

2022-2023

The Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) program at the University of Minnesota Law School is intended for those who wish to pursue advanced legal study and original research under faculty supervision. S.J.D. students must present research which makes a significant, original contribution of long-term value to legal scholarship. The dissertation must be of publishable quality and provide lawyers, scholars, or governmental officials with a useful understanding, not previously available, of a particular area of the law.

Priority application deadline to begin enrollment in fall 2022 is **March 1, 2022**. Applications received after that date might not be considered, depending on how many applications were received before the priority deadline. Admission to the S.J.D. program is highly competitive. Only students with an interest in a scholarly career, and with outstanding academic credentials should apply. Candidates should also indicate the field in which they seek to do research and identify at least one member of the Minnesota Law faculty who could serve as an academic supervisor. Preference will be given to students enrolled in (or who graduated from) the LL.M. program at Minnesota Law.

Program Costs

If offered admission to the program, you must provide evidence of financial resources as noted below. This represents the total cost of attendance for the first year, which must be spent in residence at Minnesota Law. Please note all costs are estimates and subject to change. Final tuition and fee rates are set by the central University at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Tuition and fees	\$57,800
Mandatory health insurance	\$2,800
Textbook expenses	\$1,700
Living costs for 10 months	\$16,500
Total estimated for 2022-2023	\$78,800

Application Checklist

In order for your application to be complete, we must have received the following items. Please note that you may apply either online through the [Law School Admission Council \(LSAC\)](#) **OR** directly to our law school. If you apply through LSAC, you must submit your transcripts through their Credential Assembly Service (CAS).

- Application for Admission**
- Payment of Minnesota Law Application Fee:** \$70
- Personal Statement:** 1 to 2 pages
- TOEFL or IELTS** official score report
If you apply online, have your score sent directly to LSAC, not to the law school
- Two letters of recommendation**, each accompanied by the Recommendation Memorandum for Admission
- An official transcript** from each college or university course you have attended.
To apply through LSAC, submit official transcripts through the [LSAC Credential Assembly Service](#). To apply directly to our law school, see transcript submission requirements on page 3 of these instructions. A photocopy or electronic file will not be accepted.
- A CV** identifying academic and professional history
- A detailed dissertation proposal** demonstrating that the dissertation will constitute an original and substantial contribution, of publishable quality, to legal scholarship.
- An extensive, high quality writing sample written in English** to demonstrate the ability to engage in advanced research and writing.

Please see the **Application Procedure** on the following pages for detailed instructions.

Important note: You may apply online at the LSAC website **OR** you may apply by printing this application and sending the completed hard copies by post or express to the address on the application forms. We are unable to consider application forms or documents sent in any other form, such as email attachments.

S.J.D. Program Application Requirements and Information

By completing this application you acknowledge that you are aware of the program requirements of the S.J.D. degree at Minnesota Law. Regardless of whether applications are submitted online or via mail, all materials should be received by the International and Graduate Programs office by March 1 of the year you expect to enter the S.J.D. program.

1. Law Degree

All applicants must have completed their first degree in law at a university outside of the United States; and have completed (or be in the process of completing) an LL.M. degree at Minnesota Law or elsewhere at an American Bar Association (ABA)-approved law school.

2. Application Form and Application Fee

To apply via LSAC:

Complete the online application, upload the required documents, and pay the applicable fee via credit card

To apply via mail:

The paper application has two required pages which must be mailed in an envelope along with all additional materials and documents. A check or money order for the \$70.00 application fee must accompany each application for admission. It must be paid to the order of "University of Minnesota Law School".

If you are using the paper application, you must print and complete all required pages as described above, sign and send them by post or express directly to International and Graduate Programs at the address listed on the next page.

3. Personal Statement

Submit a personal statement as described on the application form, **no more than two pages**.

4. TOEFL or IELTS for proof of English proficiency

All applicants whose native language is not English must have scored at least 80 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Testing information is available on their respective websites:

For the TOEFL www.toefl.org

Institution code for LSAC: 8395

Institution code for the University of Minnesota Law School: 6874, dept. code 03

For the IELTS www.ielts.org

5. Recommendations

Two letters of recommendation are required. The recommenders must use the Recommendation Memorandum for Admission form. Additional letters will be accepted. The letters should be from persons who can attest to your academic and professional abilities and accomplishments, and must be received by the March 1 application deadline.

