THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LAW
POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL)

Notes for Applicants (2019-2020)

1. The Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) is a full-time curriculum extending over one academic year from September to June inclusive. The PCLL is also available as a part-time course spanning over two years also from September to June for each academic year. The PCLL course at the University of Hong Kong is taught mainly by members of the Department of Professional Legal Education with contributions from practising members of the legal profession.

QUALIFICATION FOR PRACTICE IN HONG KONG

2. An intending solicitor or barrister who completes the degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) or equivalent or passes the CPE examinations or equivalent and the PCLL programme is then required only to complete satisfactorily two years' employment as a trainee solicitor or twelve months' pupillage in order to be eligible for admission to practice in Hong Kong as a solicitor or a barrister respectively.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE PCLL

3. To be eligible for admission to the PCLL programme at the University of Hong Kong, an applicant:

(a) shall at least hold a degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) or Juris Doctor (J.D.) or equivalent, or pass the CPE examinations or equivalent, from a university or comparable institution. The law degree must be in common law, normally from a Hong Kong or Commonwealth institution; *and*

(b) will have to demonstrate competence in the following eleven 'Core' subjects: Contract, Tort, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Land Law, Equity, Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Business Associations, and Commercial Law; and three 'Top-up' subjects: Hong Kong Constitutional Law, Hong Kong Legal System and Hong Kong Land Law.

4. Applicants who:

(a) hold a LL.B. or J.D. degree from one of the three universities offering such degrees in Hong Kong must be able to demonstrate competence in the eleven 'Core' subjects and three 'Top-up' subjects as part of their law degree.

(b) hold a law degree from a university or other recognized law qualification acceptable to the University of Hong Kong, other than one of the three universities offering such degrees in Hong Kong, may be able to demonstrate competence in the eleven 'Core' subjects when such have been completed as follows:

(i) as part of their non-Hong Kong common law qualification; and/or

(ii) as a visiting "internal" student in one of the three universities awarding LL.B. and/or J.D. degrees in Hong Kong and passing the requisite examination; and/or

(iii) by passing the relevant subject in the *Hong Kong Conversion Examination for PCLL Admission*.

(c) hold a law degree from a university or other recognized law qualification acceptable to the University of Hong Kong, other than one of the three universities offering such degrees in Hong Kong, must pass all of the three 'Top-up' subjects and can do so in any of the following ways:

(i) as a visiting "internal" student in one of the three universities awarding LL.B. and/or J.D. degrees in Hong Kong and passing the requisite examination; and/or

(ii) as part of the Graduate Diploma in English and Hong Kong Law taught and awarded in Hong Kong; and/or

(iii) by passing the relevant subject in the *Hong Kong Conversion Examination for PCLL Admission*.

5. ***All*** applicants (**including native English speakers**) must take the International English Language Testing System (***IELTS***) test (the Academic module) and submit the band score obtained as soon as possible and **in no case later than the first Friday of August each year, i.e. for a 2018 application, you must submit the IELTS test results by 2 August 2019. No further extension on IELTS submission will be allowed. No other English language test (e.g. TOEFL) will be accepted.**

A minimum standard of the IELTS test must be achieved as a requirement for admission to the PCLL. At present the prescribed minimum IELTS **overall** band score is 7. This is a requirement of the Hong Kong Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training. **No exemptions will be granted**. The Department of Professional Legal Education accepts an IELTS test result as valid where it is obtained within three years of the application deadline, i.e. for a 2019 application, the test date shown on the Test Report Form cannot be earlier than 30 April 2016.

STUDY MODES AND SCALE OF FEES

6. (a) One-year Full-time (Government-funded):

Fee: HK$42,100* ('local' students); HK$161,000* ('non-local' students)

For Government funding purposes, a 'non-local' student is a person entering Hong Kong for the purpose of education with a student visa/entry permit issued by the Director of Immigration.

(b) One-year Full-time (self-funded):

Fee: HK$174,500*
(Successful applicants may, subject to means tests, apply for bursaries.)

(c) Two-year Part-time (self-funded):

Fee: HK$203,500*, payable in two annual instalments of HK$101,750* each

**** 2018-19 Tuition Fees for your reference only.***

APPLICATION

7. Your application must be made at http://www.aal.hku.hk/tpg. **The application deadline is 12:00 noon (Hong Kong time) on 30 April 2019 (for admission in September 2019). ALL application forms must be submitted by this deadline. Please note that the PCLL application webpage will shut down promptly once the application deadline has expired so all applications must be completed by this time. As such, we do not recommend leaving your application until the last minute.**

Late applications will not be accepted.

***** Applicants are not required to upload the supporting documents to the online application system.***

8. Applicants in their final year of study may apply (with their latest interim results) before their final results are known but must inform the PCLL Admissions Office of all their degree results by the Transcript Deadline Date [see paragraph 11 below].

