



**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Julio Frenk  
University President

**From:** Linda L. Neider  
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Neider', is placed over the 'From:' field.

**Date:** April 22, 2021

**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-89(B) – Creation of a Doctor of Juridical Science,  
School of Law.

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The Faculty Senate, at its April 21, 2021 meeting, had no objections to the creation of a Doctor of Juridical Science in the School of Law. This program would help the Law School recruit talented junior lawyers who will develop, through the program, into outstanding scholars and experts in law and policy.

The proposal is enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

LLN/rh/va

Enclosure

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Anthony Varona, Dean, School of Law  
Sergio Campos, GWC Member; Professor, School of Law  
Caroline Bradley, Professor, School of Law  
Carmen Perez-Llorca, Lecturer, School of Law

**CAPSULE:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-89(B) – Creation of a Doctor of Juridical Science, School of Law.

**PRESIDENT’S RESPONSE**

APPROVED:  DATE: 5/28/21  
(President’s Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Dean Anthony Varona, School of Law

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY  
(pending any additional approval by the Board of Trustees)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): \_\_\_\_\_

# Program Change Request

## New Program Proposal

Date Submitted: 03/25/21 2:22 pm

Viewing: **Doctor of Juridical Science : NEW**

Last edit: 03/25/21 2:30 pm

Changes proposed by: Patty Murphy (pxm491)

Please list the authors of this proposal including name, rank/title, program/department, and school.

Proposer(s) Name Sergio J. Campos  
Professor of Law  
University of Miami School of Law

Career Law

Academic Structure

School/ College	Department
School of Law	Law

Plan Type Major and/or Degree

Degree Type Doctorate

Degree Name Doctor of Juridical Science

Proposed Plan Code LAW\_SJD

Proposed CIP Code 22.0201 - Advanced Legal Research/Studies,  
General.

Plan Name Doctor of Juridical Science

Will there be any subcomponents within the program such as concentrations, specializations, thesis/non-thesis options, or tracks?  
No

Effective Term Spring 2022

First Term Valid Fall 2021

Program Instruction Mode In Person

Where is the program offered?	Location	Please provide the % of instruction at each location.
	Coral Gables Campus	100

Program Length (Years) 3

Total Credits 30

### In Workflow

1. PG Initial Review
2. PG University Accreditation
3. PG FS Office for GWC
4. PG FS GWC
5. PG Faculty Senate
6. PG FS for President
7. PG FS President Approved
8. PG Registrar

### Approval Path

1. 03/25/21 2:49 pm  
Patty Murphy (pxm491): Approved for PG Initial Review
2. 03/26/21 8:44 am  
Patty Murphy (pxm491): Approved for PG University Accreditation

## To Be Published in the Academic Bulletin

### Program Overview

The SJD program is a research degree for legal academics and public policy makers who either have already obtained an LLM degree or who wish to begin their SJD studies with an LLM degree at the University of Miami.

### Program Mission Statement

## Mission

The mission of the SJD is to advance legal scholarship by producing graduates who have contributed significantly to their chosen area of study, and who are prepared to become leaders in the international academic, judicial and public service communities.

### Program Goals

## Goals

The SJD Program seeks to:

- Recruit outstanding international candidates with distinguished prior academic records in law who are seeking to pursue careers as legal scholars, members of the judiciary and public servants.
- Offer high quality instruction and support enabling students to produce a scholarly dissertation that constitutes an outstanding contribution to legal scholarship.
- Contribute to and enrich the School of Law's intellectual life.
- Further the School of Law's mission to provide international lawyers and scholars the tools that they need to advance their careers.

Student Learning Outcomes

## Student Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the SJD program will be able to:

- Conduct a literature and legal review in the chosen subfield of law and identify a topic on which the student can make a substantial and original contribution to the existing body of knowledge and legal analysis.
- Refine the research topic in light of comments from faculty advisers and the results of the student's initial literature and legal review.
- Develop an effective research methodology and research plan.
- Conduct original research on the student's topic and related legal issues.
- Write a dissertation of publishable quality that makes an original and substantial contribution to legal scholarship in the student's field.

