The Juris Doctor (JD) is a world-renowned qualification in law, offered at universities such as Harvard, Stanford and Columbia in the USA, and The University of Melbourne in Australia.

Commenced in 2013, the JD at UWA provides an internationally recognised degree. Designed to meet the needs of the modern law practitioner, it equips students with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to succeed beyond university.

A three-year postgraduate degree by coursework, the JD requires the completion of 24 units comprising of compulsory and option units. The course also provides a greater level of face to face learning than the previous LLB.

Unique to the JD is the inclusion of Dispute Resolution as a core area of study, an essential skill for the contemporary practice of law. You will also benefit from an increasing focus on practical legal skills including drafting, legal research and advocacy.

Undertaken after the completion of a bachelor's degree, in any discipline, successful completion of the JD is your entry into legal practice.

Benefits of the new JD

- The combination of an undergraduate and a postgraduate degree gives you a competitive edge in the workforce
- Engaging with practitioners and experts through the course of study enhances your links with the legal community
- The postgraduate nature of the course enables you to build on a strong foundation of knowledge learned at the undergraduate level
- Studying over a three year time frame allows you to retain your class cohort and a valuable future network within your profession

law.uwa.edu.au/courses/postgrad/jd
Course structure and study options

The course consists of 24 units totaling 144 points and can be undertaken full-time or part-time. A minimum of two units must be taken per semester whilst undertaking core units.

Units which are undertaken in the JD include:

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

Year two
- S1 LAWS5101 Constitutional Law
- S1 LAWS5102 Administrative Law
- S1 LAWS5103 Equity and Trusts
- S2 LAWS5104 Corporations Law
- S2 LAWS5105 Remedies
- S2 LAWS4105 Dispute Resolution

Year three
- S1 LAWS5107 Evidence
- S1 LAWS5108 Commercial Practice
- S2 LAWS5115 Procedure

In years two and three additional option units are undertaken from a range of areas including commercial, international, private and public law.

Entry pathways for the JD

Assured entry
A limited number of assured entry places will be given to highly qualified students commencing an undergraduate course at UWA. The minimum ATAR for consideration is 98; 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 an assured place is conditional on a student maintaining a minimum grade point average of 5.5 during their undergraduate degree.

Standard pathway
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, for more information visit law.uwa.edu.au/courses/juris-doctor-jd/about-the-lsat.

For information on other pathways visit studyat.uwa.edu.au/juris-doctor

JD 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

Why a UWA Law qualification?

- UWA is in the top 1% of World Universities, currently ranked 91st in the Academic Ranking of World Universities and the only Western Australian University part of the prestigious Australian Group of Eight.
- UWA is member of the Worldwide Universities Network of 16 member universities from across four continents and is also a member of the Matariki Network of Universities, a global group of high-quality universities across seven nations.
- The Law School has over 80 years of academic excellence – graduates have built rewarding careers in the legal, government, education, business and the not-for-profit sectors.
- UWA Law alumni have attained success at the highest levels and include a former Prime Minister, Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence, Chief Justices of the High Court and State Supreme Courts, Attorneys-General and Solicitors-General.
- Awards and honours conferred on UWA Law alumni include Australian of the Year, Rhodes Scholarships and the Order of Australia.