MASTER OF LAWS (LLM)

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

2020-21
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 wholeheartedly 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
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
  - Chinese Contract 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 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 2019/20 are:

- Business and the Law in Hong Kong
- Business Taxation: Principles and Practice
- Chinese Energy Law
- Chinese Financial Law
- Chinese Intellectual Property Law
- Chinese Investment Law
- Chinese Law on Corporate Finance
- Chinese Securities Regulation
- Clean Energy and Climate Law
- Comparative Contract Law
- Copyright, Digital Subject Matter and Information Technology
- Disaster Law
- Dispute Resolution in the Energy and Natural Resources Sector
- European Union Law
- International and Comparative Intellectual Property Law
- International Commercial Dispute Resolution
- International Financial and Banking Law
- International Legal Advocacy
- International Taxation
- Issues in Contract
- Law and Literature
- Law and Practice of Investment Arbitration
- Mediation Practice
- Oil and Gas Law
- 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 Remedies
- Principles of Securities Regulation
- Shipping Law

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 40 countries/regions. For the 2019 academic year, we admitted students from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Finland, Hong Kong, Japan, Mainland China, Norway, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and Vietnam.

Most of our part-time students come from professional backgrounds: accountants, bankers, surveyors, 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 Professional Surveyors (RPS)
- Qualified lawyers from various jurisdictions
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

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.

Careers

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.

Mooting
Mooting gives students a taste of life as a lawyer presenting written and oral arguments in complex hypothetical court cases. CUHK Law students annually participate in internal, local, regional and international mooting competitions. The Faculty has enjoyed great success in all mooting competitions since mooting was first offered twelve years ago. In 2018-19 law students successfully represented the Faculty at international competitions in Hong Kong, Austria, the Netherlands, England and India.

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

In 2018-19 CUHK moot teams achieved the following results:

The ICC mooting team received awards for the Best Prosecution Team, the Best Prosecution Counsel, the 2nd Best Defense Memorial and the Best Oralist award for individual advocacy in the Preliminary Rounds at the International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot at the Hague, and advanced to the final of the competition.

The Philip C. Jessup International Law mooting team received awards for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd best oralist and advanced to the final of the Hong Kong regional round.

At the Vis (Vienna) International Commercial Arbitration Moot one of the team’s oralists received an Honourable Mention (top 10%) for oral advocacy and the team qualified for the competition’s final rounds. The team advanced to the final 16 teams out of some 380 participating teams. The Vis (East-Hong Kong) International Commercial Arbitration Moot team received an Honourable Mention (top 10%) for its Memorandum on Behalf of Respondent and the David Hunter Award for Best Memorandum on Behalf of Claimant, placing first out of some 130 law schools for this memorandum.

In the 10th Leiden-Sarin International Air Law Moot Court Competition in India the team was ranked 5th for Respondent and 6th for Applicant.

At the Herbert Smith Freehills Competition Law Moot in London the CUHK team was the winning team and received the award for Best Written Pleading, and the Best Advocate award for individual advocacy.

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Mr. Paul Mitchard QC
Director of Career Planning and Professionalism
I have a background in both the Law and various Business fields, which I chose to focus my career on China. As such, doing an LLM in Chinese Business Law at CUHK was the best decision I have ever made. The programme provided me with insight regarding Chinese business law. All of the professors and faculty members were very nice and internationally qualified. They were more than willing to help me enhance my legal knowledge and help prepare me for the professional world. I found this course to be very practical and highly relevant to my career in addition, the Graduate Law Center, where the courses are held, is located in a very convenient area in the business district of Hong Kong, learning Chinese Business Law in Hong Kong, which is one of the world’s leading financial hubs and one of the leading economic hubs of Asia, was truly an invaluable experience for me.

Having previously studied in a common law jurisdiction, the LLB in Chinese Business Law Programme has offered me an interesting comparison of how different legal systems would affect business decision-making in different countries. Importantly, the LLB exposes me not only to PRC law, but also to the principles of European continental laws. Classes are always interactive and the professors are very approachable and supportive. On top of that, I really appreciate the diversified and refreshing assessment methods adopted in this course, such as mock-exam extensions, in which I was able to gain hands-on experience of the law in action rather than just the law on the books. In terms of personal development, I was also impressed by the variety of outside-the-classroom opportunities provided by CUHK, such as moots and career workshops. Overall, I believe the well-established LLM program has equipped me with the necessary skills to pursue a first-rate career.

