MASTER OF LAWS (LLM)

LLM in Chinese Business Law
LLM in Common Law
LLM in Energy and Environmental Law
LLM in International Economic Law

2018-19

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As Dean of the Faculty of Law I am delighted that you are interested in our Master of Laws (LLM) Programmes. Hong Kong is one of the world’s foremost global trading centres. It is thus the perfect environment in which to study International Economic Law. It is a vibrant place where entrepreneurs link China with the rest of the world, and so is the ideal location to study Chinese Business Law. Hong Kong is committed whole-heartedly to the rule of law and the dynamic development of its common law heritage, which makes it a fascinating place to study Common Law. Hong Kong, China and the greater Asia region face significant environmental challenges, and a need to ensure secure access to sustainable energy supplies. Our new programme in Energy and Environmental Law draws on local and international expertise to deliver a programme designed to address some of the most pressing concerns of our century.

All of our LLM Programmes are taught by an outstanding Faculty drawn from all over the world who offer informed, expert instruction in core subjects and a wide range of electives for all interests. We hope you will join us.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Gane
Simon F.S. Li Professor of Law and
Dean, Faculty of Law

Message from the Programme Director

The CUHK Master of Laws Programmes provide students with an ideal platform to acquire expertise in one of the four specialized subject areas: Chinese business law, common law, energy and environmental law and international economic law. We are proud to offer our students an enriching and stimulating learning environment in which to study and discover the law. The programmes are enriched by the state-of-the-art research and practice experience of a first-rate faculty.

Our LLM Programmes attract intellectually outstanding students from all over the world. You will be joining a vibrant and dynamic community, with opportunities to build long-lasting professional and personal relationships with fellow students of an equally high calibre.

We look forward to welcoming you to our LLM Programmes.

Yours sincerely,

Bryan Druzin
Director of the Master of Laws Programmes
Programme Introduction to the Master of Laws (LLM) Programmes

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) offers four LLM Programmes. Each one is taught in English by first-rate academics with specialist knowledge and global experience. All teaching takes place in our Graduate Law Centre, dedicated and state-of-the-art premises in the heart of Hong Kong’s legal and business district in Central. Our LLM Programmes offer an excellent opportunity for academic and professional growth, delivered by one of the world’s top universities, in one of Asia’s most exciting cities.

**LLM in Chinese Business Law**
The LLM in Chinese Business Law provides students with a structured course to study the principles, processes, institutions and methods of civil and commercial law in China in the context of an evolving political, economic and social environment. It is designed to enable students to develop a broad intellectual outlook on the legal aspects of doing business in China.

**LLM in Common Law**
The common law is an organic and exciting legal system which unites millions of people across the world. This Programme will furnish students with substantive knowledge of Hong Kong law in some core common law subjects, and further develop the skills necessary to engage with the common law tradition more widely. Through the electives, students are given an opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the common law, or complement it with the study of new subjects.

**LLM in Energy and Environmental Law**
The LLM in Energy and Environmental Law aims to offer students an in-depth understanding of the legal aspects governing the key challenges of energy security and environmental protection. Students are trained for practice in the areas of energy investment and trade, project finance and infrastructure development, clean energy and climate change mitigation, with a focus on the specific energy and sustainability challenges of the Asia-Pacific region. The courses build on the expertise in energy and environmental law and investment and trade law at CUHK, and benefit from the participation of leading international practitioners in the field of energy and environmental law.

**LLM in International Economic Law**
The LLM in International Economic Law is designed to offer students an intensive course of study of the law and practice of cross-border business transactions. Students are trained for practice in key areas such as international sales and finance, M&A (mergers and acquisitions), WTO law and international banking law. Skills training modules ensure that graduates of the LLM in International Economic Law are able to conduct both practical work and independent research in relevant subject areas.

The Programme consists of 24 units. Students are required to complete 12 units of Required Courses and 12 units of Elective Courses. The programme’s courses are designed to provide a foundational knowledge of the field. The ability to select from a wide range of Elective Courses allows students to complete the programme requirements while also pursuing their intellectual interests.

