Research

Sydney Law School is a major international centre for legal research. It has internationally renowned Faculty members, across a wide range of fields. It also has the largest postgraduate research program in Australia with more than 100 research students, many from interstate or overseas, currently enrolled in doctoral or masters programs. An important aspect of the research program is the advanced training given in Legal Research for all doctoral candidates. Sydney Law School was also the first in Australia to add an SJD program as an alternative to a PhD. This doctoral program combines coursework with a major thesis. Sydney Law School has a vibrant and dynamic research culture. The Law School convenes many seminars and conferences on cutting-edge issues in law throughout the year, and is privileged to have the active involvement of leading international academics, members of the profession, the judiciary, and government in its intellectual life.
The Sydney Law School offers four research programs designed to equip candidates for careers in areas including advanced research, policy development, public service, tertiary teaching or professional leadership. Our programs will enable you to develop and acquire sophisticated skills in research and analysis, honed through work on a topic of your choice that expands legal thinking and understanding.

**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

The PhD is awarded on the basis of a thesis, which is regarded by the examiners as a substantially original contribution to the knowledge of the subject concerned. Candidates are required to complete a thesis of 100,000 words supervised by Faculty research academics and three compulsory research-support units, namely Legal Research 1, 2 and 3. Candidates who are not able to demonstrate sufficient research experience may be initially admitted to the Masters degree by research with a view to upgrading to a PhD upon evidence of satisfactory progress.

**Doctor Juridical Studies (SJD)**

The SJD offers candidates a unique combination of research and coursework. The degree comprises a minor coursework component and a major thesis of 75,000 words. The thesis is supervised and examined on the same criteria as the PhD. Candidates are also required to complete three coursework units of study (total of 18 credit points) which relate to the thesis topic (lecture timetable) and three compulsory research-support units, namely Legal Research 1, 2 and 3. The coursework units are to be completed in conjunction with the thesis and research-support units. Hence, applicants must submit a research proposal and proposed study plan with their formal application for admission. Units of study which have been completed previously in a Masters by coursework and are directly relevant to the thesis topic may be considered for credit (up to the maximum of 18 credit points) towards the coursework component of the SJD. Credit will not be granted for units which have contributed to the award of another degree. Evidence of course discontinuation of the degree should accompany the application for credit.

**Master of Laws (LLM) by Research**

The LLM is awarded on the basis of a supervised thesis of 50,000 words. The thesis must make a substantial contribution to the knowledge of the subject concerned. Candidates are also required to undertake the compulsory research-support unit, Legal Research 1.

**Master of Criminology (MCrim) by Research**

The MCMCrim is awarded on the basis of a supervised thesis of 50,000 words. The thesis must make a substantial contribution to the knowledge of the subject concerned. Candidates are also required to undertake the compulsory research-support unit, Legal Research 1. Candidates often explore aspects involving criminal law, forensic psychiatry, drug policy and the law, gender and race relations, youth and crime, policing in society, and other social and cultural aspects of criminal justice.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You must ensure that you are academically qualified to undertake a program of research before you submit an Expression of Interest Form. If you are not qualified you should instead consider taking a coursework program. There are three main conditions of admission, namely:

1. Academic qualifications
2. Research and publication experience
3. Suitability of the proposed course of study and research.

1. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The minimum academic entry requirements for research degrees are:

**PhD**
The minimum admission requirements are a Masters degree or a Bachelors degree at either First or Second-Class Honours.

**SJD**
The minimum admission requirements are a Master of Laws (LLM) degree or a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree with First or Second-Class Honours.

**LLM by research**
Entry requires a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree with First or Second-Class Honours.

**MCrim by research**
Entry requires an Honours degree at either First or Second-Class division.
Note: Applicants may be admitted to a research program based on qualifications which the Postgraduate Research Committee considers to be equivalent to an Honours degree.

2. RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS EXPERIENCE

In addition to academic achievements, the applicant must also submit satisfactory evidence of training and the ability to pursue and complete the proposed program within the minimum course duration. This may be demonstrated for example by showing the successful completion of a sustained piece of research in an earlier degree program, scholarly publications, or sustained research in a professional capacity (for example, an applicant who has worked as a research assistant on a successfully completed project), or has experience in some other research-related endeavour for part-time candidates. If you are a Diploma in Law (DipLaw) graduate from the Law Extension Committee, you are eligible to apply for this qualification and then upgrade to the LLM following approval.

3. SUITABILITY OF PROPOSED COURSE OF STUDY & RESEARCH

The proposal must be:
- suitable in scope and standard for the Masters/Doctorate
- one that the applicant is competent to undertake
- one for which supervision and facilities can be properly provided equivalent to an Honours degree.

RESEARCH AREAS

The Sydney Law School offers research candidates the opportunity to pursue their interests in the following major research areas:

- Asia & Pacific Law
- Constitutional & Public Law
- Contract, Commercial & Obligation Law
- Corporate Law
- Criminal Law & Criminology
- Employment Law
- Environmental Law
- Equity, Property & Family Law
- Health Governance Law & Ethics
- International Law
- Jurisprudence
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Taxation Law
HOW TO APPLY

There are two steps involved in making an application to a research program:
1. Expression of Interest
2. Formal application for admission

1. Expression of Interest
Prior to making a formal application, prospective students must lodge an Expression of Interest providing information about their area of intended research, academic qualifications, professional or other qualifications, details about their original research activities and publications, and any other information relevant to the application on the Expression of Interest Form. Prospective students must complete and forward this form by e-mail to: sue.ng@sydney.edu.au

2. Formal application for admission
Once the prospective student is advised to make a formal application, they must complete an Application for Admission form. The form may be downloaded at the following websites:
Local applicants: http://sydney.edu.au/law
International applicants: http://sydney.edu.au/internationaloffice

FEES
Local students are exempt from course fees. The fee for international candidates is as follows:
- PhD, SJD & LLM by Research - AUD $37,100 per year
- MCrIm by Research - $37,100 per year
Time to completion is 3-4 years full-time for local and international students for the Doctoral programs and 1-2 years full-time for the Masters programs.
Local students can enrol on a part-time basis where time to completion is 3-8 years for Doctoral programs and 2-4 years for the Masters programs.