

### S.J.D. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Mission: To advance legal scholarship by producing graduates who have contributed significantly to their chosen area of study, and who are prepared to become leaders in the international academic community.

- I. <u>General</u> The Doctor of Juridical Science, or S.J.D., at Penn Law is an advanced law degree requiring the written submission and oral defense of a major piece of independent research that makes an original and substantive contribution to legal scholarship ("the dissertation").
  - a. Completion of the S.J.D. ordinarily will be within three years following admission to the program. All students are granted a grace period of one additional year. The International Programs Committee, with the approval of a student's dissertation committee, may grant extensions to students in good standing.
  - b. All S.J.D. students are required to spend the first full academic year of their S.J.D. program in residence at the Law School. During that year they must satisfy coursework and advising requirements.

### **II.** Application/Admission into the Program

- a. S.J.D. applications are due by March 15.
- b. Applications are to be submitted to the Office of Graduate Programs. Final determinations regarding admission to the program are made collaboratively by the International Programs Committee, the Deputy Dean for International Affairs and the Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs.
- c. Applicants must have already received a J.D., LL.M. or equivalent degree from Penn Law or another institution.
- d. Admission to the program is based upon the evaluation of a candidate's past record and future promise as a legal scholar. Consideration is given to an applicant's proposed research project, academic record, professional experience, publications, recommendations and English-language ability.
- e. Each applicant must submit a sample, in English, of his/her (research-based) writing on a legal topic.

- f. An applicant who has not received a degree from Penn Law must submit at least one recommendation from a faculty member at the institution that granted his/her prior law degree.
- g. An applicant must submit an S.J.D. proposal setting forth the scholarly project the applicant intends to pursue in the S.J.D. Program, including a preliminary list of primary and secondary materials.
  - i. An application will be successful only if an applicant's proposal indicates a strong likelihood that, upon completion, the project will make a significant contribution to legal scholarship and will satisfy the dissertation requirements set forth in Section III.
  - ii. The proposal should thoroughly describe the anticipated dissertation topic, the goal of the project and how the applicant will achieve that goal, as well as the research methodology and the relevance and significance of the topic. There is no specific requirement regarding the length of the proposal, but most submissions are 10-15 pages in length.

# **III.** Program Requirements

#### a. Schedule:

- i. During the first year, students are expected to:
  - 1. Secure the consent of a faculty member from among Penn Law's standing faculty to serve as an advisor. The advisor will also serve as the chair of the student's dissertation committee.
  - 2. Complete and submit to his/her advisor a revised research proposal and a bibliography that substantially builds on the initial proposal submitted with the student's application.
- ii. If the faculty advisor approves the proposal, during the second year the student is expected to:
  - 1. Submit a dissertation outline to his/her advisor.
  - 2. Assemble his/her full dissertation committee, which must consist of three members, two of whom (including the chair) must be members of Penn Law's standing faculty. The third dissertation committee member may, in appropriate cases, be selected from outside the Law School. Determinations regarding the inclusion of a committee member from outside the Law School shall be made by the student's advisor in consultation with the Deputy Dean for International Affairs.

- iii. If the faculty advisor approves the outline, during the third year the student is expected to:
  - 1. Submit a draft dissertation to his/her committee (target deadline October 1). 1
  - 2. Submit a completed dissertation to his/her committee (target deadline February 15).
  - 3. Orally defend his/her dissertation before the dissertation committee.
- iv. Students in good standing will automatically be granted a fourth year to complete the requirements of the program. Requests to remain in the program beyond eight semesters will be considered on a semester by semester basis by the International Programs Committee in consultation with the dissertation committee.
- b. First year SJD students must complete a specially designated course or seminar offered annually for SJD students, as well as a one-semester course in their area of specialization chosen from among those offered to upper level JD students.
- c. Dissertations must make an original and substantial contribution to legal scholarship. This requirement is ordinarily satisfied by work equivalent in scale and quality to a book, extended monograph, or series of scholarly articles reflecting intensive and creative research with respect to a specific topic, problem or area of law. The work, both in content and form, must be of publishable quality.
- d. The oral defense of the dissertation occurs after the members of the dissertation committee determine that the dissertation substantially satisfies the requirements of the program.
- e. Following a successful dissertation defense, an S.J.D. candidate must submit three copies of his/her dissertation to the Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs for placement in Biddle Law Library.

### **IV.** Tuition and Financial Assistance

- a. The Law School will set a fixed rate of tuition for the first two semesters of the program and another rate for any semesters thereafter. This rate shall be posted on Penn Law's website and is subject to periodic adjustment.
- b. Limited funds are available for S.J.D. students in residence to attend conferences and present their work.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Target deadlines may be adjusted with the permission of the student's advisor.

### V. Termination of S.J.D. candidacy

- a. If a student's primary advisor, in consultation with the International Programs Committee and the Deputy Dean for International Affairs, determines that the student is not making satisfactory progress toward the completion of the dissertation, the student may be dismissed from the program.
- b. If a student fails to pay the required tuition and fees, the student may be dismissed from the program in accordance with University policy.
- c. Termination decisions may be appealed to the Committee on Academic Standing.

## **VI.** Additional Policies and Procedures

All students are subject to, and required to be familiar with, Penn Law's Student Policies and Procedures, published on the Law School's web site each academic year, including the Law School's Code of Student Conduct & Responsibility.