

*Independent learning skills as a
key aspect of research training in
the education system of
developing countries or certain
recommendations for improving
the Law curriculum in developing
countries*

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Short outline of the research

1. General introduction to higher education and undergraduate curriculum in the field of law
2. Reformed curriculum of Japanese legal education
3. Prevailing legal education system in the UK
4. Young legal education system in Uzbekistan
5. Conclusion and recommendations



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What does Law curriculum of many countries contain?



- Learning outcomes
- Subjects that are focused on obtaining subject-specific knowledge
- Subjects that aim at developing certain legal skills
- Final year dissertation
- Internships and practical experience

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Legal education in Japan



- Japan has a very advanced system of education
- it has a number of eminent law schools in the world like Waseda, Yokohama, Tsukuba and Nagoya
- Research focused on Nagoya Law School's curriculum

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Nagoya Law School's curriculum



- Can be described as very modern and flexible in terms of subjects students can choose
- Both knowledge and skills oriented curriculum
- has a number of internships in central and local governments, companies, legal offices, judicial offices, and international organizations that have been incorporated into the Law School's curriculum



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Nagoya Law School's curriculum



- To receive the degree of Bachelor of Laws students must gain a total of **136** academic credits during four years.
- A graduation thesis, which is optional, counts for **12** credits.
- There are in total close to **100** subjects students can choose from and as a rule the students are required to take 4-5 subjects each semester.
- since 2006 Nagoya Law School also offers A Peer Support Initiative (PSI) course. This course has just been established targeting Japanese students wishing to study in cooperation with overseas students and experience training abroad.

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Nagoya Law School's curriculum



- General characterization:

Japan has gradually shifted from customary curriculum offering 'passive taught subjects' towards more skills-oriented subjects like internships and guided study.

today the students of Japanese universities are exposed to flexible study environment where each student may conduct an independent study and research in his/her field of interest.

students are not overloaded with many irrelevant or not interesting subjects

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Legal education in the UK



- Anglia Ruskin University, one of the most typical universities in the UK.
- undergraduate program that lasts 3 years and each student should successfully obtain 220 credits to complete the undergraduate program
- Students usually have 4 and maximum 5 subjects per semester
- there are core subjects that should be passed by each student and a pool of other option subjects that each student may choose independently.

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Anglia Ruskin Law School



Anglia Ruskin Law School



- The distinguishing feature of the modern UK curriculum is that curriculum of each law school has a number of skills subjects that are compulsory, e.g. Law in Practice I: The Legal System and Legal Skills
- As option module students may choose an independent study subject
- Students' learning hours are meant to be spent mostly out of university doing an independent study and research.

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Anglia Ruskin Law School



- General characteristics:
- Anglia Law School curriculum can be described as very focused, skills-oriented and semi-flexible for independent learning and research.
- There are a number of job-oriented skills such as skill of effective CV writing, skill of effective interviews etc.

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Legal education in Uzbekistan



- Tashkent State Institute of Law (TSIL) has been and remains to be the most prominent and popular.
- In 2001 TSIL's undergraduate curriculum has been reconsidered and reformed to meet the contemporary requirements of higher education.

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Tashkent State Institute of Law



- The undergraduate program lasts for four years and according to TSIL each bachelor student should be prepared:
- to *independently work* on a direction of education on the posts subject to replacement by persons with the higher juridical education;
- to continuation of higher education in a magistracy [masters] on the chosen speciality within the limits of a corresponding direction of a bachelor degree;
- to reception of additional vocational training in system of retraining and improvement of professional skills

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Tashkent State Institute of Law



TSIL requires each graduate meet a number of qualifying requirement upon graduation. These requirements, *inter alia*, include:

- to own system knowledge of world outlook character; to know bases of humanitarian and social and economic sciences, pressing questions of the current state policy; be capable independently to analyze social problems and processes;
- to know the history of Uzbekistan; to be able to express and scientifically to prove the position on questions of spiritual national and universal values, to have an active vital position on the basis of idea of national independence;



Tashkent State Institute of Law



- In addition, there are numerous requirements established in the curriculum that each student should meet. For example, *TSIL bachelor should know*:
- about the basic concepts of computer science and structure personal PIBM;
- about the information, methods of its storage, processing and transfer;
- about information systems and networks, a database;

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Tashkent State Institute of Law



- Furthermore, *TSIL students should know and be able to use the followings*:
- methods and means of protection of the data (cryptography) in information systems;
- methods of preparation and processing of the information (databases of legal acts and judiciary practice on PIBM with use of applied programs);
- information technologies of office-work etc.

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Each *TSIL* have to possess the following skills:

- creations and editing of databases of legal acts and judiciary practice, documents and texts;
- works with graphic representations and spreadsheets;
- uses of a global computer network the Internet;
- uses of means computer schedules;

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- There are more than 70 various subjects that each graduate should complete and each semester TSIL students have at least 8, usually 10 subjects per semester.
- These subjects include not only law subjects but also a number of non-law subjects like economics, history, ethics, philosophy, contemporary articles and thoughts in Uzbekistan and so on.
- Undergraduate course in TSIL ends with writing a final dissertation that is compulsory.

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- General characteristics:
- undergraduate students are excessively overloaded with subjects and they do not have enough room for manoeuvre to develop independent learning skills.
- there are too many non-law subjects that frequently take a lot of students' time.
- all subjects are compulsory for all and students are not given any opportunity to choose their own subjects.
- students spent at least 5 to 6 hours per day.

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Conclusion



Legal studies in Japan:

- Nagoya Law School curriculum has demonstrated that it is flexible, modern and adjusted to develop the independent learning and research skills of its students
- Yet, the fact that writing a dissertation remains as option.

Legal studies in the UK:

Students are not burdened with too many in-class studies and they have a lot of time for independent learning.

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Conclusion



- Anglia Law School has a number of subjects that directly allow developing independent learning and research skills of students.
- Legal studies in Uzbekistan:
- TSIL's curriculum overstrains students with many, sometime irrelevant subjects and requires too much attendance of in-class activities leaving a little time for self-development and independence.

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General recommendations



Each law school should:

1. Always consider the skills-based subjects as an important aspect of its curriculum.
2. Offer certain practical experience for students.
3. Provide more free time for the development of independent learning and research skills
4. Writing of the final year dissertation should always remain as a core subject in the undergraduate curriculum of each law school

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- Thank you for your attention!

- Any questions?



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