

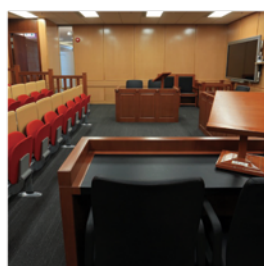
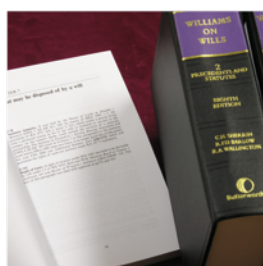


The University of Hong Kong

Faculty of Law

Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (P.C.LL.)

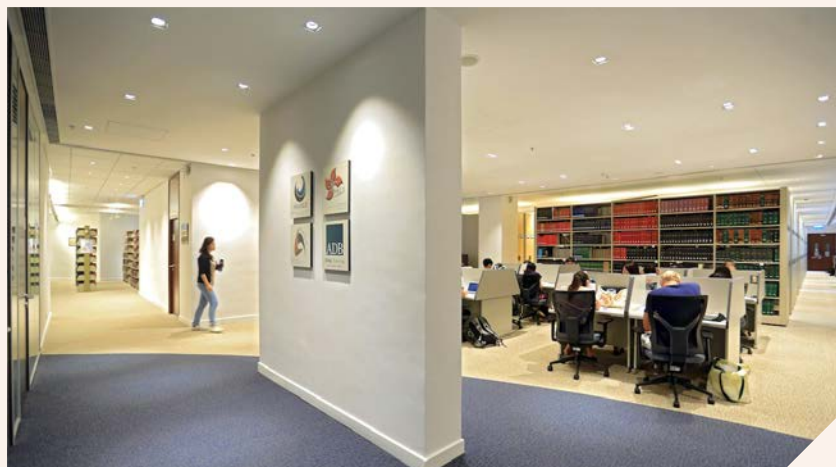
The Leading Professional Legal Education Programme in Hong Kong



Why HKU PCLL?

Since its inception in 1972, HKU PCLL has established its position as the leading professional legal education programme in Hong Kong. Over the years, HKU PCLL has produced generations of distinguished legal practitioners, including judges, senior counsels, partners of local and international law firms and senior figures serving the business or public sectors.

HKU PCLL is devoted to training solicitors and barristers of tomorrow with the highest standards. Admission is highly competitive. Students who are successfully admitted possess strong academic credentials for their qualifying law degrees, many from Hong Kong and others from the most prestigious law schools from various common law jurisdictions.



A Curriculum that Meets Your Needs

HKU PCLL recognizes our students' diverse strengths and backgrounds and that they may be interested in different areas or types of practice. Our programme strengthens core competencies of legal skills and professional ethics required of solicitors and barristers practicing in Hong Kong.

Excellent Team of Teaching Staff

HKU PCLL brings together a team of full-time teaching staff with considerable teaching and practical experience who are committed to providing high-quality professional legal education. In addition, many practitioners serve as our part-time teachers, bringing a wealth of practical insight to our students. A large number of judges and experienced practitioners participate as external assessors in our advocacy assessments.

Extensive Alumni Network and Career Prospects

As the oldest law school in Hong Kong, the HKU Law Faculty has the strongest alumni network in the profession. Many of our graduates are now judges on the bench, high-ranking officers in the Department of Justice, senior counsels and partners of major local and international law firms. The Faculty also runs the Law Mentorship Programme with the full participation and support of the legal profession. Our extensive alumni network is invaluable to our students for their future careers, interpersonal and social developments.



The HKU PCLL Curriculum

Where We Are

The HKU Law Faculty believes that vocational preparation needs to be based on a framework of how legal work is done. The current HKU PCLL programme incorporates the following features: (a) a more student-centred curriculum; (b) a curriculum modeled on legal practice; (c) systematic teaching of legal skills and (d) a degree of specialization for students in pursuit of their respective career choices.

Objectives of the HKU PCLL

- To provide students with a general professional education by equipping them with basic skills and knowledge to perform with competence legal work in specified fields; and
- To provide students with a general foundation for subsequent practice by enabling them to develop new skills in response to employer and client needs.