9. Applicants must arrange to send by registered post to the PCLL Admissions Office not later than the Transcript Deadline Date, a transcript[1] of their academic record showing all the subjects taken for their law qualification and whether they have passed each subject and/or result slips of all Conversion Examinations they have passed and/or the official letters of exemption. We no longer accept documents submitted to us in person.

10. The PCLL Admissions Office may also ask individual applicants to send copies of regulations, syllabuses and such other documents as may be needed to check their eligibility and suitability for admission. If so requested, the applicants will be responsible for supplying the required materials, without which, their applications will not be considered further.

11. All examination results, final transcripts and other documents required must reach the PCLL Admissions Office by close of office (namely 5:30 p.m.) on the following Transcript Deadline Dates:

All candidates

- interim academic results - by Tuesday, 30 April 2019
- **final results, IELTS report and all other documents** - by Friday, 2 August 2019

We have had a few instances of documents sent by ordinary post not arriving. We do not accept documents submitted to us in person.

All supporting documents must be sent to us by REGISTERED POST

Applicants who are not current students of law degrees at this University should, however, endeavour to provide all examination results, and interim and final transcripts as soon as they have them. The PCLL Admissions Office aims to make a decision on PCLL applications as soon as possible. **Failure by an applicant to provide all the necessary documentation as soon as possible will result in a delay in this decision or possibly even the rejection of the application.** In any event, applicants must inform the PCLL Admissions Office if there are any difficulties in meeting the Transcript Deadline Date; otherwise **applications which are still incomplete by that time will be rejected due to incomplete documentation.**

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[1] *Applicants who are current students of law degrees at this University are not required to submit their academic transcripts (of their University of Hong Kong law degrees) as the PCLL Admissions Office will obtain their academic results from the University's database. However, such applicants must still submit all other supporting documents, for example, valid IELTS test results, exchange's transcripts and the "Certificate of Completion" of PCLL pre-requisite(s) for exchange.*

12. The University will **ONLY** accept originals or copies of documents that have been duly declared as true copies before a notary public, a solicitor or other person who can administer oaths e.g. a Commissioner for Oaths. A declaration before a Commissioner for Oaths at a Public Enquiry Service Centre of the Home Affairs Department in Hong Kong (that the copies provided are true copies of the originals) is also acceptable. Copies of documents may be certified by the appropriate officials of your home institution if you are an overseas applicant.

No uncertified photocopies will be accepted.

All application forms and supporting documents submitted are non-returnable.
If your application is unsuccessful, all documents will be destroyed after the admission

ADMISSION CRITERIA

13. Selection for the PCLL will be carried out by the PCLL Admissions Office in accordance with the criteria laid down by the Admissions Committee of the PCLL Academic Board (which comprises representatives of the Judiciary and two branches of the legal profession) and the Board of the Faculty of Law.

14. PCLL admission is primarily based on academic achievement in the primary law qualification, i.e. the first degree in law (such as the LL.B or JD) or CPE examinations or other diploma course or graduate programmes recognized as being equivalent. Generally speaking, candidates admitted to the PCLL need to attain a minimum of a high 2.2 standard in their law qualification (or equivalent), but, given the levels of competition seen in the last few years, frequently needed to do better. We do not take classifications of degrees, e.g. upper second class (2:1), at face value but will take into account the grades/marks obtained in the law subjects. The attainment of an upper second class (2:1) degree *per se* therefore is not conclusive (and does not necessarily guarantee admission).

15. Please note that interviews are not normally conducted.

OFFERS OF ADMISSION

16. Offers of admission may be made to eligible applicants at any time after the start of the application period. Indeed, strong applicants may be given offers prior to the application deadline. Offers of admission will lapse on the date specified in the offer letters and may be subject to conditions. **Please read the offer letter carefully and ensure compliance with ALL conditions stated therein.** Applicants who will be absent from Hong Kong after submission of their applications should therefore arrange for their correspondence with this University to be dealt with on their behalf.

DOUBLE REGISTRATION

17. University regulations prohibit concurrent registration by a student of this University for another post-secondary qualification, either at this University or at another institution, unless approval of the University's Senate has been obtained **in advance**. Moreover, as the PCLL is a very demanding programme, the Head of Department will not normally support requests for approval to be registered on another programme. A candidate in breach of this regulation may be required to discontinue his/her studies at this University.

18. If you are presently enrolled in a programme leading to a post-secondary qualification which will not be completed by August 2019, you should disclose this on your application and state whether it is your intention to seek permission to be double registered.

ENQUIRIES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

All enquiries must be in writing and should be sent to the PCLL Admissions Office via email at pcll@hku.hk. Please visit our website: http://www.ple.hku.hk/pcll/ for further information and updates. Formal notices of offers and rejections will normally be sent by post only.

PCLL Admissions Office
Department of Professional Legal Education
The University of Hong Kong

GENERAL ENQUIRY

PCLL Admissions Office
Department of Professional Legal Education
The University of Hong Kong
10/F., Cheng Yu Tung Tower
Centennial Campus
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.
Fax: (852) 2549-3541
Email: pcll@hku.hk

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