

JURIS DOCTOR/MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

1. Background

The MBA and JD are well established programs, taught over four terms and six trimesters, respectively. The proposal is to offer a three year combined JD/MBA degree taught over nine terms.

Demand

The MBA (Master of Business Administration) and JD (Juris Doctor) are established postgraduate degrees designed for graduates returning to study after a number of years of work experience. The Melbourne Business School and the Faculty of Law have identified opportunities for graduates with business experience to develop further their business and legal knowledge by academic study. An integrated knowledge of law and economic and business theory is particularly relevant in areas such as competition policy and intellectual property law. The degree will also be attractive to students wishing to qualify as 'in house' company lawyers, and who need to understand the commercial and strategic contexts in which questions of law arise. Finally, business people with a strong knowledge of law are versatile and sought after in investment banking, management consulting and large companies at the highest levels.

Benchmarking

This will be the first JD/MBA degree in Australia. There are therefore no local models which can provide a benchmark for best practice in Australia. The degree is common in North America where law is a postgraduate rather than undergraduate specialisation and the JD degree is the primary degree for training lawyers. While most American universities do not offer an integrated JD/MBA degree, preferring the introduction of business subjects into law programs and vice-versa, the experience of North American business and law schools has been examined in the course of developing this proposal, particularly the programs offered by Duke, Georgetown and Northwestern Universities, and the University of Toronto.

Course objectives

The main aim of the JD/MBA program is to assist students to develop their capacity to manage effectively the complex interactions between the worlds of law and business in a wide range of private, public and government organisations.

The program will cover all topic areas required for admission to legal practice in Australia and will provide a broad grounding in all aspects of business management to enable students to gain an understanding of the nature of general management and the role of the manager.

Students undertaking the program should gain:

- the analytical tools, concepts and knowledge of management from the fields of accounting, economics, finance, information management, marketing, operations and the social and behavioural sciences;
- skills in reading and comprehending legal materials, notably reports of decided cases and legislation;
- skills of logical analysis and reasoning;
- oral skills in legal analysis and argument;
- skills in legal writing, including skills in developing an argument and supporting it with properly cited authority;

- skills in legal research, including computer-aided research;
- skills in understanding the interrelationship of facts and law, and in identifying the factual information needed to sustain legal propositions;
- strategic skills in considering a range of options in response to a legal problem and in identifying those which best meet the needs of the client;
- interdisciplinary skills in relating legal materials and problems to non-legal areas of discourse, in particular managing organisations;
- skills to analyse and develop strategy for an enterprise as a whole, considering its context;
- skills to develop the capacity to diagnose managerial problems, to find solutions in innovative ways and to make decisions on a wide range of management responsibilities, often in complex conditions;
- the ability to understand the wide and varied range of issues involved in implementing management decisions in practice, including an understanding of the cultural, social and political environment and the moral context of management decisions;
- personal and interpersonal skills while working with small and large groups;
- judgement and diplomacy skills;
- leadership skills;
- skills in negotiation, policy analysis, advocacy and mediation;
- intercultural communication skills;
- the ability to take responsibility for aspects of their own learning progress through syndicate participation and application of their own management experience through case and class discussion and presentations, thereby also building self confidence;
- skills in identifying and responding to ethical dilemmas

2. Entry Requirements

1. The Selection Committee will evaluate the applicant's ability to pursue successfully the course using the following criteria:
 - an undergraduate degree in any discipline other than law, or (for applicants seeking a common law qualification) a degree in law from a non-common law jurisdiction; and
 - performance on the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT); and
 - at least two years documented full time work experience following completion of their degree; and
 - local candidates may be required to attend an interview; overseas and interstate applicants may be interviewed by telephone.
2. The Selection Committee may call for referee reports and employer references to assist in the selection process.
3. The interview is for eliciting information on the following matters:
 - standard of academic record ;
 - nature and length of employment experience;
 - achievements subsequent to graduation;
 - reasons for seeking admission;
 - interpersonal and communication skills;
 - maturity and motivation.

- 4 International applicants who obtained their undergraduate degree more than five years prior to their application may be required by the Selection Committee to provide evidence of continuing adequate English language ability.

Applicants who have obtained their undergraduate degree in an institution where instruction and assessment is not in English must achieve the following minimum English language minimum standards, within 24 months prior to application:

- a score of 7.0 on the International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) including a minimum score of 7.0 on the written component, or
- a score of 610 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) including a an overall score of 5.0 on the Test of Written English (253 + 5.0 for essay writing in computer TOEFL).

3. Course Structure

The JD degree consists of 24 subjects, of which 22 are compulsory, and essential for eligibility for admission to legal practice in Australia. The MBA consists of 20 subjects, of which 10 are compulsory.

The JD/MBA combines the compulsory subjects from each degree with five electives drawn from the MBA; a total of 37 subjects. JD subjects are weighted at 12.5 points while MBA subjects are weighted at 10 points, making the total points for the combined degree 425.

Students begin with the January intake of MBA students, complete all compulsory MBA subjects in their first two terms and then begin their JD subjects in third term of their first year with the September intake of JD students.

Term 1 13 wks: 7 Feb-29 April	Term 2 13 wks: 23 May-19 August	Terms 3-9 Commencing with September intake of the JD Program =	Terms 3-9 22 JD Compulsory Subjects + 4 MBA Elective Subjects
MBA Intensive (Core)	Core Subjects)	Term 3	Term 7
1. World of Management	7. Managing Processes	(1-4)x4 JD Core Subjects	(17-19)x3 JD Core Subjects
MBA Core Subjects	8. Business Strategy	Term 4	12. x1 MBA Elective
2. Organisations	9. Financial Management (or Term 1)	(5-8)x4 JD Core Subjects	Term 8
3. Marketing (or Term 2)	10. Economics of Public Policy	Term 5	(20-22)x3 JD Core Subjects
4. Managerial Economics	Elective Subject	(9-12)x4 JD Core Subjects	13. x1 MBA Elective
5. Accounting for Managers	11. MBA Elective Subject	Term 6	Term 9
6. Data and Decisions		(13-16)x4 JD Core Subjects	14. x1 MBA Elective
			15. x1 MBA Elective