After completing an LLB in Law and an MA in Business Management in Greece, I decided to apply to The Chinese University of Hong Kong to undertake an LLM in International Economic Law. My interests and the good reputation of the university were the main reasons why I chose to come to Hong Kong, as I wish to combine Chinese culture and a western lifestyle. I found the programme excellent. Giving presentations, taking part in workshops, and working as a team member convinced me that I had made the right choice.

The Environmental and Energy LLM provided me with remarkable opportunities to experience international knowledge sharing through participation in two international conferences, both in Environmental and Energy aspects. It has equipped me with the skills and knowledge to confidently pursue a career in the environmental and energy field or a possible Ph.D. in the future. This LLM challenges your understanding of not just law but also in aspects of economics and geopolitics that help you understand the complex nature of regulating these areas both locally and internationally.

Undertaking an LLM in Chinese Business Law has enabled me to better understand the financial and legal implications of the expanding trade and business relationship between China and the world. The professors are experts in their respective fields. They provided us with a rigorous understanding of the principles and practices of civil and commercial law in China. Moreover, they encouraged us to draw upon experiences from our respective countries and comparatively analyze the common law and civil law systems. Engaging in language exchange partnerships with my classmates in Mandarin and Cantonese even further enriched what had been a valuable experience.
considering the programme. The LLM in International Economic Law equipped me with the knowledge necessary to work as a lawyer on the international scene. The diverse range of courses taught by highly 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.

I very much enjoyed my study at CUHK. I joined the LLB in Energy and Environmental Law Programme in the first year after its inception. Although it was just newly launched, the courses were well-structured and of the highest quality, and the professors are all experts in their respective fields. They were supportive and always ready to help. I greatly advanced my knowledge for a legal career on the international scene, but also the knowledge necessary to work as a lawyer on the international scene. 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 highly 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.

After studying law as an undergraduate, I became interested in international relations and the protection of the environment. This led me to pursue the LLB in Energy and Environmental Law at CUHK. I very much enjoyed my study at CUHK. I joined the LLB in Energy and Environmental Law Programme in the first year after its inception. Although it was just newly launched, the courses were well-structured and of the highest quality, and the professors are all experts in their respective fields. They were supportive and always ready to help. I greatly advanced my knowledge for a legal career on the international scene, but also the knowledge necessary to work as a lawyer on the international scene. 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 highly 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.

The Faculty staff were very helpful and provided spectacular assistance to the international students. I was able to grow professionally and personally and I am very thankful for the time I spent at CUHK.

Yakin Surjadi (Germany)

First State Examination (HU Berlin), LL.M (CUHK)

The LLM in Chinese Business Law has given me a deeper understanding of Chinese law and Chinese legal culture. It also helped me to better grasp the economic, political, and social implications of doing business in China. All the professors were leading experts in their respective fields and encouraged the students to participate in class discussions. I appreciated the international and diverse learning environment at the Faculty, and I am happy to have made great friendships during my time here. The Faculty staff were very helpful and provided spectacular assistance to the international students. I was able to grow professionally and personally and I am very thankful for the time I spent at CUHK.

Nilfat Ali (Kenya)

LLB (Moi), LL.M (CUHK)

Studying International Economic Law at CUHK has been a very fruitful and incredible experience. The culturally diverse teaching staff and the student body is amazing! At CUHK I can confidently say that I got an invaluable opportunity to learn from the best in the industry. The opportunities offered both in-campus and off-campus are simply endless. Hong Kong, being a global financial hub, is among the best destinations in the world to pursue the study of International Economic Law. The programme efficiently and effectively prepares students for the highly competitive job market of law.

Pei Hsuan Lin (Taiwan)

LLB (NTU, Taiwan), LL.M (CUHK)

I was awarded the Master of Laws Global Scholarship offered by the CUHK Faculty of Law in 2016 and coming to Hong Kong to study LLM in International Economic Law has been the best decision I have ever made in my life. This LLM Programme not only equipped me with the all the vital knowledge for a legal career on the international scene but also the opportunity to expand my personal network. The lecture syllabus is well-organised, with four well-structured required courses and a broad enough choice of electives to cover my interests. The professors are highly-qualified and the Faculty staff is very approachable and i am always ready to help you with any difficulties you might come across. This LLM Programme has been a rewarding experience and I cannot recommend it highly enough!
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/admissions/programme/law.

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.

Applicants may provide a personal statement which addresses the applicant’s reasons to join the relevant LLM Programme.

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

Contact Us

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Application Deadlines

Applications will be processed on a rolling basis until all places have been filled, so early applications are strongly encouraged. Applications received after 9 April 2020 may still be considered subject to the availability of places.

31 January 2020 (first round)
28 February 2020 (second round)
9 April 2020 (third round)

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