A Snapshot of Curriculum

The HKU PCLL is a one-year full-time or two-year part-time programme providing typical transactional knowledge and fundamental and core skills training to all students with a degree of specialization, by which graduates are trained to meet the demands and expectations from various sectors of the profession.

Cores, Electives, and Pervasives

- Compulsory Core Practice Areas focusing on essential procedural and transactional knowledge.
- Elective Practice Areas with specific focus so that students can receive training which is better suited to their interests and career choices, and the diverse needs of different sectors of the profession can be better provided for.
- Pervasive subjects including Professional Practice and Taxation with introduction by way of separate and distinct large group sessions followed by issues integrated into small group practice sessions and/or focused exercises.

Fundamental and Complex Skills

- A key set of fundamental lawyering skills which are non-practice specific but are building blocks for the practice of other and more complex skills.
- More complex lawyering skills taught in the context of specific practice areas.

Methodology

Large Group sessions (LGs) are more often used for briefing, demonstration and review. The main objectives of an LG are to introduce students to the subject matter and issues involved, to prepare them for the Small Group sessions (SGs) and to sum up a learning module. SGs continue to provide the opportunities for skills learning, practices and feedback.



First Semester <i>Compulsory Core Practice Areas</i>	Second Semester <i>Compulsory Core & Elective Practice Areas [Electives subject to minimum enrolment]</i>	
	Compulsory Core - Professional Practice and Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Litigation • Criminal Litigation • Corporate & Commercial Transactions • Property Transactions 1 	Litigation-specific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Dispute Resolution • Matrimonial Practice & Procedure • Personal Injury Litigation • Property Litigation • Employment Law & Practice • Trial Advocacy 	Transaction-specific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting Commercial Agreements • Listed Companies • Property Transactions 2 • Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning • China Practice
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Chinese in Legal Practice 	

First Semester <i>Skills</i>	Second Semester <i>Skills</i>	
• Problem solving; • Document analysis; • Issue identification; • Legal research		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research memo writing• Advice writing• Pleadings drafting• Affidavit drafting• Interviewing• Conferencing• Advocacy (non-trial)• File and case management	Litigation-specific <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pleadings drafting• Affidavit drafting• Opinion writing• Advocacy (non-trial and trial)• Interviewing /Conferencing• Negotiation / Mediation	Transaction-specific <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Document drafting• Letter writing• Interviewing• Negotiation / Mediation
*In each practice area, student will carry out practical exercises involving the use of different skills sets relevant to the context. Hypothetical transactions or case files adopted from real-life cases form the basis on which skills are being learnt and practiced.		



FAQ About Our PCLL Programme

Is it difficult to gain entry to the HKU PCLL?

Yes, but then it is difficult to gain entry to all the three PCLL courses because every year each institution receives more than twice as many applications as there are places. We tend to receive strong applications but that means you will be studying among the best legal minds at one of the best institutions. HKU is ranked within the top 30 universities in the world and the law school was 19th in the 2018 international QS rankings.

Is it true that the standard of entry is high?

The legal profession has set a benchmark for admission to the PCLL of a "high 2.2" degree and all three law schools have been following that benchmark. Our focus in admissions is on academic merit and in this regard, we look primarily at an applicant's All Law Average (the average mark of all Law subjects studied over the entirety of an applicant's qualifying law degree) in light of relevant grading practice rather than just by the class of his or her degree. This means that applicants are treated equally, with their marks compared, as much as practicable, on a like-for-like basis. In past years, applicants with a 2.2 degree have been offered a place on the PCLL if their marks are sufficiently competitive. We also hold a limited number of interviews for the last 10-15 places on the part-time programme for those applicants whose marks are not sufficiently competitive but who are able to demonstrate genuine legal working experience. Such legal working experience must be of at least 2 years in total duration, involve the use of legal skills such as research, drafting and advising clients and does not include internships or mini-pupillages.

Are non-HKU applicants disadvantaged in gaining entry?

No. HKU graduates have to compete for admissions with overseas and other applicants for places.

Is it necessary to make HKU my first choice?

We strongly advise you to put HKU as your first choice because the selection exercise is so competitive. We have agreed with the other two law schools that each of us will only consider applicants in the first instance who have put us as first choice. We will only consider applicants listing us as second or third choice in the event that not all places are filled by first choice applicants.