Curriculum Requirements

## Curriculum Requirements

Required SJD Seminar	6
Students will take two semesters of SJD Seminar (new course)	
Upper-Level Law Electives	12
Students will design their own course of study with advisor approval	
Dissertation Research and Writing	12
Total Credit Hours	30
Plan of Study	

## Sample Plan of Study

All first-year students will be enrolled in the SJD Seminar. Additional upper level law courses may be required by the faculty supervisor. In subsequent years, students will be enrolled in the Dissertation Research and Writing course.

### Plan of Study Grid

Year One	
First Semester	Credit Hours
SJD Seminar	3
Upper-Level Law Elective	3
Upper-Level Law Elective	3
Credit Hours	9
Second Semester	
SJD Seminar	3
Upper-Level Law Elective	3
Upper-Level Law Elective	3
Credit Hours	9
Year Two	
First Semester	
Dissertation Research and Writing	6
Credit Hours	6
Second Semester	
Dissertation Research and Writing	6
Credit Hours	6
Year Three	
First Semester	
Dissertation Research and Writing	1
Credit Hours	1
Second Semester	
Dissertation Research and Writing	1
Credit Hours	1
Total Credit Hours	32

Admission Requirements

## Admission Requirements

Admissions decisions will be made by the Law School's SJD Committee, in consultation with the faculty member who has agreed to serve as the candidate's dissertation adviser.

Applicants to the SJD degree program must have earned a JD degree or an LLM from a U.S. law school or an LLM from another common law country. The SJD Committee may also consider applicants with graduate degrees from institutions outside the common law world and from experienced members of the judiciary, universities, or public service organizations if the applicant's experience indicates likely success in the SJD program.

Applicants will be required to submit a detailed statement of purpose or preliminary dissertation proposal, published work or a writing sample of publishable quality, transcripts, at least two academic or professional letters of recommendation, and a complete CV. Applicants will not be admitted to the program unless the SJD Committee finds an appropriate Law School faculty member who is willing to serve as dissertation supervisor.

Applicants must also demonstrate excellent English writing skills and a thorough understanding of the subject matter discussed in the dissertation proposal. In most cases, an interview by phone or web conferencing will be required of applicants, depending on their experience and training.

Subject to approval of the SJD Director, Miami Law's LLM students may be eligible to apply to the SJD during their first semester at Miami Law. If admitted, students may be able to reduce by one semester the duration of their SJD residency period and graduate a semester earlier if all other graduation requirements have been satisfied.

### Rationale

## Rationale

The University of Miami School of Law seeks approval of a proposal to establish a new academic degree, a Doctor of Juridical Science (JD). The degree is primarily a research degree for legal academics and public policy makers who either have already obtained an LL.M. degree or who wish to begin their JD studies with an LL.M. degree at the University of Miami. The JD program will be open to domestic and international applicants, although most students would be international scholars. JD students would spend one year in residence in Miami, pursuing a course of study to allow them to develop a dissertation proposal and to begin their research. After their first year, students could continue in residence in Miami or work on writing the dissertation elsewhere. Students would be supported in the goal of completing the writing by their supervisor and by an JD Director by the end of their third year of JD study.

**SJD Mission (Purpose and Goals)**

The University of Miami School of Law has a rich history of engagement with international and comparative law, and the law school is based in a University with a declared aspiration "to be a global university with an intentionally hemispheric strategy, pursuing inclusive engagement as a bridge across the Americas to the rest of the world." Consistent with the University's mission, our goal is for Miami Law to become a global law school with an intentionally hemispheric strategy for a global legal market. This goal is also consistent with the first goal of the Law School's Strategic Roadmap, to "achieve a preeminent position among law schools with a focus stretching across the Americas". Working together with existing and developing areas of focus within Miami Law, including clinical and skills programs, and also with partners in other institutions, we address significant issues of policy and practice, preparing lawyers to work in transnational environments and engaging with global policy issues relating to climate change, migration, trade and finance, dispute resolution, human rights, health, and education. Miami Law is also an excellent environment in which JD students could pursue comparative research in fields such as criminal law and policy and race and gender and the law.

