

Credit Unit Statement for LLM in Technology and Intellectual Property Law

The curriculum requires candidates to complete at least 72 credits for a full-time study in one academic year, or at least 36 credits for a part-time study in each of the two academic years of study, with a total study load of not fewer than 1,800 learning hours nor more than 1950 learning hours. All courses are 9-credit in value, except the 18-credit dissertation, and the two electives offered by the Department of Computer Sciences, which carry 6 credits per course. We use 225 hours of student learning activities (including 36 contact hours) as the norm for a 9-credit course.

All candidates are required to take at least one capstone course from a list of the two capstone courses, and at least two core courses from a list of the six core courses, and a maximum of five elective courses. Some of the courses are assessed with 100% continuous assessment. For courses assessed by a combination of coursework and examination, the actual percentages may range from 20% to 80% of respectively continuous assessment and in-hall examinations or vice versa.

The five categories of law and non-law courses are summarized as follows:

1. Core courses (9 credits, 225 hours of student learning activities)

The curriculum designates six core courses which emphasize foundational legal concepts and institutional framework. They also include courses on cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as linguistic/technical skills. Candidates are required to take at least two courses from the six core courses to ensure their grasp of the foundational knowledge of the curriculum. These courses are taught in small or large seminar format and assessments are in the form of periodical assignments, short research papers with a total output of approximately 6000 to 7000 words and/or in-hall examinations (with coursework ranging between 20% - 80% and examinations 80% - 20%).

2. Capstone courses (9 credits, 225 hours of student learning activities)

The curriculum offers two capstone courses, from which candidates are required to take at least one, which are taught at a more advanced level with the aim to prepare candidates for their future academic and professional careers. Assessment for this category of courses is by way of a combination of class presentation, take-home examination, in-hall examination and/or research papers, with a total output of approximately 6000 to 7000 words.

3. Law electives (9 credits, 225 hours of student learning activities)

These courses offer specialized legal or cross-disciplinary knowledge. They are mainly taught in seminar format with heavy reliance on extensive reading before the seminars and active participation in class discussion. These courses aim to further enhance students' knowledge of legal concepts as well as analytical and evaluative skills. Assessment for this category of courses is by way of a combination of class presentation, take-home examination, in-hall examination and/or research papers, with a total output of approximately 6000 to 7000 words.

4. Dissertation (9 or 18 credits, 225 or 450 hours of student learning activities)

These courses aim to provide students with the theoretical insights and cross-disciplinary knowledge, as well as an opportunity to pursue advanced and independent research. These courses try to help students develop original and critical thinking through independent research. A 9-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper on a legal topic likewise approved with required range from 8,000 to 10,000 words and the contact hours is in the range of 15 - 20 hours. An 18-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper with required length ranging from 16,000 to 20,000 words on a legal topic approved by the Faculty Higher Degrees Committee and the contact hours is in the range of 30 - 40. In both cases, the dissertation must provide evidence of original work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

5. Non-law electives (6 credits, 120-180 hours student learning activities)

In addition to law courses, students may select non-law electives in order to broaden the scope of their studies. These non-law electives are offered by the Department of Computer Science. Candidates who choose one elective or both electives offered by Department of Computer Sciences are required to complete 78 credits (eight 9-credit law courses + one 6-credit non-law course) or 75 credits (seven 9-credit law courses + two 6-credit non-law courses) respectively for satisfying the curriculum requirement.

Non-law electives will consist of a total of 30 contact hours over the course of a semester, and a total of 120-180 learning hours. Assessments for these non-law electives are in the form of individual assignment, group project, home assignments and open-book examination. The exact form of submission and required output may be referred to each course requirement listed by the offering department.