

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

Notes for Applicants (2009-2010)

1. The Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) is a full-time curriculum extending over one academic year from September to June. 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 mainly taught 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 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 hold a degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) 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 hold a degree law from a university, other than one of the three university offering such degrees in Hong Kong, or other recognized law qualification acceptable to the University of Hong Kong, may be able to demonstrate competence

(a) in those 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*.
- (b) in those three ‘Top-up’ subjects 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 second Friday of August each year, i.e. for a 2009 application, you must submit the IELTS test results by 14th August 2009. No further extension on IELTS submission will be allowed.**

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. In addition, the Department of Professional Legal Education considers that the candidate’s language ability as indicated in the Test Report Form is valid for only three years preceding the application deadline, i.e. for a 2009 application, the IELTS results cannot be earlier than 30 April 2006. This is a requirement of the Hong Kong Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training. **No exemptions will be permitted.**

STUDY MODES AND SCALE OF FEES

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

Fee: HK\$42,100* (HK\$100,000* 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.

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

Fee: HK\$95,000*

(Successful applicants may, subject to means tests, apply for bursaries.)

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

Fee: HK\$110,000*, payable in two annual instalments of HK\$55,000* each.

**These figures are tentative only and subject to the approval of the Council of this University.*

APPLICATION

7. Application must be made to the PCLL Admissions Office, Department of Professional Legal Education, Faculty of Law, 4/F., K.K. Leung Building, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong in the prescribed form download at <http://www.pcll.hk> or online at <http://www.hku.hk/rss/online/frontpage/welcome.htm> website by Thursday, 30th April, 2009. In the absence of special circumstances, late applications will not be accepted.

8. Applicants in their final year of study may apply before their results are known but must inform the Faculty of Law of all their degree results by the Transcript Deadline Date [see paragraph 11 below].

9. Applicants who do not hold the degree of LL.B. at this University must send with their application, or arrange to send to the PCLL Admissions Office not later than the Transcript Deadline Date, a transcript of their academic record showing all the subjects taken for their degree in law and whether they have passed each subject and/or result slips of all Conversion Examinations you have passed and/or the official letters of exemption.

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, interim and final transcripts and other documents required must reach the PCLL Admissions Office by close of office on the following Transcript Deadline Dates:

- candidates attending the University of London External LL.B. program
- by Friday, 21st August 2009;
- all other candidates – by Friday, 14th August 2009.

Applicants must inform the PCLL Admissions Office if there are any difficulties in meeting this Transcript Deadline Date; otherwise applications which are still incomplete by that time will be rejected due to incomplete documentation.

12. The University will only **ACCEPT** originals or copies of the documents that have been duly declared as true copies before a notary public, or a Commissioner for Oaths at a City District Office in Hong Kong (but not a solicitor). **You may also bring the originals of the documents together with an additional set of their photocopies for verification** at the PCLL Admissions Office, 4/F., K.K. Leung Building, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong during office hours 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Monday to Friday).

Copies of documents may be certified by the appropriate officials of your home institution if you are an overseas applicant. **No 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 period.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

13. Selection for the PCLL will be carried out by the 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 first degree in law or CPE examinations or other diploma course or graduate programmes recognized as being equivalent to the CPE examinations. Generally speaking, candidates admitted to PCLL need to attain a minimum of good 2.2 in their law degrees (or equivalent). As we observe a rapid increase in the number of applicants attaining 2:1 in their law degrees in the past few years, we will not guarantee that all applicants attaining 2:1 honours in their law degrees will be offered full-time government funded places. We shall not take all 2:1 law degrees at their face value but shall take into account the academic standing of the awarding law schools or institutions and the past performance of students from those law schools and institutions in our PCLL programme.

15. A small number of applicants whose results in their qualifying law degree may slightly fall short of the entrance thresholds but in respect of whom there are circumstances meriting special consideration in our admission process may be invited to attend an interview. The interview, if offered, will take place in Hong Kong in July/August 2009.

OFFERS OF ADMISSION

16. Offers of admission may be made to eligible applicants at any time after the University starts to accept applications in January 2009. These offers of admission will lapse on the date specified in the offer letters and may be subject to conditions. 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 2009, 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 about the admission process 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.

Applicants can check the progress of their applications by accessing the www.pcll.hk website. Periodical notices will be posted up identifying the candidates given offers or interviews, or whose applications are rejected. All candidates will not be identified by their names but only by the number of their identification documents (Hong Kong Identity Cards or passports) or their application numbers. Formal notices to these candidates will still be sent through the post.

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
4/F., K.K. Leung Building,
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.
Fax: (852) 2517-0225
Email: pcll@hku.hk

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