

JD credit unit statement  
2016-2017 and thereafter

The JD curriculum consists of six different types of courses which are taught in distinctive learning modes. It requires candidates to complete at least 144 credits with a total study load of 3,600 learning hours. All courses are 6-credit in value. We use 150 hours of student learning activities (including 36 contact hours) as the norm for a 6-credit course, and 180 hours for experiential courses. Some of the courses are assessed with 100% continuous assessment. For courses assessed by a combination of coursework and examination, the actual percentages may range from 20% to 80% of respectively continuous assessment and in-hall examinations or vice versa. The Head of Department, on this basis, will ensure a proper balance in the allocation of weight to different modes of assessment. The six categories of law courses are summarized as follows:

**1. Introductory courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)**

These are mostly first and second year courses emphasizing foundational legal concepts; basic institutional framework; essential legal skills such as case reading, legal research and writing and communication skills, and statutory interpretation. They also include courses on cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as linguistic/technical skills. Introductory courses are taught mainly in lecture/tutorial or large seminar format and assessments are in the form of periodical assignments, short research papers with a total output of approximately 5000 to 6000 words and/or in-hall examinations (with coursework ranging between 20% - 80% and examinations 80%-20%)

**2. Foundation/survey courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)**

These courses are the core building blocks of legal education and the foundation for legal practice. Each course in this category provides a comprehensive survey of a specific area of law. These courses are mainly taught in lecture/tutorial format and assessments are mainly in the form of in-hall examinations combined with varying elements of coursework, including short research papers with a total output of approximately 5000 to 6000 words (coursework 20%-80%, examinations 80%-20%)

**3. Advanced elective courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)**

These courses offer specialized/advanced legal or cross-disciplinary knowledge. They are mainly taught in seminar format with heavy reliance on extensive reading before the seminars and active participation in class discussion. These courses aim to further enhance students' knowledge of legal concepts as well as analytical and evaluative skills. Assessment for this category of course is by way of a combination of class presentation, take-home examination, in-hall examination and/or research papers, with a total output of approx. 5000 to 6000 words.

**4. Research courses (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)**

These courses aim to provide students with the theoretical insights and cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as an opportunity to pursue advanced and independent research. These courses try to help students develop original and critical thinking through independent research. Research courses are assessed by a single research paper of at least 6,000 or 10,000 words or a combination of a research paper and a class presentation.

**5. Experiential courses (6 credits, 180 hours of student learning activities)**

Experiential courses include internships and placements in Hong Kong and Mainland China, and the clinical legal course. These courses aim to familiarize students with the social environment in which law operates and the practical dimension of legal studies. They aim to offer opportunities for students to apply and test their legal knowledge and critical and analytical legal skills they have learned in other courses. Students in this category of courses are assessed by a report of approx. 5000 words with intensive feedback from academic staff and/or practitioners.

**6. Moot competition and mediation training (6 credits, 150 hours of student learning activities)**

Compulsory moot competition and mediation training aim to train students to integrate legal knowledge with various types of legal skills including conducting legal research, writing of submissions and memorandums, mediation and advocacy skills. Students in this course are assessed by their written submission and a mediation report of approximately 2500 words each and performance in mediation and advocacy.