

Individual Study in Law Policy

Category/Sub Category	Student Affairs and Service Quality/ Learning and Teaching
Policy Number:	LAW 2.03
Name of Policy:	Individual Study in Law Policy
Applicability:	All Law students
Contact Position:	Student Affairs and Service Quality Manager (or Research Development Manager for SJD students)
Policy Status:	Issue 5
Date of approval:	15 February 2012
Date last amended:	15 November 2019
Date of next review:	15 November 2021
Related policies:	Nil

1. Overview

1.1 This policy sets out the current practice within the Faculty of Law in relation to:

- a) A Bachelor of Laws student's entitlement to complete up to two individual studies, in circumstances where the student wishes to pursue a theme or focus not catered for by the Faculty's undergraduate elective offerings.
- b) A Juris Doctor or Masters student's entitlement to complete up to two individual studies (and to allow for the completion of a third individual study for Master of Laws students only), in circumstances where the student wishes to pursue a theme or focus not catered for by the Faculty's postgraduate elective offerings.
- c) A Postgraduate Law Study Abroad/Exchange student's entitlement to complete an individual study at Bond Faculty of Law.
- d) A Doctor of Legal Science (Research) student's entitlement to complete up to two individual studies, in circumstances where a student wishes to pursue a theme or focus not catered for by the Faculty's postgraduate elective offerings.

1.2 Each semester, the Faculty will appoint an academic to act as the *Individual Study in Law* coordinator. One responsibility of this coordinator will be to notify students of the outcome of their application to complete an *Individual Study in Law*.

2. Definitions

Bachelor of Laws student:	A student enrolled in a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree, or combined LLB degree.
Doctor of Legal Science (Research) student:	A student enrolled in a Doctor of Legal Science (Research) degree (SJD).
Elective offering:	A subject offered, which when completed and combined with all pre-requisites for a specific degree, complete the degree program.
Juris Doctor student:	A student enrolled in a Juris Doctor (JD) degree.
Masters student:	A student enrolled in a Master of Laws (LLM) or Master of Legal Administration (MLA) degree.
Postgraduate Law Study Abroad/Exchange Student:	A student admitted into a Postgraduate (PG) Law Study Abroad/Exchange program.

3. Bachelor of Laws Students

- 3.1. In the case of an individual study credited towards an LLB degree, the student will provide a 2,000 word research proposal (weighted at 20% and due by Friday of Week 5) which leads to an 8,000 word research paper (weighted at 80% and due by Friday of Week 12) in satisfaction of the requirements of the subject. As a general rule, word limits are exclusive of footnotes, and footnotes should contain only references.
- 3.2. The student will meet regularly with a Faculty academic during the semester to finalise a topic, determine methodology and discuss progress. The Faculty academic will act as supervisor as well as examiner.
- 3.3. A student enrolled in an LLB degree may complete up to two elective subjects by two individual studies, subject to the approval of the Associate Dean (Student Affairs and Service Quality), or delegate, based upon the following criteria:
 - a) A Faculty academic must be prepared to supervise the student on an agreed topic within their area of expertise and the topic should be a discrete area of inquiry not covered in previous studies by that student.
 - b) The student will normally be required to have a 65% or above average in LAWS subjects and to have completed a minimum of 120 credit points of compulsory law subjects.
 - c) There is no subject offered or intended to be offered within the term of the expected length of the student's degree that would adequately satisfy the topic area of the individual study.
 - d) The student submits an *Application for Individual Study in Law* form as per the submission procedure listed on the form.
- 3.4. The student must submit their assessment pieces by the required deadlines to allow time for marking and confirmation at the Board of Examiners meeting of that semester.

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4. Juris Doctor and Masters Students