Federal legislation gives students in attendance at the Law School the right to inspect and review each letter of recommendation contained in their educational record, unless the student or applicant waives that right and consents to the letter remaining confidential. You may waive the right to access, but waiver of this right is not required as a condition for admission to the Law School or for any other benefits. All letters of recommendation, whether or not written in confidence, are carefully considered as part of the admission decision.

6. Transcripts

Applicants applying online must use the [LSAC Credential Assembly Service](#). If you decide instead to submit your transcripts directly, read the following instructions carefully:

Do not submit a photocopy or electronic file. Neither is considered an official transcript. Transcripts must be submitted in English. You must submit a transcript for each institution you have included on page 1 of your application. Official transcripts bear the original signature of the registrar or other appropriate official, and the impression seal of the issuing institution. Attested or certified copies of such records are unacceptable. If your name has changed since the work was taken, it is your responsibility to have the name corrected before the transcript is forwarded to the Law School so that the application and transcripts can be matched.

If the institution will issue official transcripts directly to you, please enclose them, sealed in their original envelopes, when submitting the application. Otherwise, have the transcripts sent directly to International and Graduate Programs at Minnesota Law.

All foreign applicants who have attended universities that issue official transcripts upon request must submit such credentials, with these exceptions:

A. Applicants from schools in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, France, and schools outside of North America that are on the French system, may submit certified or attested credentials, which should be in the form of mark sheets or examination reports showing the detailed results of exams taken. Certified or attested credentials are those which the issuing institution or government officials have stated are true copies of the original documents. Such credentials should bear the original signature of the certifying official. Applicants may not certify their own credentials.

B. Foreign applicants who have attended institutions which do not issue transcripts, examination reports, or mark sheets should submit an official statement from the Registrar or other appropriate official giving a detailed description of their program, a qualitative evaluation of their work, and the results of all exams taken.

If the grading system is not shown on the credentials themselves, a separate statement from the university is required giving this information.

All applicants who submit credentials on which the award of the degree received is not recorded should submit certified copies of their diplomas. Each applicant should also send an officially certified statement of the applicant's class rank for their academic programs in which such rank was calculated.

If you are submitting your application via mail, please send the original hard copies described above to this address:

International and Graduate Programs
University of Minnesota Law School
229 - 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455 USA

7. **CV**

Submit a CV identifying academic and professional history, including university teaching experience and citations to all publications.

8. **Dissertation Proposal**

Submit a detailed dissertation proposal demonstrating that the dissertation will constitute an original and substantial contribution, of publishable quality, to legal scholarship. In this proposal, identify at least one member of the Minnesota Law faculty who could serve as an academic supervisor.

9. **Writing Sample**

Submit an extensive, high quality writing sample written in English to demonstrate the ability to engage in advanced research and writing.

Please DO NOT send any materials we have not specifically requested, such as additional writing samples, certificates from language programs, or publications.

Visa documentation and maintaining your student status

If as a candidate for the SJD degree you are requesting that the U of M provide you with a visa document to apply for F-1 or J-1 student status, you will need to complete a Financial Certification Statement and provide documentation of adequate financial support for your educational and personal expenses, estimated at a total of \$78,800.00 for 2022-2023.

Please note that this application is for the initial year of your SJD program which must be done in residence here at Minnesota Law in Minneapolis. As described in the SJD policy document, you and your advisor will determine your individual program. That program and your own preferences regarding where you choose to complete your work culminating in your dissertation will determine your needs for student status in future years of your program.

It will be your responsibility to maintain your visa status for the period(s) you need to be present in the U.S. If at any time you have questions regarding your status, please contact the University of Minnesota's International and Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office which is located on the West Bank campus right near the law school. Their contact information may be found at www.issss.umn.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL S.J.D. PROGRAM

2022-2023 APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Personal information

Full name (last or family, first, middle, former)	Gender Identity <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Date of birth / / month day year
E-mail Address		Phone number ()
Current address (street, city, state, postal code, country)	Address is valid until (month/year)	LSAC account number (if applicable)
Permanent address (if different from current address)		

How did you learn about Minnesota Law's S.J.D. program?