An SJD program will help us to recruit talented junior scholars who will develop, through the program, into outstanding scholars and experts in law and policy. These scholars will enhance Miami Law's domestic and international reputation, elevate the Law School's intellectual life and its scholarly culture, and enable us to build connections and partnerships with other institutions. In addition, SJD candidates can teach new courses in their areas of expertise, which will further enhance our curricular offerings.

An SJD Program will complement our other graduate and international program activities, and will allow UM Law to build relationships with universities, and governmental and non-profit organizations within our hemisphere and beyond. Many other law schools have recognized the benefits of an SJD program.

The SJD will require authorization from the Faculty of the School of Law, the University of Miami and the American Bar Association.

her institutions. In addition, SJD candidates can teach new courses in their areas of expertise, which will further enhance our curricular offerings.

**Approval and Implementation**

Because an SJD program is a new degree-conferring program, it would require approval from 1) the law school faculty as a whole, 2) the University, through the Faculty Senate, and 3) the American Bar Association (the "ABA"). Approval at each level has different requirements, and these requirements are discussed briefly below. After discussion of these requirements, we propose an implementation calendar, **with the goal of implementing the program in the Spring of 2022.**

The Law School

The recently adopted by-laws of the law school provide that "A formal vote by the Voting Faculty must be taken for," among other things, the "establishment of a new degree." (Faculty By-Laws Art. 9.1.4.) [1] A "formal vote" has specific requirements for notice, meeting, and voting procedures. (See *id.* Art. 9.1.)

In addition to a formal vote, a proposal for an SJD degree program would require review by the curriculum committee. The standard charge of the curriculum committee, which is not binding absent a faculty resolution, states that the curriculum committee "shall provide advice to the Faculty and the Dean on policy questions," including "[t]he proposed curriculum for any new degree." (Faculty By-Laws Addendum III, Curriculum Committee ¶¶ 1, 2.4.)

The Faculty Senate

The Faculty Handbook provides that "Most university-wide academic decisions as well as those that directly affect the welfare of the faculty (Category III) are formally shared by the President and the Faculty Senate in that no policy in these matters will be established or disestablished without their formal agreement." (Faculty Manual ¶ B1.2.) [2] The Handbook further provides that "Matters in Category III include . . . the institution of new . . . degrees." (*Id.* ¶ B1.2.)

To that end, the Faculty Senate provided formal procedures for the submission of new degree programs. An overview of these procedures can be found here:

[https://fs.miami.edu/\\_assets/pdf/facultysenate/Documents/proposal-submission-specs.pdf](https://fs.miami.edu/_assets/pdf/facultysenate/Documents/proposal-submission-specs.pdf) [3] The procedures are attached to this proposal. In general, a proposal for a new law graduate program would require submission of, among other things, a 1) letter of explanation; 2) a memo from the dean certifying faculty approval of the program; 3) approval from the Office of Accreditation and Assessment (OAA); and 4) a completed submission proposal form, a copy of which can be found here: [https://fs.miami.edu/\\_assets/pdf/facultysenate/Documents/proposal-submission-form-1.pdf](https://fs.miami.edu/_assets/pdf/facultysenate/Documents/proposal-submission-form-1.pdf).

Once the proposal is submitted to the Faculty Senate, it is then first reviewed by the General Welfare Committee of the Faculty Senate. If the General Welfare Committee approves, then the proposal is reviewed and voted on by the entire Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate encourages informal consultation with the General Welfare Committee prior to submission of a formal proposal.

Finally, upon approval by the Faculty Senate, the proposal then is presented to the Provost or the President for final review and approval.