When will an applicant know the outcome of his or her application?

We will make conditional offers as early as possible and throughout the period from April to August (and perhaps even earlier). The sooner an applicant sends in the necessary application with supporting documentation, the earlier we can consider it.

Will a master's degree help?

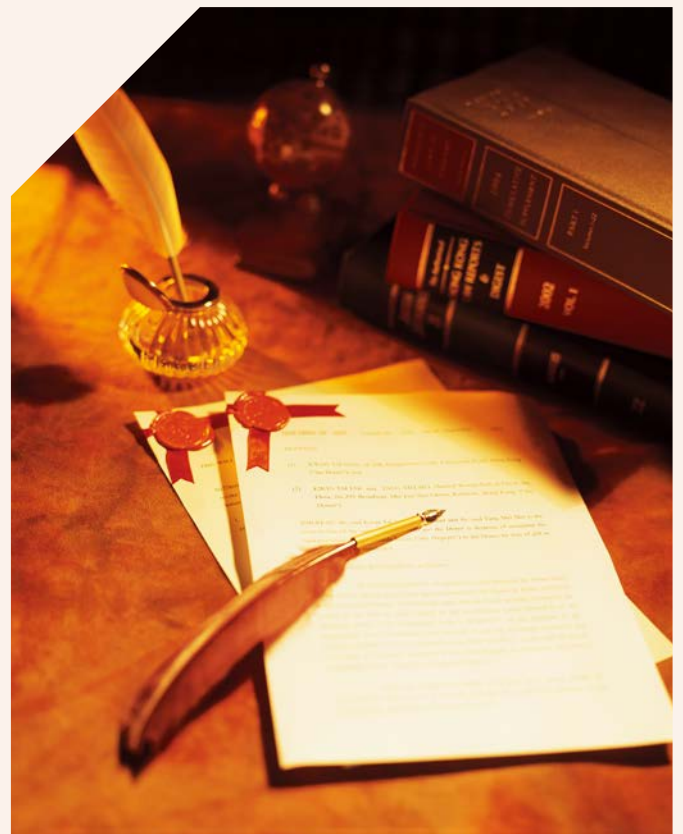
This is of marginal relevance. Academic results in your qualifying law degree are the primary consideration. Only in borderline cases or when the academic merits of applicants are similar will we take into account other factors, which include the results of a relevant LLM degree and genuine legal work experience.

Must an applicant have IELTS or will another English qualification do?

An applicant must have a recent pass at the appropriate level in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) by the relevant deadline in August. We can make offers earlier conditional upon this being attained. The Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training does not allow the result in any other examination in English such as TOEFL.

Is the PCLL at HKU more theoretical than others?

We don't like to make comparisons but we can say that our course is very practical and has received praise from the legal profession. Our teaching materials are based on case studies and case files and are vetted and approved by our external examiners who are practitioners. Nearly all our teachers have experience as lawyers and many of them retain their practice at the Bar or as solicitors. We have lectures and classes led by current practitioners. Almost all our part-time teachers are working lawyers. Our method of teaching concentrates upon practical exercises carried out by students under supervision. The feedback from former students is that they find those materials useful when they start traineeship (or pupillage) and are grateful for the help they received.



Flexible Study Modes

Full-time Mode

The full-time PCLL programme is normally completed over a period of one year commencing from September every year and ending in June in the following year.

The HKU PCLL provides typical transactional knowledge and fundamental and core skills training to all students with a degree of specialization, by which graduates are trained and provided for various sectors of the profession.

Part-time Mode

The curriculum is exactly the same as that for the full-time PCLL and is normally completed over a period of two years.

Students need to attend three to four evening classes (mostly 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.) on weekdays, and classes on Saturday afternoons. There will also be scheduled court visits, mid-term assessment, examinations and occasionally other learning activities during the daytime.

Admission

In recent years, the demand for PCLL places at HKU greatly exceeds the available places. Admission to any of the above courses will be on the basis of academic merit and expressed preferences.

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 or by fax to (852) 2549 3541. Please visit our website: <http://www.ple.hku.hk/pcll/> for further information and updates.



PCLL Admissions Office

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