Master of Philosophy
or Doctor of Philosophy in Laws
at The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Why Hong Kong and The Chinese University of Hong Kong are Your Choice

Hong Kong is not only a leading international financial and trade centre, but also hosts some of Asia’s leading universities, including CUHK. Beyond Asia, international ranking exercises carried out by the Financial Times and the Times Higher Education-QS World University Rankings, among others, have appraised universities in Hong Kong as among the best in the world. Hong Kong stands as a gateway between the best traditions of Western learning and a region which presents many of the most interesting and exciting objects of contemporary legal, economic, and cultural research.

You can write write your Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Laws with the CUHK Faculty of Law in English, while enjoying unparalleled access to resources in Chinese and about Asia. You will receive one-on-one guidance from the CUHK Law Faculty, whose members represent all of the world’s major jurisdictions and are actively engaged in a broad array of research. Your own research will be financed either by the University in the form of a studentship or by the Hong Kong Government in the form of a fellowship.

Financial Support

The Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)

The HKPFS was recently created by Hong Kong’s Research Grants Council to give Hong Kong universities world class financing for our brightest PhD students. It awards a monthly stipend of HK$20,000 and an annual conference travel allowance of HK$10,000 for up to three years. If a scholarship winner has a normative study period of four years, CUHK will provide financing at the same level during the fourth year. Competition for the HKPFS is intense, but we have had good success with the law candidates we have nominated to the selection committee.

If you would like to know more about the HKPFS, please visit the following URL for further details:

http://www2.cuhk.edu.hk/gss/hkphd/

CUHK Studentships

Even if not awarded a Hong Kong PhD Fellowship, all candidates admitted to the Law Faculty’s MPhil or PhD programme receive a stipend during the normative research and writing period that, for the current academic year, amounts to HK$12,800 monthly.
Conduct Your Research with Our Leading Scholars

The CUHK Law Faculty, which exceeds 40 professors and professional consultants, actively pursues research on a broad range of topics. Our faculty members have studied in leading universities around the world, including in the UK, China, the US, Australia and Continental Europe. They bring their global visions to focus on legal problems affecting Hong Kong, China, and the international community of nations. You can learn more about the interests and activities of individual Faculty members from the Faculty website. The following chart offers a rough distribution of the areas in which our Faculty can offer you experienced guidance in your research:

Conduct Your Research with Ample Library Resources

The CUHK Law Library has been designed to support the Faculty’s objective to become a prominent centre for legal scholarship and training in the 21st century. Its collection of electronic resources, which can be accessed remotely, is particularly strong. A collection of approximately 83,000 volumes on law and law-related subjects is accompanied by 300 multimedia items, 53 leading databases, a constantly expanding number of electronically available texts, monographs and reference works, as well as 2450 e-journal titles, accompanied of course by the interdisciplinary collections housed in the rest of the University Library System. The Law Library also includes our Faculty’s Mediation Institute Collection that was assembled in 2009.
The MPhil and PhD in Laws Programmes

The MPhil in Laws is a degree for students who want to pursue advanced research, so as to become expert in an area of law or on a complex topic. Study in the MPhil Programme can also lead to admission to the PhD Programme, subject to the Faculty’s evaluation of the candidate’s academic performance during his or her MPhil study period.

The PhD in Laws is the most advanced degree in law, comparable to a US SJD degree or a German Doktor juris degree. The PhD is a research degree primarily for students who are committed to a career in legal scholarship and teaching. Students are required to conduct thorough research on a novel topic and write a thesis of publishable quality that makes an original contribution to legal scholarship.

Dissertations for both MPhil and PhD in Laws are written under the guidance of a member of the Faculty as supervisor, and where appropriate another member as co-supervisor, and assessed by an independent body of experts.