The ABA

The ABA requires that "an ABA-approved law school may not establish a degree program other than its J.D. degree program unless the school is fully approved, and the additional degree program will not detract from a law school's ability to maintain a sound J.D. degree program." (See ABA Standard 3.13.) [4] The ABA, however, does not require formal approval, but only "acquiescence." Acquiescence for a graduate degree program can be obtained by filling out and submitting a questionnaire, a copy of which can be found here: [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_education/resources/questionnaire/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/questionnaire/). The ABA states that "[t]he school must obtain acquiescence prior to commencing such a program." (*Id.*)

Implementation Calendar

February 8-12, 2021: Brown Bag Lunch/Faculty Discussion

February 13-28, 2021: Curriculum Committee Review (approved March 1, 2021)

March 1-12, 2021: Law School Faculty Discussion and Approval (approved March 5, 2021)

March 15-19, 2021: Submission to the Faculty Senate

April 7, 2021: General Welfare Committee Review (materials due March 29, 2021)

April 21, 2021: Faculty Senate Review

May 2021: Provost and President Review

Summer 2021: Board of Trustee Review

Fall 2021: ABA Acquiescence

Fall 2021: Marketing and Admissions Process

Spring 2022: First SJD Student(s)

[1] The Faculty By-Laws can be accessed at: [https://wiki.law.miami.edu/facdev/index.php/Faculty\\_Bylaws](https://wiki.law.miami.edu/facdev/index.php/Faculty_Bylaws).

[2] The Faculty Manual can be accessed at: <https://fs.miami.edu/faculty-manual/index.html>.

[3] Additional information can be found here: <https://fs.miami.edu/senate-info/proposal-submission-process/index.html>.

[4] Information about Standard 3.13 can be found here: [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_education/resources/llm-degrees\\_post\\_j\\_d\\_non\\_j\\_d/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/llm-degrees_post_j_d_non_j_d/).

## Market Demand

The SJD degree is primarily intended for those who teach or who wish to teach law outside the United States, who are involved in policy work in research institutes or government organizations, or who are pursuing a judicial career in their home countries. Most SJD students in the United States are graduates of law degree programs outside the United States for whom a doctoral degree involving advanced study in law would be beneficial. Many law schools outside the United States require a doctoral degree either for initial appointment for a faculty position or for promotion. An SJD degree has advantages over a PhD program for such students as the SJD is administered by a law school, is research-based and is generally completed in a shorter period of time.

Miami Law already offers a number of Masters of Law (LL.M.) programs which provide advanced training in law for domestic and international students. An SJD program will allow Miami Law to expand opportunities for students to develop their legal skills and knowledge further than is possible in an LL.M. program. Although many LL.M. students do dedicate time to work on research and writing, this is the focus of the SJD program. In order to graduate from the SJD program, a student will be required to complete a work of publishable scholarship that makes a unique contribution to the legal scholarly literature.

## Relationship to Other Programs

The Law School has unmatched expertise in educating international, foreign-trained lawyers, including many who are non-native English speakers. Our first LLM program for international lawyers was developed more than 60 years ago, and our current offering has grown to include six different general and specialized LLM degrees, as well as a joint JD/LLM program specifically designed for foreign-trained students. The Law School has always been responsive to the needs of international students by offering them a wide array of options that address their diverse legal education and professional career needs and goals. The proposed SJD program perfectly complements our current offering by adding an advanced course of study for students interested in scholarly pursuits or other career paths that require, or can benefit from, a doctoral level degree.

## Library Resources Available and Needed to Support the Program

The SJD program will not require additional resources in terms of faculty, facilities, or library materials and it can be run with only minimal additional expenses. No student will be admitted to the SJD program unless a suitable and willing adviser can be found among members of the Law School, so the SJD program will not require the hiring of additional faculty. The Law Library is well staffed with excellent librarians who are experienced in working with international students and addressing individual research needs.

## Laboratory Facilities, Equipment, and Space Available and Needed to Support the Program

n/a

## Other Resources Available or Needed to Support the Program

n/a

## Curriculum

## Program Curriculum

### Curriculum

SJD students will have proven graduate-level content knowledge of law. Once enrolled, all SJD students will complete one academic year of study at the Law School. During the first year of study the students will focus on the development of a dissertation proposal to be subject to the approval of the SJD committee before the student can progress to the writing stage of the SJD program.

