14

Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
LAW 658	Civil Procedure	2
LAW 678	Dispute Resolution (Negotiation and Trial Advocacy)	3
LAW 675	Ethics & Professional Responsibility	2
LAW 679	Entrepreneurship Law	4
Total Credits		14

Code	Course Name	Credits
LAW 723	Civil and Commercial Procedure Law in Qatar	2
LAW 724	Law & Society in Qatar: Public Law, Family Law and the Constitution	2

Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
LAW 756	Advanced Dispute Resolution	3
LAW 766	Trade Lab	3
LAW 754	Advanced Human Rights	3
LAW 757	Environmental Law	3
LAW 764	Law, Technology and Intellectual Property II	1
Total Credits		13

Total Degree Credits: 85

Additional Offerings

Code	Course Name	Credits
LAW 706 or LAW 692	Independent Study or Legal Internship	2

Code	Course Name	Credits
LAW 701	Law Seminar	1



Admission and Application Requirements

Admissions to the J.D. program requires a bachelor's degree with a strong academic record (minimum 3.0 GPA out of 4) from a recognized university.

Unless exempt, applicants are required to submit an IELTS score of 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 79 to demonstrate their proficiency in English. Please visit our website admissions.hbku.edu.qa for more details on the language proficiency requirement and the process to seek exemption, where this is an option.

Application requirements

A completed online application form:
admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Academic transcripts

Official electronic copies of transcripts should be submitted as part of the online application. Final transcripts and graduation statements are required for all previous university studies. All transcripts submitted should include an explanation of the grading system. For those who have not completed their current studies, transcripts must include results from the last completed semester of coursework. Transcripts in languages other than English or Arabic must be accompanied with an official translation. Applicants who are admitted to the program based on copies of or incomplete transcripts will be required to provide original transcripts upon enrollment in order to register for courses.

Letters of recommendation

Two letters of recommendation from previous or current professors, employers, or other individuals familiar with the applicant's qualifications.

Standardized test results

Official copies (where required) must be sent directly to HBKU. Please refer to the institutional codes below:

- ▶ TOEFL: 4981
- ▶ IELTS: No code required. Students should ask the IELTS center where they tested to send the IELTS TRF to Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

Applicants should also submit copies of their test scores with the online application.

Personal statement of interest

The personal statement should introduce the applicant to the Admissions Committee. Topics that may be discussed include personal or professional goals and personal, academic, or career history.

The Committee looks beyond test scores and grade point averages in making selection decisions. The personal statement gives the Committee a means to consider a variety of factors in assessing applicants.

Resume/Curriculum vitae

Applicants should submit a copy of their current resume or curriculum vitae as part of the online application.

Identification document

All applicants should submit an electronic copy of their passport as part of the online application. Nationals and residents of Qatar should also submit their valid Qatari ID.

Student funding

The College of Law has a limited number of partial tuition waivers for the J.D. program, which are awarded on a competitive basis. Further information will be provided to applicants who are admitted into the program.

Admission inquiries

admissions.cl@hbku.edu.qa