- 4.1. In the case of an individual study credited towards a JD, LLM, or MLA degree, the student will provide a 2,000 word research proposal (weighted at 20% and due by Friday of Week 5) which leads to a 10,000 word research paper (weighted at 80% and due by Friday of Week 12) in satisfaction of the requirements of the subject. As a general rule, word limits are exclusive of footnotes, and footnotes should contain only references.
- 4.2. The student will meet regularly with a Faculty academic during the semester to finalise a topic, determine methodology and discuss progress. The Faculty academic will act as supervisor as well as examiner.
- 4.3. A student enrolled in a JD, LLM, or MLA degree may complete up to two elective subjects by two individual studies, subject to the approval of the Associate Dean (Student Affairs and Service Quality), or delegate, based upon the following criteria:
 - a) A Faculty academic must be prepared to supervise the student on an agreed topic within their area of expertise and the topic should be a discrete area of inquiry not covered in previous undergraduate or postgraduate studies by that student.
 - b) A student enrolled in a JD degree will normally be required to have a 65% or above average in LAWS subjects and to have completed a minimum of 120 credit points of compulsory law subjects.
 - c) A student enrolled in an LLM degree will normally be required to have a 65% or above average in a minimum of two 10cp postgraduate law electives credited towards the degree.
 - d) A student enrolled in an MLA degree will normally be required to have a 65% or above average in a minimum of six 10cp postgraduate law subjects credited towards the degree.
 - e) There is no subject offered or intended to be offered within the term of the expected length of the student's degree that would adequately satisfy the topic area of the individual study.
 - f) The student submits an *Application for Individual Study in Law* form as per the submission procedure listed on the form.
- 4.4. If appropriate supervision is available an LLM student may replace two elective subjects with a minor dissertation worth 20cp, subject to the approval of the Associate Dean (Student Affairs and Service Quality), or delegate, based upon the above criteria.
- 4.5. An LLM student may complete a third individual study if necessary to complete a theme or focus developed in their prior postgraduate studies subject to the approval of the Associate Dean (Student Affairs and Service Quality), or delegate, based upon the above criteria, but with the additional criterion that there should be more than one supervisor for the three individual studies.
- 4.6. An LLM student will not be entitled to obtain credit using individual studies for more than 50% of the total postgraduate coursework component for their LLM degree attempted at Bond Faculty of Law.

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- 4.7 The student must submit their assessment pieces by the required deadlines to allow time for marking and confirmation at the Board of Examiners meeting of that semester.

5. Postgraduate Law Study Abroad/Exchange Students

- 5.1. In the case of an individual study undertaken by a PG Law Study Abroad/Exchange student, the student will provide a 2,000 word research proposal (weighted at 20% and due by Friday of Week 5) which leads to a 10,000 word research paper (weighted at 80% and due by Friday of Week 12) in satisfaction of the requirements of the subject. Alternatively, the Associate Dean (Student Affairs and Service Quality), or delegate, may permit the student to provide a research paper to meet the word count requirements of the degree in which they are enrolled at their home institution, provided that this is not less than 10,000 words. As a general rule, word limits are exclusive of footnotes, and footnotes should contain only references.
- 5.2. The student will meet regularly with a Faculty academic during the semester to finalise a topic, determine methodology and discuss progress. The Faculty academic will act as supervisor as well as examiner.
- 5.3. A student admitted into a PG Law Study Abroad/Exchange program may undertake one individual study, subject to the approval of the Associate Dean (Student Affairs and Service Quality), or delegate, based on the following criteria:
- a) A Faculty academic must be prepared to supervise the student on an agreed topic within their area of expertise and the topic should be a discrete area of inquiry not covered in previous undergraduate or postgraduate studies by that student.
 - b) The student will normally be required to have a 65% or above average in a minimum of two postgraduate subjects credited towards the degree in which they are enrolled at their home institution.
 - c) The student submits an *Application for Individual Study in Law* form as per the submission procedure listed on the form.
- 5.4. The student must submit assessment pieces by the required deadlines to allow time for marking and confirmation at the Board of Examiners meeting of that semester.

6. Doctor of Legal Science (Research) Students

- 6.1. In the case of an individual study credited towards an SJD degree, the student will provide a 2,000 word research proposal (weighted at 20% and due by Friday of Week 5) which leads to a 10,000 word research paper (weighted at 80% and due by Friday of Week 12) in satisfaction of the requirements of the subject. As a general rule, word limits are exclusive of footnotes, and footnotes should contain only references.
- 6.2. The student will meet regularly with a Faculty academic during the semester to finalise a topic, determine methodology and discuss progress. The Faculty academic will act as supervisor as well as examiner.

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- 6.3. A student enrolled in an SJD degree may complete up to two coursework subjects by two individual studies subject to the approval of the Associate Dean (Research), or delegate, based upon the following criteria:
- a) A Faculty academic must be prepared to supervise the student on an agreed topic within their area of expertise and the topic should be a discrete area of study not covered in research work undertaken in previous undergraduate or postgraduate studies by that student.
 - b) There is no subject offered or intended to be offered within the term of the expected length of their candidature that would adequately satisfy the topic area of the individual study.
 - c) The student submits an *Application for Individual Study in Law* form as per the submission procedure listed on the form.
- 6.4. An SJD student will not be entitled to obtain credit using individual studies for more than 50% of the total postgraduate coursework component for their SJD degree attempted at Bond Faculty of Law.
- 6.5. The student must submit their assessment pieces by the required deadlines to allow time for marking and confirmation at the Board of Examiners meeting of that semester.

7. Related Policies/Procedures

Nil

8. Related Guidelines and Forms

Application for Individual Study in Law – see page 6.

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