- Online search at (name of website) _____
 Ad in (name of publication) _____
 From a colleague or friend _____
 Other (please explain) _____

Residency

City and country of birth	Country of Permanent Residency	Country of citizenship
---------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------

Previous coursework List all colleges and universities attended, including law school, summer session, evening school, and correspondence study (whether or not credit was earned).

Name of School	Degree and date received or expected	Major	Dates of attendance (month/year - month/year)	Quarter/Semester hours completed or attempted

Scholastic honors you've received in undergraduate or graduate school

Have you taken any courses that do not appear on your official transcripts?

- No Yes. Please explain:

Have you previously applied for admission to this law school or to any other department at the U of M?

- No Yes. Please state when, and give the result:

U of M ID number (if any)

Is there a University of Minnesota Law School faculty member with whom you are particularly interested in working? If so, please list the name(s) here:

Employment Information List all employment, starting with the most recent, including part-time and non-academic employment.

Dates	Employer	Position	Hours per week	Reasons for leaving

TOEFL/IELTS date(s) Your application will not be considered without the official results of a TOEFL or IELTS exam.

List all dates you have taken or will take the TOEFL or IELTS	Test score (if known)
---	-----------------------

Personal statement: no more than 2 pages

Please respond to the following:

- a. Why you are seeking to obtain an S.J.D. degree? In particular, why are you applying to the University of Minnesota?
- b. What is your proposed area of research?
- c. Indicate and explain any other fact or circumstance that might warrant special consideration.

Financial support: After being admitted, you will be required to show proof of adequate financial support for the academic year. Please note any official external source(s) of funding you have toward your educational expenses (for example: government scholarship, employer sponsorship, etc.), if applicable.

External source of funding	Amount (if known)
----------------------------	-------------------

Access to your file The University of Minnesota complies with federal and state privacy laws and regulations. Those who may gain access to information in your file are staff and faculty at the University who have a need to gain access, and outside organizations and government bodies in limited circumstances as authorized by state or federal law. In addition, you may review your own file. No one else may review your file without your written consent or a subpoena or court order. If you want the University to give information to someone else, such as your parent, spouse, other relative, or friend, you must complete and sign this section of the application. If you give someone else access to your file, that person may be able to help us process your application. If you want no one else to have access to your file, check here:

I hereby authorize the University of Minnesota Law School, Office of Graduate Admissions to release information in my file to the following person:

Name: _____ Relation to me: _____

Address: _____

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

I certify that the information provided herein is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. (Note: Misrepresentation of application information is sufficient grounds for canceling admission or registration.)

Signature	Date
-----------	------

RECOMMENDATION MEMORANDUM FOR ADMISSION

Name of applicant (last, first, middle)

To the applicant:

Print out this form as often as necessary. Give one copy to each person who writes a letter of recommendation on your behalf. Each letter of recommendation becomes part of your admission file. Letters are used only for admission consideration and are not disclosed to any unauthorized individual without your written consent. Complete the following waiver statement **before** giving the form to the person writing the letter.

I understand that I am not required to waive the right of access provided by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as a condition for admission to the Law School or for receipt of financial aid or other services and benefits.

I hereby waive the right of access to the recommendation.

I do not waive the right of access to this recommendation.

Signature	Date
-----------	------

To the writer of the recommendation:

We welcome relevant information not found elsewhere in the application materials. On the reverse side of this form or on your own stationery, please provide the following information. First, state how long and in what connection you have known the applicant. Next, assess the applicant's abilities in the following areas: the ability to communicate orally and in writing, the ability to reason and analyze, the ability to imagine and create, the ability to exercise mature judgment, and the ability to relate to and work with other people; compare the applicant's abilities with those of other persons you have known in circumstances similar to those of the applicant. Please comment on the applicant's ability to communicate in English if you know, and the ability of the applicant to adjust to a foreign culture and environment. Finally, make any additional comments you wish to about the applicant's character and academic promise.

Name of letter writer	Position
Address (street, city, state, Zip Code)	
Signature	Date

Please return this form directly to: International and Graduate Programs, University of Minnesota Law School, 229 - 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455, U.S.A.