In the first year, all SJD students must participate in the SJD Seminar, a two-semester 3-credit course designed to provide students the skills they need to successfully complete their dissertation. The seminar, to be taught by Miami Law faculty and librarian faculty, will cover dissertation formulation, planning and drafting, US and international legal research techniques, critical reading and analysis, legal discourse and academic presentations. In addition, specific rotating themes will be introduced each semester based on the students' backgrounds, interests and goals. First year SJD students will also be required develop their own course of study for their residency year. The course of study will include at least six credits per semester of upper-level courses in their area of specialization selected from the law school's existing course catalog, and may also include other University of Miami graduate level courses, as well as readings and other academic work framed in the context of the candidate's specific field of study. The SJD supervisor will approve the student's course of study. During the second semester of the first year, students will present their dissertation proposal to the SJD supervisor.

In the second and third years of the program students will focus on the writing of the dissertation. If the student chooses to remain in Miami during this period the student may continue to participate in the SJD seminar and audit classes, and will be encouraged to participate in the intellectual life of the School.

Students will receive regular assessments of their progress from their supervisor, and the SJD committee will review these assessments annually. The aim is that students will complete the writing of the dissertation by the end of their third year in the program, but up to two additional years of study may be granted with the supervisor's support. Students will have a maximum period of 5 years within which to complete the writing of the dissertation subject to the ability of the SJD Committee to extend the time period if a student petition justifies the extension to the satisfaction of the Committee.

### Advising and Counseling

All SJD students will have a dissertation supervisor who is primarily responsible for their study and research. During their first year in the program, SJD students will meet with their supervisor at least twice per semester during the first year and at least once every semester during the second and third years. The SJD Director will also be available to meet with students as needed on a scheduled basis.

Each semester, SJD students will be required to submit a Semester Progress Plan to their SJD supervisor for feedback and approval.

### Dissertation Committee

Students must complete and successfully defend, before their dissertation committee, a dissertation of publishable quality that constitutes an original and substantial scholarly contribution to the areas of law in which it is written. The dissertation committee is composed of the student's dissertation advisor and two additional members. Dissertation committee members can be members of the law school faculty at large, members of the faculty of other schools or colleges at the University of Miami, or members of the faculty of other law schools.

Students will be required to defend and pass an oral examination at the law school by the dissertation committee on or before the dissertation committee's decision as to whether to approve the student's completed dissertation for receipt of the SJD degree.

### Graduation Requirements

The SJD degree will be awarded upon satisfaction of the following requirements:

Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 30 credit hours, including all the required coursework.

Participation in the law school's intellectual life, teaching as requested by the law school.

Timely completion of the dissertation to the satisfaction of the SJD supervisor.

Oral defense of the dissertation before the dissertation committee.

Upload Syllabi for Any New Courses [Sergio J Campos CV.pdf](#)

## Faculty

## Program Directors

The Dean of the Law School has appointed Sergio J. Campos, Professor of Law, as initial Faculty Program Director. Sergio Campos has a Juris Doctor from Yale University and is a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association. He joined the University of Miami School of Law faculty in 2009. Prior to joining the faculty, he was Charles Hamilton Houston Fellow at Harvard Law School and was in private practice. He also clerked for the Honorable Juan R. Torruella of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and the Honorable Patti B. Saris of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. His research interests include civil procedure, federal courts, and remedies.

Upload CV(s)

Program Faculty

A list of Miami Law faculty interested in supervising SJD student dissertations, together with their areas of expertise, is attached as Supporting Documentation.. Supervising faculty is required to have a JD or equivalent degree.

## Students

## Applicant Pool

There are multiple sources of recruitment.

First, we will advertise and recruit our existing community. The Law School has received significant interest in such a degree program from alumni, existing LLM students, and others not associated with the Law School community.

Second, we will recruit from the law school's existing international partners, such as the law school of la Universidad Autonoma Nacional de Mexico ("UNAM"), Mexico's largest and most prestigious law school.

Third, we will advertise and recruit using the same channels to recruit our current LLM programs.

Fourth, we will recruit using the extensive professional and community networks of the faculty.

Fifth, we will collaborate with the Office of the Provost in reaching out to university partners in the hemisphere and across the globe. Many faculty in the program have connections with government, non-governmental, higher education, and for-profit institutions.

## Enrollment Projections

The goal of the program is to attract 5 new students per year. Since it is a three-year program, once the program is fully implemented, we expect to have a maximum of 15 enrolled students.

