

Faculty of Law  
Juris Doctor Programme  
Course and Unit Exemption in Recognition of Previous Study

Juris Doctor (JD) students, may make an application for exemption from certain courses and units. The maximum number of units for which exemptions may be granted is 36.

**Scope of Applications for Course & Unit Exemptions**

JD students may apply for course and/or unit exemptions in recognition of courses successfully completed in another postgraduate degree or equivalent programme.

Where a previously completed course attracts both course exemption and unit exemption, the student is exempted from completing the comparable JD course, and the course units are credited towards the 72 units required for graduation.

Where a previously completed course attracts course exemption only, the student is exempted from completing the comparable JD course, but the units attached to the JD course are not credited towards the 72 units required for graduation. The student must complete another JD course of at least equal value to the exempted JD course.

Students may apply and obtain course and/or unit exemptions only for the **Required Courses** or **Elective Courses Required for Admission to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL)** in the JD programme, as set out in the schedule [attached](#).

Applications for course exemption and/or unit exemptions will not be accepted for any other course unless specifically approved by the Juris Doctor Programme Director in advance of the student taking the elective course at CUHK or at another institution.

**Prerequisites for Course and/or Unit Exemptions**

In order to qualify for course and/or unit exemption in respect of a course, students must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Content-based Requirements. The Faculty must be satisfied that the previously completed course has similar content to the comparable JD course.
2. Minimum Grade Requirements. Students must have achieved a grade of at least B (or equivalent) in the previously completed course.
3. Postgraduate Level Requirements. The previously completed course must have been successfully completed in another postgraduate degree or equivalent programme. For these purposes:
  - a. A programme will normally be regarded as “postgraduate” if it is a degree or diploma programme classified as “postgraduate”, or “graduate” by a university or other institute of tertiary education (e.g. JD, LL.M, postgraduate diploma, SJD). A programme will normally be “equivalent” to a postgraduate programme if it is open only to graduate applicants and if it results in the award of a degree or diploma by a university or other institute of tertiary education (e.g. a graduate-entry LL.B or a graduate-entry diploma).
  - b. Courses in certificate, sub-degree, or undergraduate-entry degree programmes will not attract exemption.
  - c. Previously completed courses in other postgraduate programmes will usually attract full course and/or unit exemption for comparable courses in the JD programme if the requirements mentioned in this section are satisfied. Where the previously completed course was part of an equivalent programme, unit exemption will usually be granted only on the basis that 2 units in that previously completed course is equivalent to 1 unit in the JD programme unless the previously completed course was taught and assessed at the postgraduate level.
4. Restricted use of credits used for graduation requirements in another postgraduate degree or equivalent programme: A student who has completed courses in another postgraduate degree or equivalent programme and who has graduated or intends to graduate in that degree or programme, may not have credit from courses in that programme applied towards unit exemption in the JD programme. In the event that the course did contribute to the successful completion of another postgraduate degree or equivalent programme, then it will normally attract a course exemption only.
5. Time Limit: The previously completed course must have been successfully completed within three years immediately preceding the year in which the application for a course and unit exemption is made.

**Application Period for Course and/or Unit Exemptions**

The application must be made by the end of Week 1 of Term 1 of each academic year. Late applications will not be processed. Students should not assume they will be granted an exemption for the comparable JD course and should still register for the relevant course in accordance with the suggested course sequence of the JD programme. In the event that the student is granted an exemption, the student will automatically be removed from the relevant course.

**Admission to the PCLL**

It is the students' responsibility to ensure that they will be able to satisfy admission requirements for the PCLL with results or credits obtained for a previously completed course in the event that they are granted course and unit exemptions for a comparable Juris Doctor course.

June 2013