

5. The LLD programme

In addition to the provisions below, please consult the Postgraduate Guide on the Faculty website at www.sun.ac.za/law.

5.1 Admission requirements

You must have attained one of the undermentioned to apply to read for a doctoral degree in law. Senate will consider every application on merit.

- an LLM degree preceded by an appropriate undergraduate law qualification; *or*
- an LLB degree conferred by this University, or any other bachelor's degree in law (excluding the BProc and Bluris degrees) approved for this purpose by the Senate, and relevant academic or professional experience; *or*
- in exceptional circumstances, a level of proficiency or accomplishment in law which, in the judgement of Senate, is regarded as adequate for this purpose.

Additional requirements to apply to read for a doctoral degree in law

- You must indicate sufficient potential to pursue doctoral studies successfully. In this regard:
 - You must have passed the final year of the LLM (or where relevant the LLB or other bachelor's degree in law) with an average of at least 65% (or its international equivalent); *or*
 - You may request and obtain a recommendation from a potential supervisor that the requirement of a minimum mark of 65% be waived. For such a request to be considered, you must submit an overview of no more than 600 words of the envisaged study, and a sample of previous research of approximately 2 000 words to your potential supervisor. Your potential supervisor must confirm that they have the necessary capacity to perform the function of supervisor. Your potential supervisor must motivate in writing and recommend the waiver to the Research Committee for approval.

5.2 Application procedure

Apply in writing. You can download a full explanation of the application process from the Faculty website at www.sun.ac.za/law. Choose "Postgraduate" under "Degrees and Diplomas" and click on the relevant link under "LLD".

5.3 Duration of programme and continued registration

The minimum period for a doctoral degree is two years. The maximum is five consecutive academic years of registration. The provisions for continued registration set out in a) to e) below apply here.

If you want to register again after the allowed maximum of five years, you must obtain special permission from the Dean of the Faculty of Law. The Dean's recommendation to permit (or refuse) continued registration must be approved by the Faculty Board, who will report its decision in the Communications Report to the Executive Committee of Senate (EC(S)) and Senate.

Note that Senate may terminate your studies on recommendation of the Faculty Board according to the process set out in a) to e) below, even though you have not yet exceeded the maximum number of five years for continued registration.

Provisions for continued registration

- a) Whether you are registered full-time or part-time, you must report to your supervisor at least once a year (by 1 October), in writing, setting out in detail the progress you have made with your proposal and/or specific chapters during the reporting period.
- b) The supervisor must report to the chairperson of the Research Committee once a year, in writing, about your progress during the reporting period. The supervisor must specify in detail:
 - o which proposal and/or chapters have been submitted, read, commented on, and corrected;
 - o how often the supervisor saw you in that period; and
 - o what the expected date of completion is (preferably with a detailed work schedule).
- c) The supervisor must specify whether they consider your progress in the preceding period satisfactory; in other words, whether or not you are likely to complete the degree within three years of registration (that is, within the minimum period of two years plus one additional year).
- d) You must have an opportunity to see the report by the supervisor to the chairperson of the Research Committee and to respond to it if you wish. Send your response to the chairperson of the Research Committee and include your supervisor in your response.
- e) Up to the end of year two of the three-year period (the minimum period of two years plus one additional year), satisfactory progress according to the reporting process above is sufficient for reregistration to be considered. Reregistration is considered and permission (or refusal) for reregistration may be recommended by the Research Committee. The Research Committee's recommendation to permit (or refuse) continued registration must be approved by the Faculty Board. If your studies are to be terminated, for example due to unsatisfactory progress, the Research Committee recommends this to the Faculty Board who in turn may recommend it to the Executive Committee of Senate (EC(S)) and Senate.
- f) If by September of year three, it has become clear that you will not complete the degree in the three-year period, you must report to your supervisor in writing and apply for permission to reregister for one additional year (the fourth year). Your application must be submitted by 1 October of the third year and must set out in detail:
 - o the work that has been completed (read by the supervisor, commented on and corrected),
 - o the work still to be done, and
 - o a schedule for completion of the remaining work during the next year (the fourth year).
- g) The supervisor must report to the chairperson of the Research Committee, referring to your report and application for reregistration, and indicate whether they support the application and whether the proposed completion schedule is realistic.
- h) You must have an opportunity to see the report by the supervisor to the chairperson of the Research Committee and to respond to it if you wish. Send your response to the chairperson of the Research Committee and include your supervisor in your response.
- i) Reregistration is considered and permission (or refusal) for reregistration may be recommended by the Research Committee. The Research Committee's decision to permit (or refuse) continued registration must be approved by the Faculty Board. If your studies are to be terminated, for example due to unsatisfactory progress, the Research Committee recommends this to the Faculty Board who, in turn, may recommend it to the Executive Committee of Senate (EC(S)) and Senate.
- j) If you were granted permission to reregister for an additional year (the fourth year) and it becomes clear by 1 October (of the fourth year) that you will not complete the degree in that year, you can apply for reregistration for one more year (the fifth year). Follow the same procedure as in f).
- k) If your supervisor supports the application, you may be granted permission to reregister for one more additional year (the fifth year).
- l) Reregistration is considered and permission (or refusal) for reregistration may be recommended by the Research Committee. The Research Committee's decision to permit (or refuse) continued

registration must be approved by the Faculty Board. If your studies are to be terminated, for example due to unsatisfactory progress, the Research Committee recommends this to the Faculty Board who, in turn, may recommend it to the Executive Committee of Senate (EC(S)) and Senate.

5.4 Requirements for obtaining the degree

The LLD degree will be awarded to you if you:

- have been registered at the University as a doctoral student in law for at least two years; *and*
- have conducted an approved period of research of at least two years at this University or at some other institution approved by the Senate; *and*
- have presented for assessment a doctoral dissertation of an acceptable standard and have completed any additional research required by your promoter; *and*
- have successfully conducted yourself in an oral examination, except if exemption from such oral examination was granted.

5.5 Specifications for the dissertation

- For dissertation specifications and other provisions for doctoral degrees in general, consult the relevant section in Part 1 of the Yearbook.
- Note that the only format in which a doctoral dissertation may be submitted in the Faculty of Law is the format allowed in paragraph 6.9.5.1 of the Part 1 (General Rules) of the Yearbook; i.e. an introduction, followed by a number of chapters, followed by a summary of the research results, which indicates the scientific contribution of the study.

5.6 Enquiries

The Faculty Administrator, Mr Shirle Cornelissen, tel. 021 808 9111, e-mail: shirle@sun.ac.za.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 Law Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Law Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **6. Admission requirements for all programmes.**