Objective and Rationale:
As per a decision of the UNSW Law JD Committee of August 27, 2014, international students enrolled in the JD program can apply for extended exam time in relation to the first year courses listed below. This policy draws on best practice from top law schools around the world, and it aims at providing international students who are not native speakers of English, nor have had significant exposure to academic environments in English, with an opportunity to overcome linguistic difficulties in structuring exam answers.

Scope of the Policy:
This program extends to five JD Core Courses:

- JURD7152 Introducing Law and Justice
- JURD7141 Principles of Public Law
- JURD7150 Principles of Private Law
- JURD7121 Crime and the Criminal Process
- JURD7161 Torts

If granted, qualifying students will be granted an additional 30 mins per hour of the exam for JURD7141, JURD7150, JURD7121 and JURD7161 and an additional 15 mins per hour for JURD7152.

Qualifying Students:
In order to qualify for a grant of additional time, you must be:

- An international student;
- In the first year of your JD program;
- Not a native speaker of English;
- Have had an IELTS score below 8.0 overall, or under 114 TOEFL iBT score (or equivalent in other English proficiency exams), and
- Have not received significant formal education in English in the past (such as your undergraduate degree, postgraduate degree or even high school), nor spent a significant time in an English-speaking academic environment (such as an exchange program).

These criteria were adopted having in mind best practice in top law schools around the world, and are restrictive in an attempt to ensure that only students who would use the extra
time as an equalizer of opportunity vis-à-vis domestic students (as opposed to an advantage over domestic students) are included.

**Application Procedure:**

Students who believe they qualify must apply to be part of the program using the online form available here: [http://www.law.unsw.edu.au/form/international-student-extra-time-exam-application-form](http://www.law.unsw.edu.au/form/international-student-extra-time-exam-application-form). In addition, they must provide documentation substantiating their claims.

**Exam day logistics:**

Qualifying students will be notified by Student Services about the success of their application, and will sit their exams in a separate room from the other students in the course. They will be advised by Student Services about the new location. The exam will be scheduled on the same day as the regularly scheduled exam. In most cases it will start at the same time as the main exam. but will finish later.

**Additional Questions:**

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to consult Jae Enriquez jenriquez@unsw.edu.au
FAQs

1: Why only a certain number of international students qualify?
The purpose of this program is to create equal opportunities for students who struggle with
the language, and not to advantage a group of students over another. Therefore, students
who, based on certain formal criteria, can be presumed to have sufficiently knowledge of the
language would be given an unfair advantage if they received additional time.

2: How about domestic students who also speak English as a second language?
We understand that those domestic students who speak English as a second language have
had sufficient exposure to English so as to not need the additional support. Therefore, the
extra exam time policy only applies to international students.

3: How about international students who have studied a degree in English, but in a discipline
that did not require much use of the language?
If you have studied a degree in an English-language environment, we still understand that
you have had enough exposure to the language so as to be able to cope.

4: Why isn’t selection simply based on the IELTS score?
There is extensive literature that suggests IELTS scores are an imperfect proxy for
determining linguistic competency for disciplines like law. Therefore, and in line with best
practice around the world, we avoid using the IELTS score as the only means to determine
eligibility. Plus, some students rely on older IELTS scores, which may not reflect their current
linguistic capabilities.

5: Why not a substantive assessment of language skills through, for instance, an essay?
Because an essay would create difficult time and logistical challenges for students and staff.
Also, there would be an incentive for students to perform poorly on the essay as a means to
“game” the system, making it also an imperfect means of assessing language capability.
Various rounds of consultations in the development of this policy have led to the conclusion
that formal requirements are the only adequate way of determining eligibility.

6: Will my lecturer know I have been given extra time? Will I be assessed differently?
Your lecturer will not know whether you are a part of this program, and you will be assessed
in exactly the same way as other students. The purpose of the policy is not to create a
separate class of students, but rather to create equal conditions for all students.

7: Why doesn’t the extended time apply to all my JD courses?
In line with best practice around the world, we believe that, as you progress through your JD,
your linguistic capabilities will improve, and the continuing extra time would become an
unfair advantage over other students, as opposed to an equalizer.

8: Do I also get extra time for non-exam assessments?
No. Extra time is only available for formal assessment conditions.
9: Why is this program restricted to JD students?
At this stage, the program only applies to JDs because they are the most affected cohort, as Masters' students as a rule write papers / have take-home assignments as the primary form of assessment, and undergraduate international students are too few to make the program viable at this stage.