

Doctor of Juridical Science

FORDHAM LAW | NEW YORK CITY



S.J.D. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The S.J.D. program is designed to provide outstanding students with the opportunity to engage in distinguished research and scholarship with the goal of producing an original dissertation of publishable quality. Candidates are expected to complete their doctoral work within three years and are required to be in residence at Fordham Law for at least the first year of the program.

DEDICATED AND EXPERIENCED DISSERTATION ADVISERS

Each S.J.D. candidate has the unique benefit of working under the close guidance and advisement of a member of Fordham Law's accomplished faculty. Dissertation advisers are carefully selected to match the academic and professional interests of each doctoral candidate and are dedicated to providing the supervision necessary to develop strong dissertation proposals and research strategies.

SPECIALLY DESIGNED S.J.D. COLLOQUIUM

First-year S.J.D. candidates participate in the S.J.D. colloquium; an intensive seminar that focuses on topics of U.S. legal scholarship. The S.J.D. colloquium provides doctoral candidates with an introduction to diverse and sophisticated research technologies and to strains of legal academic thought that will aid in the development of their dissertation. The colloquium also creates a forum whereby candidates can discuss their research with their peers and elicit feedback on drafts of their work at various stages.

STIPENDS FOR DOCTORAL FELLOWS

S.J.D. candidates have the opportunity to be appointed Doctoral Fellows after their first year of study. Fellows receive payment in the amount of \$10,000 per year for their teaching and research contributions.

COMPLETING THE SJD PROGRAM

To complete the program, doctoral candidates must produce a dissertation that equals a 50,000 word book of publishable quality or three publishable articles of the same aggregate length with a unifying essay. The dissertation must be an original work of substantial and valuable legal scholarship. Candidates must successfully defend their dissertation before a committee comprising the candidates Dissertation Adviser and two additional members, at least one of whom must be a member of the full-time faculty of Fordham Law.

Learn more at law.fordham.edu/sjd

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to Fordham's S.J.D. program is highly selective. Successful candidates will have an interest in university-level teaching and a demonstrated capacity for sophisticated and original research. Applicants are generally expected to hold a Master of Laws degree from a U.S. law school which reflects outstanding academic performance. The admissions committee will make their decisions based on the following required application materials:

- S.J.D. Online Application Form
- Dissertation Proposal in the range of 5,000 words
- Official transcripts from each college, university, graduate and law school attended
- Resume or curriculum vitae.
- English-language writing sample of at least 50 pages on a legal topic
- Personal statement detailing why you want to pursue an S.J.D.
- Two letters of recommendation



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