

Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) at HKU:
No Truth in Rumour of Extending PCLL to 2 Years

As part and parcel of the legal education reform in Hong Kong, particularly with the extension of the local LLB programme to four years, the PCLL curriculum at this University has undergone significant changes in recent years. In light of the new entry requirements to the PCLL in Hong Kong from September 2008 onwards, some substantive legal knowledge presently taught in the HKU PCLL have been moved to and taught in the HKU four-year LLB curriculum so that the PCLL at HKU can focus more on the learning and practice of legal skills and transactions. We understand that similar arrangements have been made at other PCLL providers.

In the past year or more, we are aware of various rumours regarding changes to the HKU PCLL ranging from a plan to expand the curriculum to two years to a policy of restricting entry to only local law graduates. First, there is no plan to expand the duration of the PCLL programme, save that a part-time two-year programme was introduced in 2005-06 alongside the full-time one-year programme. Secondly, admission to the HKU PCLL has been, is, and will remain open to all eligible candidates from all over the common law world.

Thirdly, as from 2008-09, overseas applicants to the PCLL will be required to satisfy the PCLL providers competence in 11 core subjects and 3 top-up subjects. For details, please refer to the website of the PCLL Conversion Examination and Administration Limited at <http://www.pcea.com.hk/>

We hope this notice will go some way to dispel these rumours and clarify the changes planned for the PCLL at HKU.

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