The majority of the LLM courses are worth 3 units. Students will have an average of 3 contact hours per week with teachers in each course. The Faculty of Law holds classes during the day and evenings Monday to Friday, and during the day on Saturdays. Evening classes typically begin at 6:30pm. Classes incorporate a mix of lectures, seminars, presentations and class discussion. All courses are taught and assessed entirely in English.

Students may enroll in full-time or part-time modes of study. Full-time students can complete the Programme in one year while part-time students are able to complete the Programme in two years.

In order to graduate, students must meet the minimum cumulative GPA required by the University for postgraduate programmes.
Course List

All courses are 3-unit courses except Independent Research Dissertation and International Legal Advocacy which are 6-unit courses.

Required Courses

LLM in Chinese Business Law
- Chinese Civil Law
- Chinese Company Law
- Legal System and Methods in China

LLM in Common Law
- Common Law: Origins and Development
- Principles of Contract*
- Principles of Criminal Law*
- Principles of Tort*

LLM in Energy and Environmental Law
- International and Comparative Energy Law
- Principles of Environmental Law
- Project Finance and Infrastructure Law

LLM in International Economic Law
- Law of International Business Transactions I
- Law of International Business Transactions II
- Trans-National Legal Problems
- World Trade Law

* Applicants who have already covered any of these subjects as part of a common law undergraduate degree can apply to the Programme Director to replace them with alternative common law subjects or research papers.

Elective Courses

Students may choose, subject to place availability and enrollment priority, from the wide range of Elective Courses offered under the LLM Programmes as well as the JD Programme. Elective Course offerings vary from year to year according to student demand and staff availability. The elective courses offered in 2017/18 are:

- Business and the Law in Hong Kong
- Chinese Environmental Law
- Chinese Intellectual Property Law
- Chinese Tax Law
- Comparative Constitutional Law
- Copyright, Digital Subject Matter and Information Technology
- Criminal Justice and Society in China
- European Union Law
- International Commercial Dispute Resolution
- International Financial and Banking Law
- International Investment Law - Policy and Development
- International Legal Advocacy
- International Taxation
- Investor-State Dispute Settlement
- Issues in Contract
- Issues in Human Rights
- Law and Literature
- Principles of Administrative Law
- Principles of Art, Antiquities, Cultural Heritage and the Law
- Principles of Aviation Law
- Principles of Civil Procedure
- Principles of Commercial Law
- Principles of Company Law
- Principles of Competition Law
- Principles of Constitutional Law
- Principles of Criminal Procedure
- Principles of Employment Law
- Principles of Equity and Trusts
- Principles of Evidence
- Principles of Family Law
- Principles of Information and Privacy Law
- Principles of Intellectual Property
- Principles of International Law
- Principles of Land Law
- Principles of Mediation
- Principles of Revenue Law
- Principles of Securities Regulation

Students who would like to undertake independent research project in an area of significant personal interest may choose Independent Research (3 units) or Independent Research Dissertation (6 units).

The Learning Environment

CUHK Graduate Law Centre

All LLM Programmes are taught at the CUHK Graduate Law Centre. The LLM students have this in common with other graduate students in the Faculty of Law studying on the JD and PCLL courses, creating a mature and professionally oriented environment. The Graduate Law Centre is located at 2/F, Bank of America Tower, Central. Within only a few minutes’ walk can be found the High Court and the appellate courts, the major business centres and many of the other attractions and amenities for which Hong Kong is famous. Facilities at the Graduate Law Centre include lecture theatres, seminar rooms, breakout rooms, the Warren Chan Moot Court, a computer laboratory, a student common area with additional computer work stations, and a Legal Resources Centre.

Our International Academic Faculty

The Faculty has a strong team of experienced academic staff from various jurisdictions. Our research staff are specialists in many areas of expertise. Some come from extensive practice backgrounds, holding senior positions in legal practice and other fields across many jurisdictions. All strive for excellence in teaching and research and are committed to educating students in the law by drawing on their diverse teaching, research and professional experience.
Cultural & Professional Diversity

Since 2006, the LLM Programmes have produced an alumni body of graduates hailing from diverse backgrounds. The jurisdictions of origin of the LLM alumni include 37 countries/regions. For the 2017 academic year, we admitted students from Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Kenya, Macau, Mainland China, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, and United States.