Year One: 2 New Students; 2 Total Students

Year Two: 3 New Students; 5 Total Students

Year Three: 5 New Students; 10 Total Students

Year Four: 5 New Students; 13 Total Students

Year Five: 5 New Students; 15 Total Students

## Administration

### Program Administration

The SJD program will be directed by a faculty program director who will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the program. The director will be supported by an SJD Committee comprising members of the Faculty of the Law School and members of the Law School administration appointed to the Committee by the Dean, and which will be responsible for admissions decisions, and will oversee the individual SJD faculty supervisors, and participate in SJD seminars. The faculty program director will receive administrative support from the Office of International Graduate Law Programs.

### Program Budget

The SJD program will not require new faculty or administrative staff. With the exception of the SJD Seminar, which will be taught by existing faculty, and dissertation supervision, no new courses will need to be created. Based on current enrollment projections, the SJD program is expected to generate sufficient tuition revenue to be profitable starting on its first year.

## Comparison

### Peer Comparisons

Included in the Supporting Documentation is a list of 47 law schools which are comparable to Miami Law either as a peer or an aspirational peer. The institutions were selected through a combination of the following metrics:

competitive peers, defined as schools who have shared at least 300 admitted students in the past 5 years (as of 2020).

2020 top 14 schools from U.S. News and World Report.

Data collected includes participation rates, enrollment, cost of attendance, admission requirements, residency/coursework requirements, and staffing.

Participation rates: Out of the 47 schools that were sampled, 26 offer SJD programs and 21 do not. Although all top 10 law schools in the United States have SJD programs, in this sample size there is no strong correlation between U.S. News ranking and institution's participation. However, all U.S. News top 10 ranked International Law Programs offer SJD degrees, which suggests a strong correlation between SJD participation and International Law Program rank.

Enrollment: Enrollment across institutions ranges from as little as 2 students (Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law) to as large as 55 (Harvard University) annually.

Cost of attendance: Cost to participate ranges from as low as fully funded grants with a stipend (New York University) to as high as full tuition annually (University of California- Berkeley, Columbia University, Cornell University, Duke University). Rates seem to be determined at the discretion of the institution, rather than through reference to a universal standard. Additionally, based on this research, there is no strong correlation between the cost of attendance and enrollment. Similar institutions such as Harvard and Columbia display significant differences in enrollment despite comparable cost and ranking.

Admissions Requirements: The minimum requirement for most institutions presented is an LL.M degree, with a few exceptions requiring only a J.D. (Columbia University, University of Chicago).

Additionally, a few exceptions, such as University of Michigan, require an LL.M degree, but allow students to earn the LL.M. in the course of earning an SJD.

Residency Requirements: One to two years (mostly a year) of residency, the only exception being New York University which requires three years.

Coursework Requirements: In general, most of the institutions require some course/seminar work, a dissertation, and a successful oral defense. There is no strong trend or universal requirement of credit hours in courses; required credit hours range from 10 to 30.

Staffing: Institutions utilize between 1 and 7 faculty and/or staff members on average, consisting of at least one faculty/director and a program coordinator or manager. Additionally, the vast majority of SJD programs studied share resources and staff with the LL.M. programs.

## Documents

Attach Supporting Documentation [SJD Supporting Documentation.pdf](#)

Reviewer **Patty Murphy (pxm491) (03/25/21 2:49 pm)**: Although this new program will create new courses, they are not content courses. All of the content courses are already offered for the JD and LLM programs. Therefore this is not a significant departure from what the University is approved to offer. The University is already approved to offer a doctoral program and doctoral level courses in law. So this does not represent a level change. The program length of 30 credits/3 years is appropriate because students enter with an earned JD and/or LLM and focus on dissertation research in the SJD. It is also comparable with similar programs at peer institutions. Therefore, notification to or approval from SACSCOC is not required.

Comments **Robyn Hardeman (rhardeman) (03/27/21 3:01 pm)**: Supporting documents reflect approval of the School Council. This proposal will be added to the agenda for the General Welfare Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 7, 2021.