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
Established in 2004, the Faculty of Law of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK LAW) is the youngest of the legal education providers in Hong Kong. However, with an emphasis on very practice-oriented programmes delivered by first-class professors from over 20 different jurisdictions, the adoption of innovative teaching methods and last but not least the recruitment of a highly qualified student body, CUHK LAW has moved from strength to strength. The outstanding quality of our taught programmes is globally acknowledged and evidenced by collaborations with many leading law schools in the world. The research conducted by our professors and by our research students meets the highest standards and generates significant impact. We are proud that CUHK LAW is on a regular basis ranked amongst the top 50 law schools in the world by the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking exercise. We are providing a truly global learning environment. In 2018 CUHK LAW was ranked by THE as the world’s most international law school worldwide.

The LLM in Chinese Business Law programme, the LLM in Common Law programme, the LLM in Energy and Environmental programme and the LLM in International Economic Law programme are designed for elite postgraduate students who wish to excel in their chosen areas of expertise. Taught by world-leading experts in their respective fields at the CUHK Graduate Law Centre in Hong Kong’s Central business district, all four LLM programmes are especially designed to cater to student’s career needs. The use of highly innovative and practice-oriented teaching modes ensures that our LLM students are well equipped with knowledge and skills to assume leadership positions in law and law-related sectors.

We are CUHK LAW! If you are ready to invest in your career by gaining expertise in a specialized area of law in one of the most exciting cities of the world then join one of our LLM programmes.

Yours faithfully,

Lutz-Christian Wolff  
Wei Lun Professor of Law and  
Dean, Faculty of Law

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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,

Anatole Boute  
Professor  
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

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<th>LLM in Chinese Business Law</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Contract Law</td>
<td>Principles of Criminal Law*</td>
<td>Principles of Environmental Law</td>
<td>Trans-National Legal Problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal System and Methods in China</td>
<td>Principles of Tort*</td>
<td>Project Finance and Infrastructure Law</td>
<td>World Trade Law</td>
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* 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 Environmental 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
- 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
- Shipping Law - Law of Oceanic</code>

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, 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
What Our Students Say

**Simon Bisegger (Switzerland)**

After completing my legal studies in Switzerland and qualifying as an Attorney-at-Law and working at court in Switzerland for some time, I wished to return to university in order to further develop my knowledge of international business law. When I learnt about the LLM in International Economic Law Programme at CUHK, I was convinced from the very first moment that this would be the right programme for me not only is Hong Kong a common law jurisdiction where I was counsel lawyer would be exposed to another legal system, but it would also be an opportunity to learn more about Asia. These expectations were fully met by CUHK's LLM Programmes. The professors are all experts in their respective fields. Also, learning together with my fellow Asian students has proven to be a culturally enriching experience.

**Patcharanee Jetyiamo (Thailand)**

I have a background in both the Law and various Business fields, 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.

**Lauren Yueh (Hong Kong)**

Having previously studied in a common law jurisdiction, the LLM 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 LLM 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 class such as mock client presentations, 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 mentoring and career workshops. Overall, I believe the well-rounded learning experience that CUHK has equipped me with the necessary skills to pursue a first-rate career.

**Eirini Argeiti (Greece)**

After completing an LLM 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 for my studies. Also, learning with my fellow students in Mandarin and Cantonese even further enriched what has been a culturally enriching experience. I found the programme excellent. Giving presentations, taking part in workshops, and working as a team member convinced me that I made the right choice.

**Dixon Lai (Hong Kong)**

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 draws in aspects of economics and geopolitics that help you understand the complex nature of regulating these areas both locally and internationally.

**Anjlee Gupta (India)**

I have been fortunate to be awarded the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Scholarship from KAS KSCP for LLM in Energy and Environmental Law. The LLM program provides a micro and macro understanding of energy and the relationship between energy and the environment. The lectures are well-organized and well-structured and the faculty offers a large number of elective courses. The faculty holds diverse and interactive lectures and seminars by visiting professionals which provide an opportunity to engage with various ideas and a invaluable chance to network. Being part of the vibrant culture of Hong Kong has been a culturally enriching experience.

**Danae Wheeler (New Zealand)**

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 analyse 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.

**Rienk Brouwer (The Netherlands)**

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 - most of the professors are top-notch - and the teaching complex is state-of-the-art, 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 mentoring and career workshops. Overall, I believe the well-rounded learning experience that CUHK has equipped me with the necessary skills to pursue a first-rate career.

