



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF LAW

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL)

*The Leading Professional Legal
Educational 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 counsel, 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 practising 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 counsel 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 Reform

Background

With the first cohort of the extended 4-year LLB graduates and the most recently introduced new entry requirements as from 2008 onwards, HKU PCLL has entered into another new phase to provide even more practical professional education and training to students.

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 modelled 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 the new curriculum

The new HKU PCLL remains as 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 interest 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 and 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	Second Semester	
Core Practice Areas	Elective Practice Areas #	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Litigation • Criminal Litigation • Corporate & Commercial Transactions I • Property Transactions I 	<p>Litigation-specific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Dispute Resolution • Matrimonial Practice and Procedure • Personal Injury Litigation • Property Litigation • Trial Advocacy 	<p>Transaction-specific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Commercial Transactions II • Listed Companies • Property Transactions II • Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning • China Practice • Mediation in Chinese
	<i>Use of Chinese in Legal Practice</i>	

Core: Professional Practice and Management (being taught both pervasively and as a discrete subject)

Depending on various factors including student demand and available resources, one or more of the Elective Practice Areas may not be offered in any particular year.

First Semester	Second Semester	
Skills	Skills	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Problem solving ❖ Document analysis ❖ Issue identification ❖ Legal research ❖ Research memo writing ❖ Advice writing ❖ Pleadings drafting ❖ Affidavit drafting ❖ Interviewing ❖ Conferencing ❖ Advocacy ❖ File and case management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Problem solving ❖ Document analysis ❖ Issue identification ❖ Legal research 	<p>Litigation-specific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Pleadings drafting ❖ Affidavit drafting ❖ Opinion writing ❖ Advocacy ❖ Interviewing / Conferencing ❖ Negotiation / Mediation
		<p>Transaction-specific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Document drafting ❖ Letter writing

** In each practice area, students will carry out practical exercises involving the use of different skill 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 practised. **

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.

Government-funded Fee:

HK\$42,100* (HK\$119,000* for '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.

Self-funded Fee:

HK\$120,000*

Successful applicants may, subject to means tests, apply for bursaries in September.



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. – 9:30 p.m.) on weekdays, and classes on Saturday afternoons. There will also be scheduled court visits, examinations and occasionally other learning activities during the daytime.

Self-funded Fee:

HK\$140,000*, payable in two annual installments of HK\$70,000* each.

**These figures are tentative only and subject to approval by the University.*



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) 2517-0225. Please visit our website: www.pcll.hk for further information and updates.



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