The CUHK Law Faculty has a limited number of places available for each of these Programmes each year. Placement is very competitive.
The following schematically presents our MPhil and PhD Programmes:

**Study Mode and Period**

**MPhil Programme**

Full-time mode: Normative of 2 years; maximum of 4 years
Part-time mode: Normative of 3 years; maximum of 5 years

**PhD Programme**

Student with a research master’s degree:
- Full-time mode: Normative of 36 months; maximum of 84 months
- Part-time mode: Normative of 48 months; maximum of 96 months

Student without a research master’s degree:
- Full-time mode: Normative of 48 months; maximum of 84 months
- Part-time mode: Normative of 64 months; maximum of 96 months

**Admission Requirements**

All applicants must fulfill our Entry and English Language Proficiency Requirements. Details can be found at http://www2.cuhk.edu.hk/gss/entry.php. In addition, MPhil applicants must possess:

(a) a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree with first class honours or upper second class honours awarded by a recognized university; or

(b) a Juris Doctor (JD) degree or a Master of Laws (LLM) degree awarded by a recognized university with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above; or

(c) an equivalent degree awarded by a recognized tertiary educational institution.

PhD applicants must possess either (b) or (c) as mentioned above. Of course, these are only minimum requirements, and actual admission on a competitive basis could demand much more.

MPhil and PhD applicants whose undergraduate education was not in English are required to take an appropriate English language proficiency test and achieve a sufficient score (such as a score of 570 or above in TOEFL (Paper Based Test), or a score of 230 or above in TOEFL (Computer Based Test), or a score of 88 or above in TOEFL (Internet Based Test), or Band 6.5 or better in IELTS, or a pass at Level 6 in CET (obtained before 2005), or a score of 435 or above in CET (obtained after 2005)).

For applicants of the PhD Fellowship Scheme, please visit the website of the Scheme for additional admission requirements.

**Tuition Fee (subject to annual review)**

Full-time mode: HK$42,100 per year for MPhil and PhD students
Part-time mode: HK$ 45,560 per year for MPhil students (self-financed) HK$ 51,000 per year for PhD students

Please note that awardees of the PhD Fellowships and CUHK Studentships do not receive a waiver of tuition fee.

**Application Period and Procedures**

a. For applicants to the PhD Fellowship Scheme
   Application deadline: 1 December 2010
   URL for on-line application: http://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/hkphd/hkphd.htm

b. For non-Fellowship applicants submitting their applications to CUHK direct
   Application deadline: 31 January 2011
   URL for on-line application: http://www2.cuhk.edu.hk/gss/apply.php

We encourage you to send us your application and supporting material as early as possible.
Our Students on Their MPhil/PhD Studies

Esther Inge Johanna Erlings
Year 1 PhD Student (awardee of the PhD Fellowship)

Studying in Hong Kong seemed like a unique opportunity to mix East and West: to experience another culture while having all modern facilities at my disposal. Having my desk with a superb computer in the booming center of Asia, together with the guidance of supervisors who are experts on the topic of my research, is like a dream come true!

Frank Meng
Year 4 PhD Student

At the Chinese University of Hong Kong, my research has focused on corporate and securities laws in China and Hong Kong. I have benefited greatly from an academic environment in which I am able to explore my interests with strong support from the Faculty. During the final years of my research, I was given the support I needed to present papers at conferences in Hong Kong and overseas, as well as to draft articles that were published in leading journals. I attribute much of my success to the strong academic support provided by the Faculty, the friendly multicultural environment it fosters, and the rich legal resources to which I have had access.

Rain Zhang
PhD Graduate

I am happy I chose to write my PhD at CUHK because it offered abundant research resources and exchange opportunities, experienced professors and support staff, good support facilities, and a wonderful environment.

Haweni Ketema Bedada
Year 2 MPhil Student

I find the study environment of The Chinese University of Hong Kong exhilarating. I am convinced that studying for a Master of Philosophy has built up my experience and enhanced my research ability. The knowledge, passion and dedication of the lecturers have been a real source of inspiration for me. I believe the abundant resources offered by the University enable me to conduct any kind of research. For me it is the ideal opportunity to interact with people from diverse cultures and disciplines.

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