Most of our part-time students come from professional backgrounds: accountants, bankers, social workers, civil servants, and legal practitioners. This mix creates an interesting and stimulating learning environment. Our part-time students study alongside our full-time students.

Professional backgrounds & Affiliations
- Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries (HKICS)
- The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB)
- The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
- Registered Social Worker (RSW)
- Qualified lawyers from various jurisdictions

Countries/Regions of Graduates since 2006
- Albania
- Australia
- Austria
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Guatemala
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Mainland China
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Poland
- Russia
- Serbia
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States

Countries/Regions of Students admitted in 2017
- Australia
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- India
- Italy
- New Zealand
- Kenya
- Macau
- Mainland China
- Singapore
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
Mooting

Mooting gives students a taste of life as a lawyer presenting written and oral arguments in complex hypothetical court cases. In recent years, CUHK Law students have participated in faculty, local, regional and international mooting competitions. They have successfully represented Hong Kong at international competitions in Vienna, Washington D.C, The Hague, and Beijing in 2016-17.

The Faculty of Law encourages students to participate in mooting competitions. Participation may attract course credits towards degree completion. For each moot an academic staff member advises the team and supervises its work. Practice moots also take place in the state-of-the-art Warren Chan Moot Court at the Graduate Law Centre.

The Faculty of Law has enjoyed great success in local, regional and international mooting competitions over ten years since mooting was first offered in the Faculty. In 2016, its mooting teams won the International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot (Chinese) at The Hague; the David Hunter Award for winning the oral rounds of the competition at the Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Law Moot; the Hong Kong regional rounds (White & Case Cup) of the Jessup moot, together with awards for the Best Applicant Memorial, the Best Respondent Memorial and the Best Oralist.

Studying Abroad

LLM Students can choose to study abroad as part of our International Exchange Programmes. These give students the opportunity to travel to new places, to meet new people, to experience new cultures, to learn new subjects and gain a greater international experience to impress future employers. Credits earned abroad may be transferred back to count towards degree requirements. In addition to university-level exchanges, which cover more than two hundred destinations worldwide, there are also faculty-level exchanges whereby graduate students can go to Faculty of Law, The University of Auckland (New Zealand), Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne (Australia), Faculty of Law, Maastricht University (The Netherlands) or The School of Law of Bocconi University (Italy). For further information please visit the Faculty’s website.

Careers

The Faculty runs a careers advice programme that supports its students in many ways.

Law Student Careers Office

The Faculty’s Law Student Careers Office provides students with guidance on career choices, career preparation and professional development. The Faculty’s Director of Career Planning and Professionalism, Mr. Paul Mitchard QC, has designed and runs a programme which includes seminars on career and professionalism topics and presentations by representatives of law firms and barristers’ chambers and other prospective employers.

Virtual Careers Resource Centre

The Law Student Careers Office also maintains a Virtual Careers Resource Centre (VCRC). This is a powerful online resource that serves as a contact point for employers, teaching faculty and students. The VCRC has a Legal Careers Directory that contains up-to-date information on law firms, internships and other employment opportunities and provides information on careers seminars and other events. The VCRC website provides students with information on matters such as job applications, CV preparation and other resources.

The Faculty’s academic staff also frequently advise individual students on career development and write references for students to potential employers.

“Today’s prospective employers look for evidence of a broad range of skills going beyond academic achievement and it is crucial that students understand how to meet this challenge and take steps early in their University career to put themselves in the best position to meet these demands.”

Mr. Paul Mitchard QC
Director of Career Planning and Professionalism
What Our Students Say

Frederic Rocafort (United States)

First State Examination (LMU Munich)
Second State Examination (Free State of Bavaria)
LLM (CUHK)

It was always my greatest ambition to study in Hong Kong and that is why I am extremely grateful to have been awarded a scholarship by CUHK to pursue my LLM degree. As a student of a common law background, the LLM programme provides me with an enriching academic environment to understand the differences and similarities between Chinese and Australian law. It was particularly challenging at times but also very rewarding.