**Janine Manke (Germany)**

It was always my greatest ambition to study in Hong Kong and thus I am extremely thrilled and feel privileged for having the opportunity to study at one of Asia's top law schools. Especially enlightening is the teaching style of CUHK, which slightly differs from the one in German universities. CUHK professors are pressing much harder for personal opinions and value interaction, and it helps to study in small but active groups. This new learning experience in a highly international setting will no doubt help me to broaden my own views and perspectives before I return to Germany to work as a lawyer later this year. My fellow students from all around the world have further contributed to the great time I have had at CUHK. I would like to be a particularly enriching experience. I feel very humbly to be part of this year's executive programme and found CUHK to be the perfect place to study, grow as a person, and to make new life-long friends.

**Alfred Achà (United States)**

Studying law at CUHK has given me a different perspective on how to approach the study and the practice of law. The LLM in International Economic Law is a very good programme that is not about theory but also includes practice tips like drafting contracts. The professors in this programme are all top-notch and I learned a lot from them. This will help me in my career down the road. I would recommend the LLM in International Economic Law to anyone who is considering taking it.
After studying law as an undergraduate, I became interested in environmental protection and the fight against climate change. Studying the LLM Energy and Environmental Law at CUHK has been, without a doubt, a very rewarding experience. By studying the course, I was able to further equip myself with the crucial knowledge and know-how to help contribute to environmental protection, as well as expanding my personal network. The course syllabus is very well organized and there was a large pool of lecturers that covered my interests. The faculty and its members are highly skilled, knowledgeable, yet always approachable and helpful. Studying the LLM programme has been a fulfilling experience for me and I very much recommend it to anyone considering the programme.

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 international 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 LLM in Chinese Business Law gives me a deeper understanding of China law and Chinese legal culture. It also helped me to better grasp the economic, political, and social implications of doing business in China. All 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 was 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 spent at CUHK.

Studying International Economic Law at CUHK has been a very fruitful and incredible experience. The cultural diversity in both the 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 the law.

I very much enjoyed my study at CUHK. I joined the LLM in Energy and Environmental Law Programme in the first year after its creation. 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 understanding of energy and environmental law. The LLM in Energy and Environmental Law was truly an enriching experience. I was impressed by the various educational site-visits, such as a tour of a nuclear power plant, coal-fired power plant, waste treatment plant, Pearl River Estuary, etc. I was honoured to join international workshops and speak with distinguished scholars. I also benefited a lot from guest lectures and extra-curricular activities with the Graduate Law Students Association. It has been a truly enriching experience on both a personal and professional level.

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 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-organized, with four well-structured required courses and a broad enough choice of electives to cover my interests. The professors are highly-skilled, and the Faculty staff is very approachable and is 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!

A number of Master of Laws scholarships will be available for award on the basis of academic merit. For further details, please visit the Faculty’s website.

Scholarships

A different tuition fee may apply for students studying beyond the normative study period.

Tuition Fee*

The tuition fee for 2020/21 is HK$5,880 per unit for a total of 24 units within the normative study period.

Applications must have:

1. a qualification to practise law in the jurisdiction of the student’s residence; or
2. a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree or a degree of equivalent standing for the LLM in Common Law; the LLB should normally be from a non-Common Law jurisdiction; or
3. a Bachelor’s degree in a non-law subject with substantial law-related working experience.

As many areas of professional activity are related to law, we welcome applications from those who do not have a law degree but have work experience in the areas of commerce, accountancy, social work, public administration, and any other similar fields with relevant legal experience. For the LLM in Energy and Environmental Law, applicants without a law degree must have work experience in the areas of energy, environmental preservation, public administration, and similar relevant fields.

Applications can be made before completion of an undergraduate degree, provided that the applicant is in the final year of study. In this situation, any offer will be conditional upon successful completion of the undergraduate degree, and satisfaction of the other admission requirements before enrolment in the LLM Programmes.

For more information about the General Admission Requirements and the English Language Proficiency Requirement prescribed by the University’s Graduate School, please visit their website at https://www.gs.cuhk.edu.hk/admissions.
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.

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)

Contact Us

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This brochure contains information as at October 2019. The University has the right at any time and from time to time to make changes in its rules, regulations and procedures.