

# | 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 as it targets individuals who already hold an undergraduate degree, which can be in any subject, including law. The J.D. education builds on the student's previous expertise and experience, allowing students to pursue expertise in law that is aligned with their previous degree or move in a completely different direction.

The College of Law's J.D. curriculum is consistent with the best offered internationally. The J.D. was created through a 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, The Graduate Institute, Geneva.

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





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**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 a dynamic curriculum is an extensive offering of co-curricular activities, such as colloquia and Majlis, at which leading experts provide insights on contemporary legal topics. Additionally, student moot court competitions, in which students argue a simulated case before a court or arbitral tribunal, provide an important avenue for skills development. Through moot courts, students experience drafting memorials and engaging in oral arguments. The College of Law has fielded teams in top international competitions, including the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, and the Europa Competition. In 2019, the College of Law hosted its first international moot, the Cybersecurity Law Moot Court Competition, featuring ten teams from around the world.

## 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, Research and Writing I	2
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

##### 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, Research and Writing II	2
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>14</b>

#### Year 2

##### Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
Law 655	Administrative Law	4
Law 659	Commercial Law	4
Law 666	Criminal Law and Procedure	4
Law 669	Legal Analysis, Research and Writing III	2
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>14</b>

##### 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 676	Introduction to the Legal Foundations of the Global Economy (International Business Transactions, International Investment Law, and International Taxation)	3
Law 679	Entrepreneurship Law	4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>14</b>

#### Year 3

##### 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
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>14</b>

##### Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
Law 756	Advanced Dispute Resolution	3
Law 751	Global Economic Law and Governance	3
Law 754	Advanced Human Rights	3
Law 757	Environmental Law	3
Law 764	Law, Technology and Intellectual Property II	1
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>13</b>

Total Degree Credits: 85

#### Additional Offerings

Code	Course Name	Credits
Law 706	Independant Study	2
Law 701	Law Seminar	1



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## 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](https://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](https://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.

### 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.

### Letters of recommendation

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

### 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](mailto:admissions.cl@hbku.edu.qa)