Shanyun Xiao (China)

LLB (South China Normal University), LLM (CUHK)

As one of the LLM Scholarship recipients, it is the best choice that I have ever made to further my education at CUHK. At Hong Kong is a leading international financial centre, the Chinese Business Law Programme is the perfect combination of my previous studies in Finance and Law. It not only strengthened my legal education but also fostered my commercial skills by integrating a global perspective into the lectures, seminars, research and extracurricular activities. I truly appreciate the excellent faculty instruction, outstanding learning resources and talented peer cooperation, which equipped me with a better understanding of the Chinese legal system, as well as the common law system.

Victor Val Perez (Spain)

BA and LLB (Pompeu Fabra), LLM (CUHK)

I find the course syllabus very interesting as this programme deals with international economic relationship. Professors come from all around the world and it is very interesting. It is obviously helpful as I worked in a leading European law firm and most of my clients were from other jurisdictions, the programme helps me learn how to deal with international clients from other countries.

Edward Cowan (United Kingdom)

LLB (Warwick), LLM (CUHK)

The LLM in International Economic Law at CUHK offers incredible opportunities, both personal and professional. The ability to engage deeply with the law through the LLM Programmes, coupled with the unique experience of living and studying in a truly global economic hub provides unparalleled and exciting possibilities. The programme provides experience in some of the vital skills necessary to succeed in legal or business roles following graduation. Coming to Hong Kong to study as an international student was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

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Celine Verdez (France)

LLB, LLM (Rennes), MA (I.E.P. Lille), LLM (CUHK)

The LLM in Common Law Programme at CUHK is a fantastic opportunity for civil law practitioners to compare the Common Law system and their home jurisdiction. It was also the professional break I needed to deepen my knowledge of my preferred legal fields and explore other areas of law thanks to the wide range of elective courses I was able to choose from. These courses were all taught by passionate, skilled and experienced professors from business and legal backgrounds. It provided me with a better understanding of the Hong Kong legal system and how it is deeply rooted in the common law tradition and yet was and will be influenced greatly by Mainland China and the rest of the world.

Jack Nelson (Australia)

BA and JD (Melbourne), LLM and PCLL (CUHK)

I find that studying Chinese law has deepened my understanding of Australian law. Studying another legal system provides a point of comparison that can help you to better understand your home legal system. This is particularly true when coming from a common law jurisdiction like Australia to study a civil law jurisdiction such as China. The many differences between Chinese and Australian law did not surprise me. The number of similarities, however, was unexpected. The fact that we were learning in Hong Kong, a common law jurisdiction within China, served to emphasise the value of comparative legal study.

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The LLM in International Economic Law equipped me with all the knowledge necessary to work as a lawyer on the international scene. The diverse range of courses taught by truly passionate and highly skilled professors also allowed me to develop both a practical and business oriented view of the law. As a result I gained a comprehensive knowledge of the law surrounding cross-border business transactions with a notable focus on mainland China and Hong Kong. The LLM also gave me the opportunity to connect with students from different backgrounds and engage in extra-curricular activities with the Graduate Law Students Association. It has been a truly enriching experience on both a personal and professional level.

Rienk Brouwer (The Netherlands)

LLB and LLM (VU University Amsterdam), MBA (CUHK), LLM candidate (CUHK)

As a part-time LLM student, I can highly recommend CUHK’s Part-time LLM in Common Law to (civil law trained) lawyers and business people looking for a more detailed and fundamental understanding of the (Hong Kong) common law system. The teaching is of a very high standard by excellent - mostly international - professors, and the teaching complex is state-of-art and easy to reach in downtown Hong Kong. Learning outcomes are practically relevant and academically stimulating, and therefore, in my opinion, highly valuable and useful both personally and professionally.

Abbie Lee (Hong Kong)

BBA and LLM (CUHK)

Understanding the law has been one of my life goals, and joining the Master of Laws Programme in Common Law has definitively enabled me to achieve this goal! The knowledge that I gained in the programme not only benefits my work, but also my everyday life.

The Graduate Law Centre is very convenient, just walking distance from my work, but also my everyday life.

The Graduate Law Students Association. It has been a truly enriching experience on both a personal and professional level.

