

February 10, 2003

Professor Carolyn Tuohy
Vice-President, Policy Development
and Associate Provost
Room 206, Simcoe Hall
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Tuohy:

At its meeting of January 28, 2003, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

THAT SGS Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Law:

- a) to allow direct admission to its S.J.D. program, effective September 2003,
- and
- b) to change the S.J.D. program requirements, effective September 2003.

The motion and proposal, revised as recommended by Council, are attached. The proposal was approved at the January 16, 2003, meeting of the Division II Executive Committee.

On behalf of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, I am presenting this item to Governing Council committees, as appropriate, for approval.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Alderdice
Secretary to SGS Council
and Coordinator of Policy, Program and Liaison

Encl.
/smr

c.c. J. Cherry D. Dyzenhaus C. Johnston S. Girard V. Makarovska L. Yee

Motion
School of Graduate Studies Council
Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Item 8.

Proposal to change admission requirements for the following program:

8.3 Faculty of Law

MOTION (/) **THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal of the Faculty of Law:

- a) to allow direct admission to its S.J.D. program, effective September 2003
- and
- b) to change the S.J.D. program requirements, effective September 2003.

See the proposal attached.

NOTE:

The Division II Executive Committee at its meeting of January 16, 2003 approved this proposal.

With SGS Council approval, this item will go to Governing Council committees for approval and to the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies for information.

78 Queen's Park
Toronto Canada M5S 2C5

Tel: 416/978-6935
e-mail: david.dyzenhaus@utoronto.ca

TO: Governing Council Office

FROM: David Dyzenhaus, Associate Dean, Faculty of Law

Date: February 19, 2003

RE: Direct-entry SJD & Introduction of an Area Requirement

I Admission Requirement: Direct-entry SJD

Increasingly, Canadian Law Faculties are recruiting candidates who hold the SJD (doctoral) degree or equivalent. Thus, candidates seeking academic law careers are increasingly attracted to the SJD, rather than the LLM (or masters). Many law candidates who do not hold the LLM can demonstrate the capacity for independent legal research and writing required to complete a doctorate in law.

We note also that other departments (for example, Philosophy) permit direct entry into the doctoral program without prior completion of the MA.

We would, of course, admit only exceptionally well qualified candidates.

II Introduction of an Area Requirement

At the moment, our doctoral students (SJD) must complete a minimal course requirement and complete a dissertation under the supervision of a supervisor and an advisory committee. On the basis of my experience in the Philosophy Department, and as a graduate student in the United Kingdom, as well as an initiative in the submission by our graduate students to the external review committee last year, I think it is high time that we introduce a more formal structure for our SJD students in order to give them direction and feedback in their first year. This requirement will not only provide structure and direction to graduate students, but will also improve the depth and quality of the candidate's research. It will thus enhance the experience of our doctoral students both in their first year and throughout their thesis. This proposal has been discussed with the graduate students, with the Dean, with faculty on the graduate committee, and with faculty who have extensive experience with supervision.

Other departments impose similar area requirements.

78 Queen's Park
Toronto Canada M5S 2C5

Tel: 416/978-6935
e-mail: david.dyzenhaus@utoronto.ca

Degree of Doctor of Juridical Science

Admission Requirements

A candidate for the degree of S.J.D. will generally hold a Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor degree (with a minimum B+ average) from this or another recognized university and a Master of Laws (with a minimum of B+ average) of this or another recognized university or possess equivalent qualifications. ***The Associate Dean has the discretion to permit direct entry into the SJD following completion of the Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor degree where the Graduate Committee is satisfied that the candidate's law record demonstrates excellent potential for independent legal research and writing at an advanced level.***

Program Requirements – SJD

1. A candidate must remain in attendance for at least two academic sessions (four months each).
2. A candidate must complete the graduate seminar, Alternative Approaches to Legal Scholarship.
3. Other coursework requirements are optional and shall be determined upon consultation with the supervisor. All course work shall be subject to the approval of the Associate Dean.
4. ***Area Requirement: Before being allowed to proceed with formal research on a thesis topic, a candidate must demonstrate competence in a broader area within which the topic falls. An Individual Area Committee (established by the student and approved by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies) assists in framing that area and compiling an appropriate plan for carrying out the research. The research undertaken by the candidate either culminates in a written exam, based on the reading list, or else consists of a research project which is either a draft of a chapter of the thesis, or an overview of the general argument. Both paths lead to an oral exam based on the written work and the reading list.***
5. A candidate will not be allowed to continue in the doctoral programme, where, in the opinion of the Area Committee, the candidate is not capable of demonstrating the capacity for independent legal research and writing at an advanced level.
6. Following completion of the area requirement, a thesis must be prepared which, in the opinion of the Faculty, will constitute a distinct contribution to legal research or scholarship, and the candidate must pass an oral examination on the same.
7. The thesis must be completed within five years from the date of enrolment in the program.

8. No candidate will be recommended for the degree until the thesis has been approved by the Faculty of Law and is presented in such form as to be worthy of possible publication either in whole or in an abstract. Thesis publication is normally accomplished as described in the Ph.D regulations in this calendar.

Program Requirements – Direct Entry SJD

The requirements for the direct-entry SJD candidates are the same as the other SJD candidates, except for the additional requirements:

1. ***A candidate must be in attendance for at least four academic sessions (four months each)***
2. ***A candidate must complete at least eight credit hours, including the graduate seminar, Alternative Approaches to Legal Scholarship.***