Dusan Obradovic (Serbia)

LLB (Novi Sad), LLM (CUHK)

The course International and Comparative Energy Law aroused my interest in the energy sector. This course not only provided me with foundational theory but also provided me with the tools to engage in critical analysis of these issues. I will continue following the legal developments in this area and am certainly interested in further enhancing my knowledge in this cutting-edge and critically important area of law. I believe that the newly launched LLM in Energy and Environmental Law Programme will help people shape the new values and knowledge of sustainable development.

Zhijin Zhang (China)

LLB (Jinan), LLM (CUHK)

The unparalleled legal framework of Hong Kong marks a strategic importance for multi-national enterprises to conduct business in China. It is therefore vital, after 17 years of resumption of sovereignty, to appreciate the difference between the two legal systems in order to assist foreign enterprises and business clients to find their way out of the mist from the two unparalleled legal systems. As taught by leading academics and experienced practitioners in Chinese Business Law, the LLM in Chinese Business Law Programme laid a solid foundation for both my academic and professional growth, in particular, to develop a broad legal intellectual outlook as to the Chinese legal system as well as its regulatory framework in the context of an evolving political, economic and social environment in China.

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Rienk Brouwer (The Netherlands)

LLB and LLM (VU University Amsterdam), MBA (CUHK), LLM candidate (CUHK)

As a part-time LLM student, I can highly recommend CUHK’s Part-time LLM in Common Law to (civil law trained) lawyers and business people looking for a more detailed and fundamental understanding of the (Hong Kong) common law system. The teaching is of a very high standard by excellent - mostly international - professors, and the teaching complex is state-of-art and easy to reach in downtown Hong Kong. Learning outcomes are practically relevant and academically stimulating, and therefore, in my opinion, highly valuable and useful both personally and professionally.

Abbie Lee (Hong Kong)

BBA and LLM (CUHK)

Understanding the law has been one of my life goals, and joining the Master of Laws Programme in Common Law has definitively enabled me to achieve this goal! The knowledge that I gained in the programme not only benefits my work, but also my everyday life.

The Graduate Law Centre is very convenient, just walking distance from my work, but also my everyday life.

The Graduate Law Students Association. It has been a truly enriching experience on both a personal and professional level.

Dusan Obradovic (Serbia)

LLB (Novi Sad), LLM (CUHK)

The course International and Comparative Energy Law aroused my interest in the energy sector. This course not only provided me with foundational theory but also provided me with the tools to engage in critical analysis of these issues. I will continue following the legal developments in this area and am certainly interested in further enhancing my knowledge in this cutting-edge and critically important area of law. I believe that the newly launched LLM in Energy and Environmental Law Programme will help people shape the new values and knowledge of sustainable development.

Zhijin Zhang (China)

LLB (Jinan), LLM (CUHK)
Applications will be processed on a rolling basis until all places have been filled, so early applications are strongly encouraged. Applications received after 13 April 2018 may still be considered subject to the availability of places.

How to Apply

Applications should be submitted online. For details, please visit the website of the University’s Graduate School at https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk. Applicants should read the "Notes for online application" on the website of the Graduate School before submitting an application.

Applicants are required to provide copies of certificates as evidence that they have met the Admission Requirements. Applications will not be considered until all the required documents have been received.

While it is not a formal requirement, applicants may provide a personal statement not exceeding 500 words. The personal statement should address the applicant’s reasons for wishing to join the relevant LLM Programme.

There is a non-refundable application fee of HK$300.

Application Deadlines

28 February 2018 (first round)
13 April 2018 (second round)

Contact Us

Telephone: (852) 3943-4310
Fax: (852) 2994-2505
E-mail: lawpgadm@cuhk.edu.hk
Address: Faculty of Law
6/F., Lee Shau Kee Building
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong
Website: http://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk
Facebook: CUHK Law
LinkedIn: CUHK Faculty of Law

Application Deadlines

28 February 2018 (first round)
13 April 2018 (second round)

This brochure contains information as at August 2017. The University has the right at any time and from time to time to make changes in its rules, regulations and procedures.
MASTER OF LAWS (LLM)

LLM in Chinese Business Law
LLM in Common Law
LLM in Energy and Environmental Law
LLM in International Economic Law

The Chinese University of Hong Kong